

Parsiāna

AUGUST 2001 Rs 60



Shiamak Davar: "Have feet. Will dance"

A Clear Case of Caring



For The Senior Citizen...

an earning of 1% more on their deposits

Bank of India cares for all its customers and even more for senior citizens (60 years and above). As a result, all senior citizens can now earn 1% more on their deposits for one year and above. Deposits of Rs 10,000 (minimum) are accepted in joint accounts for a miniature period of 1 year. You can also avail of the facility of automatic payment to nominee.

Bank of India assuring you a better tomorrow.

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
एक प्रदर्शक मित्रता



Bank of India
The Guiding Star

Parsiana

August 2001
Volume 24 Number 1

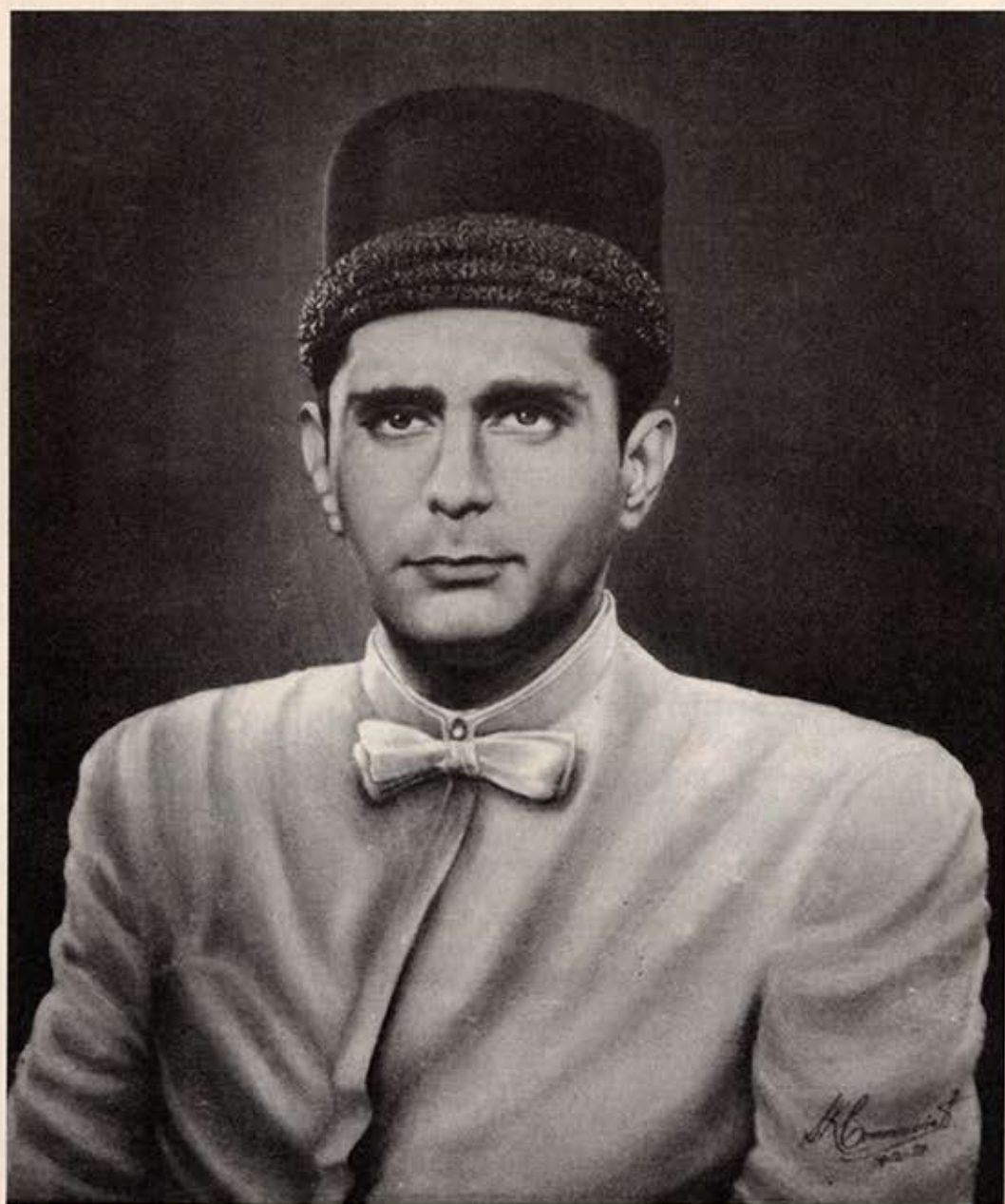
EDITOR Jehangir R. Patel
MANAGING EDITOR Arnavaz S. Mama
EXECUTIVE EDITOR Parinaz M. Gandhi
SENIOR EDITORS
Dina K. Mehta, Hilla P. Guzder
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Roxana A. Driver
SENIOR DESIGNER Kranti M. Shilotri
DESIGNER Nivedita A. Potdar
MARKETING DIRECTOR Veera J. Patel
ADVERTISING MANAGER Jasmine D. Driver
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE Susan Hadvald
FINANCE B. L. Arora
DTP Bakhtavar R. Batliwalla, K. P. Ravi
SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER
Khurshid Panthaki
ASSISTANT SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER
Selvan Mark
ACCOUNTANT Anagha Korde
ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT
Sampada S. Patwardhan
ADMINISTRATION (ACCOUNTS)
Swarupa Bhagwat
ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT
Sreevidya Narayanan
OFFICE ASSISTANTS Umesh Poojary,
Sunil Sakhare, Govind Salgaonkar,
Mahipat Jadhav

Parsiana is edited and published by Jehangir R. Patel for Parsiana Publications Pvt Ltd at 300 Perin Nariman Street, Bombay 400001 and printed by him at Kaiser-E-Hind Pvt Ltd, A-191, Road No 16A, MIDC, Wagle Industrial Estate, Thana (W), 400604. All rights reserved. Processing Comart Lithographers. Editorial enquiries: 2078183. Advertising: 2078104, 2072915. Subscription: 2665661, 2662709. General: 2078730, 2072624. Fax: 2074541, 2075572. Press: 5804162. E-mail: parvo@giabm01.vsnl.net.in, parsiana@yahoo.com, parsiana@vsnl.net. For subscription enquiries and payments: C/o Kaiser-E-Hind Pvt Ltd, 300 Perin Nariman Street (Behind Reserve Bank of India), Bombay 400001. ISSN: 0971-3786.

Annual inland subscription for one year (12 issues) Rs 400; for two years (24 issues) Rs 750; for three years (36 issues) Rs 1,100. Foreign subscription rates: Seamail for one year Rs 675/US \$ 15/UK £ 10/Euro 17; for two years Rs 1,250/US \$ 28/UK £ 19/Euro 32; for three years Rs 1,900/US \$ 41/UK £ 29/Euro 48 (please allow six months or more for seamail delivery from the time of publication). Airmail for one year Rs 950/US \$ 21/UK £ 14/Euro 24; for two years Rs 1,800/US \$ 40/UK £ 27/Euro 45; for three years Rs 2,700/US \$ 60/UK £ 40/Euro 68. For Indian upcountry cheques add Rs 20 for bank charges; for US cheques add \$ 5; for UK cheques add £ 3; for Euro cheques add Euro 5. Cheques and drafts are to be drawn in favor of Parsiana.

2	Index of advertisers
4	Readers' Forum
22	Events and Personalities
32	Zoroastrians Abroad
38	The Federation: "Prepare for improvement" by Arnavaz Mama
58	Accomplished achievers by Parinaz Gandhi
64	Face-lift for the fires by Adi Doctor
82	Care at the Gamadia Colony clinic
88	Shavakshaw Bomanji and the Mahatma by S. P. K. Gupta
93	Kanpur's past glory by Gopinath Bhaleker
96	A 'grave' and 'burning' issue by Kersee Kabraji
104	What binds us? by Dr Zareen Karani Araoz
116	HPY: "Nothing short of the best" by Hilla Guzder
128	Selvel-Vantage: Lording over the hoarding
142	Mustang: Socking success
148	Recipes: Quick and easy by Bhicoo Manekshaw
152	Show man Shiamak Davar
158	Sports
161	Books
212	Milestones
226	In Memoriam: N. Cama, B. Contractor, R. Damania, M. Polson
Cover designed by Kranti Shilotri	

Index of Advertisers							
Aatash Trading Co	8	Farshak Travels	199	Marcons Group	130	Sikkim Distilleries	75
ABC Farms	187	Fedco Paints	39	Masani & Co	18	Solid Granites	49
Acupowder International	179	Forbes Marshall	233	Master Group	129	Sorabji & Co	102
Adi Mountvala	23	Framji R. Choksey	98	Matrimonial	6	Spray Products	132
Air-India Ltd	157	Friendly Zoroastrian Tour	220	Matrimonial	10	State Bank of India	189
Albaj Engineering	135	G D Anklesaria & Co	210	Matrimonial	78	Steel & Hide Furniture	6
Al-Kabeer Exports	214	Gazdar Pvt Ltd	209	Mazda Exports	170	Sterling & Wilson	146
Antelec Ltd	94	Geena Engineering	66	Mazda Ltd	103	Stewols & Co	85
Arena Lifestyles	18	Gharda Chemicals	47	Mazda Video & Audio	14	Sun F & C	5
Armeyesh Fashions	200	Globe Theatres	224	McCann - Erickson	207	Sunshine Snack Corner	26
Autogenous Welding	78	Godrej & Boyce	113	Mechanical Packaging	131	Sun-Up Botanics	203
Ava Marine	110	Godrej Soaps Ltd	216	Meher Distributors	232	Super Service Station	12
B B Garda & Sons	134	Grant Medical Foundation	227	Miss S Bharucha	112	Super Star Comm. Network	29
B E Billimoria	65	Great Western Stores	35	Moverick Hotels	222	Super Star Video	31
B F Wadia & Sons	210	Grindwell Norton	235	M Nusserwanji	206	Tanaz Godiwalla	124
B Jamshedji Jivanji	8	Gwalior Distillers	125	MTNL	76	Tapovan Retreat	202
Baliwalla & Homi	166	H J Commercial	137	Mustang Enterprises	46	Tarapore & Co	193
Bank of Baroda	205	Herbertsons	139	N & N Sytems	90	Tata AIG Life Insurance	97
Bank of India	Cover II	Hilla Builders	30	N Daver & Co	26	Tata Chemicals	83
Beck Engineering	16	Hindustan Lever	225	Nagarwalla Estates	7	Tata Infomedia	99
Bharucha Stone	194	Homa Engineering	184	Naju Daver	197	Tata International	67
Bilmat Sanitary	112	Homi & Co	174	Napolitan Travel Agency	36	Tata Power Co	25
Bilmat Zericz	110	Hoshang Buchia & Co	172	Nariman Nallaseth	202	Tata Sons	219
Blaze Tours	3	HSBC Ltd	237	Neterwala Group	120 & 121	Tata Tea Ltd	141
Bombay Samachar	215	ICICI Bank	102	Normak Fashions	57	Telco Construction	73
Buildtech India	175	Ideal Corner	137	Omega Kitchen	45	The Associated Cement Co	59
Burjor Framji & Co	112	Irani Foods	213	P N Writer & Co	Cover III	The Cover Co	33
Byculla Pharmacy	230	J J College of Commerce	40	Paragon Toys Shop	190	The Eastern Electric	145
Cafe Mondegar	208	JMM Associates	155	Parsi Dairy Farm	91	The Taj Group	61
Camy Wafer Co	52	J M Shroff Transport	204	Patel Plastic Corpn	190	The Trent - Westside	89
Catering & Allied	20	Jai Khodiyar Metal Works	20	Percy & Kaizad Roadlines	190	The Virjees	180
Central Bank of India	181	Jals Detective & Protection	42	Pheroze Framroze	69	TISCO	136
Champion Jointings	17	James Mackintosh	167	Pioma Industries	Cover IV	Titan Industries	231
Chemould Publications	28	Jeena & Co	115	Polymer Inks	169	Travel Corpn of India	15
Cheron Caterers	151	Jehangir Medical Elect.	211	Powerpusher Financial	138	Tropicana	111
Chitra Cinema	108	Jimmy Boy Cafe	107	R K Builders	54	Unicon Intl	171
Colgate-Palmolive	160	Jimmy Ghaswala	106	R Nowrojee & Co	162	Union Bank of India	165
Comart Lithographers	117	Jimmy's Ennis	210	R P R Enterprises	210	United Motors (I) Ltd	77
Comart Lithographers	119	JMM Enterprises	70	Railway Hotel	188	United Pestiche	50
Dai-Ichi Karkaria	55	K Wadia	100	Raj Shipping Agencies	12	V K S Engineering	180
Daks Copy Service	186	Kaisha Manufacturers	11	Rallis India	223	Vadilal Industries	236
Darashaw & Co	159	Kalianiwala Spring Works	186	Rameshkumar & Co	222	Vantage Advertising	63
Davars College	87	Kayani	10	Ratan Surveyor & Co	206	Veekay Caterers	26
Diamond Abrasive	53	Kerawalla & Co	16	Rattan M Elavia	56	Veera Tanneries	221
Diana Soap Co	238	Kermani Transport	19	Raymond Ltd	183	Veldon Coats	195
Dinshaw Shapoorji & Co	140	Keystone Realtors	105	R. Workingboxwalla	9	Venus Ethoxyethrs	71
Dinshaw's Dairy Foods	149	Kings Ice Cream	51	Remedies Pharmaceuticals	217	Victory Theatre	72
Dotivala Bakery	127	Krupp Industries	163	Rusy M Shroff	106	Voltas - Hyderabad	81
Dr Minocher Damania	164	Lala Tours	110	S F Engineer	43	Voltas Ltd	138
Engineering & Agencies	95	Leach & Weborny	114	S.R. Co	48	Well Wisher	156
Enka Civil Const.	201	Leopold Cafe	168	Savoy Electronics	206	Well Wisher	180
Eros Elevators	21	Lords Central Hotel	124	Sea Green Hotel	13	West End Hotel	98
Eureka Forbes	239	M N Dastur & Co	92	Sea Green South Hotel	143	West-End Cinema	80
Exemplar-Nihon	79	M Pallonji	229	Selvel Publicity	147	White Cloud Filter Pads	198
Fag Bearings	101	Magnum Arms	182	Serum Institute	27	Wok N Roll	109
Farah & Tanya	185	Mahavir's Embroidery	213	Sew Electricals	222	Yezdani Bakery	218
Fariyas Hotel	41	Mancherji Joshi Memorial	174	Shapoorji Pallonji	176	Zaina Electricals	173
		Manize-Spin weave	14	Sharukh Dubash	190	Zoroastrian College	191
		Marcks & Co	74	Sharick Exports	220	Zoroastrian Co-op Bank	126



In Memoriam
Mr Fali Meherji Variava
(Late) Director

BLAZE TOURS & TRAVELS PVT. LTD.

Indian Merchants' Chamber Bldg., Opp. Churchgate Station (W), Mumbai 400 020.

Tel. Nos.: (022) 2044439, 2020233, 2840026, 2843901. Fax: (022) 2048037



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.

"Happily a navar"

On reading "Happily a navar" (Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, May 2001) I thought I too would like readers to know that 13-year-old Shazad Hoshi Sahiar did his martab on May 16, 2001 at Bombay's Soonaji Hirji Agiary. He too comes from a family of mobeds and his father Hoshi works at Mevawalla Agiary. Under the guidance of Pervez Madon, the panthaky of the Soonaji Agiary, this little boy went through the days with a smiling face always. His navar was dedicated to the memory of my aunt Shera Rustom Master. Shazad lost his mother a year ago. He is at present studying at the Surat Parsi Orphanage.

SILLOO DOSSABHOY KALYANIWALLA

"Zoros at the Olympics"

I am writing in connection with a letter "Zoros at the Olympics" (Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, April 2001) by my

younger brother Gustad Kadwa. My elder son, Kayomars, 29, is in Sydney for the last six years and has always worked for the UPS (United Parcel Service), the leading US-owned courier agency in a senior position.

UPS was the official courier for the Sydney Olympics and my son was one of the officers in charge of handling incoming and outgoing courier parcels for the thousands of participants in the Sydney Olympics. After the Games, Kayomars was highly commended by his company for a job well done. Kayomars spent nearly two months at the Olympic Village. He was provided a furnished room and other necessary facilities during that period.

The Zoros mentioned in the letter were all volunteers but Kayomars was assigned a specific duty which entailed professional responsibility. He was the only Zoroastrian holding a high position at the Sydney Olympics. Therefore, his name ought to have been at the top of the list but has ironically been left out because of personal chagrin.

DARA N. KADWA

Recently, we have read some letters to you regarding Parsis who have participated in the Olympics. I'd just like to inform other subscribers that the following Parsis have participated in the yachting events at the Games: Soli J. Contractor, Tehmasp Mogul, Farokh Tarapore, Cyrus Cama. Contractor and Mogul were the first to represent India in yachting at the 1972 Olympics at Munich, Germany. S. J. CONTRACTOR

"Bangalore's Parsi icon"

I was deeply touched reading "Pint-sized Parsi icon" (Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, March 2001) regarding the dignified last rites given to one of our community's most noble and respected sons Phiroze Framroze Gutta, an accepted authority on banking, who passed away on January 5, 2001 and opted for cremation of his mortal remains.

We Zoroastrians in Bangalore face similar situations. Recently, Dr (Prof) Rustom Damania, an authority on aircraft designing, who successfully led a team at National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) to design and build HANSA — India's first indigenously designed all composite trainer aircraft, passed

away on March 25, 2001. As per his wish and that of his family, Damania was cremated on March 27 after the arrival of his daughter from the USA.

The funeral ceremony was dignified and well attended by many Zoroastrians and non-Zoroastrians including senior officials from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and NAL.

In Bangalore, the local priests do not undertake geh sarna and other prayers for the first four days for those who opt for cremation or burial and hence these prayers were jointly performed by me and Keki Mistry. At Kallapalli crematorium, the entire Zoroastrian congregation joined in a solemn humbandagi of the last paragraph of the geh sarna prayer before the body was finally consigned to the crematorium. It was the most moving tribute of respect and devotion to the departed soul.

Many of our learned priests have opined that the funeral ceremonies are for the soul and not for the dead body which can be disposed of in any manner as per the wishes of the deceased. Is it then fair or proper to show any disdain and disrespect to a dead person by denying prayers which are due for the soul under the pretext of following some fatwas created by the orthodox clergy who see nothing wrong in undertaking all subsequent prayers after four days? Could there be a better example of double standard and hypocrisy?

Dr M. D. DISAWALLA

Bangalore

"The Doongerwadi divide"

I refer to "The Doongerwadi divide" by Arnava Mama (*Parsiana*, April 2001). Intelligent people in the Disposal of the Dead with Dignity — Action Group should not waste their time with the Save Doongerwadi Action Committee (SDAC). One stands for reason and progress, the other for personal beliefs and irrational prejudices. The SDAC would rather see the Parsi heritage destroyed than concede that their stand is only motivated by pseudo morality, the ignorance of most Parsis and self importance. They ask for "proof" from people of the caliber of Dr F. Udawadia when they put forward story tales and myths in the name of religion, taking advantage of the fear of ignorance.

All religions are man-made. They

To profit from
the value
of experience,
call us today!



SUN F&C
Value Fund

Open-end growth scheme investing in value-oriented securities

For more details contact us at: SUN F&C Mutual Fund, Apeejay Chambers, 5 Wallace Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, Tel: 022-2036222, Fax: 022-2036333, email: help@sunfc.com, website: www.sunfc.com or our dedicated branches at • Ahmedabad: 079-6400782/783 • Bangalore: 080-2121482-3 • Chennai: 044 8113219/20/24 • Hyderabad: 040-6618681/82 • Kolkata: 033-2805350/2815441 • Mumbai: 022-2036222 • New Delhi: 011 3753656/57/58/59 • Pune: 020-6052895/3082, 6119378 or the area representative offices at: • Jaipur: 0141-372400, 377062 • Kochi: 0484-368675, 368680, 9847041020 • Patna: 9835041515 or your broker.

STATUTORY DETAILS • SUN F&C Mutual Fund is a trust settled by F&C Emerging Markets Ltd. of the U.K. (liability restricted to the corpus of Rs.5 lakh). • The Board of Trustees of the Mutual Fund have appointed SUN F&C Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd. as the Investment Manager. **RISK FACTORS** • All investments in mutual funds and securities are subject to market risks and the NAV of the schemes may go up or down depending upon the factors and forces affecting the securities market. There can be no assurance that the objectives of the schemes will be achieved. There is no assurance or guarantee as to the rate of dividend distribution nor that dividends will be regularly paid • The past performance of SUN F&C Mutual Fund and the mutual funds managed by the sponsors and their affiliates is not necessarily indicative of the future performance of any of its schemes and may not necessarily provide a basis for comparison with other investments. • SUN F&C Value Fund is only the name of the Scheme and does not in any manner indicate the quality of the Scheme, future prospects or returns. Please read the Offer Document before investing. **Investment Objective:** To provide long-term capital appreciation by investing in value oriented equity securities.



The value of experience

MATRIMONIAL

Parents of a pretty, fair girl 5'3", in early thirties, from a well-known family seek matrimonial alliance from parents of a boy, well settled in business or profession in India or abroad. Girl very talented and widely travelled with varied interests.

Please reply with details and photograph (optional/returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Aug/9-2001)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

are made for the living. The SDAC has nothing to offer the living. Let the Bombay municipality seize the Doongerwadi grounds and turn them into a park, and let the SDAC place their dead outside their homes and whistle for the vultures.

N. D. KHURDY

Dakhmenashini was highly suitable at one time and place. Due to various circumstances, this is no longer the case and some thought must be given to an acceptable and viable alternative.

In the past our community was forward looking, and we achieved so much to be proud of. Now we look back and say that such-and-such was done (or not done) in the days of our forefathers (*baap-daada*) and that everything should continue the same way.

In actual fact we have not hesitated to jettison many old customs if they do not fit in with the current lifestyle. Two examples will suffice. One is the segregation of menstruating women and the other is reciting the kusti prayers after a visit to the bathroom. Neither is the norm these days.

To those who say "What was good enough for our forefathers should be

good enough for us," I would like to ask one question. When you next go on a pilgrimage to Udvada, why do you not go, as your forefathers did, by bullock cart?

KHORSHEED R. K. S. GHANDHI

"Options at Doongerwadi"

Dr Nelie Noble's letter "Options at Doongerwadi" (Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, April 2001) made very interesting reading. She traces the history of several onslaughts on Doongerwadi and the system of dakhmenashini, right from the Jacob and Jamal incident in 1874, when stalwarts like Sir Pherozeshah Mehta and others fought legal battles and won, down to 1922 when the then elite group consisting of the Tatas, F. E. Dinshaw and others formed the Parsi Cremation Society and asked the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) to donate a plot of land to set up a Parsi crematorium.

They did not insist on having a crematorium on Doongerwadi lands, nor did they want to have obsequial prayers said at Doongerwadi. Their demand was for a separate plot of land.

In the BMC at that time were corporators like Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Sir Homi



STEEL
& HIDE
FURNITURE
SYSTEMS

CONSULTANTS IN
INTERIOR DESIGN
AND FURNITURE

379-A, P. Pupala Marg, (Old Bapty Road), Opp Municipal Ind. Estate, Mumbai 400008
Tel: 3093540, 3088409 Fax: 022-3088409 E-mail: steel_hide@yahoo.com

With Best Compliments from :
Nagarwalla Estates Pvt. Ltd.
Realtors & Estate Agents

Mumbai : 'Jal Darshan', Ground
Flr, Nepean Sea Road,
Mumbai - 400036

Tel : 3673265, 3683713,
3684481

Telefax : 3630006

Pune : 415, Metro House,
21/8, Mangaldas Road,
Pune - 411001

Tel : 6119262

Telefax : 6138405

Website : www.nagarwallaestates.com

E-mail : nagarwallaestates@vsnl.com

Now 100
Years old

**B.
Jamshedji
Jivanji**

*Wishing all
our patrons
a happy and
prosperous
New Year*

Opp Bullion Exchange
188 Zaveri Bazar
Mumbai 400002
Telephone: 2405526

Mody, Sir Feroze Sethna, who withstood the pressure brought on them and did not succumb to any temptation whatsoever but upheld the sanctity of Doongerwadi and the age-old system of dakhmenashini.

There were stalwarts in the community in those days, giants and not lilliputians posing as giants. They bestrode the minuscule Parsi community like a colossus. Alas today such stalwarts do not exist. Those that are at the helm of affairs are easily cowed down by a group which calls itself DDD-AG.

The tragedy of Doongerwadi is the apocalyptic result of the so-called elite group of Parsis and some of the past and present trustees of the Parsi Punchayet.

Cry! The beloved community that it has come to this sorry pass!

Ervad ASPI KEKI RAO

This refers to Behram H. J. Rustomji's letter "Options at Doongerwadi" (Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, May 2001). What a sensible solution to the disposal of our dead and how true the words — "Tradition is not religion — and the demolition of a tradition is not the destruction of religion." Fire can never be defiled, and when we leave this world, let us leave

being purified by its sacred flames.

FEHMIDA SHAPOOR TOORKEY

Recycling corpses

A Swedish scientist investigating the most environmentally friendly form of burial has found a way of quickly recycling corpses into soil enricher, the Swedish daily *Svenska Dagbladet* quoted Reuters in June 2001. The new method, approved by the Church of Sweden, turns the body into organic matter in a few weeks compared with coffin burial in which the body takes between 50-60 years to fully decompose. Biologist Susanne Wigh-Masak says that in her method the body is immersed in liquid nitrogen, producing up to 65 pounds of pure organic matter.

I do not personally endorse or support this method however.

SHAHROKH MEHTA
Syracuse, USA

Practical options

The dwindling numbers of Parsis and vultures — not necessarily in that order — has for long greatly exercised the community. Something is perhaps being done for the first, while for the latter some rather extravagant and expensive

AATASH TRADING COMPANY

Distributors and Mill Agents
for Fabrics, Home Textiles and
Infant Textile Products

B-52, Twin Towers, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400025
Tel: 3841979-80 Fax: 3875718
E-mail: atash@bom1.vsnl.net.in



REVIVAL

Embroider a traditional Parsi 'Gara' from our wide range of designs all hand-embroidered by master craftsmen using fine silk very close to the original Chinese influenced unique designs. We also offer a wide variety of pure silver zari (Zardosi) borders and French lace sarees embellished with Swarovski diamond crystal. Moreover we guarantee our products against any manufacturing defects and for pure silver used.

Please contact:

Mr Rayomand F. Workingboxwalla

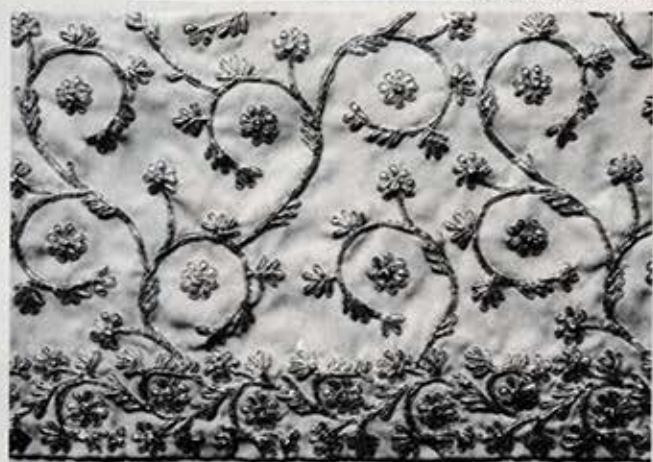
6, P. C. Shroff Building,
Gamadia Colony, Ground Floor,
Tardeo, Mumbai 400007

Tel no: 4966679/4950936

E-mail: rayo1@rediffmail.com

(By appointment only)

**We also buy and sell old
chinese garas and borders**



MATRIMONIAL

Parents of an enterprising, educated daughter, aged 30, 5'3", running her own e-business invite matrimonial alliance from well placed boy in business or profession.

Girl is involved in the Internet and web designing.

Please reply with details and photograph (optional/returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Aug/10-2001)
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

proposals are being floated.

Let us look back at the origins of these various rites as they came to be adopted by different races. Historians consider this an important clue to trace the genesis of races. It is found that cremation was adopted by cultures originating in riverine parts of the world. This is where woods and streams are always at hand. For cultures based in arid or semi desert areas with its loose earth, it was burial. Antedating these were the semi nomadic, pastoral cultures where the races traversed hilly, rocky tracts. It was found that there the practise for the tribe was to leave the dear departed on a nearby hilltop, as they moved on. In short, each culture was merely using practical sense in its rites.

Without being rigidly doctrinaire in our mode of disposal let us resort to practical sense as it fits into our world today.

F. M. SOONAWALLA

Lucknow

Surfing surnames - IV

Here are the remaining eight surnames to supplement the "Surfing surnames" lists published in February-March 1997, February-March 1999 and October 2000: B: Behboodi, Bogdaawala; F: Florist; L: Laakadya; M: Munaheri,

Mulaadwala; U: Umranwala and V: Vetaawala.

BURJOR M. DABOO

Ahmedabad

Engineer's tenacity

The Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) elections which were held on June 2, 2001 reminded us of the story of David and Goliath. Maneck H. Engineer, rather an unknown figure, fought single-handed a sitting trustee, Dinshaw Mehta against all odds, as he was backed by three other trustees viz. Silloo Kavarana, Dadi Engineer and Rustom Tirandaz who accompanied him to all the election meetings.

Though we were a part of the team which helped Engineer in the last fortnight, the manner in which he fought the elections, holding meetings from Colaba to Jogeshwari and Thana is worthy of admiration. He fought the elections honorably and courageously which speaks volumes about his tenacity and will to serve the community. The election results give us great satisfaction as he secured 42 percent votes which is an achievement. We consider it a victory though the election results are to the contrary. It is a victory for the cause for which he is committed. He will continue

In ever loving memory

Khodayar N. Kayani
and
Nawzer N. Kayani



KAISHA MANUFACTURERS Private Limited

(An ISO 9002 Company)

Manufacturers of Neutral Glass
Ampoules and Tubular Vials for Injectibles

Office:

Kaisha Manufacturers Private Limited
Shapoorji Pallonji Centre, 41/44, Minoo Desai Marg, Colaba, Mumbai 400005
Telephone: 2814241/2819359/9360/9361/9362 Fax: 022-2819363
E-mail: kaisha_@vsnl.net Website: www.kaishamanufacturers.com

Factory:

Survey No. 50/4, Kadaiya Village, Post Bhimpore, Nani Daman 396210
Telephone: (0260) 257192/256278 Fax No: (0260) 257194

*With best
compliments from*

**Raj Shipping
Agencies
Limited**

**Raj Shipping
Agencies**

**Raj Transport
and Trading
Company**

- * Authorized distributors
of marine lubricants
for M/s Indian Oil
Corporation Ltd
- * Owners/Charterers of
offshore supply vessels/
tugs/pontoons/self propelled/
dumb barges and fork lifts
- * Suppliers of bunkers/lubes/
fresh potable water
- * Specialist in ODC/heavy-
lift cargo movements
- * Mid-stream lighteraging
of import-export
consignments of chemicals/
lube base oils/edible oils

Head office

Banaji Mansion, 1st Floor
17 Banaji Street, Fort
Mumbai 400023

Tel: 2040122/2040610/
2884720/21

Fax: 2873986

Operation Office

Tel: 3746366/3778447

Workshop

Tel: 3710604, 3739107

to serve the community and speak for
the poor and the needy.

Though Engineer has not been able
to get a berth in the BPP, we are confi-
dent that he will be serving the commu-
nity better from outside.

KERSI H. ELAVIA, AAFAT J. IRANI,
KAEZAD H. KARANJAWALA, NOZER JAL
TANTRA, KAIZAD MANECKSHA, PHEROZ K.
DAVAR

Maritime award

At "Sea India," a maritime heritage ex-
hibition held at Anushakti Bhavan (near
Gateway of India in February 2001) we
had an old model showing the *Trinco-
malee* built by the Wadias in 1817.
Trincomalee is a sailing frigate built at
the Wadia Shipyard, Bombay for the
Royal Navy (British), and is the oldest
surviving sailing frigate still afloat —
full credit to the Wadia master ship-
builders! She was not actively employed
until 30 years after being launched. She
was then cut down by a deck and classed
as a spar deck corvette. She did service
in the North American and West Indies
station from 1847 to 1857, then in the
North Pacific. She was rescued from the
breakers in 1897 by the philanthropist
Wheatly Cobb and used as a boys' train-
ing ship under the name *Foudroyant*.
During the Second World War she was
used by the Royal Navy to provide rat-
ings' accommodation. *Foudroyant/*
Trincomalee survived under the aegis of
a new Trust to undergo extensive re-
pairs, renovation and restoration at
Hartlepool, UK.

The Council of the World Ship Trust
conferred its Maritime Heritage Awards
in 2001 to *HMS Trincomalee*.

Capt VIJAY SHIVDASANI (Retd, Indian Navy)
Trustee, Maritime Heritage Foundation of India

Pork proscribed

I am aware that the majority of the more
orthodox members of our community
do not eat either pork or beef. Most of
our world famous dishes also do not
include these two meats.

I have been told that beef is speci-
fically forbidden in the *Vendidad*. Is this
true? My own unlearned suspicion is
that we do not eat pork so as to keep in
line with the Muslims and since seen as
eating beef is the worst sin that any
Hindu can commit, we have literally
steered clear of the holy cow. We often
boast to outsiders that our religion is not
a prescriptive one and that we have a
freedom of choice to do whatever we
believe is right. Is that really correct?



*With best wishes
from*

**SUPER
SERVICE
STATION**

Dealers
**Hindustan Petroleum
Corporation Limited**

Opposite Poddar Hospital
Worli, Mumbai 400018

Phone: 4933055, 4938617
Fax: 4146911

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, Mumbai 400020 Tel: 2822294 Fax: 2836158 E-mail: sg@vsnl.com Website: www.seagreenhotel.com



*Thank you for
keeping the community
informed*

Sarosh K. Daruwalla's

M A Z D A
AUDIO & VIDEO LAB

811/34, Jame-Jamshed Building
Jame-Jamshed Road, Dadar
Mumbai 400014
Tel: 4124369, 4151207
Mobile: 9821241006
E-mail: mazdavl@mail.com

I would really appreciate a definitive answer to this question. My e-mail address is javidcanteenwala@hotmail.com. Perhaps future issues of *Parsiana* could have a section devoted to questions like this?

JAVID CANTEENWALA
Essex, UK

For want of uniformity

Our noble and tolerant Parsi Zoroastrian community stands at a crossroad for want of a central guiding leadership or well-established generally accepted traditional practices in ritual matters. Our diaspora spread out in different cities, countries and continents tends to evolve its own individual views and ritual practices, disregarding any attempt at uniformity. Our guideline scriptures tend to be transliterated differently by religious entities, some of them not necessarily competent to do so. Any attempt to harmonize with the global changing situations is viewed in some cases as highly unorthodox and therefore unacceptable.

A very recent example: A jashan which is not an 'inner' ceremony, generally accepts the presence of non-Zoroastrians who wish to participate subject to our usual dress code. But some outdated mobeds refuse to accept that situ-

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, 3872718 Resi: 2151900

and

Spin Weave Textiles

HO: Piramal Mansion, 235, D. N. Road, Bombay 400001
Telephone: 2616781 Fax: 2611744

TCI



Travel Corporation (India) Ltd (TCI), winner of the Government of India's prestigious National Tourism Award no less than 14 times, celebrated its 40th anniversary with cocktails and dinner at the Oberoi Towers, Mumbai on July 19, 2001.

With its network of 27 offices in India and 12 overseas, TCI consolidates its role as a major player in the travel and tourism industry, innovating and exploring new markets in India and abroad.



Stepping into the fledgling field of travel and tourism in 1961, TCI has pioneered inbound tourism, earning valuable foreign exchange, promoted corporate travel, package, trade and special interest tours, air charters and cruises.

KERAWALLA AND COMPANY

Parsi caps, sapat, ladies
and gents sadras, lenga,



kusti, syaw, hand
embroidered scarves,
net sadras, German
silverware and
presentation items,
agarbattis, tachho,
vehar, loban, batti-kakra,
nara bundle, etc, etc

Sadras and lengas are
also made to order

R. N. Kerawalla Provision and Stores

Dal-pori, bhakhra,
ghari, khaman laddoo,
tarapori pattia, ginger
and garlic paste, sariya,
custard, cutlets, patties,
Poona biscuits, Lonavla
Navratan chikki, E. F.
Kolah pickles and
vinegar, chicken
broilers, Venky products,
Al Kabeer meat products
and provisions of
reputed companies

Address:

218 Dr Cawasji Hormusji St
Opp A. P. Market
Dhobi Talao
Mumbai 400002
Tel: 2061343

ation even when performing in a private home. This came to my notice when a Parsi lady married to a British husband and having two adult children wanted to have a housewarming jashan performed. The single mobed employed by this community refused to perform the jashan unless all non-Zoroastrians were cleared out of the room at the time of the jashan. He said that was the regulation prescribed by the local community council.

Could this be viewed as a proper, tolerant and wise Zoroastrian morality? Could our high priests, madressas or punchayets elucidate on this problem and publicize worldwide quite clearly what rituals can tolerate non-Zoroastrian presence? Must we suffer from ignorant views of some half-educated mobeds to govern our ritual beliefs and social attitudes?

HOMI B. MINOCHER HOMJI
Ontario, Canada

Perplexing issues

If there is any community which practices population control it must be ours. This may be entirely due to the lack of accommodation available to our youth to get married and raise a family. The Bombay Parsi Punchayet has done what it can, but more needs to be done. The Punchayet may hold vast properties, but the one that always brings a certain sadness in me is the beautiful property of our Doongerwadi. I cannot but feel sad that say within a span of 40 years or so it would be lost to us because of our dwindling population, or maybe the government may inform us that we no longer need such a vast property for the disposal of our dead.

From what I read in *Parsiana*, there are small pockets (sometimes 10 or odd persons) of Parsis staying in villages and small towns, but who hold substantial properties, maybe in trusts. Is it possible that these small pockets of Parsis be unified, their properties sold, before they are encroached upon with consequent long litigation, and then be relocated in another place with the strength of the community increased to 300 or so? The money accrued from the sale of their properties may then be ploughed back in resettling them.

One hears of the stench coming from Doongerwadi, which a couple of my friends residing at Spenta close to Doongerwadi have confirmed. We have changed and adapted new regulations as we have moved in time. I remember that in olden days a menstruating woman

*With best
compliments
from*

BECK ENGINEERING COMPANY Private Limited

and

BECK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY Private Limited

Civil Engineers
and Contractors

23, Police Court Lane
Fort, Mumbai 400001

Tel: 2615820, 2694752
Fax: 2626389

40 years of dedicated service to industries, worldwide



Manufacturers and Exporters of

“CHAMPION” BRAND

Asbestos/non-asbestos, fibre jointings
sheets, cloth, packings, seals, PTFE, spiral
wound metallic and CAF gaskets

Gram: “CAFJOINT” Andheri. Telex: 011-79003 FIRE-IN

Fax: 091-22-837 02 47 091-22-838 14 47

Telephone: 8321071, 8367311-15

CHAMPION JOINTINGS LIMITED

15, Parsi Panchayat Road, Andheri (E), Bombay 400069

Web address: <http://IMCnet.org/home/champion>

E-mail: champion@bom3.vsnl.net.in

was made to sit separately in Parsi households. No one in the family was supposed to touch her, and even the food served to her was put in her plate by not touching the plate. Today this custom hardly exists. We have now also decided that our women married outside the community will be accorded our rituals for the dead at Doongerwadi. So why are we making such a fuss about cremation?

Our brethren in foreign lands do not have a dakhma, and are either buried or cremated. Does anybody believe that their souls are roaming around the world with nowhere to go? Also cremation by electrical method costs not a great deal of money and can be financially self sustaining. The prayers which are said before and after the disposal of the body can continue to be said as at present. The question about the ashes can be left to the family concerned who may wish to immerse the ashes in the sea, bury the ashes in an urn in a place allotted to them, keep the ashes in an urn in a niche given to them on a wall especially for this purpose (light a diya or put flowers there whenever they wish to). A person may be employed to do these for them on a daily basis if they so wish.

I have been lucky enough to see such

cemeteries in other countries and they sure look very pretty, more like a garden with candlelights and flowers, a fitting place for the ashes of a beloved one to rest.

I am very proud to be a Zoroastrian and I feel our religion is a great religion, but if we think that all other humans and their religions are inferior to ours then we would be making a great mistake. Marriages at best are like lotteries and no one can really guarantee their success or failure. One may argue that one brought up in similar traditions would turn the odds in one's favor. I am inclined to agree with such a statement. But marriage is not a horse race, where even odds-on favorites have been known to bite the dust.

None of all that is written above is meant to insult our revered priests or scholars so let not anybody get on his/her high horse and start writing letters to me of what they think of me. They are entitled to their views and opinions, but so am I to mine. SOLICOLABAWALA

Relevant revelations

The followers of the "revealed or prophetic faiths" who pride themselves in being identified by the names of their founders feel they have a special re-

sponsibility in following the preaching of the "revealer" or the prophet as closely and correctly as possible. However, it is the misfortune of the followers of Zarathushtra and the Zoroastrian religion that most of the original scriptures were lost to two destructive hordes within a few centuries and perforce Zoroastrians have to deal with that reality as best as they can.

Among the teachings of the prophets, there is little doubt that there are again two that stand out:

- The first discusses the mysteries of life and inspires individuals for a better way of life and better understanding of the Creator and His creation.

- The second addresses the social behavior of humans (in many cases specifically to meet the prevailing social customs and practices) and teaches them behavior appropriate to their daily discourse and earthly surrounding, thus enabling them to live a more harmonious, happy, contented, meaningful life.

In the second category, perhaps Zarathushtra was unique, as having not laid down knowingly many rigid codes of conduct for every aspect of daily discourse, which could over long periods degenerate to dogmas, perhaps even

*With Best Compliments
From*

ARENA

Arena Lifestyles Private Limited

69 Bhulabhai Desai Road

Breach Candy, Mumbai 400026

Tel: 3681122 Fax: (91-22) 368-1133

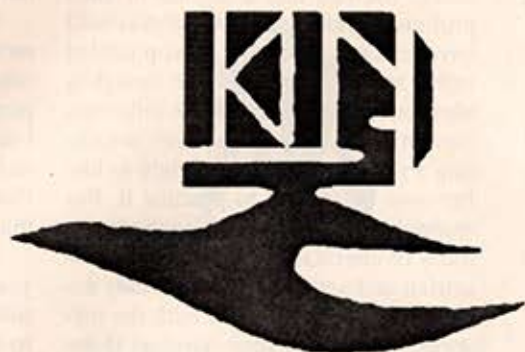
*With compliments
from*

MASANI & COMPANY

Engravers

'Ararat'

89-C, Nagindas Master Road
Bombay 400001



Kermani Transport Service

Truck Owners & Contractors

H. O. & Admn Office:

Guru Himmat 'A' Wing
Dr Mascarenhas Road
Mazagaon, Mumbai 400010
Phone: 3723333, 3712715

Booking Office:

Opp Jakeria Masjid
7-C, Dhobi Street
Mumbai 400003
Phone: 3420271, 3420272

**Branches**

- Delivery Godown: B-Anjirwadi, Mount Road, Mazagaon,
Mumbai 400010, Tel: 3725002/3724273
- Thane: (1) Chitalsar, Manpada, S. V. Road, Next to Tatwadyan
Vidhyapeeth, Tel: 5344823
- (2) Purna Village, Thana Bhiwandi Road, Near Uttam Roadways, Tel: 913 71698
- Vapi: Near R. T. O. Char Rasta G. I. D. C., Tel: (02638) 32766/32767
- Valsad: Kamala Nehru Road, Tel: (02632) 53294
- Billimora: Gohar Baug Road, Tel: (02634) 83397, 55676
- Navsari: Opp Central Bank, Tel: (02637) 59009/59008
- Delivery Godown: Zaveri Sadak, Tel: (02637) 59194
- Udhna: Road No 2, Tel: (0261) 678612
- Surat: Near Suraj Talkies, Falsa Wadi, Begam Pura, Tel: 435428/435712
- Delivery Godown: Ring Road, Near Surat Textile Market, Tel: 621774
- UNN: Delivery Godown Tel: (0261) 872807



Specialists and
Manufacturers
of Pure Silver and German
Silver, Sesh Gift Articles,
Vases and All other
Religious Articles.

We also undertake
Silver & Gold plating.

11, 2nd Bhoiwada,
1st floor, Bhuleshwar Road
Mumbai 400002
Tel: 2422239 Mobile: 98200 81984

C/o Maneksha Navroji
Durlabh Bhuvan, Opp Petrol Pump
24 Charni Road Junction
Mumbai 400004
Tel: 3824052

tyrannical. On the contrary, Zarathushtra frequently and strongly stressed the use of one's Vohu mana or the God given good thinking.

Unfortunately, it is impossible for anyone using genuine Vohu mana to accept the fact that a teacher of such profound wisdom as Zarathushtra could have remotely promoted or propounded in His teachings many of the thoughts, ideas and practices that some followers currently advocate, such as not permitting a genuine believer the right to his/her own belief and to practice it. For example, while they question the legitimacy of intermarriage between a Zoroastrian and a non-Zoroastrian, they accept into the Zarathushti faith the offspring of such an intermarriage if the father is a Zarathushti but, incredibly, refuse the same privilege where the mother is a Zarathushti.

It is difficult for an individual, by conviction or otherwise, to have beliefs of a group, and yet be shunned and not be accepted by the group. Is this not the surest way to create factions? Would that be the real Zarathushti way of living in harmony?

We often lament the community's rapidly depleting numbers. Could it be

that because of our unholy practices and the consequence thereof Ahura Mazda is pointing out our follies and indeed warning us of our possible fate? One may also point out that we are unwittingly harming/insulting the name of our great teacher.

One often hears how quality is far more important than quantity. We often take pride in the great Zoroastrian empire that once was. Would that have been possible with even a thousand times our present numbers? It has been said that every organism must grow. Any that is not growing has started to die.

Over the intervening thousands of years, is it not possible that some distortions could have crept in, some wittingly to meet the prevailing circumstances, and some unwittingly? We are well aware of distortions creeping in our day-to-day current discourses. Could it then be impossible for some distortions also creeping in the practices, however good their memory may have been then? Is it not possible for us to grant them that level of humanity? This is where the supreme teaching/stress on Vohu mana becomes so beautiful and so vital. This is perhaps where the teachings of Zoro-

continued on page 202



FARROKH KHAMBATA CATERING & ALLIED

*Wishing All Our Dear Clients
a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year*

Ness Baug, Annexe 2, 2nd Floor, Flat #3, Nana Chowk, Mumbai 400007
Tel: (Off/Res) 3870856/3872350 • Central kitchen: 2011037/2073840



EROS
ELEVATORS



Passenger : Goods : Automobile : Hospital

EROS ELEVATORS PRIVATE LIMITED

405 Bharat Ind. Estate, Tokersey Jivraj Road, Sewree, Mumbai - 400 015
Tel. : 413 1525, 414 3431 Fax : (91-22)415 3192 Website : <http://www.eroselevators.com>

Events and Personalities

Befitting memorial

The Delhi Parsi Anjuman (DPA) celebrated Jamshedi Navroz on March 21, 2001 with the inauguration of the Dr Nowshir Jungalwalla Memorial Room on their premises on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg. The gathering this year included representatives from the Kashmiri Pandit community who too celebrate Navroz and organize prayers in accordance with their own tradition.

The Memorial Room is meant to serve as an ideal venue for meetings, conferences and seminars, and is equipped with a small computer area, a table for reading, and demarcated space for lectures and film shows, notes a press release from DPA trustee Ava Khullar.

Author and Zoroastrian scholar Pilo Jungalwalla whose magnanimous donation made possible the construction of the Room in memory of her doctor husband Nowshir, formerly a respected consultant with the World Health Organisation was keen that the Room be also used to run religious classes for the community's youngsters. Pilo has been one of the strong pillars of the Young Farohars, as the active organization of Zoroastrian children in Delhi is known, whilst ingraining in them religious understanding and awareness.

Vispy Bhagwagar, the architect of the Room, designed the shape of the doors and windows to represent the base of the afarganiu atop which sits the stained glass panel conceived and executed by Katayun Saklat of Calcutta. Describing the "highlight of the new

Room," the stained glass panel, Khullar refers to the "asho farohar in the center floating over flowing waters with play-



Stained glass panel at Delhi's Nowshir Jungalwalla Memorial Room

ful fish and flowers in it and clouds above. The side panels have the afarganiu and fire. Shades of blue, orange and mustard give a very striking and pleasing effect, the river of life uniting all three panels."

Education excellence

While Bombay's Maneckji Cooper Education Trust School was conferred the National Udyog Excellence Award, its principal for the last six years, Zarine Hoshedar Basla was presented the Jewel of India Award by the International Institute of Education and Management, New Delhi, notes a press release. The awards were distributed on May 4, 2001 by Dr G. V. G. Krishnamoorthy, election commissioner of India, O. P. Saxena, additional advocate general of the Supreme Court of India, and Dr Bhishma Narayan Singh, former governor of Tamil Nadu and Assam.

"There's no excellence without labor" is the motto of this School which has been securing cent percent results at the ICSE (Indian Certificate of Secondary Education) examination for the last

several years with the 1997 and 1999 toppers from Bombay being Maneckji Cooper School students, notes a write-up from the institution. Their approximately 2,000 students, of whom 10 percent are Parsis, are also encouraged to undertake social service activities for the blind, cancer patients, etc.

Before joining Maneckji Cooper School, Basla was for 13 years the principal of Blossoms Thackersey English High School when too her students had been consistently securing cent percent results at the SSC (Secondary School Certificate) examinations. Prior to that she had 10 years' teaching experience at the Hindi Vidya Bhavan and the Mount Mary School. Bombay born and educated Basla, (née Arsiwalla) had done her schooling at St Anne's and graduated from St Xavier's College.



Basla (left): efforts rewarded

As honorary secretary of the Zoroastrian Student Teacher Association for the last 10 years Basla has been endeavoring to enhance the religious and community awareness of member schools and students from the education fraternity through elocution competitions, quiz, get-togethers and outings. For the last two years she has been serving on the advisory committee (education) of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet which through extra classes and tuitions seeks

With Best Compliments

from

**ADI MOUNTVALA
&
ASSOCIATES PVT. LTD.**

Court View, 126, Maharshi Karve Road,
Churchgate Reclamation, Mumbai 400020

Tel: 2833989 • Fax: 284640

Email: adimt@vsnl.com



From left (top row): BASZA felicitates sportsmen; members in attendance at the AGM in 2000; Paghdiwalla (above) and Pastakia; (second row): Batliwala, Khan, Mehta, Motiwala and Wadia



to improve the performance of students at the school leaving and other competitive examinations. Having attended national and international educational conferences Basla was appointed secondary section convener of the A and B wards and had served on the committee of consumer awareness program for students, notes her bio data.

"The education level in India is comparable or even better than that available abroad," notes Basla. And although there are many good educational institutions in this country she regrets that due to rampant corruption, opportunities are denied to genuine students.

Borivli's silver lining

The active Borivli and Suburban Zoroastrian Association (BASZA) has completed 25 eventful years of its existence, announced president Noshir Paghdiwalla at the Association's annual general meeting (AGM) on May 26, 2001. BASZA's range of religious and social activities includes pleasurable sojourns, get-togethers, contests and discourses, demonstrations, slide shows on religious subjects, notes their report. Scholastic, sports and cultural achievements of members' children are invariably rewarded by BASZA.

While some active members of BASZA volunteer their services to clean agaries, other well-wishers like the Irani family of Ideal Farm permit the use of their Rustomjee International School premises in Borivli for the Association's functions, acknowledged Paghdiwalla. He felt the wives of the committee members also deserved thanks for their sup-

portive role.

The executive committee which has been elected to manage the Association's affairs this year constitutes Paghdiwalla as president, Marzban Mehta as vice president, Khurshed Pastakia as secretary, Yezdi Motiwala as treasurer, and Marzban Wadia, Zubin Batliwala and Minoo Khan as committee members. The AGM was preceded by an annual thanksgiving jashan and rounded off with a session of games, music and dinner, mentions the press release.

The BASZA Newsletter invariably gives a recap of the Association's recent events, announces future plans, community developments and reserves some space for religious awareness and humor. The latest March issue also accommodates one Gujarati page in its six-page format for, as explains editor Paghdiwalla, "Some of our avid readers have suggested that...part of the BASZA Newsletter should be in our own mother tongue, viz Gujarati. While I do not claim any great proficiency in the language, I have made a humble effort to accede to their request. Any mistakes are purely unintentional."

Boys' Town grooms them

"To give them all-round education with many amenities at low fees and to inculcate in their impressionable minds the principles of good citizenship" Pirojsha Nusserwanji Mehta established Boys' Town Public School, a residential institution at Nasik in 1944. "Sizeable concessions are offered to the deserving children of non-affluent Parsi parents,"

mentions Bejon Desai, principal emeritus and secretary-trustee of the School. Sons of a Zoroastrian priest can avail of free education at the residential school, adds Desai, referring to the navjote and navar training provided to athornan children with further education/training for those choosing to pursue a priestly vocation after their SSC.

In addition to the congregational prayer assemblies, every evening classes are held for Avesta, Gita, Koran studies with special Zoroastrian scripture classes on Saturdays, notes the school prospectus. "Boys' Town aims at giving an all-round education to the students — intellectual, aesthetic, physical and moral," states the prospectus adding how personality development is taught through various school activities. To give the children training in civics and self-government they hold their own annual elections where the elected officers are responsible for maintaining order and discipline at Boys' Town. The Boys' Town Bank and the Boys' Town Post Office give the students practical knowledge of the running of these establishments.

Recognized as a grant-in-aid residential high school and an unaided nursery, preparatory and primary school with English as the medium of instruction, the school run by the P. N. Mehta Education Trust has been raised to the status of a public school under instructions from the director of education, Poona, declares the prospectus. Offering the latest in technical subjects like woodwork technology, furniture designing, machine drawing, mechanical and electrical technology, the School also deems

WELCOME TO MUMBAI...



WHERE CHILDREN DON'T KNOW
WHAT POWER CUTS ARE.
THANKS TO TATA POWER.

Mumbai, India's throbbing metropolis, home to the cream of Indian business. The only city in India where genset manufacturers don't have their cash registers ringing.

Primarily due to the immense contribution of The Tata Power Company Limited, which ensures a high-quality, reliable supply of electricity seven days a week, 365 days a year.

And it's been like this ever since a licence to generate and distribute power in the city of Mumbai was first granted to the Tatas,

way back in 1907.

Today, the burgeoning population and vibrant business establishments of Mumbai consume 12 billion units of electricity every year, of which Tata Power produces 9 billion.

Tata Power services its direct customers and also supplies high quality power to two distributing licensees who in turn reach the power to the people.

Just one of the ways the Tata Group helps in improving the quality of our lives.



MUMBAI POWER IS TATA POWER.



Picturesque environs of Boys' Town (left) where students are given all-round training (below)

it necessary to impart knowledge of computers so that no student from Boys' Town will ever feel a misfit in this computer age. Through exposure to sports, and hobbies like drawing and painting, gardening and music, the School aims to teach by example rather than instruction, giving the society "good, responsible, young citizens who are well adjusted and ready to face the challenges and tests of this complex age."

Among the eminent alumni of the School are Jamsheed Kanga, former municipal commissioner of Bombay,



test cricketer Nari Contractor, architect Hafeez Contractor, Sq Ldr Parvez Jamsaji, and others who have shone in the field of finance, management and

medicine, proudly announces the prospectus.

Rail responsibilities

As senior divisional commercial manager of Western Railway Bakhtiar K. Dadabhoy is now in charge of the Bombay division which extends from Churchgate to Surat and the Tapti Valley section which reaches up to Jalgaon. The new post that he has assumed since April 2, 2001 requires him to oversee reservations, bookings, passenger amenities, catering, functioning of ticket examiners, among other duties, explains Dadabhoy.

He is also working towards upgrading Udvada to a B grade station by virtue of its religious significance. Usually stations are graded depending on their earnings with A grade stations showing a revenue of over six crore rupees, he clarifies. Once the papers are cleared to declare Udvada a B grade station, efforts will be on to introduce better facilities with an improved waiting room and other amenities.

Knowledgeable and well-read, Dadabhoy was selected to represent the western region at the "Master Mind India" TV quiz program conducted by the

VICKY & KHURSHID

Wishing all our patrons a Happy and Prosperous New Year

Always Remember



VEEKAY CATERERS

For buffet or sit down meals with exquisite and grand decorations for Weddings, Navjotes, Birthday Parties and Socials to be a grand success

**Tel: 4968138/4944898
Mobile: 9821279013**



N. DAVAR & Company

**Painting
Contractors
Decorators**

2, Commerce Centre,
Tardeo, Mumbai 400034
Tel: 4944856, 4943210
Fax: 4947151

SUNSHINE SNACK CORNER

13 Hampton Court, Wodehouse
Road, Colaba, Bombay
Tel: 2150646/2150787

We conduct outdoor parties and specialize in Parsi, Indian and Continental food

We also conduct live Bar-B-Que at site.

For details contact our sales staff or phone:
2150787/2150646

Takeaway and Home delivery service available

*

CAFE CHURCHILL

Opp. Cusrow Baug
Colaba, Bombay
Tel: 2844689/2042604

Free Home Delivery

With best compliments from



•Vaccines • Antisera •Anti Cancer Drugs •Biological Products

A leading manufacturer and major supplier to the Government of India for the Expanded Programme on Immunisation and exporter of Life Saving Vaccines to more than 135 countries world-wide.

Our product range includes

VIRAL VACCINES

Measles, Measles-Mumps-Rubella and Rubella

BACTERIAL VACCINES

Diphtheria-Tetanus-B.Pertussis, Diphtheria-Tetanus (Paediatric), Diphtheria-Tetanus (for Adults) and Tetanus Toxoid.

Recently launched GeneVac-B – Recombinant Hepatitis B Vaccine

ANTI CANCER DRUGS

We observe the most stringent current Good Manufacturing Practices and Quality Assurance specifications.

Shortly we shall be introducing indigenously developed Human Diploid Cell Rabies vaccine and BCG Vaccine.

SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA LTD.

212/2, Hadapsar, Off Soli Poonawalla Road, Pune 411 028
Tel : +91 (020) 6993900 / 3904 Fax: +91 (020) 6993921

Portrait of a Community

An Exhibition of Parsi Portraits at the
National Gallery of Modern Art,
Mumbai - April 2002



These portraits are a pictorial record of our Parsi Heritage and are of historical, social and aesthetic value. They tell the story of our way of life, the achievements of our leaders and the contribution of the community to Indian History. Every Parsi is a part of this story, and together we can share our heritage with our children and with the members of the society we live in.

Join us to make this a memorable event :

- Send us photographs of portrait paintings & old photographs you feel are interesting. We would like to include the originals in the exhibition. (We particularly need a photograph of the first Parsi Cricket team that played in England).
- Contribute towards the exhibition costs. Any contributions will be gratefully accepted (Donations exempt under 80G).
- We are looking for Corporations who would like to officially sponsor the show wholly or partly.
- Volunteers to help organize the exhibition. We especially need volunteers for photography. Documentation skills are also required.



Cheques may please be issued in favour of :

'Chemould Publications & Arts Trust - A/c Portrait of a Community'

For all communications please contact : Ms. Khorshed Gandhi, Gallery Chemould,
Jehangir Art Gallery, 1st Floor, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mumbai 400 023.

Phone : (+91 22) 284 4356, 283 3640 • Fax : (+91 22) 283 6058

E-mail: portraitofacomunity@hotmail.com



*Dadabhoy:
should be
proactive*

BBC in August 2000, states his father.

With his 14 years' experience with the Railways, having joined as assistant commercial manager after clearing the civil services examination conducted by the Union Public

Service Commission, Dadabhoy would like to encourage more Parsis to join the government sector at the officer and clerical level. "Once you are in government employment it is not easy to switch jobs. It is not like the private sector where you are vice president of a firm one day and president of another firm six months later," he is not particularly enamored by these designations. Referring to the government run services he adds that one person can't change the huge system. He does though stress on the need to be proactive instead of reactive which has hitherto been the case with the Railways. As he observes, the

expectations of the passengers from certain divisions like Bombay are very high. Dadabhoy hence realizes the need to be more passenger oriented.

Helpline for blood

"Some day the life of someone you love may be hanging in the balance for want of blood. Donate blood and save a life...Blood donors are special," reminds *Helpline*, a 24-page blood donors' directory voluntarily compiled by Pervin Sarkari of Godrej Baug. "It will give me great happiness to know that *Helpline* will benefit those concerned," notes Sarkari in her acknowledgement dated February 2001 mentioning that a "sincere desire to help my community" motivated her to undertake this task.

More than 70 residents of Godrej Baug have been listed as blood donors with the maximum entries in the A+ve and B+ve categories and one sole entry in the O+ve category. The questionnaires that she had distributed to the occupants of every flat brought her responses to fill six pages of the compilation. Against the donor's name is mentioned his/her age, flat number, residence and office

contact numbers. Also useful are the contacts of hospitals, blood banks, ambulance services, nurses bureaux, eminent physicians, specialists and surgeons.

When doing a course in self expression and leadership with Landmark, an institution that encourages members to empower their lives, Sarkari says that she was required to work on a socially



*Pervin Sarkari (center) with daughters
Faarah (left) and Farzeen*

effective project. Thus she set about collecting data on blood donors from Godrej Baug. She was hoping to include residents of Spenta, the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's ownership building on

Saal Mubarak



SUPERSTAR
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Graphics * Corporate Presentations
Website Designing and Hosting

Preserve your memorable moments on

DVD

VideoCD/Photo CD

Hutoxi Bomi Patel, Eruch Patel, Shahzad Bomi Patel
Tel: 4121799/4140344 Email: superstarvideolabs@excite.com

Best Compliments From

HILLA BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED

Registered Office:
V.T. Mansion,
144, Perin Nariman Street
Fort, Mumbai 400001
Tel. No: 2699399/2657599
Fax No: 2691492

Site:
HILLA SAGAR
19, Chandanwadi
Marine Lines
Mumbai 400002

Site:
HILLA HEIGHTS
147, Alibhai Premji Marg
Lamington Road
Mumbai 400007

Gibbs Road, too within her ambit but was demotivated by the insufficient response from that quarter. Although she has been distributing *Helpline* free she finds that many of the flat occupants in Godrej Baug are not interested in collecting their copy, she comments on their indifference.

The cost of publishing this booklet was borne by eminent tax consultant Homi Ranina in memory of his aunt Nergish Nani Palkhivala, states the booklet. Sarkari has also acknowledged the support of her friend Firoze Patch, and her daughters Farzeen and Faarah among several others who assisted her in her mission.

Dirt conscious

"The garbage segregating scheme is a success...Our Colony looks wonderfully clean," noted an advertisement in the *Jam-e-Jamshed Weekly* of July 8, 2001 giving credit to the Mancherji Edalji Joshi Colony Residents' Association and "especially the ladies who accompany the garbage van daily to ensure the implementation of the scheme." Since April 22, residents of the Parsi Colony at Dadar had been directed to segregate wet and dry garbage at

Zia Parakh (sitting left) with Dadar Colony youth who enact street plays on garbage separation

home under section 368 of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) Act, according to a report in the *Mid-Day* of May 10. While wet garbage comprising kitchen waste, leaves, flowers and dust is collected in one garbage van to be sent to a garden in Wadala where it is converted to manure, dry garbage constituting paper, plastic, glass and tin is collected in another garbage van to be dumped at Deonar where rag pickers earn a living sifting through it and selling recyclable material, adds the newspaper. "The garbage dump at Deonar is so full that it will hold garbage only for the next two years," reported an item in the *Bombay Times* of May 2.

Dadar Parsi Colony is apparently the only locality in Bombay which boasts a special bell-ringing system for the direct collection of garbage for the last 33



years, it had been reported in the *Bombay Times* of April 27. A municipal staffer intimates the residents of his arrival by ringing a bell. In response members of each household send down their garbage which is deposited directly into the truck. The idea is to rule out the hazard of litter on the streets with the accompanying stink.

There are some environmentally conscious activists like Tannaz Parakh and her daughter Zia who along with some adults and children go out of their way to educate residents about the necessity of

continued on page 224

Saal Mubarak



SUPERSTAR
VIDEO LABS

Video * Photo * Music

**Cover all your precious moments on Professional
Digital Video**

Hutoxi Bomi Patel, Eruch Patel, Shahzad Bomi Patel

Tel: 4121799/4140344 Email: superstarvideolabs@excite.com

ZTFE's Zartoshty Hall

With basic repairs in place, The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE) organized a jashan and lunch in honor of their benefactors — the Zartoshty family — at their new Zoroastrian Centre for Europe at Harrow on May 20, 2001.

The main auditorium of the erstwhile cinema, named the Zartoshty Brothers Hall, was dedicated to the Zoroastrian community by Iranian philanthropist Mehraban Zartoshty in memory of his late brother, mentor and friend Faridoon Zartoshty, as notes a missive from ZTFE president Dorab Mistry. About 500 Zoroastrians and other guests witnessed Zartoshty unveil the plaque and promise further financial assistance toward refurbishing the property.

Architect and chairman of the new premises committee Shahrokh Shahrokh welcomed an array of special guests

after the jashan, who included the mayor councillor Bob Currie and mayoress Currie, the former mayor Keeki Tham-maih and his wife, Member of Parliament Gareth Thomas, members of the Harrow municipal council and others.

Harrow councillor Keith Toms welcomed one of the world's oldest religious communities to this area and looked forward to the restoration of the landmark art deco property as did Thomas who was decidedly pleased with the change of user from bar to community center. The area was now rid of the nuisance its former owners had caused, he noted. Tham-maih referred to his long association with the Zoroastrians of India, complimenting the small community on their professional accomplishments and economic well-being. Councillor Chris Noyce described the condition of the building prior to its purchase

and how much had been done in the last six months to stabilize and preserve it.

Mistry pledged to restore the heritage structure to its former glory and to contribute to the social and cultural life of Harrow, praising the transport facilities available to the 5,000 Zoroastrians who live within a 50-mile radius of London. However as only about 500 to 700 members at a time would attend prayers and functions at the Centre, they would not present problems of traffic congestion, he said. (The Harrow property has been acquired in the nick of time as parking in the Compayne Gardens where the present Zoroastrian House is located has been reserved for residents only since April 9, 2001, as notes the ZTFE newsletter.)

There were other celebrations that day to which the Zartoshtys were a party, according to Mistry's report. Felicitated on the occasion was Jehangir Sarosh, the first Zoroastrian to be elected vice president of the Interfaith Network for the UK. Sarosh has steadfastly presented the Zarathushtrian case at all interfaith meetings in the UK and represented the ZTFE at international meets in the area. Shernaz Engineer who won the Black-Asian Businesswoman of the Year Award got a special pat on the back from Zartoshty who also launched Ervad Rustom Bhedwar's recitations of the *Gathas* on CD.

An entertainment program was followed by lunch and a slide show ended the day's proceedings.

The day before, May 19, 2001 the community stalwarts had heard Dr Almut Hintze, the Zartoshty Brothers Lecturer in Zoroastrianism at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) deliver the Faridoon Zartoshty Memorial Lecture: "Reward and recompense in Zarathushtra's message." The lecture was followed by a reception in honor of Paridokht and Mehraban Zartoshty at SOAS.

Thanks to the Zartoshtys' generosity, SOAS now offers a first year course, "Introduction to Zoroastrianism," and a graduate course for MA students, "Zoroastrians in the Ancient and Modern Worlds." Two other undergraduate courses on the cards to alternate each year concern themes and sources in Zoroastrianism and Zoroastrianism as perceived by foreigners from Herodotus



Left: Zartoshty responding to speeches and (below) with daughter and granddaughter. Bottom: The new Zoroastrian Centre



THE COVERLON POOL COVER



SAFETY

ELEGANT



AFFORDABLE



Made with double webbing on both sides of the cover making it super strong.

When it comes right down to it there is no better cover made in the world.

Solid Fabric



Blue



Green

Mesh Fabric



Green



Blue



Black



THE COVER COMPANY, INC.

19 Reddington Road, Branchburg, New Jersey 08876

908-707-1122 Fax 908-707-1575

to modern times. With that a complete three-year undergraduate program on Zoroastrianism is now on offer at SOAS.

ZTFE has received the blessings of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet in its endeavor to host the Eighth World Zoroastrian Congress in 2005, notes their April newsletter. Once Iran's support is assured, plans would begin to emerge. According to the grapevine, the hallowed halls of Cambridge could be the venue for a Congress with a more academic menu!

According to the newsletter the ZTFE has been made a beneficiary by many Zoroastrians. They have been responding to the plea that if only five percent of each member's estate could be clubbed for the benefit of future generations, "It would make us the strongest anjuman in the world and provide educational scholarships for all our youngsters in the UK."

In the meanwhile the Faridoon and Mehraban Zartoshty Fund for Medical Relief and Educational Awards, to be administered by the ZTFE, has been endowed by the Zartoshty family. The corpus of £ 400,000 has already been invested and the first disbursements from the income will be made in 2002, notes the newsletter.

The Dr S. H. Kutar Fund for successful medical students awarded £ 501 to Mondana Irani who completed her medical education in 2000. Dr Shirinbanoo Kutar, who has instituted the awards, has expanded their scope to include dentistry, nursing and midwifery, informs the newsletter.

Skills academy in Yazd

The Pourchista Foundation of Yazd has established a Skills and Cultural Centre where young people in search of employment are taught dressmaking, kusti weaving and flower making, according to a report filed by its director Parvin Farkhoni in the ZTFE newsletter. "The Centre is answering one of the fundamental needs in our community faced with high youth unemployment and despair," she notes. Other skills including rug making and sudreh sewing may be introduced in the future.

The skills academy has been instituted by foreign based Zoroastrians Shahin Bekhradnia and Parvoneh Khosravi with the advice and encouragement of Rostam Yaganegi, writes Farkhoni adding, "the generous donation of a Lon-

don based Parsi lady... allowed us to take the first step."

The Pourchista Foundation is looking to Zarathushtris around the world to provide material and financial aid.

Chicago calling

The 12th North American Zoroastrian Congress, due July 4-7, 2002 at the Hyatt Regency on E. Wacker Drive, Chicago has the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC) busily engaged in preparation. Centering round the theme "Advancing Communities, Empowering Change," as per its June 2001 newsletter, ZAC is in the process of generating financial support as well as creating a lineup of new leaders. Rashna Ghadiali, nominated to chair the Congress, is busy carrying out the ZAC board's mandate "that every committee must have a youth chairperson," as per the March 2001 newsletter. This is the practical expression of the desire to ensure that a new generation is ready to take on the challenges of the 21st century as they take over from the retiring leaders. The World Zarathushtri Orchestra is expected to provide another stirring performance on the occasion.

In the meanwhile the 17-year-old Chicago Darbe Mehr's extension project is proceeding. "The new addition is enclosed and painted. With skylights and finished walls, the hall expansion is quite impressive. The old washrooms are gone. New expanded washroom facilities are now located in the expansion area. The coat closet in the foyer is gone, giving a larger kitchen and storage. The main hall, prayer room and kusti areas are all freshly painted. A long awaited exhaust hood has been installed above the stage to control smoke during prayer ceremonies," notes the March newsletter.

The community had collected \$ 109,000 towards this project beginning June 1996 with an additional \$ 50,000 transferred to it from ZAC's general fund. The original estimated cost was \$ 250,000, as per their December newsletter. With a shortfall of \$ 18,000 and an additional requirement of \$ 25,000 for extending and repaving the car park, ZAC members are digging into their own pockets to generate funds with each family contributing \$ 750 to complete the job. The Mobed family added \$ 900 by donating what they normally spend on catered food at the gahambar they host. Instead, the Iranian ladies home-

cooked a variety of Iranian food to the delight of the congregation, as per ZAC's October 2000 newsletter. According to their May newsletter, ZAC decided to apply for a line of credit to the tune of \$ 30,000. The bank loan will be repaid as donations are received. The credit is guaranteed by individual ZAC members who will be liable to repay the bank in case of shortfall.

To ensure that its members' donations are utilized as effectively as possible, ZAC treasurer Dinaz Weber and assistant treasurer Sohila Parsinejad compiled and analyzed 10-year figures of income and expenditure with the help of past treasurer Behram Deboo and vice president Arnavaz Elavia. The board reviewed the results over a total of four meetings and in terms of the maintenance and utility costs has decided to hike the rental rate of the Darbe Mehr Hall with immediate effect, as per the March newsletter. The rates applicable to members for their own use is \$ 500 while their friends would need to pay \$ 1,000 for a function there. The Hall is only rented to paid members of ZAC.

ZAC is officially sponsoring Ervad Farhad Mogal of Karachi to serve as mobed to the community, notes the April newsletter. A single, 35-year-old Mogal is an Oracle 8 programmer and Microsoft certified analyst who has served the Lahore and Karachi communities for over 15 years.

The April newsletter recorded the death of 90-year-old Rustom Hormusji Dalal who spent over 30 years hidden away in downtown Chicago's Ohio East Hotel. The old recluse might never have known of ZAC or they of him had not a young Indian doctor attending at the Northwestern Memorial Hospital informed ZAC in 1989 of his over 80-year-old Parsi patient with no one to look after him. Dalal had lost contact with his family (his brothers Homi and Naval live in India) and had no friends.

Since that time Drs Mehroo and Minu Patel, Nergish and Kayomars Mehta began visiting and keeping a kindly eye on his well-being, notes the newsletter. It led ZAC to acquire the ministerial services of Ervad Jamshed Ravji who provided Dalal with spiritual solace as well as help with shopping, banking, cleaning, etc, well beyond the call of duty, as per the newsletter.

Russ (as he called himself) had to be

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

Life is a Journey, Travel with us.



Best Wishes for A Happy New Year

- Online reservation system for Domestic and International Airline bookings
- Hotel reservations for all major countries
- Assistance in issuance of Business/Tourist/Student and Immigrant Visas.
- Domestic and International package tours.
- Authorised passport agents.

NTA **NAPOLITAN**
TRAVEL AGENCY CO. PVT. LTD.

Cannaught Plaza, F2, 1st floor, Opp G P O , 5 Cannaught Road, Pune 411001
Tel 6128789, 6053265-266, 6119570 • Fax 6135685 • E-mail nta@vsnl.com

Visit us at www.ntaworld.com

moved to another single room location when the Ohio East was demolished and thereafter to an assisted living facility with closer supervision, "sometimes to his own dislike, because he was a very private and independent person," the newsletter notes.

It was late in 1999 that the old man spoke to ZAC about his nephew somewhere in the US and the few pertinent details in the ZAC newsletter and *FEZANA Journal* led to the identification of Edul Dalal, a PhD of Webster, New York. They had two brief meetings ere Russ passed away.

A DSc in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Dalal had spent 65 years in the US and enjoyed good health for his age on a diet of milk and fruits, details the newsletter. A passionate and successful player on the stock market, Dalal was said to be a regular reader of *The Wall Street Journal* and made independent investment decisions until a week before he passed away on March 13, 2001.

Happening in Houston

A family support subcommittee has been established by the Zoroastrian Association of Houston (ZAH) to help members in their times of need, notes the March issue of the ZAH newsletter, *Manashni*. The idea is to provide information and help when there is a death by arranging for funerals, prayers, notification, etc or where a family member has met with an accident or grave illness or any other emergency.

While its Zarathushti Heritage and Cultural Center is providing Houston Zoroastrians with a meeting place for maintaining their identity, the monthly maintenance cost of about \$ 2,000 is a source of worry, as the Association does not have any emergency reserve funds for unexpected problems like roof repair, plumbing, air-conditioner replacement, etc, notes the newsletter. Hence the Association has announced that it will be available for renting even by non-members to raise funds. The effective rates are \$ 1,000 for the hall only and \$ 1,325 if the atrium is also rented. The prayer room however remains open to ZAH members even when the hall is rented out.

In the meantime the permanent reservation of parking spaces against donations is catching on. Comprising the first two rows of parking spaces, these areas

are designated to the donors until January 31, 2004. Unauthorized cars parked thereon may be towed away at the owner's risk, warns the newsletter. Currently 63 open parking spaces remain and the ZAH executive committee is seeking to expand the parking lot further.

The Houston chapter, Texas Society of CPAs awarded Spring Woods High



Rustomji: outstanding teacher

School nominee Aban Rustomji as the outstanding teacher of the year. Competing against other outstanding teachers of the area, Rustomji won the commemorative award and \$ 500, notes the newsletter.

As the joint chairperson of the Sixth World Zoroastrian Congress' public relations committee Rustomji had wowed world Zarathushtis with her efficiency and friendliness alike.

Sohrab Wadia is one of the few international opera singers chosen to study at the International Vocal Arts Institutes in Chiari, Italy and Tel Aviv, Israel, the ZAH newsletter informs its readers. The related programs are conducted by the world's leading teachers and opera coaches and are a highly sought opportunity for budding artists. Wadia, who is already on a work-study fellowship in Italy and on full scholarship in Israel still needs about \$



Opera singer Wadia

4,000 to cover travel and housing expenses as well as victualling and other needs. Generous community members are welcome to contact FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) secretary Arnavaz Sethna (001-281-499-1832) for details.

Karachi news

The Intercolony Skit Competition at Karachi's Hotel Metropole has become an annual event in April for the community. The 20-minute entries are judged by a team of three judges as an audience of 453 cheered Cyrus and the Avari Colony team's professionalism and originality. Their story, *Sassi Punhun*,

required the performers to take on the role of puppets. The evening's proceeds plus donations amounting to Rs 314,350 were donated to the WZO Trust for



Mehta (left) and Dinshaw: off New World

Zarathushti victims of the Gujarat quake.

The evening also marked a farewell tribute to Farishta Dinshaw and Virasp Mehta. A 37-year-old teacher, writer and editor, Dinshaw is emigrating to Canada. Her involvement with the community and the Karachi Zarathushti Banu Mandal (KZBM) has been phenomenal. A writer for children, among her other accomplishments, Dinshaw's most recent work is *Discovering Ashavan*, whose proceeds go wholly into KZBM's educational charities.

Septuagenarian Mehta has been managing trustee of Informal Religious Meetings. The freely distributed monthly bulletin full of Zoroastrian ideas and wisdom avidly read all over the world which celebrated its silver jubilee on February 14, 2000 has been named *Ushao*, the Avestan word for dawn. With the zeal of a man half his age Mehta has propagated liberal Zoroastrian thought in his bulletin as well as his many skits and plays, being steeped in the all-encompassing warmth of the late Dastur (Dr) Maneck Dhalla. Having served the community in a multitude of ways as teacher and librarian, and shouldering the administrative/financial responsibilities of various organizations, Mehta is now migrating to the US with his wife Allan.

A large shark battered his boat for two days; high winds in the Pacific nearly caused him to capsize mid ocean; and mountainous surf turned his boat turtle 200 meters off Brisbane, Australia, forcing 54-year-old wayfarer Jim Nariman Shekhdar to swim the last leg of his lone cross-Pacific odyssey! Thus the British great-grandson of Karachi entrepreneur Cowasjee Variawa entered the world's annals as the first man to row across the Pacific Ocean, unaided against all odds,

continued on page 123

"Prepare for improvement"

The delegates to the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India meet heard about steps being taken to preserve the Udvada shoreline, different alternatives for disposal of the dead and other matters

Arnavaz S. Mama

The deliberations of the executive council of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India started on a brisk note as it assembled in the cool confines of Bombay's West End Hotel on June 9 and 10, 2001. The change in venue after 18 years of sweltering meets at Khareghat Colony's Muncherji Khareghat Hall was welcomed by the delegates even though a few arrivals were delayed, being unacquainted with the late change of site.

"Let's prepare ourselves for a period of improvement, surmount what the community lacks," suggested Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) chairman and Federation president Jamshed Guzder in his welcome speech, alluding to Jamsetjee Tata's advice: "When you think of something, act immediately."

The presence of Ness Lakdawala, president of the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec and Esphandiar Arya Mehr, a sociology student from Tajikistan currently studying at the Central University of Hyderabad under a scheme of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, added an international flavor to the meet. Lakdawala, who is in the business of odor control at mortuaries, waste plants, etc has offered his expertise and a proposal to the BPP to control the stench emanating from the dakhmas at Doongerwadi.

A new trust has been set up under the aegis of the Mhow anjuman with the aim of popularizing early marriages. The success of Heart Meet organized by the Baroda United Zoroastrian Youth (BUZY), though limited, has kindled new ideas of getting young Zoroastrians together with the object of matrimony. The celebration of Sanjan Day this November may extend over three days with a matrimonial meet included, as per the Sanjan delegate Nariman Balsara.

The Supreme Court has endorsed the community's right to frame an alternate

scheme for the management of the Tithal Parsi Sanatorium's 13 acres of land on the sea front near Bulsar. The judgement, reverting the case to the charity commissioner, vindicates Mehrwan Irani's persistent stand against the earlier trustees' decision to lease the place for 99 years to a Jain trust on an annual rent of Rs 1,51,000.

Having successfully launched a secondary English medium school in Dahanu, the young team led by Parvez Irani is considering the prospect of taking on the management of an old cosmopolitan hospital to use as a base for a medical college. The minority community owning and managing such an institution can claim 50 percent reservation of seats under the current dispensation.

The group medical insurance scheme must await the guidelines from the Government of India in light of the new economic policy, according to Nargol anjuman president Hoshang Wania. He has found that so far no hospital is willing to provide medical facilities without down payment.

Offended that his fortnightly newsletter had not been invited to cover the proceedings, *Parsidom* editor Dara Kadva (since deceased) stormed into the council meet alleging it to be a coterie of like-minded people taking decisions on the sly. When Federation joint honorary secretary Keki Gandhi upheld the representative character of the Federation's 67 member associations who met to exchange information and views and confront problems through collective wisdom, Kadva chose to use the absence of the Navsari and Surat representatives to bolster his criticism. BPP trustee Rustom Tirandaz's attempt to placate Kadva with an invitation in future was shot down by Gandhi who doubted if *Parsidom* could be put on equal footing with *Jam-e-Jamshed*, *The Bombay Samachar* and *Parsiana*. When Saronda representative Homi Palsetia

referred to *Parsidom* as "*kachra* (dirt)," Kadva stalked out of the room.

The spring 2001 edition of *The BPP Review*, a quarterly bulletin of the BPP, was launched by Guzder.

The next meeting of the Federation will be hosted by Calcutta on Friday November 30 (Guru Nanak Jayanti) and Saturday December 1, 2001.

Venture capital

The Centre for Promotion of Entrepreneurship and the Zoroastrian Venture Capital Fund Limited, set up to wean Parsis away from salaried employment are expected to begin functioning within a time frame of two to three months, BPP senior trustee and the Federation's joint honorary secretary Minoo Shroff informed the delegates.

While emphasizing that the said institutions were not for charitable dispensation, Shroff noted that they would provide capital to budding entrepreneurs on softer terms than those prevailing in the commercial arena.

He envisaged funding of six to seven crore rupees between the two bodies to which the BPP had already contributed two crore rupees. Though a conference of successful Parsi entrepreneurs was yet to be called, Shroff, an expert on finance, felt, "If the idea is well marketed... if we motivate them to subscribe... We will have an adequate response."

The chief executives of both bodies were expected to be appointed shortly. Their directorial boards, comprising BPP trustees and retired bankers, will work on the concept of rejuvenating the community and its spirit of enterprise, added BPP chief executive officer (CEO) Behram Dastur. Noted businessman Khushroo Byramjee is expected to play a leading role, he noted.

The BPP welcomes community support in the form of cheques (in multiples of thousand) favoring the Centre for Promotion of Entrepreneurship.

*With Best
Compliments From*

FEDCO PAINTS AND CONTRACTS

**Abrasive Blasting and
Painting Contractors**

303, "Gulab," 3rd Floor,
237, P. D'Mello Road, Mumbai 400001

7WZCongress

Reports on the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress varied from total appreciation to disgruntlement. Shroff considered it a great success from the organizational point of view. "The organizing ability of the (North American) community is to be greatly admired. It is creditable that they raised the resources themselves and ended up with a positive balance." He compared the Houston event favorably with the earlier one in Tehran and found the passing of the torch from veteran mobed Shapur Pavri to 12-year-old Mehernosh Bhada "inspiring." Shroff opined, "Individually the community is doing OK but collectively we should be more effective," adding that a general desire to come together had resulted in earnest debates on the formation of an international body.

Striking a negative note, Tirandaz said he had come back with a small "void" in his heart. "Even though the organizational skill of our American friends was way beyond what I had expected... (there was) not much to take back by way of a message to Parsi-Iranidom... Traditions had been given the go by in the name of humanism and progress." He rued the "destruction of

ethos," asked what the youths had done, noting that the youths sponsored by the BPP had "only come back with materialistic awe."

Agreeing that the "materialistic impact was pronounced," Dastur described it as a universal phenomenon, as prevalent in Bombay as in North America. He expressed confidence in the faith that Zoroastrian boys and girls displayed though they "may not be reading from the book... Zoroastrians have evolved with the times and maintained (their) faith," he reminded his audience.

Countering Tirandaz's assessment Mani Clubwala, coopted member of the Federation's south zone stated, "The best session was the youth session where everybody came and talked about the religion. They knew the full history of the Zoroastrian people." Clubwala appreciated all the activities at the Congress including the sports and games.

Dara Irani, trustee of the Poona Parsee Panchayat (PPP), found the Congress both inspiring and educative and was happy with the figure of 2,76,512 Zarathushtis worldwide that the FEZANA Journal (Winter 2000), had indicated. However Dastur noted that as

against the FEZANA figure of 1,57,000 Zarathushtis in Iran the Yazd president visiting Bombay in November 2000 had quoted a population figure of 40-45,000.

Guzder announced that the next Congress may be in the UK as per the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe's earnest request, if Iran agrees.

Individual anjuman

In Agra the Zoroastrian population has dropped to 15 with the death of two stalwarts and one couple migrating to Bombay, noted Agra Parsi Anjuman trustee Dolat Debara. The Anjuman's expenses include Rs 15,000 on repair and maintenance work at the aramgah and Rs 56,000 on the dharamshala. Despite advertisements in *Jam-e-Jamshed* and *Parsiana*, the occupancy of the dharamshala remains poor, she said.

The 28 members of the Allahabad Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman comprising 11 families with an age range of 10 to 81 years has young people with old ideas and old people with new ideas, noted Capt Homi Dandiwalla who is into his sixth consecutive term as president. The Anjuman is facing an enhanced bill for salaries and water charges.



Sir J.J. College of Commerce

OVER
45
YEARS

Job-Oriented Courses



- Executive Secretarial
- Office Assistant
- Computers
- Diploma in Business Management
- Public Speaking
- Personality Development
- Telemarketing
- Shorthand & Typewriting
- Advertising Professionals

LOAN SCHOLARSHIPS
available for
Zoroastrian Parsis
&
Iranis from
World Zoroastrian
Organisation, India

Internationally Recognised
Certification from
Pitman
Qualifications, U.K.

Management Courses



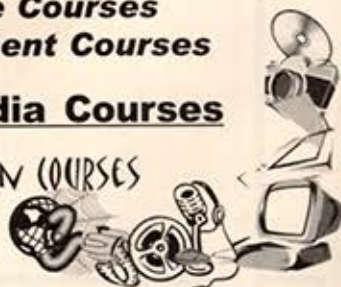
Diploma in Business Studies

Short term Courses

Corporate Courses Development Courses

Multimedia Courses

FUN-N-LEARN COURSES



For more information contact us at: Sir J.J. College of Commerce, 14, Nanabhoy Lane, Hutatma Chowk, Mumbai - 400 001.
Tel: 2871058, 2844329 Fax: 2871185 E-mail: jjcc@vsnl.com, Website: www.jjcollege.com

Who says you shouldn't
mix business with pleasure?
(or vice versa)



Whatever your needs, no-one takes better care of you than the Fariyas Group. Our business hotel in Mumbai offers corporate travellers just the right work setting. And for those in search of pure pleasure, the Fariyas in Lonavla is the perfect fun resort. Visit us. You'll find we've turned both business and pleasure into an art.



Fariyas Hotel Mumbai		Fariyas Holiday Resort, Lonavla	
• Three Executive Floors	• Internet Facilities	• Lush green landscape	• Video Parlour
• Executive Lounge	• Multi-cuisine Restaurant	• Large Water Park	• Indoor Pool
• Business Centre	• Beverage Lounge	• 4 State-of-the-art conference halls	• 24-hour Coffee Shop
• Video Conferencing	• Health Club	• Multi-cuisine Restaurant	• Discotheque
	• Swimming Pool		• Bar



FARIYAS
GROUP OF HOTELS

Colaba: Tel.: (91-022) 204 2911, 287 6514/15 **Bandra:** Tel.: (91-022) 645 6849 **Pune:** Tel.: (91-020) 633 869 **Lonavla:** Tel.: (91-2114) 73852 - 55
Delhi: Tel.: (91-11) 373 9724/25/26 website: www.fariyas.com

Jhansi president Ronny Dick was jubilant about a birth, the first in 11 years. Donations totalling Rs 37,000 have enabled the anjuman to install a much needed voltage stabilizer in the dharamshala, he noted. As with most mofussil anjumans, Jhansi's youth opt to migrate to Bombay.

Of Madras' 300 Parsis, 50 percent participate regularly in community activities. They are looking for donations for necessary repairs to their bungli and have received a substantial amount from the Mary Clubwala Jadav Trust, noted Clubwala.

Mehrwan Irani, representing the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman (IZA), referred to the IZA's help for education and medical relief defrayed from its income from grass grown on its 1,000-acre property in Palghar.

Irani, who had spearheaded the long-drawn legal battle against the 99-year lease of the Tithal Parsi Sanatorium Trust land on the Gujarat seafront near Bulsar to a Jain trust on an annual rent of Rs 1,51,000, informed the audience of the Supreme Court decision that the community be afforded another chance to

create a scheme more in keeping with the original objects of the Trust. Irani attributed the favorable outcome at the apex court to the commitment of former solicitor general of India Tehmtan Andhyarujina, noted solicitor Soli Morris and senior advocate Ryan Karanjawala.

The salubrious climate on the Tithal shore had led the founders of the Trust — and others who added land subsequent to the original investiture — to create a place for convalescence for poor and middle-class Parsi Zoroastrians recovering from debilitating illnesses. The community needs to present a fresh and viable scheme to the charity commissioner as an improvement on the earlier proposed lease of 12 acres of land for unknown use. Only one meagre acre with eight blocks was to be provided for the sanatorium at a cost of Rs 7,75,000 by the Jain promoter Vipin Shantilal Shah. Lack of finance to run the Sanatorium had been the main criterion on which the proposed scheme had been accepted earlier by the charity commissioner and the Bombay High Court. According to Irani, the land is worth five crore rupees.

Palsetia, who had sought funds at the Jamshedpur meet for the repair of the Saronda agiary announced the receipt of donations to the tune of Rs 3,40,000 including Guzder's contribution of Rs 50,000. Gandhi added that the Zoroastrians of Kuwait may also contribute.

The Calcutta Zoroastrian Community's Religious and Charity Funds have increased the trustees on its board from three to five, its representative Beji Bulsara informed the council members. The anjuman's representatives had gone from house to house to ascertain the problems of the community and created certain programs to meet them, he said. With senior citizens finding transport a problem, an air-conditioned bus has been

Photographs on page 44: L to R (1st row) Guzder, Gandhi, Sethna, Shroff, Eruch Irani; (2nd row) Mogrelia, Kavarana, Dinshaw Mehta, Engineer, Tirandaz; (3rd row) Tamboly, Dastur, Master, Colah, Crawford; (4th row) Dara Irani, Lakdawala, Mehrwan Irani, Anklesaria, Cama, Wania; (5th row) the executive council in session, Dotivala, Paghdiwalla; (6th row) Masani, Pervez Irani

Jal's

*Detective and Protection Services
Mazda Security Services • Jals Consultancy Services*



Founded By

Jal B. Contractor

Dy. Commissioner of Police, Bombay (Retd.)

We provide for all your requirements:

Confidential investigations • Security Guards • Body Guards (armed and unarmed) in plain clothes • Armed Guards in uniform for property protection • Cash/valuables escorts • Dog squads with handlers for land patrolling, etc.

Well trained, disciplined and experienced staff. Reasonable rates, round the clock services.

Office: Jer Baug, 293, Dr Ambedkar Road, Byculla, Mumbai 400027

Tel: 3770094, 3770235, 3775707 Fax: 3770235

E-mail: jals@bom5.vsnl.net.in • Website: <http://www.webseva.com/cofjalsdetective.htm>

With Compliments from

BREDCO



SF ENGINEER



INTERIORS WITH A TOUCH OF CLASS



Omega Interiors Pvt. Ltd.

Interior Designers & Contractors

Omega Kitchens

Ready-to-fit Modular Kitchens

Omega Enterprises

Kitchen products & Accessories

Omega Design Group

Architects & Design Consultants

Call/Visit our showrooms at:

**Mumbai : A-11, Shree Babanagar, St. Peters Road,
Bandra (west), Mumbai-400050.**

Tel.:+91-22-645 4747, 644 1598 • Fax:651 3204

**Pune : #18, Ashoka Pavillions, Dr. Ambedkar Road,
Pune Camp, Pune -411 001. Tel.:+91-22-613 2569**

acquired, courtesy Zarin Gimi of Selvel Advertising, to take them around every alternate day. A 'medicard' system has been introduced where the anjuman becomes the guarantor for payment at two good hospitals. With a strength of 930, the Calcutta community faces 35 to 38 deaths per year, Bulsara gave the statistics. They have been helping the agiary to the tune of Rs 10 lakhs over the past 10 years, he added.

Gandhi pointed out that as income from the Olpadvala Hall had made a sizable difference to the Zoroastrian community in Calcutta they should now widen their social concerns and, like the BPP, include the less prosperous anjuman of the country, largely located in Gujarat.

Bulsara spoke of a 40 to 50 crore rupee property going up for sale, the proceeds of which will go to the Mehta atash adarian where former Calcutta trustee Adi Rabadi is in charge. He "will be able to dispense crores," said Bulsara.

The Bharuch Parsi Panchayat has completed repair of the Narielwala Agiary and is now working on the Homavala Adarian which is almost 250 years old, noted Sarosh Ginwalla. With many Parsi

families living in cosmopolitan societies with small houses in close proximity to each other, funerary ceremonies are difficult to conduct, he informed the gathering. Hence the Panchayat is proposing to repair an old, disused maternity hospital on the road to the Tower of Silence which could function as a bungli. With one young couple tying the nuptial knot and another engagement in the pipeline, the mood of Bharuch's 170-200 strong population was upbeat.

Pilloo Ginwalla spoke of the ancestral Jamshed Baug where the Gujarat earthquake had dealt a finishing stroke to over two decades of neglect. The dharamshala, a baug for weddings and a fire-temple on one acre of land was unlikely to survive the monsoon without support, she noted. The new trustees and the local people had pooled together to repair the compound wall, the well and laid new wiring, all expected to be completed within days. The second, more ambitious phase envisaged the demolition and reconstruction of the existing building for the atash dadgah and construction of four rooms as a dharamshala for old people with the provision of a soup kitchen, a living room with TV and games for relaxation.

Defraying the estimated cost of Rs 15 lakhs would depend on the generosity of the assembled Zoroastrians of India, she added.

A small adarian, well looked after by the mobed and his two navar sons, caters to the spiritual needs of the 40-50 people in Vesu village, according to Soonu Vesuna. She hopes to document their lives on video if resources permit.

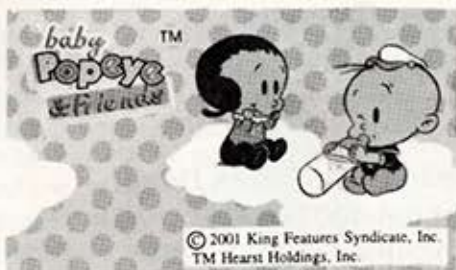
Most of the 80 Zoroastrian heads in Mhow are beyond the 60-year milestone, said the Mhow Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman honorary secretary Dr Behram Masani. Financially well endowed, with accommodation to spare, the Anjuman has been yearning for young entrepreneurs to establish themselves in its salubrious climate to avail of industrial opportunity in neighboring Indore.

In an attempt to bolster community numbers the Jehangir Mehrvaid Trust has been created and entrusted to the Mhow Anjuman. Its object is to provide wedding expenses for young couples (girl up to the age of 24, boy up to the age of 28) from its annual income of Rs 40,000. When the council members questioned the age bar, Masani noted

MUSTANG COTTON SOCKS



Designer Socks for Gents, Ladies & Children with expertise in Sports & School Socks,
Licencees of : Walt Disney, Paws Inc. and King Features Inc.
Products : Children Socks, Briefs, Vests, Handkerchieves & Headbands.



MUSTANG ENTERPRISES

219, Milan Ind. Estate, Tokarsi Jivraj Road, Cotton Green, Mumbai - 400 033. Tel.: 4711453 • Fax : 4716319.
e-mail : mustang@bom5.vsnl.net.in website : www.mustangsocks.com

***** With best compliments from *****

**GUJARAT
INSECTICIDES
LIMITED**



**G H A R D A
C H E M I C A L S
L I M I T E D**



A MARK OF QUALITY, COURAGE & COMMITMENT

Research – Based Products Manufactured by Gharda.

A Research – Based Company in the Service of Society.

**GHARDA
CHEMICALS LTD.**

Regd. Office:

5/6, Jer Mansion, W.P. Varde Road,
Behind Copper Chimney, Bandra (W),
Mumbai - 400 050, INDIA.

**GUJARAT
INSECTICIDES LTD.**

Regd. Office:

P.Box No. 90, Plot No. 805-806,
GIDC Estate, Ankleshwar 393 002,
Gujarat, INDIA.
Tel : (02646) 22271, 51472, 50305
Fax: (91)02646-50116.

**GROUP
EUROPEAN OFFICE**

Halbrook House,
72, Lower Addiscombe Road,
Croydon CR9 6AD, England,
Tel : 44-181-655-4103
Fax: 44-181-655-4102

**GROUP
U.S. OFFICE**

1116 Taylorville Road
Suite 1
Washington Crossing PA 18977
U.S.A.
Tel: (215) 321-9091 Fax: (215) 321-9097

CROP PROTECTION CHEMICALS.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • Cypermethrin Technical | Synthetic pyrethroid insecticide |
| • Alphacypermethrin Technical | Broad spectrum insecticide |
| • Fenvalerate Technical | Synthetic pyrethroid insecticide |
| • Quinalphos Technical | Organo-phosphorus insecticide |
| • Carbendazim Technical | Broad spectrum insecticide fungicide |
| • Isoproturon Technical | Wheat herbicide |
| • Anilofos Technical | Rice herbicide |
| • Napropamide | Herbicide for oil seed rape and other crops |
| • Mepiquat Chloride 50 AS | Plant growth regulator |

INTERMEDIATES

- Cypermethrin Acid Chloride
- Metaphenoxy Benzaldehyde

OTHER PRODUCTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Oxydazolidine | Veterinary anthelmintic |
| • Ratoxanide | Veterinary anthelmintic |
| • 5ASA | Anti-ulcer drug |
| • Temephos | Larvicide |
| • Cypermethrin High Cis | Anti-ectoparasite |

NEW PRODUCTS

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| • Metamitron | Sugarbeet herbicide |
| • Deltamethrin | Synthetic pyrethroid insecticide |
| • Dicamba | Broadleaf herbicide |

POLYMERS

- | | |
|---------|---|
| • PES | Polyether Sulfone |
| • PPS | Polyphenylene Sulfide |
| • PPE | Polyphenylene Ether |
| • GADDs | Additives for PVC (Processing Aids
& impact Modifiers) |

that the Anjuman was bound by the recommendations of the donor to provide a financial boost at the most reproductive age.

Mhow has at last acquired the service of an assistant mobed, a qualified yozdathregar from Surat, mentioned Masani.

The microscopic but financially well endowed Calicut Parsi Anjuman maintains a full-fledged mobed who is sent out wherever a ceremony needs to be performed, said its managing trustee Darius Marshall. There is a reservation of two seats for Parsis in Kerala's Devgiri College of Commerce and Arts but, with one exception a couple of years ago, there have been no takers, he noted.

BPP trustee Dinshaw Tamboly referred to the family of Rayomand Dungore in Anjar who suffered a loss estimated at 44 lakh rupees due to the earthquake. The family is struggling to reestablish its poultry farm and the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) had contributed four lakh rupees but more was needed. Tamboly characterized the case as "very deserving."

The dadgah at Davier built by Navazmai Goiporia needs an estimated five lakh rupees for maintenance, noted its trustee Marazban Wadia. They have received Rs 22,000 so far and were promised Rs 15,000 by Guzder.

Zarthost Mubarakai, president of the conservative Dahanu Anjuman, spoke of conflict with outmarried Zoroastrians. "We don't give them membership, (so) they have gone to the charity commissioner," he noted. When Mubarakai stated that at Dahanu even the children of Parsi fathers are not allowed into the agiary, BPP trustee Dinshaw Mehta remonstrated, "It's the law of the land! You can't stop the children of Parsi fathers (once the navjote is performed)!"

Retorted Mubarakai: "*Tamé vaa-chiuch ké?* Even if you have slept with a non-Parsi, *Parsipanu chaali jaai* (Haven't you read it? Even by sleeping with a non-Parsi you lose your Parsi attributes)!"

Status quo prevails at the Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman of Secunderabad and Hyderabad (PZASH) where the decision of the deputy commissioner of the Endowment Department is pending, in-

formed Omin Debara. The Department's earlier ruling suspending the trustees of PZASH had been successfully challenged by the Anjuman in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The argument hinges on whether PZASH is a religious or charitable or a mixed institution. Sports and social activities continue at the Zoroastrian club and the Iranian consul-general was the chief guest at their Jamshedi Navroz function. The children help to keep the agiaries clean, added Debara.

The Borivli and Suburban Zoroastrian Association is celebrating its silver jubilee this year, "though we're still babies compared to other anjumans here," smiled its president Noshir Paghdiwalla as he proceeded to highlight their activities. Despite many of its members spending four hours each day commuting to work, the Association holds 12 well-attended functions a year including a religious program every alternate month and organizes trips to Udvada. The Association gives scholarships to encourage youngsters and along with Tamboly helped community songster Marazban Mehta launch his cassette of religious and community songs. The whole committee was unani-

For enquiries and export of Sandalwood,
Sandalwood Oil, Loban and Aggarbatties

Contact

S. R. CO.

Tel Nos: 3712359/3728346 Fax: 3738343



EMERALD

PARADISO

STAR GALAXY

JUPARANA
COLOMBO

MARKETING SETUP

INTERNATIONAL MARKET

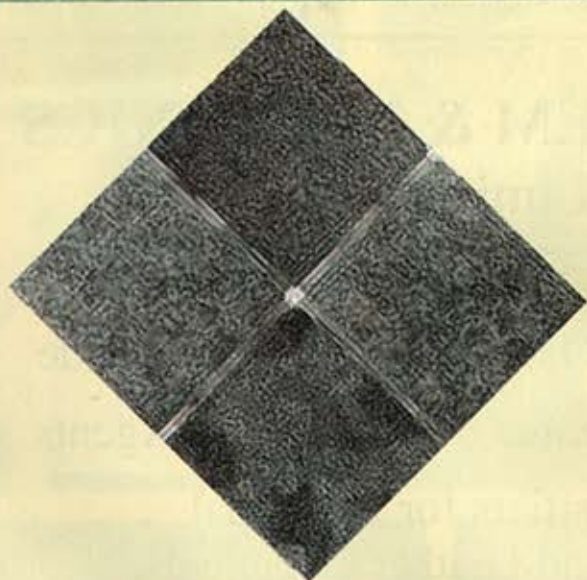
The Company exports to various countries around the world. The principal markets are : USA, CANADA, CHINA, HONGKONG, INDONESIA, SINGAPORE, UAE, BAHRAIN, SAUDI ARABIA, TURKEY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, ITALY, UK and ALL SOUTH AMERICA

DOMESTIC MARKET

The Company sells its products in the domestic market to Wholesalers, Retailers, Builders, Architects, Interior Decorators and actual Consumers.

FOREIGN TIE-UP

The Company has a marketing tie up with leading Stone distributors in the USA and the UK.



PRODUCTS

The Company is engaged in the manufacture and processing of GRANITE SLABS, GRANITE TILES, GREEN MARBLE SLABS and TILES, SLATES, and other STONES. The Company also manufactures Granite Vanity Tops, different household articles of Marble and articles of Sandstone.

Solid Granites Ltd.

Plant Location: Near Bombay: Plot Nos.33/34, S.No. 831/15 & 25, Village Mahim, Chitupada, Tal - Palghar, Dist- Thane (Maharashtra) Phone : (91252) 554134 / 554893

Administrative Office: 1501, Maker Chambers V, Nariman Point, Bombay - 400 021.
Phone: (9122) 2826439 / 2826977 / 2826978 Fax: (9122) 2826439 Email: solid2@vsnl.com



mously reelected earlier this year.

The 1,000 strong, largely entrepreneurial community at Baroda collected six lakh rupees for earthquake relief. It elects its seven trustees every five years and often invites marketing experts and others for talks, noted Baman Cama. Recently they had organized a Hepatitis B camp. They contribute regularly for education and medical relief which, being activities of most anjumans, the resources could be pooled together and coordinated by the Federation so that people could apply from a single source, suggested Cama.

When Gandhi countered that the BPP rather than the Federation had the machinery for the purpose, Dastur welcomed Cama's suggestion but cited their frustration with the Liaison Committee, an association of several trusts, chaired by Guzder where despite appeals to members for information on dissemination of aid and collection and sharing of data, the requisite information was not forthcoming. "We know there is some injustice in the distribution of funds in Bombay but we are helpless. There is no machinery to share data. It's a practical problem," noted Dastur.

The Delhi Parsi Anjuman (DPA)'s youth trustee Adil Nargolwala spoke of the beautiful stained glass farohar window donated by Ketayun Saklath of Calcutta which has been installed in their new Jungalwalla Hall which is also equipped with a computer and audio-visual facilities. The DPA's 12 trustees have decided to rent it out for small functions, he noted. Their aramgah has been beautified, the new plot levelled and trees planted on its border.

Plans are afoot to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Delhi dar-e-mehr with a three-day (December 21-23, 2001) program of talks, seminars, play, puppet show and display and sale of food. With every intention of making it an international occasion, the DPA is planning to invite people from Iran, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Hongkong and further afield, indicated Nargolwala.

Among other positive developments there are "lots of new faces in Delhi," which Nargolwala described as "heartening." DPA members were invited to celebrate Iran Day at the Iranian Embassy. A few Kashmiri Pandits who also celebrate Navroz, attended the DPA's Navroz function where they had a Navroz table set out, Nargolwala in-

formed the delegates. After many years a second priest has been acquired and a questionnaire to DPA members (including those living outside Delhi) seeking their reaction to religious reform got positive responses.

Dara Irani was all praise for the cooperation the PPP had received that very morning from DPA president Lt Gen (retd) Adi Sethna. The army, which shares a common boundary with their dakhma land, suddenly started to build on the anjuman side of the fence. On learning this Sethna contacted the chief of army staff and the work stopped, said Irani, registering the Panchayat's and the community's fulsome thanks.

With 220 flats getting ready in two buildings the PPP had issued 766 forms. Of the 212 applications that fell within their stated criteria 84 were shortlisted as 84 flats are ready for occupation. PPP president and Federation vice president Eruch Irani provided some sidelights on community attitudes: "All seven trustees interviewed the 212 shortlisted candidates. Most asked for holiday homes. Some said they wanted it for the racing season! In one case the parents of the prospective bride wanted to make a pre-

UNITED PESTICHEM & NONIONICS Private Limited

Manufacturers of Speciality Chemicals

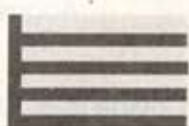
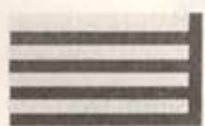
- * Condensates of Ethylene Oxide and Propylene Oxide
- * Nonionic and Anionic Organic Surface Active Agents
- * Tailor-made Emulsifiers for Pesticidal Formulations, Textile and Leather Chemicals, Cosmetics, Household Products, Metal Treatment, etc.
- * Tailor-made Spin Finish Oils for Man-made Fibre Industry

"Ahura", 84, Sion Road, Sion (East), Mumbai 400022

Tel nos: 4074295/96, 4091752, 4073355 Fax no: (022) 4092031



MASTI KA NAYA RANG



ICE CREAM WITH A WARM HEART



CAMY *The Stamp of Quality*

*Wishing
all a very
Happy
New Year*

**CAMY
WAFER CO.**

Gowalia Tank: 2nd, Taj Building,
August Kranti Marg, Mumbai 400036
Tel: 3881404, 3893992, 3855700

Colaba: 5-6, Oxford Centre, Shahid Bhagat Singh Rd,
Near Colaba Market, Mumbai 400005
Tel: 2828430, 2810580, 2810546

E-mail: camy@camywafer.com • Website: www.camywafer.com

condition: (there would be) a wedding only if the flat is available. We told them that the agreement will be jointly made in the names of the couple and the flat will come as the wedding present!"

All flats were being given on leave and licence basis for five years. In that time the 35-40 couples who have been allotted flats as a start in life are expected to work towards their own independent accommodation, declared Eruch Irani. Those applicants who already live in community housing are required to return their flat to their respective punchayets as a precondition. These one bedroom flats with a carpet area of 602 sq ft are being offered at a lease rent of Rs 500 plus actual outgoings.

Of the estimated 7,000 to 8,000 Zoroastrians in Poona, 1,500 are members of the PPP which will be celebrating its golden jubilee next year, said Dara Irani. (According to the 1991 Government of India census the figure for Poona was 3,733.) The Patel Trust owned one dakhma; the Padamjee family the other, which is known as the Anjuman Dakhma. The Panchayat was formed to take care of them and of the donated lands, Eruch Irani told the assembled delegates.

"Bombay has the majority population and the majority problems," began BPP senior executive Sheroo Master as she read the statistics. Responding to appeals for educational aid from all over India, the BPP dispersed in the past year Rs 6,31,000 for basic education, Rs 8,48,000 for vocational courses and a lakh per year per student for engineering and medical education. It contributed Rs 14 lakh as gift and five lakh as loan scholarships for foreign education plus a further Rs 90,000 for higher education in India. The Punchayet is supporting 80 on the third child scheme and reimbursing an additional Rs 300 per month to about 24 applicants using daycare facilities. There are also 24 old mobeds on its donee roll, informed Master adding that there have been no applicants for training classes for IAS or military service entry exams for the past three to four years. Alice Pastakia is the only recent Zoroastrian entry into the Maharashtra Public Service Commission. This year's 15th edition of the popular Holiday Programme for Youth (HPY), meant for those who have just finished their school leaving exam, had an enhanced number of participants from the mofussil anjumans.

Eruch Irani tried to persuade the BPP to extend the HPY to include HSC students in the interest of couples coming together at an early age but Master and former BPP chief executive Rustom Anklesaria, who had built up the program, cited space and resource constraints that would impede the quality of the program if spread over too many participants.

Dastur informed the council of the two nine-storeyed buildings ready on ownership basis at Panthaky Baug in Andheri with a third consisting of 66 leave and licence flats at Goregaon purchased from Nirlon. About 34 more flats are likely to come up on land donated by the Hirabai Bhagat Trust thanks to Mehta's active work, said Dastur. The BPP's Vocational Guidance Bureau is being rehoused in the polyclinic created on the site of the defunct Godrej Press at Gamadia Colony where 16 cubicles have been offered to up-and-coming doctors.

Dastur strongly advocated that each anjuman create a health, income and educational profile of its community to facilitate overall planning. While none of the other delegates responded, Eruch Irani noted, "Unlike the BPP, the smaller anjumans don't have the staff. In the



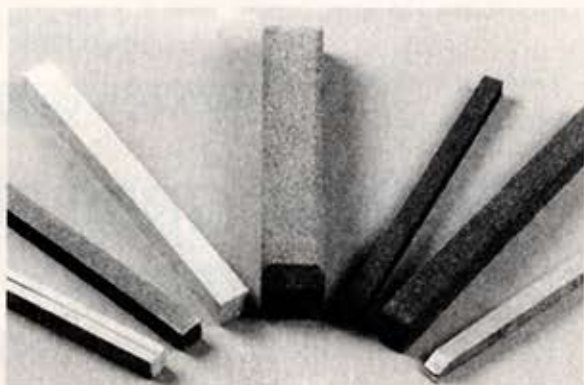
HONING STONES

Honing stones suitable for cylinder liners, hydraulic and pneumatic cylinders, connecting rods, metal bushes and other precision components.

a) Microcrystalline abrasive grains used

b) All honing stones are sulphurised

c) For first time in India indigenously developed CORK STICKS for plateau honing and removing metal folding



Export Inquiries Invited

DIAMOND ABRASIVE PRODUCTS

5/99, Tulsidas, D. M. Road, Pune 411001, India. • Telephone: (020) 6135037, 7129478
Fax: (020) 4111473 Mobile: 98230 76596 E. R. DABDI Mobile: 98230 78883 D. R. ADDY
E-mail: dap@la.com Website: www.dap.4mg.com

PPP there is only one staff member. The rest of the work is done by the trustees."

Youth

Heart Meet, organized by the youths of Baroda (April 6-8, 2001), drew 250 delegates from 25 cities, noted Bomi Talati of Baroda United Zoroastrian Youth. But the sex ratio was lopsided, according to Tamboly who along with social worker Mithoo Jesia was a guest of honor there. Nonetheless he spoke of seven couples resulting from the event, three being committed to matrimony, four still courting. Eruch Irani added that one of the couples is to get a flat from the PPP.

Referring to his attempts to talk Parsi girls into matrimony more than 10 years ago, Sethna said, "*E loko ghoraa ni kaani bharaktaataa* (They shied like angry horses) but now there is a change. It should be encouraged."

Anklesaria, who used to be actively involved with the BPP's (now defunct) matrimonial bureau along with Homai Modi, the late Adi Marzban and others where individuals had to register and detailed records were maintained, suggested that informal meets such as the Baroda one should be held instead at

regular intervals in large population areas like Dadar Parsi Colony, Cusrow Baug, etc without the formalities of registration.

In an idea that addressed two problems simultaneously Eruch Irani suggested the organization of regular tours for young people in groups of 30-40. "There are enough dharamshalas, some are not utilized... 15 to 20-day tours... would enable girls and boys to spend more time together."

Adding a mischievous touch of romanticism Gandhi suggested that the BPP finance the travel expenses so that love could bloom under the shadow of the Taj!

Another important community issue was broached by Pervez Irani of Dahanu. Reminding the council of the cosmopolitan secondary school that he along with Banoo Azargoshasp and other young people of Dahanu had successfully launched over a period of 10 years (it is now a recognized institution in Dahanu and sent its first candidates to the SSC examination this year), Pervez Irani spoke of his team's desire to embark on medical education. He believes that the high cost of establishing a medi-

cal college could be partly circumvented by taking over and running an old cosmopolitan hospital there. If such an institution can be set up and managed by the community, 50 percent reservation of seats would be guaranteed according to the prevailing regulations, he noted. Pervez Irani was asked to create and present a project report.

Poona's Eruch Irani spoke of their normal summercamp for youths (from the youngest to 40 years) held there each year with games, visits to factories and institutions, etc. HPY's Vinifer Gandhi noted that the 15th year of the program registered a drop in the number of participants for the first time — from 200 in 2000 to 190. The sessions had become increasingly interactive instead of a one way direction from the podium, she noted.

The Borivli youths organize their parties, games and other social activities but allow enough time to help clean Bombay's agiaries. A measure of financial independence is maintained by the collection and sale of old newspapers.

Doongaji Agiary fire

The Borivli anjuman's yearning for an

With best compliments from the

SUMER GROUP OF COMPANIES

201/220, Commerce House, 140, N. M. Road, Fort, Mumbai 400023

Projects at:

R. K. BUILDERS: "SUMER HEIGHTS"

K. M. Munshi Marg, Opp Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, Chowpatty, Mumbai 400007

SUMER ASSOCIATES: "SUMER TOWERS"

108, Seth Motisha Road, Mazagaon, Mumbai 400010

ARVIND PROPERTIES Pvt. Ltd: "SUMER PARK"

Seth Motisha Cross Road, Byculla, Mumbai 400027

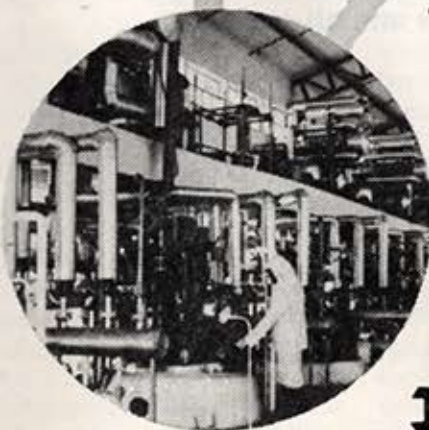
A new direction. A new commitment.

Dai-Ichi, India's leading name in speciality chemicals and surfactants, now extends its expertise into the world of **pharmaceuticals** and **fine chemicals**.



The complex at Hyderabad includes :

- **A sophisticated Research resource** tuned to today's precise developmental norms; including a state-of-the-art set-up for organic synthesis that can deliver custom-designed molecules.
- **A modern Pilot Plant** geared for accurate scale-up optimisation.
- **A cutting-edge multipurpose production facility** equipped for complex multi-stage synthesis of organic fine chemicals.
- Formulations units dedicated to Small Volume Parenterals, Sterile Gels and Tableting, with full adherence to **international quality** norms.



DAI-ICHI LABORATORIES

(A division of Dai-Ichi Karkaria Limited)

Liberty Building, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Marg, Mumbai 400 020.
Tel: 022-2015895/7130. Fax: 022-2096976.

INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS THROUGH SYNERGIES

agiary led them to Bharuch where the transfer of the Doongaji Agiary fire has been held up by a single beneficiary moving the charity commissioner. The fire had been originally earmarked for Bombay's Godrej Baug Agiary.

While the case pends with the sessions court, the obstructionist had sought to contribute to the repair of the Doongaji Agiary — help which was politely refused by the family. Sarosh Ginwalla informed the gathering. He noted that the family was specific that the fire continue as an adarian and is not demoted to a dadgah.

Dara Irani suggested the filing of an appeal to expedite the matter but according to Ginwalla, Gujarat courts tend to keep giving dates instead.

Tamboly registered his interest in a consecrated fire for an agiary coming up in London. According to Nariman Balsara, "Whosoever takes the fire also takes the funds" of the agiary, hence the friction with the beneficiaries. So Gandhi suggested Tamboly go personally to Bharuch and convince the obstructionist that only the fire is wanted in London, not the funds!

Ginwalla remarked that the Doongaji's Rs 10,00,000 were already with

the BPP to which Tamboly replied that the family had been informed that they were welcome to take the money back.

Annual general meeting

The five existing vice presidents of the Federation will continue to hold office for another term. The annual general meeting of the all-India body unanimously approved the nomination of Homi Bodhanwalla of Jamshedpur from the east zone, Sethna of New Delhi from the north zone, Eruch Irani of Poona along with Dr Sam Bhacca of Surat from the west zone and Nariman Mogrelia of Madras from the south zone.

The co-opted members of the Federation are Clubwala, Farrokh Rustomji of New Delhi, Eruch Surti of Jamshedpur, Anklesaria and Mehrwan Irani. Master continues as the executive secretary of the Federation along with joint honorary secretaries Shroff and Keki Gandhi. The two ongoing treasurers are Anklesaria and Rustomji.

When Cama inquired as to the role of the vice president in the Federation, Mogrelia explained that while no guidelines were issued on the subject, he tried "to convey important decisions to members of (his) community. A joint com-

mittee meeting of the south zone is held once a year." Bangalore is not a member of the Federation and a representative from Hyderabad-Secunderabad attends the Federation meetings. But there is hardly anyone to convey the news to those residing in other locations of south India, he noted. Every summer Mogrelia said he goes to Ooty and meets with the Anjuman leaders there. "I am constantly in touch with them." When he first became a vice president there were nine anjumans in his zone of which two were non-functioning. At present if any anjuman in the zone has a problem "they let me know."

Cama commented that Bhacca, the vice president from the west zone, "hardly attends." (Dr Mehroo Bhacca and Dr Sarosh Bhacca were present for some of the proceedings and Dr Sam Bhacca was to attend but due to some pressing matters could not do so.)

Gandhi noted that in the old days zonal meetings were held by vice presidents but this practice has since been discontinued.

The finances of the Federation are "in a healthy state," announced Shroff. Of a four lakh rupee annual income, the

continued on page 182



RATTAN M. ELAVIA CATERER OF REPUTE

*Wishes All Patrons, Friends & Well-wishers
A Very Happy Pateti & New Year*

Exclusive Catering undertaken (minimum 20 persons) Buffets
& Banquets for Weddings, Navjotes, Parties and all occasions.

SPECIALISTS IN:

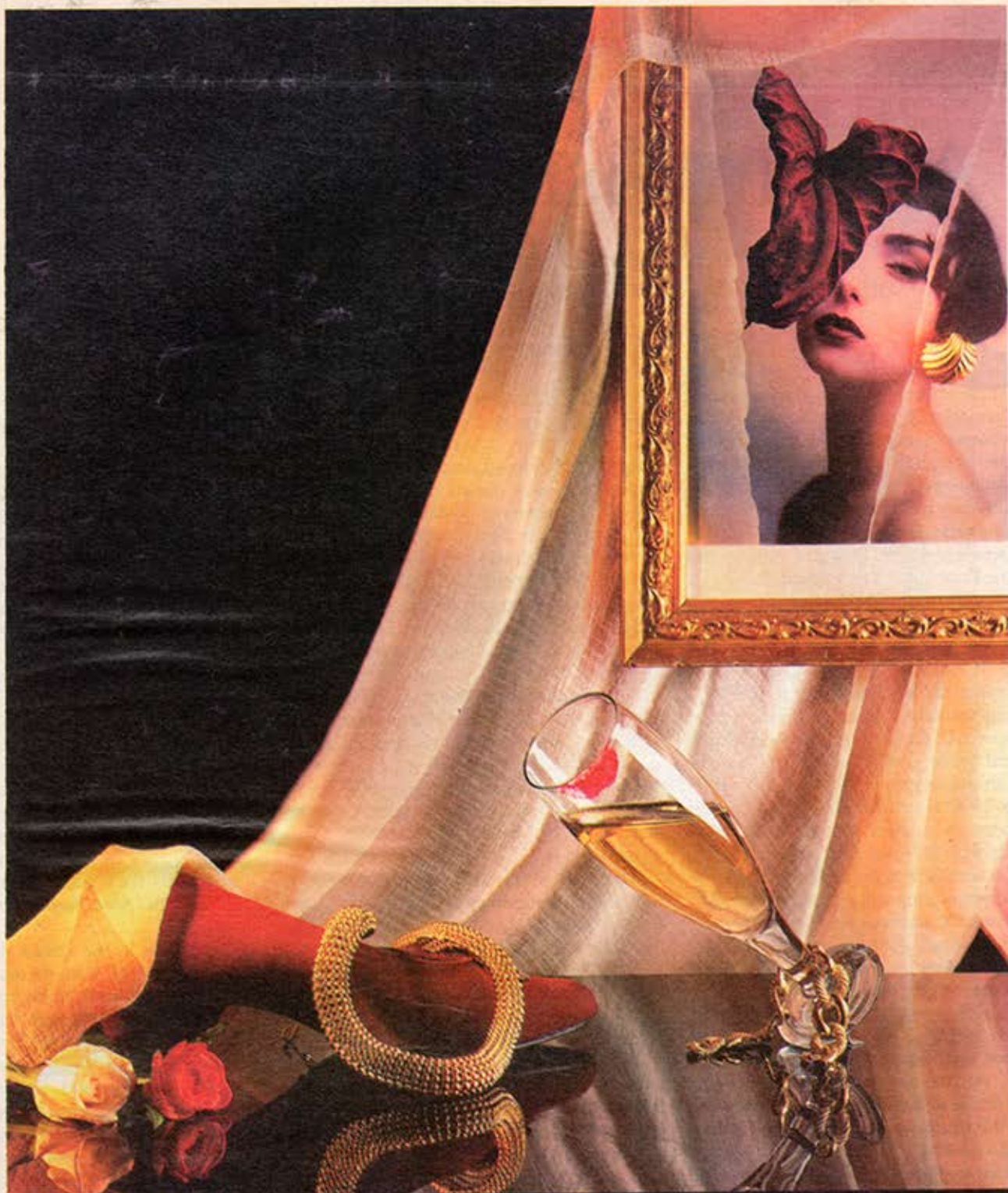
Parsi Food Festival for Five Star Hotels,
Mughlai, Continental & Chinese Cuisine

Contact: 20, Banaji House, N Contractor Baug, Mori Road, Mahim, Mumbai 400016
Tel: 4457252 • Mobile: 9821139861

"COME ONE — COME ALL" to 'QUICK BITE'

**A fast-food snack bar for mouthwatering snacks catering
to all kinds of tastebuds**

Address: Rattan M. Elavia, Quick Bite, 7, Calicut Street, Ballard Estate,
(Behind Ambico Ice Factory), Mumbai 400001.
Tel: 2652740 • Mobile: 9821139861



Fashion Jewellery
from

EstelleTM
OF NORMAK

Experience 'Estelle' at: • AIZAWAL: Blossom, Shop No.3, Solomon's Cave. BANGALORE: Raju & Raju, C-15 Copper Arch, Infantry Road, Ph: 0805598341. BHUVANESHWAR: GoldDust, SR-6, Unit II, Market Complex, Ph: 0674-409500. CALCUTTA: • Impression, Park Plaza Shopping Arcade, 71 Park Street, Ph: 2291201 (PP). • Chandraneer, 178 Sarat Bose Road, Ph: 4669105. • Estelle Fashions, Shop No.148 (Basement) Shreeram Arcade, 15A, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ph: 2170352. • Estelle Collections, Shop No.F-37, Dakshinapan, CIT Complex, 2 Gariahat Road (South), Ph: 4731637 (PP). • Estelle Jewels, P-289A, CIT Road, Scheme IV M, Near Phoolbagan Island, Ph: 3532598. • Siddharth, Civic Centre, Shop No.F-5, Block No.DS IV, Manicktala, Ultadanga, Ph: 3550113 / 3219929. CHENNAI: Indo Arts, G 64, Spencer Plaza, Ground Floor, II Phase, Anna Salai Tel: 044 8420065. GOWHATTI: Sohan Shoppi, Gowhati, Block Market, Greater Kailash-I. • PATNA: Gift Emporium, 81/50, Maurya Lok, Dak Banglow Road, Ph: 0612 220669. RAIPUR: Archer Fashions, Shastri Chowk, Ph: 0771 225933, 632877. RANCHI: Glamour, Shop No.11, GEL Church Complex (AC Market) Main Road, Ph: 0651 307299. SIKKIM: Serda & Co, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Gangtok. SILCHAR: Mezda, Shyama Prasad Road, Shillong Potty. SHIMLA: Decora Handicrafts, No.3, Bhagra Niwas, Mall Road, Ph: 0177 211386. TATANAGAR: Monika Jewellers, 64, Kamani Center, Bistupur, Ph: 0657 438288. • Estelle Emporium, UB 107, Aakash Deep Plaza, AC Market, Golmuri. • TINSUKIA: Omega Creatives, Prakash Bazar. TRIVANDRUM: Jewel Pearls, Narmada Shopping Complex, Kaudiar, Ph: 0471 433547 Ext:116. VISAKHAPATNAM: Padmini Agencies, 28-2-4, Prakash Rao Peta, Tel: 0891 533872. Manufactured by: Normak Fashions (P) Ltd, 9-47, Hanuman Nagar, Boduppal, Uppal, Hyderabad 500039, India. Ph: +91 40 7207881, 7207882 & 7207883. Fax: +91 40 7207885 E-mail: normak@hd2.vsnl.net.in Website: www.normakfashions.com

Accomplished achievers

The spheres of sports, professional competence and adventure claimed the maximum awards from the Federation

Parinaz M. Gandhi

These are the individuals who have fared "remarkably well and shone in life," observed Jamshed Guzder, president of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India and chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), referring to the 13 awardees who had come in person to receive their recognition from the Federation. The gathering was then provided an insight into the Federation's history and workings as a "cohesive and close link between anjumans."

If the awards distributed by the Federation are any indication, the community seems to be faring best in the field of sports. Of the 17 award winners shortlisted by the committee for their accomplishments spanning 17 years (from 1984 to 2000) six earned recognition for their prowess in sports; four were acclaimed for their professional competence, two for adventure; and one each in the spheres of performing and fine arts; education, research, science and technology; and the military field. One outstanding student and one best youth were also deemed worthy of the Federation Awards, each of which carries a citation summing up the individual's success story, a trophy and a cash gift of Rs 1,000.

All the six sports awardees were present at the function hosted by the BPP trustees at the West End Hotel on the evening of June 9, 2001 to receive their trophies at the hands of one of the trustees or a Federation office bearer. Karate champion Urvaksh Adil Mohta and athlete Kainaz Yazdi Mistry were honored for their accomplishments in 1999, snooker champion Omar R. Balsara and athlete Mehernosh Jamshed Bamboat for their excellence in 1998, swimmer Zeba Homi Wadia for her success in 1997, and athlete Homi Adi Gowadia for faring well in 1995, as per their citations.

Competing in the 11-13 year age-group, Mohta secured the first place at

the XXIII Maharashtra State Karate Championships in 1999 in the individual kata event for boys. The following year at the 16th National Karate Championships Mohta was placed third in the individual kata event. His intensive training in karate since the age of five earned Mohta the Jiji D. Irani Memorial Award.

At the 106th Annual Interscholar Athletic Championship in 1999, in the girls under 12 group Mistry stood first in shot put, second in long jump and third in high jump and the 200 m run. She was also on the team that won the 4x100 m relay. Participating in the Maharashtra State Sub-Junior Athletic Championships in Poona in 2000 Mistry stood first in high jump and also ran for the relay team that came first. Her athletic achievements won her the Dr Dadi Balsara Award.

The year 1998 was eventful for Balsara who represented Maharashtra at the Nationals in Calcutta and was ranked runner-up at the Junior Billiards. Ranked as India's second best Balsara represented India at the 1998 International Billiards and Snooker Federation's World Under 21 Snooker Championship in Malta. Presently rated as the best in the men's category in Maharashtra, Balsara too was conferred the Dr Dadi Balsara Award.

Winning a gold in the 1998 Maharashtra State Inter-Collegiate meet in the 200 m run, Bamboat was selected to represent Bombay University at the All India University Athletic meet. Last year he won a gold in the 200 m run and a silver in the 100 m in the Bombay City District Amateur Athletic Association meet and another gold in the 200 m run in the Maharashtra Amateur Athletic Championship. The athlete was presented the Peshotan D. Nargolwala Memorial Award.

Her impressive tally of 17 gold, 20 silver and five bronze medals at the

Greater Mumbai as well as Maharashtra State Amateur Junior and Senior Aquatic meets in 1997 earned swimmer Wadia the Peshotan D. Nargolwala Memorial Award for 1997. In the same year she also won more medals at the Fourth Open National Games in Bangalore, and at the 52nd Senior National Aquatic Championship in Trivandrum, Wadia was the youngest participant to win the first gold medal for her state in the 100 m backstroke event.

At the Maharashtra State Athletic Championship in 1995, Gowadia representing Bombay was on the winning team that created a new meet and state record of 44.8 seconds in the boys under 17, 4x100 m relay. In the same year Gowadia won the silver in the boys under 17 in the 100 m and 200 m run at the Maharashtra State Intercity Sprint Championship. His track accomplishments won him the Aloo Noshirwan Cama Award.

All the awardees in the sphere of professional competence were present too to receive their mementos. Dr Jimmy Nadershaw Sidhva won the Nargis Adi Gandhi Memorial Award for 1984, Sam D. Patel was conferred the Dhunjishaw Maneckji Jall Award for 1993, Rattan D. Surveyor was presented the Mehernosh N. Cama Memorial Award for 1994 and Dr Nargesh D. Motashaw was honored with the G. K. Panthaki Award for 1995.

Having authored several chapters and

Photos overleaf (from left) 1st row: Motashaw and Sethna, Aloo Cama and Surveyor, Sidhva and Pastakia; 2nd row: Sam Patel, Bharucha and Shroff, Wadia and Sethna; 3rd row: Cama and Gowadia, Panthaki, Silloo Kavarana, Guzder, Engineer and Balsara; 4th row: Bamboat and Freney Vakil, Rustom Tirandaz and Mistry, Dinshaw Mehta and Mohta

An Indian Classic



... the flicker of a glance...
an expression without words...
a blur of movements – that sets spirits soaring,
feet tapping to the sound of music –
the rhythm of the art –
Bharat Natyam.
An Indian classical dance form.



Likewise – another modern India classic. ACC.
Virtuoso performance – over 60 years.

No 1 in cement in India,
second-largest cement company
in the developing world. A leader – since 1936



breaking new ground – not just in cement
but also in high-tech refractories
and special products.



State-of-the-art research facilities
comprehensive, in-house –
the only one-of-its-kind in India.

Plus consultancy services – to process industries –
from concept to commissioning.

ACC. Moving to a new rhythm – the 21 st century.



ACC The Associated
Cement Companies
Limited

times change, our values don't

Cement House 121 Maharshi Karve Road, Mumbai 400 020 (India)
Tel: 2039122 • Telex: 1182837 • Fax: (91-22) 2080076.



She's part of India's history.
But she's equipped
for the future.

She greets
Presidents and Kings.
But she treats
you like family.

She is
The Taj Mahal,
Mumbai.

A member of
The Leading Hotels of the World

The Taj
Mahal Hotel
Mumbai

She's as much a part
of India's history as she
is of our success.

She has grandeur that is
without equal. She has a
wide choice of beautifully
appointed suites

and rooms. She's created
the finest business floors
in India - The Taj Club.

Her business support
services are outstanding.

Fully equipped business
centres to stately banquet

halls. Her distinctive
restaurants such as the

Zodiac Grill and Tanjore,
and special bars are

amongst India's best.

She also has a modern
fitness centre and a

charming garden pool.

Her heritage is long.
Her efficiency is complete.

Her care is remarkable.
She is the Taj.



TAJ

Luxury Hotels
Nobody cares as much.

Mumbai • New Delhi • Chennai
Calcutta • Bangalore • Colombo

For reservations:
mahal.mumbai@tajhotels.com
Tel: (022) 202 3366
Fax: (022) 287 2719
Or call Taj Reservation Network

research papers on radiology, in 1984 Sidhva was the first Indian to write a book on CT scanning titled *Cranial Computed Tomography*. He also enjoys the distinction of being the only Asian among the founder members of the World Problem Commission of Neuro Radiology set up by the World Health Organization in 1960. In the following decades he has served as president of the Maharashtra State Radiological Association, honorary radiologist at the K. E. M. and B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital and head of the department of radiology at the J.J. Hospital. He has also been teaching radiology at the University level. Sidhva's *Gathas of Asho Zarathushtra* is the only translation of the *Gathas* into English verse.

Starting his career as a sub-inspector Patel retired as assistant commissioner of police in 1997 after 36 years of dedication to the police cadre during which time he earned 225 good entries, 65 commendatory notes and 75 appreciation letters including one from the Interpol, the President's Police Medal and the Director General of Police's insignia. He has to his credit the establishment of the Airport Taxi Service Scheme at Bombay's Sahar International Airport and the rehabilitation of the victims of the communal riots in 1992-93. Controlling rioting mobs, unearthing bombs, nabbing racketeers and arresting gangsters was in the course of his regular duties.

One of the senior-most active civil engineers who has been in the profession for over 50 years, Surveyor is a life member of the Indian Council of Arbitration appointed by the Government of India's ministry of commerce, and is on the all India panel of arbitrators. A fourth generation engineer Surveyor has been variously decorated with the Vikas Ratna Award, the Ratna Shiromani Award and the Udyog Excellence gold medal for using Indian resources for the economic development of the country, executing different civil engineering works and contributing to the industrialization of the country.

Former president of the International Federation of Gynaecological Endoscopy for 10 years, Motashaw was the first to introduce modern laparoscopy in India and has conducted over 30 endoscopic workshops and courses in India and overseas. Formerly an advisor to the American Association of Gynaecological Laparoscopists, Motashaw was

awarded an honorary membership of this 7,000 strong body, a privilege reserved for just 11 individuals. A consultant obstetrician and gynecologist at the Masina Hospital, B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Tata Institute of Funda-



From left (top row): Binaifer Patel and Batlivala; (2nd row) Sethna and Jahangir Anklesaria

mental Research and Breach Candy Hospital for nearly 30 years she has contributed many papers at conferences and in different periodicals.

The Surat Parsi Panchayet Award for 2000 in the sphere of adventure went to 10-year-old Kaiwan Aspi Panthaki of Bombay who managed to single-handedly ward off an armed burglar from his residence at Dhoitalao but not before he received a slash on his thigh which had to be treated with 11 stitches. His presence of mind and courage he claimed to derive from watching Hindi movies.

Businessman Nauzer M. Batlivala's streak of adventure was recognized with the Surat Parsi Panchayet Award for 1997 which he could not receive in person. He completed the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute's basic course in 1991 and the Sea Explorers' Institute's tidal water kayaking course in 1993 after which he has been a member of different expeditions scaling peaks in India, Bhutan, Nepal. He was among the first two Indian venturers on the Raleigh International Expedition to rural Chile in 1995 and two years later was exploring the highlands in the Kaza Valley in the Kumaon Himalayas across the border from Tibet.

Recognized as a "teacher of outstanding merit" Khorshed M. Bharucha's "valuable services to the community" earned her the National Award for Best Teacher in 1997. Principal of Dadar's J. B. Vachha High School for the past 10 years, besides imparting quality education to her students she has also been involved in organizing workshops and seminars for the benefit of teachers and students as also a science fair. The Federation's Mazda Education Foundation Award for 1997 rewarded her excellence in the field of education, research, science and technology.

The Maharashtra Public Service Commission's Administrative Service examination was cleared by Alice Kersi Pastakia at the first attempt in 2000 after which she has taken up employment as section officer at the Mantralaya, Bombay. Pastakia who graduated in Arts and thereafter obtained a postgraduate diploma in human rights is currently studying for her MA at the Bombay University's department of civics and politics. Her academic and extracurricular accomplishments earned her the Aloo Noshirwan Cama Award for Best Youth in 2000.

The three other awardees who were not present to receive their recognition were an ailing Homi D. Sethna (now deceased) who was conferred the Jimmy and Shirin Guzder Award for 2000 in the sphere of performing and fine arts, Col Jahangir Piroj Anklesaria who was nominated for the Lt Col Adi B. Tarapore Memorial Award for 2000 in the military field and student Binaifer Sarosh Patel who was shortlisted for the Dhunjishaw R. Gheyara Memorial Award for 1999.

While most of his documentaries focussed on the arts and crafts of India with which his late wife Nelly was substantially involved, Sethna who had lost count of his productions had also worked on two documentaries on Zoroastrianism. His two silent films on the art of kalamkari and artistic metalware were considered remarkable coming from an incessant talker! Just a year prior to his demise he was conferred the V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at the Sixth Mumbai International Film Festival in 2000.

The battalion in Anklesaria's charge continued to display exceptionally high morale under trying circumstances when maintaining vigil at the Line of Control

continued on page 240

With best compliments from

Selvel Vantage

83 C, Hansraj Pragji Building, Off Dr. E. Moses Road,
Shah & Nahar Industrial Area, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018

Phone: 022-4961703-7 Fax: 022-4951498

E-mail: vantage.bby@gnbom.globalnet.ems.vsnl.net.in

Branches at:

Bangalore, Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi

Face-lift for the fires

Shifting of the fire for mere cosmetic repairs to a fire-temple could reduce the atash's spiritual stature, believes the author

Adi Doctor

"Everywhere there are abodes of behdins, it is incumbent on them to establish an atash adarian for it is a precious meritorious deed. In every quarter where there are 10 houses of behdins, it is necessary that there be an atash adarian in their midst (*Kaus Kamdin Rivayat*). "In every village, one atash adarian should be established (*Jasa's Rivayat*)."

In reply to the queries on various religious subjects raised by the Parsis of western India between the 15th and the 18th centuries, the Iranian priests made the above statements regarding the establishment of fire-temples. Our forefathers took them both in letter and spirit. In the city of Bombay, at least, excesses were committed in building agiaries almost cheek by jowl, in areas like the Fort, Grant Road and Tardeo, which then had a heavy Parsi population. What, unfortunately, was not realized was that the *Rivayats* talked of ideal times, when the Zoroastrian empire was at its zenith.

Today, therefore, when the Parsis have dwindled to a mere 50,000-odd in Bombay, we are saddled with four atash behrams and about 47 adarians and dadgahs. For instance, Fort, which once used to be a veritable bastion of Bombay Parsis, has six adarians in and around Flora Fountain (Banaji Limji, Dadyseth, Maneckji Seth, Vatcha, Langrana and Godavara) — all except Vatcha more than 150 years old; Grant Road has six too (Ranji, Aslaji, Ashburner, Mithaiwalla, Cama Baug and Mehella Patel), while Tardeo has four (Batliwalla, Kappawalla, Boyce-Dhana Patel and Sethna).

The biggest problem these agiaries face today is the acute shortage of ordained priests or boiwallas who could perform the inner liturgical ceremonies, not to speak of the considerable reduction in the number of Parsis residing in these areas. The other problem is the proper maintenance and efficient ad-

ministration of these sacred places of worship by the trustees. To some, maintenance means just the upkeep of the building housing the fire, whether it has the gloss and sheen, whether the flooring has the latest in synthetic tiles, whether the German silver afarganiu (censer) has that spit and polish wherein the tending priest can see his image and whether the flames are crackling bright so that the laity is pleased and imbued with awe.

Thus, it is not uncommon these days to see notices in the Parsi Press beseeching the community to donate generously for "extensive repairs and renovation" and the large-hearted community unhesitatingly opens its purse strings. For what? For a clinical, cosmetic change that leaves the padshah or the adarian saheb invariably shattered and weakened spiritually! Gained everything but lost the soul? as the Bard would have asked.

Before examining the refurbishing, it is therefore necessary to have the right perspective and briefly answer three pertinent questions:

- Why do Zoroastrians consecrate and enthrone agiaries and atash behrams?
- What exactly is the nature of work done by these two main grades of consecrated fires?
- How best, in the present circumstances, can the sanctity and the status of these fires be maintained?

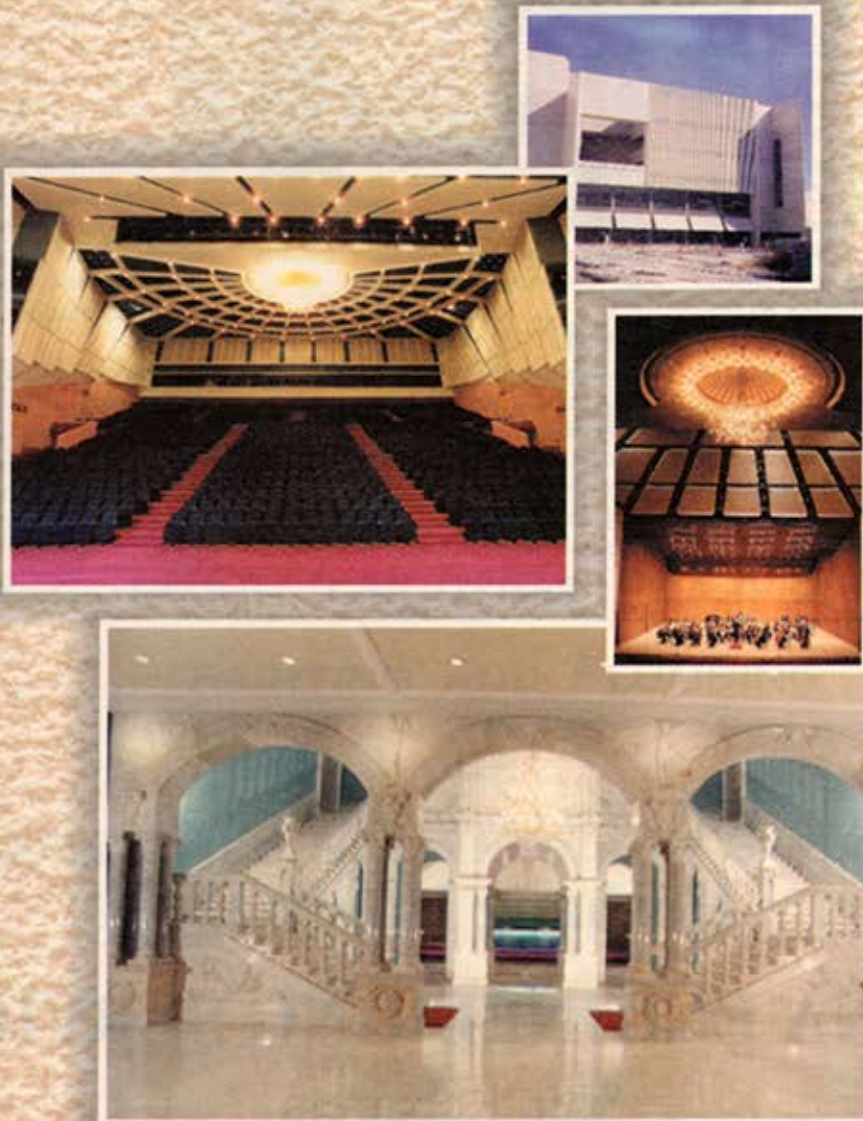
Any earthly fire that is lit is at once afflicted with three kinds of pollution and putridity, identified in the *Avesta* as *akhti*, *aahiti* and *paviti*. The first kind of affliction occurs through the various emanations from human beings, including urine and excreta that may have come into contact with the fuel used. The second is a subtle one, like the outburst of any kind of passion that a human is subject to. The third is the natural process of decay and collapse that fuel like wood is subject to. Yet

another source of pollution is the environment of the place in which the fire is lit.

The Zoroastrian religion enjoins that it is the duty of man to remove such pollution from a fire so that the trapped fire energy of nature inside the earthly fire is freed and released. There are such 16 fire energies in nature, the *Avesta* or *Pazand* names of which are fortunately preserved with us. In other words, the burden or the load on the earthly fire has to be removed. It is for this purpose that throughout the millennia of Zoroastrian history, highly elaborate and difficult procedures and rituals have been prescribed for the establishment of fire-temples of different grades. They are mainly, the selection of the fires, the purification through *pahadias* or pits, the consecration of each fire separately, the combination of these in the consecration of the entire building which is to house the fire along with the gumbaz (sanctum sanctorum), and finally the enthrone of the holy fire. It takes at least three years for an atash behram fire to be enthroned, not to mention nearly 1,128 yasna (*ijashni*) and 1,128 vendidad ceremonies performed for the consecration.

The holy fire, after enthrone, is therefore a living, pulsating, throbbing entity. He is above all a padshah, a spiritual monarch (not just the logs of wood burning on the censer tray, as most of us see it), an *athravan-cum-dahyupat* — divine authority who is capable of creating good fortune for the devout worshippers who stand before him; a *ratheshtar* who incessantly battles the hordes of Ahriman, a *vastryosh* — a spiritual tiller, who tills the sinful muck and dross of those who have passed away; and *hutoksh*, who will serve and protect the people from impending calamities. Above all, he acts as a receiving and a transmitting center for his devotees. He receives the benevolent

Construction of the Drama Opera Arts Complex for the National Centre for the Performing Arts



B.E. Billimoria & Co. Limited
Civil Engineering Construction Contractors

Wankhede Stadium (North Stand), 'D' Road, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020.
Tel: 2815235, 2818348, 2810551, 2814835. Fax: 2817731.
Email: beb@bebanco.com

currents of the fire energies and of the *asar-e-roshni* from above, and he transmits our prayers and wishes to the Almighty so that they may be granted.

It is therefore all the more incumbent on everyone concerned, trustees, priests and laity, to preserve the sanctity and status of the holy fire. The least that the trustees and priests are supposed to do is to ensure that the simple consecrated structures that these fire-temples are, wherein run the magnetic circuits or *kasha*, should not be disturbed at all. Thus, for instance, only in extreme cases, like the sanctum sanctorum being damaged, or if it has sprung a leak, or if non-Zoroastrians are about to storm it, in abnormal times should the fire be shifted to a safe spot where there is no contact with non-Zoroastrians. So also, no non-Zoroastrians should be permitted to work inside the building if the fire has not been lawfully shifted to another room which has no *paivand* or contact or connection with the main building which is being repaired. Today, unfortunately, the thinking is that if the doors and windows leading to the sacred fire are closed, and if the non-Zoroastrian work-

men cannot see the fire, that's enough. This is totally wrong.

The behdins, on their part, should ensure that they are competent and qualified to enter the consecrated building. They should verify before giving large sums of money as donation whether the



Portals of the Dadyseth Atash Behram

Photo: Homiyar Mistry, Homz Prints

building is really in need of repair and, if so, whether the rules for shifting the fire have been observed.

The five fire-temples that have been included in this article were refurbished some time ago. They have been specially chosen because of certain peculiar factors associated with their renovation. They give some idea as to how in

some cases religious tradition has been respected and in others, how it has been flouted.

Dadyseth Atash Behram

If points were to be given for a difficult job, not only well done but done according to the dictates of Zoroastrian tradition and doctrine, the trophy should go to all those connected with the repair and renovation of the oldest atash behram of Bombay, the Dadybhai Nusserwanji (Dadyseth) Atash Behram, namely, the trustees and the Parsee Renovation Brigade, comprising about 16 to 17 young and not-so-young men, who have decent office jobs or are engaged in business. And, to think that up to 1993-1994, trustees of fire-temples turned up their noses at the mention of community workmen.

These devoted, indefatigable volunteers worked on Sundays and holidays for months — sometimes even up to late in the night, without charging anything for their labor! It was a common sight in those days for regular visitors to see men in their *sudreh-kusti* and trousers clamber up tall ladders to paint the ceiling or

With Best Compliments From

Hoshang Havewala

GEENA ENGINEERING SERVICES

Ship Repairers

Specialists in HATCH COVER REPAIRS

30, Narsu Vithoba Nakhwa Marg

Near Mazagaon Docks, Bombay 400010

Tel: 91 22 3723746/3730932 Fax: 91 22 3715395

E-mail: geena@bom3.vsnl.net.in

In the world of international business, one name continues to make a lasting impression.

Tata International, India's premier international business company, is born out of the Tata philosophy to aim for the highest standards of quality in every endeavour. Something that's evident in its vast range of world class products and services. With a global network and infrastructure, the company offers total solutions, right from sourcing to delivery, anywhere in the world. So whether it's steel or leather, automobiles or minerals, you can be sure Tata International will leave its stamp of excellence on international business and trade.



Leather &
Leather Products
Engineering
Steel
Automobiles
Mining &
Allied Products
Power Systems
& Projects
Garments
Bulk Imports
IT & Software
Services
Remote Business
Services

TATA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED



Regd Office : Block A, Shivsagar Estates, Dr Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 018, India
Tel. 91 22 496 4310 / 16 Fax 91 22 495 0309 495 0366 e-mail tintl@tatainternational.com website www.tatainternational.com
INDIA : Mumbai Calcutta Delhi Dewas Chennai Bangalore Cochin OVERSEAS : Australia Bangladesh China Ghana Hong Kong Mozambique
Namibia Nepal Russia Saudi Arabia Singapore South Africa Sri Lanka Tanzania Thailand UAE Uganda UK Ukraine USA Zambia Zimbabwe



"The holy fire, after enthronement, is therefore a living, pulsating, throbbing entity"



Clockwise from top left: Hall of the Banaji Atash Behram (Photo: Homyar Mistry, Homz Prints); Boyce-Dhana Patel Adaran; the Anjuman Atash Behram (Photo: Gustasp Irani) and Mancherji B. Sethna Agiary



**PHEROZE
FRAMROZE**

INTERNATIONAL

CURRENCY

DEALERS

Branches

Mumbai

Kalpitaru Chambers, 6, Nanik Motwane Marg, Mumbai 400023
Tel: 2671566, 2671432, 2671452, 2666529, 2666530
Fax: (022) 2624837

Mumbai Andheri

G 3, Sangeet Plaza, Marol, Andheri East, Mumbai 400059
Tel: 8507117, 8563436 Fax: (022) 8507116

Mumbai Airports

Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport:
Terminal (i) Tel: 6156121 Fax: (022) 6156732
Terminal (ii) Tel: 8327913 Fax: (022) 8224532

Mumbai Docks

Ballard Estate, Mumbai

Pune

8, Nalin Chambers, 173 Dhole Patil Road, Pune 411001
Tel: 6050565, 6050566 Fax: (020) 6050564

Goa

8, Mahalaxmi Chambers, Dr. Shirgaonkar Road, Panaji 403001
Tel: 421398, 421985 Fax: (0832) 220129

New Delhi

UGF-8, Indraprakash Building, 21 Barakhamba Road,
New Delhi 110001
Tel: 3352547, 3310028, 3352548 Fax: (011) 3357008

Bangalore

GF, Richmond Plaza, Richmond Circle,
Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, Bangalore 560025
Tel: 2227194, 2211025 Fax: (080) 2211064

Mangalore

F-10, Crystal Arc, Hampankatta Balmatta Road, Mangalore 575001
Tel: 410401, 410402 Fax: (0824) 410403

Hyderabad

C-116, Babukhan Estate, Basheerbagh Road, Hyderabad 500001
Tel: 3211487, 3211482 Fax: (040) 3211479

Tours & Travel Services

Mumba

52, White Hall, August Kranti Marg, Mumbai 400036
Tel: 3620005, 3642512, 3671455, 3680303 Fax: (022) 3630656

scrape the walls. The extensive work involved not just plastering and painting, but the backbreaking job of replacing the decades-old wooden beams on the roof from inside.

Indeed, history was created in that the 217-year-old Kadmi Atash Behram underwent major renovation work at a cost of about Rs 12 lakhs, without the holy fire being shifted.

The first in Bombay, Dadyseth Atash Behram was consecrated on September 29, 1783. The entire consecration and enthronement of the atash padshah was done by the great Kadmi Dastur Mulla Kaus Rustom Jalal, assisted by his illustrious son, Mulla Firuz. Many an interesting tale has been told about the piety and sagacity of the adventurous duo.

The unique feature of this fire-temple before it was constructed was that at the time of laying the foundation, the tana ceremony, which is a must before constructing a dakhma, was performed for the Atash Behram as well. In this ceremony, a thread or a string made from white cotton is purified and then tied round or passed around nails of different weights, pegged at specific places in the ground. All this is not done willy-nilly, but in a highly scientific manner, taking

into consideration the different points of the compass. During the whole process, the *Srosh Baj* is recited by two priests who have undergone the bareashnum ceremony. One doesn't know what the exact nature of the ceremony was when the foundation of the Dadyseth Atash Behram was laid.

What we do know is that when in 1916, under the sway of the materialistic and rationalistic winds from the West, Parsis thought that they were more British than the British, this Atash Behram fell a prey to the fashionable whims of the trustees. Many changes were made. Among them, the rugged black stone flooring in the sanctum sanctorum or the gumbaz, as well as the platform where the worshippers bow before the padshah, were removed and replaced by marble. According to esoteric Zoroastrianism, it is these black stones that have in them the fire energy, *spenishd*, to a very high degree. They are able to absorb the vibrations of the *Avesta* manthra splendidly.

However, what happened in the Dadyseth Atash Behram in 1916 was even worse. Dastur Mulla Firuz had placed special copper amulets with nirangs written thereon beneath the

khuan (the pedestal or the throne) of the padshah and around it. They were destroyed by the masons who were digging the stone flooring. When this came to the notice of the then priests and the laity, it was too late. The damage was irreparable. So also, fashion prompted the trustees of yore to go in for a German-silver afargani which is used till this day in place of the solid copper censer that stands today in a corner outside the gumbaz in mute testimony to the glorious years of the past.

Ratan R. Mody, who lives nearby and who has been a daily visitor to the Atash Behram for more than four decades, told this writer that before 1916 the toilets were way out towards the end of the compound, which was the right location. However, they were brought closer during the renovations coinciding with the First World War.

Eighty years later, another major refurbishing job came up and Parsi volunteers performed a small miracle in giving that finish that would be the envy of professionals. They have earned not only the gratitude of the faithful worshippers but also the blessings of the padshah. Of the total cost of renovation, the bulk was spent on raw materials. Most of the

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

JMM ENTERPRISES

JMME AGENCIES & EXPORTS

Private Limited

(Buyers Representatives
for all types of processed seafoods)

NO 68A, "THE ARCADE"
WORLD TRADE CENTRE
CUFFE PARADE, COLABA
MUMBAI 400005

Telephone Nos: 2186650, 2189498
E-mail: jmme@pobox.com Fax No: 2187972

*Wishing all Zoroastrians
a very happy New Year*

With Best Wishes From

Zubin K. Gandhi and Ashok K. Walke

VENUS ETHOXYETHERS

Private Limited

Offers: Intermediates for disperse dyes

Ethoxylates & Propoxylates

of Alkyl Phenols, Fatty Alcohols, Oxo Alcohols, Fatty Acids,
Amines, Amides, Oils, Esters, etc

Job work also undertaken for speciality Ethoxylates/Propoxylates

Speciality Chemicals:

Ethylene Bis Stearamide, Glycerol Mono Oleate, Butyl Stearate,
Sodium Di Methyl Di Thio Carbamate 40%, Potassium Di
Methyl Di Thio Carbamate 40%

Speciality Auxiliary Chemicals for

Textile Industry, Leather Industry and Paper Industry

Please contact manufacturers:

VENUS ETHOXYETHERS Private Limited

Factory and Regd. Office

Plot No. 109-111, Bicholim Ind. Estate, Bicholim, Goa 403529

Tel: (0832) 362337/362898/362904 Fax: (0832) 362257

E-Mail: venus.goa@sma.sprintpg.ams.vsnl.net.in

Mumbai Address

Hari Niwas, 1st Floor, 19, Mathew Road, Mumbai 400004

Tel: (022) 3630466/3610523 Fax: (022) 3611285

Website: <http://www.venus-go.com>

amount was received through donations which just poured in, particularly from those who were pleasantly surprised to see buste-kustians carry out major repairs so efficiently. These young men had hitherto done odd jobs during their spare time, like plastering and white-washing at this Atash Behram and elsewhere. In fact, in the beginning of this decade they had done a marvellous job of re-plastering and painting a wall in the Banaji Atash Behram, to demonstrate that Parsis can do it. This was done at the behest of some of the trustees themselves. But, ultimately, the trustees, for reasons best known to them, declined to entrust the refurbishing of the fire-temple to the young men.

Some of the active members of the group are Firoze Daruwalla, Cyrus Irani, Bomi Mistry, Noshir Vajifdar, Kaikobad Mistry, Mehernosh Dhamodiwalla, etc. They were advised and guided from time to time by Maneck Engineer, especially for doing the ceiling.

In the beginning, a couple of the trustees were not in favor of these enthusiastic volunteers executing the job, but later, they came around, thanks also to the intercession of veteran boiwallas of the Dadyseth Atash Behram like

Noshirwan Behramkamdin and Parvez Nalladaru. As Behramkamdin, who had just completed 50 years of service to this atash padshah and who convinced the trustees that the holy fire cannot be shifted, put it, "Our Parsi boys have done a wonderful job. They should always be encouraged."

The only dire necessity for this Atash Behram today is security. Surrounded on all sides by non-Parsis and with relatively less number of Zoroastrians frequenting it because of its location in Chira Bazar or Fanaswadi, at any time of the day it looks very vulnerable. In the recent past, a couple of robberies have taken place inside the Atash Behram. The trustees have to provide security round the clock to preserve the safety and sanctity of this ancient fire-temple.

Boyce-Dhana Patel Adaran

Ever heard of a 167-year-old residing in a 60-year-young building? That's exactly what has happened in the case of this agiary: while the Dhana Patel Adaran has completed a century and a half, the Boyce building housing it celebrated its golden jubilee only 10 years ago.

The Dhana Patel Adaran was located on Duncan Road where it was conse-

crated in February 1834. For more than a century the agiary flourished there. But by 1940, the number of Parsis had considerably dwindled in that area. The trustees were therefore on the lookout for a new residence. In the meantime two brothers, Nusserwanji and Rustomji Boyce, were in the process of establishing a new adarian which would help the specially ordained priests to perform the inner liturgical ceremonies like the yasna, vendidad, etc in an ideal manner. The brothers were advised that as there were too many adarians in the Tardeo area, an old adarian fire which may be languishing elsewhere could be housed in their building. That's how the Dhana Patel Adaran found a new home. Ever since, the day-to-day management of the holy fire has been under the priests of the Sanjana sect of Udvada.

Though the building is six decades old, it was found that the gumbaz had developed a leak and other parts of the building needed major repairs. But till 1995, there was no one prepared to raise the sum of Rs 40 lakhs, the estimated cost of refurbishing the main building as well as the small structure behind it, that would temporarily house the adarian fire. Then came on the scene the Good

With Compliments From

Victory Theatre

2429 Gen Thimayya Road, Camp, Pune 411001

Our salutes on the occasion of the New Year !!



Telcon *wishes the readers of Parsiana a very happy and prosperous New Year*

Telco CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

Head Office: Jubilee Building, 45 Museum Road, Bangalore - 560 025

Tel.: 0091-80-5583345, 46, 53 Fax: 0091-80-5583343

Visit us at:

www.tata.com

Samaritan, who changed it all. As the managing trustee Nadir A. Modi put it at the re-enthroning function, the trustees were hoping for someone who would save the agiary and pronto, came Hosi Dastur who, with an initial personal contribution of Rs 20 lakhs, became the man of the hour. Hosi and his wife Dinaz, who stayed just behind the agiary in the Gamadia Colony, were daily visitors. Dinaz, fond of praying for several hours, used to be horrified to see rain water dripping inside the sanctum during the monsoon and buckets kept at certain points. She persistently asked Hosi to do something quickly about it.

A staunch traditionalist and a dynamic go-getter, Hosi, backed by Dinaz, set about organizing the whole show on a war footing. Right from the beginning, he supervised every single aspect of the operation: from the discussions with the architect and the contractor about every single item of construction to be used, to the finer nuances of maintaining and preserving the sanctity of the adarian saheb, which according to him is the mini Iran Shah of Bombay — the main similarity being that the agiary has no electric connection. It must be the only adarian of its kind in our part of the

world.

It took nearly nine months and Rs 28 lakhs to renovate the agiary. Not only were the old stained marble panels outside the gumbaz replaced by new ones, but the tiles on the walls of the sanctum sanctorum were replaced by marble and the entire tiled flooring in the hall was also replaced by marble flooring. When a survey was being taken by architect Khushro Sethna, it was found that both the walls and the floor tiles had developed cracks. So, replacement was absolutely necessary. In all my years of visiting fire-temples in Bombay, I have yet to come across an agiary which has such a fine little separate building which can safely house the fire while the main building is being repaired by non-Parsis.

Godavara Agiary

Situated at Cowasji Patel Street in Fort, the Gamadia Agiary has made history at least a couple of times in its existence of nearly 175 years. It was built at a cost of Rs 10,064.25 of which Rs 6,933 came from the Zoroastrians living in the vicinity, while the rest of the amount was paid out of the funds of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), according to *Parsee Dharmasthalo* by Bahmanji

Behramji Patel. In April 1860, the old building gave way to a new bigger one and the funds were provided from the assets of the late Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, first baronet. The presiding priest Sorab Pesuji who performed the jashan after the reconstruction of the adarian was given an ashodad of the princely sum of Rs 10 with a shawl and the other mobeds were given five rupees each.

The first baronet had expressed a strong desire to build the new building, but before it could be completed he passed away. His three sons then fulfilled their father's wish. In his speech after the jashan ceremony, Sorabjee Jamshedjee made an interesting observation: "Those who are in the gathering here today had expressed a desire that the Godavara Agiary, which the three of us have built, should be renamed the 'Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy Baronet Agiary.' But, we thank these gentlemen and beg to inform them that the old name by which this Agiary is known will be retained, and we do not think it proper to christen it with the name of our revered father."

The first time that the Godavara Agiary created history of sorts was in the first decade of this century when it

With best compliments from

TIME

WATCH MAKERS

Marcks & Co.

Shop No. 14,
Empire Mahal, Block D,
Khodadad Circle, Dadar TT,
Bombay 400014

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

Tel: 4143898/4121411

Tel: 2670999/2676412

WATCH MAKERS OF REPUTE

Happy Navroz

Get your spirits soaring!

*Get into
The Spirit of Sikkim*

*Enjoy
The Spirit of Sikkim*

*Soak in
The Spirit of Sikkim*

**SIKKIM DISTILLERIES
Limited**

Rangpo 737132, Sikkim

Say **hello** to *dolphin*
and **goodbye**
to high mobile bills!



dolphin rates slashed
No activation charge

(Scheme valid from 23rd July to 31st July 2001)

dolphin introduces **Mobile Bonanza** that will bring *dolphin* within the affordable reach of common man.

- Airtime 70 paise per 30 seconds (Plan B). • Monthly rental Rs. 250 only (Plan A). • No roaming charges for Mumbai - Delhi roaming.
 - Corporates can save upto Rs.1.75 Lacs on a booking of 25 cellular connections. • No Airtime commitment.
- Subscription Bonus of free Airtime worth Rs. 500/- is not applicable during the validity of the scheme.
- ♦ **You can register at any *dolphin* centre.** ♦ **For details call *dolphin* Helpline 98690 12345.**

Existing *dolphin* customers can opt for (Plan A) or (Plan B) by sending their request on fax No. 430 7872.

Amount payable at the time of Registration:	
Facility	Security Deposit(Refundable)
1. Local only	Rs. 2000/-
2. Local & NSD	Rs. 4000/-
3. Local, NSD & ISD	Rs. 6000/-

Pay order / DD to be made in favour of "MTNL Mumbai *dolphin*".

Plan A		Plan B
250	Rental (Rs/Month)	375
0.75	Incoming(Rs/30 sec)	0.70
1.00	Outgoing(Rs/30 sec)	0.70

Flat rates applicable for 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

MTNL
Telephone House, V.S. Marg, Dadar (W), Mumbai-400 028.
MTNL on Internet: <http://www.mtnl.net.in>
MTNL - Lifeline of Delhi & Mumbai

dolphin
Affordable Cellular Mobile Service

prominently featured in that cause célèbre, *Petit vs Jejeebhoy* or the Parsi Punchayet case, when Ratan D. Tata married a French lady, got her 'navjote' performed and made her go through the 'ashirwad' ceremony the same day. She then tried to enter the Godavara Agiary but was prevented by the BPP whose trustees were the trustees of the Agiary. Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, fourth baronet, was then chairman of the BPP.

The second time the Agiary came in the limelight was in the late 1980s when it was declared dangerous and uninhabitable by those who were supposed to preserve and maintain it. There was the imminent danger of the roof collapsing! During the monsoon the rodents had a free play of the building! Halfhearted appeals were made, not in the Parsi Press, but on the notice board of the Agiary!

What followed was protracted discussion, negotiation and even litigation between the trustees and the regular users and worshippers of the Agiary. The BPP trustees wanted the fire to be shifted to the Vatcha Agiary nearby or to Godrej Baug, while the regular goers to the Agiary rightly felt that all that was

needed was heavy repairs to the building, particularly the roof.

The case came up before the charity commissioner in the form of an applica-



Godavara Agiary in the Fort locality

tion under Section 41E of the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, made by Hoshang J. Tarapore, Dr H. R. Mobedji and Naju F. Paghdwalla against, in the

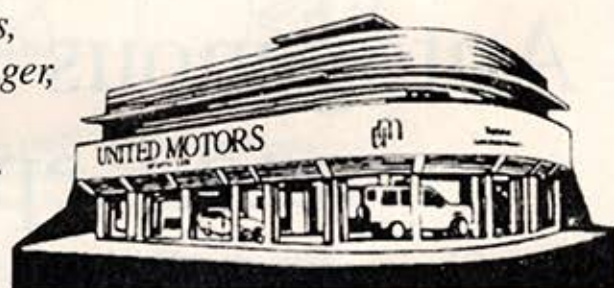
main, the BPP trustees.

In his judgment, the charity commissioner concluded: "I am constrained to say that no prima facie case is made out by the applicants as contemplated under Section 41A and 41E... The conduct of the trustees is not that blameworthy so as to issue injunction against them... No case is made out by applicants that the trustees are trying to alienate or dispose off (sic) the fire temple or to transfer the same and to create third party interest therein..." An order dated July 2, 1991 was therefore passed, stating that the application stood rejected.

The applicants went in appeal to the Bombay High Court and filed a writ petition later that year. Justices Pendse and Vyas ruled that both the parties to the suit should contribute to the repairs of the Godavara Agiary. The petitioners had already raised by contribution from the Parsi community a sum of approximately Rs 3,60,000 for the repairs of the Agiary; the BPP trustees would contribute Rs 1,00,000. The corpus of Rs 4,60,000 was to be deposited in a separate bank account... to be operated by two named trustees of the Parsi Punchayet, the Court ruled.



*For all Tata vehicles,
commercial or passenger,
you can find us
where you want us.*



UNITED MOTORS (INDIA) LTD. (A Shapoorji Pallonji Group Company)

South Mumbai: 39 A, N. S. Patkar Marg, Hughes Road Junction, Mumbai 400007 Tel: 3805569/4918/4239/4256/5648/6255

Fax: 3803698 • 4A, Sanghrajka House, First Floor, 484, S. V. P. Road, Opera House, Mumbai 400004 Tel: 3800918 Fax: 3801058

• The Raghuvanshi Mills Ltd, 11/12, Senapati Bapat Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400013 Tel: 4923804/3870

• Deonar: Behind Lakme Ltd, Off Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai 400088 Tel: 5564759/5570218 Fax: 5563347

• Malad (W): 9, Maharaja Apartments, S. V. Road, Opp. Malad Tel. Exchange, Mumbai 400064 Tel: 8821825/0157

• Thane: Chitalsar, Opposite Lawkim, Ghodbunder Road, Manpada, Thane 400607 Tel: 5340844/1667 Fax: 5346138

Navi Mumbai: U.P. Warehouse, Opposite Sanpada Railway Station, Plot No 4 to 9, Malco Yard, Sanpada, Navi Mumbai 400705

Tel: 7633766/3767 Fax: 7630163

Versave: M/s Velkar Auto Service, Versave Village, Near Bassein Bridges, National Highway No 8, Dist. Thane Tel: 8112788/8102224

Sindhudurg: C/o Vaibhav Communications Shriram Wadi, Opp. Raj Hotel B. K. G. Road, Kudal, Tal. Sindhudurg Tel: 02362-22548

Ratnagiri: Hatkhamba Branch Dist. & Tal Ratnagiri Tele-Fax: 02352-46239

Ulhasnagar: C/o Janata Motor Transport Service, 17, Section, O. T. Section, Ulhasnagar 421003 Thane Tel: 911-555754/551432

Further, the Court directed, "Every effort will be made to keep the sacred fire in the Agiary premises by shifting the same to the adjoining area when the work of repair of the main building is in progress..."

Mancherji B. Sethna Agiary

The adarian saheb was established in November 1796 in Zaveri Bazar, what was then known as Bahar Kote (outside the Fort), by Seth Mancherji Bomanji. But surprisingly, in just 26 years, it was found that the floor was sinking. So in 1822 the descendants decided to buy

adjoining buildings and construct a new building for the adarian, as per Patel's information in *Parsee Dharmasthalo*. The holy fire was reconsecrated on November 19, 1822 in the presence of a huge gathering at the jashan ceremony.

Around 1895, once again a new building was built. A retinue of high priests and priests were present during the jashan. In his speech, the then trustee Framji H. Sethna read out the anjuman patra in which was stated that about 125 years ago, in this area (Zaveri Bazar), there were vast barren fields, a big part of which known as "Suna Khetar" belonged to Sorabji Maneckji who was instrumental in settling Zoroastrians in that area. In a short time, the population of the Parsis in that area increased and there was a demand for a fire-temple. Sorabji Maneckji was only too willing to oblige. So what came up in 1796 was a dadgah. In 1822, as mentioned above, an adarian was established in a bigger building. In 1896, when the centenary function was held, a silver censer was presented by the trustees.

It was only in 1927 when the number of Parsis in Bahar Kote had reduced considerably that the adarian was brought to its present place at Tardeo.

When one reads accounts of establishment or restoration of fire-temples in the last two centuries in Bombay, one cannot escape the feeling that the trustees and priests of yore were, by and large, imbued with sincere devotion (*bhakti bhav*). The building at Tardeo is indeed a majestic one, very spacious. Yet, as in the case of other agiaries, there is no arrangement whatsoever for the adarian to be shifted, though one can legitimately ask, why should it be shifted at all? If the Parsi men who did a marvelous job at the Dadyseth Atash Behram were called, there would have been no need to shift the fire at all! Anyway, the adarian was shifted to the place where the dadgah is normally kept. The dadgah was brought nearer the door of the same urvisgah. Since electric lights are de rigueur today, the bulbs were covered with newspapers. In the actual koh or gumbaz of the adarian saheb, an electric bulb which was lit hung from the ceiling, close to the 'crown' of the adarian! Both the roof and the flooring of the main building are connected with those of the other surrounding structures of the Agiary. Thus, if the non-Zoroastrian workers enter the main building, their paivand (contact) with the rest of the

MATRIMONIAL

An unmarried, fair, good-looking, Zoroastrian (Parsi), Indian businessman aged 36, 5'6" tall, seeks matrimony with a decent, attractive, well settled Parsi lady in the US (up to 45 years). The advertiser, Mr Don Addy, is willing to settle and expand his present business in USA. Interested ladies kindly e-mail: d_a@la.com

With compliments from

Autogenous Welding and Repair

Company Private Limited

Mel Superweld

Private Limited

Boiler Plant and Pipework Engineers

63 Fergusson Road, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013
Tel. 4927331, 4927332, 4929781, 4954403 Fax: (022) 4953671
E-mail: autogenous@vsnl.net

Tomorrow's Precision Spindle Available Today



Exemplar-Nihon Spindle a Joint Venture Company with Nihon Spindle, Japan brings you textile spindles today with technology of tomorrow - Spinners dream come true.

Nihon Spindle was established in 1918, at Amagasaki, Japan; and is today the leading maker of spindles in the world.

Nihon Spindle has supplied over 40 million spindles to Ring Frame makers and Spinning mills all over the world.

Spindles with identical technology and standards of Nihon Spindle are now manufactured in India.

Spindles can be supplied with any make of insert and wharve diameter of your choice.



EXEMPLAR - NIHON SPINDLE
MANUFACTURING CO., PVT. LTD.

H. O.: 96, Maker Chambers III, 223 Nariman Point,
Mumbai 400021. (India). Tel.: (91 22) 284 4080,
(91 22) 284 3283. Fax: (91 22) 284 6839.

structures is established.

Zarthoshti Anjumanna Atash Behram
Ervad Dr Jivanji Modi, in the introduction to his Gujarati edition of *Jamaspi*, states that when the Anjuman Atash Behram was coming up in 1897, many Parsi women had objected because, according to them, eight atash behrams in India would bring ill luck. Esoteric Zoroastrianism fully vindicates this prediction.

The birth of the Anjuman Atash Behram was the result of a conflict between the authorities of the Wadia Atas Bahram and the Bhagaria mobeds who used to perform the boi ceremony in that Atas Bahram for 50 years. Ultimately, they decided to quit. They worked as yaozdathregars at the Dadyseth Atash Behram for some time. They then decided that there should be another atash behram where they could practise. But, at first, a dar-e-meher was built. At that time, Dastur Jamaspji M. Jamaspasana took the lead in collecting the funds for the new atash behram which was to be located almost bang opposite the Wadia Atas Bahram at Dhobitalao!

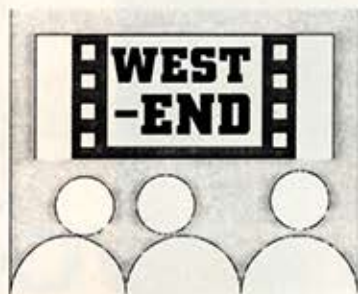
But, as the date of the enthronement of the new fire approached, there

were, as expected, fireworks (pun intended). The evening before the red-letter day, October 17, 1897, dholis played in the street outside. Early morning that day, there was music-making in the Parsi areas around. There were banners, colorful flower buntings and arches of banana and papaya leaves. At night, the whole place was brightly lit. Unprecedented scenes of joy and a huge crowd of worshippers thronged the building where the atash behram padshah was to be enthroned. The eastern side entrance having an arch was lit up with Ratnagar patent colored bulbs. From 7 a.m. humdins had started pouring in. Hundreds of Zoroastrians had gathered in the hall on the first floor, on the balcony and in the prayer hall. By 9 o'clock, the number of devotees had swelled to such proportions that when the atash was brought from the dar-e-meher to the Atash Behram gumbaz for consecration and enthronement, only a few lucky ones were able to witness the ceremony.

Four years ago they celebrated the centenary year. Around that time an appeal was issued for donations for "large scale repairing and renovating the old

edifice..." In its annual report for the year 1365 YZ and its accounts of the various funds of the Atash Behram, the managing committee stated that up to March 31, 1996, the Centenary Fund had received Rs 40,79,056.99, exceeding their target of Rs 40 lakhs. Of this a sum of Rs 3,55,889.75 was spent till that date on repairs. However, the actual, major "repairs" started about that time, when the padshah was shifted, or, to be more precise, he was dethroned. He was taken and placed in the censer that till then contained the adarian fire; the adarian was shunted to a corner in the urvisgah, where, at some distance the dadgah is placed. In the original prayer hall as well as in the sanctum sanctorum tiles were ripped off the walls, both inside and outside the gumbaz, and the brass rods on about eight windows of the gumbaz were removed and replaced by marble ones. The marble balusters in the windows have completely deprived the Atash Behram of its ambience.

A Zoroastrian house of worship should be as simple as possible where the devout can pray to the atash padshah without the distraction of outward trimmings and without the padshah being lowered in his spiritual status.



WEST-END CINEMA

9, Moledina Road, Pune 411001

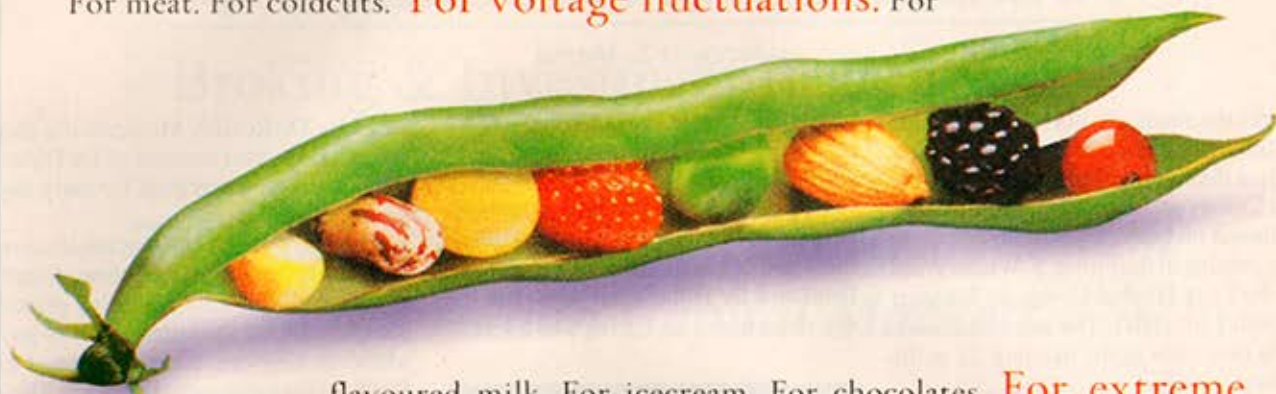
Tel: 020-613-0800 and 020-613-2463 Fax: 020-613-3151

Serving Pune cinema goers for over 60 years
with the best in cinema entertainment, fully
renovated, air-conditioned, equipped with the finest
digital Dolby sound for your viewing comfort

Get the West-End habit

For soft drinks. For cheese. For butter. **For quality.** For mushrooms.

For meat. For coldcuts. **For voltage fluctuations.** For



flavoured milk. For icecream. For chocolates. **For extreme**

weather. For frozen peas. For strawberries. For apples. For prompt after

sales service. For beer. For colas. For mayonnaise. **For quality**

preservation. For business. For visible merchandise.

For profits. Only Coldcel. Only Voltas.



VOLTAS LIMITED

Quality preservation begins with Voltas.

• Visi Coolers • Upright Coolers • Chest Coolers • Chest Freezers

Corporate Office : Voltas Limited, Hyderabad Unit, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad - 500 018. Ph.: 3700665/3704408, Fax : 3701982/1565

• Delhi - 011-5717530 • Mumbai - 022 - 2874829 • Chennai - 044-4811872 • Bangalore - 080-2238885

• Ahmedabad - 079-6810830 • Calcutta - 033-5579078 • Kochi- 0484-368002

www.voltascoldcel.com



Care at the cottage hospital

Firoze Wadia's charity bequeaths a new ward to the Lady Jehangir Health Unit at Gamadia Colony

Arnavaz S. Mama

Under the shade of a colorful shamiana, in the niche between two small buildings at the entrance to Bombay's Gamadia Colony at Tardeo, a group of Parsis gathered on May 27, 2001 to celebrate the opening of the Firoze S. Wadia Ward of the Lady Hirabai Cowasjee Jehangir Health Unit (HU). The new ward adds nine new beds to the existing 22 at the cottage hospital.

The late Wadia, a lawyer and an inquisitor at corporate annual general meetings dreaded by most managements, had charged his executors to bequeath his wealth to Parsi charities. Accordingly Haren Jokhakar and Dushyant Dalal had chosen the Health Unit as a worthy recipient, donating a total of Rs 38.5 lakh over 1997-99, as per the HU's annual reports.

Complimenting Arnavaz Khan who completes 50 years as the HU's honorary administrator, chief guest Jamshed Guzder, chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), dwelt on the quality of service that patients at the HU receive, describing it as "unique and probably the best in Bombay." In her welcome address Khan noted that the HU "may not be a very big thing, may not be very impressive, but (is one that) serves the purpose of the poor and the needy who cannot afford to go to hospitals."

The new ward has been carved out of what used to be the HU's committee meeting room. Seven new surgical beds have been accommodated in the main room which has two modern washrooms attached. Two more beds have been placed in a smaller adjacent room, being intended for the more seriously ill. Physicians Dr Marazban Nalladaru, Dr Lily Irani and Dr Suresh Kothari have hitherto been looking after the inpatients with a complement of five nurses (four day + one night nurse), according to the annual report. With the increase in the number of beds it was reported that one more night nurse would be added to the staff.

Apart from the inpatient care, the HU

boasts of a roster of 15 long-serving medical specialists who conduct the subsidized outpatients department (OPD). Led by cardiologist Dr Dinyar Gamadia who attends every Tuesday mornings, there are ophthalmologists Dr Rustam Patel and Dr Hilla Vakil who man the eye department on Friday and Monday

provided by Dr Ruzbeh Mowdawalla and the gynecological acumen of Dr Dinoo Dalal, including pap tests for early detection of cancer.

The HU provides all this health care completely free to the Doongerwadi staff as also to all full-time practising priests though many of the latter prefer to pay whatever they can, Khan mentioned to *Parsiana* at a subsequent interview. They have also organized a few successful camps — for G6PD deficiency, cancer and glaucoma detection — and a fourth for RH blood grouping, open to all Zoroastrians, is on the cards.

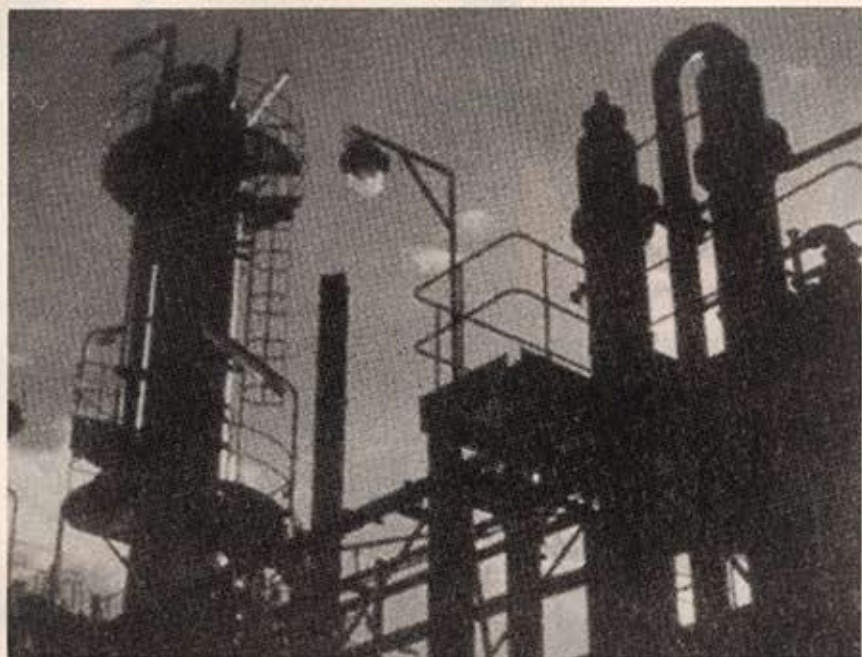
Ruby Khambatta who formerly worked at the Sir Ratan Tata Institute's (RTI) confectionery department has been cooking for the HU inpatients for the past 12 years. Beginning their day with tea between five and six a.m., they are served breakfast which includes an egg, bread and an occasional sweet dish, we are told. Soup at 11 a.m. is followed by lunch comprising a rice dish plus a side dish with bread and a piece of fruit. Afternoon tea is accompanied by biscuits and dinner comprises two dishes of which one may be a pudding.

Head sister Banoo Sanjana has not only tended the HU patients for 23 years but is always on call, providing emergency drips and other services free to Colony inmates and residents of the girls' and boys' hostels as also, when required, at the Lady Engineer School, she says. Having spent the first 18 years of her working life at the Charak Clinic under the renowned surgeon Dr Rustom Cooper, Sanjana could easily provide the necessary care to postoperative cataract cases when ophthalmologists (Drs) Keki Mehta and Villie Bamboat between them performed six to seven operations a week, she recalls. Widowed with two sons when she was barely 30, Sanjana has been provided a flat at Gamadia Colony for herself and one son with family, while the other continues to reside with his family at their small



The new ward

mornings respectively with the noted opticians Baliwalla and Homi providing spectacles at concessional rates; dentist Dr Silesh Divecha and orthodontist Dr Soli Javeri are respectively available on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons; pediatrician Dr Shirin Mullan and orthopedic surgeon Dr Vispi Jokhi serve the community on Saturday mornings; skin specialist Dr S. P. Sirur comes visiting on Thursday mornings while homeopath Dr Dilnavaz Gamadia attends on the mornings of the first and third Mondays of the month. Also available to Parsi patients is the daily facility of the physiotherapy department under Dr M. Z. Khatkhatey, pathology service pro-



With Best Compliments From
Tata Chemicals Ltd.

Asia's largest inorganic chemicals manufacturer.





Clockwise from top left: Ceremonial inauguration by Guzder with (left to right) Gamadia, Jokhakar, Dalal and A. Khan; a section of the audience; an angle of the new ward; the late F. Khan; a room at the cottage hospital and its exterior; sister Sanjana; A. Khan and Noble

Photos: Nazneen Vajifdar, Spectravision Labs



ADD MORE MUSCLE TO YOUR CONCRETE.

SHAKTIMAN STEEL FIBRES

Reliably Known
to increase the
Strength of Concrete
Manifold.

- Increase in Crack Resistance.
- Increase in Ductility.
- Increase in Flexural & Compressive strength.
- Increase in Impact & Abrasion resistance.

Extensively used in:

- Concrete Roads.
- Rock Stabilisation.
- Airport Runways & Aprons.
- Tunnel Linings.
- Pre-stressed panels.



▲ Steel fibre shotcreting used for the construction of a large capacity ground level water tank.

Shaktimaan Steel Fibres are made from cold drawn special steel wire conforming to IS: 280-1976.

Shaktimaan is widely used in construction of industrial floors, road overlays, machine formulations etc.

Incorporation of Shaktimaan steel fibre in concrete at the time of mixing & production improves several properties of hardened concrete.



▲ Steel fibre shotcreting used for a tunnel lining job

Manufactured by:

STEWOLS & CO.

5, Industrial Estate, Kamptee Road,
Uppalwadi, Nagpur-440 026
Tel : ++91-712-641040, 640613, 641750.
Fax : ++91-712-641760.
e-mail : stewols@nagpur.dot.net.in
Visit us : @ www.stewols.com

An ISO 9002 Organisation.

Captain Colony flat, informs Khan. The dispensing of medicine is another of Sanjana's duties.

A BPP scheme implemented at the HU is the provision of an egg and milk daily to undernourished children and adults that now even includes the boarding students in need at the Bai A. F. Petit Girls' School at Bandra. It began when two miserably undernourished boys in the Colony came to Khan's notice. She instructed the HU staff to provide them with a cup of milk and an egg apiece every day. "The news spread," she recalls, and there was a growing list of applicants whose need could not be denied. "After the children came old people, then preoperative cases whose stamina required to be built up, then antenatal and postnatal women. Finally it happened that two girls in the hostel were prey to malaria and very weak with fever. Most of these girls go to work or class without breakfast. Those who returned late would find that nothing worthwhile from the lunch table was left for them." Putting these needs to the BPP it was decided that all the hostel girls would be provided with milk, a bottle being shared between two girls.

When the scheme was extended to include the Petit girls, HU committee member Homai Modi organized milk coupons at concessional rates from Parsi Dairy Farm, with the milk supplied directly to Bandra, explains Khan. Their quota of eggs is sent for 15 days at a time. The girls who are certified in need of vitamins are also provided these supplements for a specific period of time as instructed by the doctors so that the scheme is not misused, says Khan. Each time the boarders return after the holidays they are required to come to the HU for medical examination.

History

The BPP's first female trustee Lady Navajbai Tata had been more interested in the welfare of the RTI, says former BPP trustee Dr Nelie Noble who has consistently supported the HU. On Tata's resignation in 1946 the position was occupied by Lady Hirabai Cowasjee Jehangir who continued in office until her death in 1976, the last two years as BPP chairperson. Jehangir began her social work with a "nice little committee of ladies," recalls Noble. Each was deputised as guide, philosopher and friend to the tenants of two BPP buildings and met with Jehangir every Wednesday to discuss the situations they encountered.

A section of the kitchen with Khambatta (inset)



"Lady Jehangir was chairperson of all the welfare committees of the BPP... Anybody could come (to the Wednesday meetings)," says Noble. Jehangir started outdoor clinics in every colony, as also a nursery school, recreation center and, in those immediate postwar years, subsidized vegetable stalls. The nursery schools were closed when the high schools started their own nurseries and the health clinics were later amalgamated in the interests of better resource management, notes Noble.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Sleater Road run with financial help from various Parsi trusts was shifted to Gamadia Colony when Navajbai Gamadia's donation of Rs 52,000 led to the erection of the Gamadia Building in 1938, writes Sapur Desai in his *History of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet 1860-1960*. Ten years later when the executors of Dr Kaikhushroo Gimi donated Rs 3,57,200 the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic was wound up and its assets merged with the newly set up HU with a committee of eminent doctors under the chairmanship of Jehangir, he notes. Even then, the curative and preventive aspects of community health were equally emphasized, adds Desai. Initially the HU had two branches — at Parsi Colony, Dadar and at Captain Colony, Tardeo. By the end of a decade both had been closed for want of patients, recounts Desai.

Framjee Pestonjee Khan's donation of Rs 14 lakhs in 1951 led to the construction of the Khan Building which houses the cottage hospital with 15 beds, notes Desai. Khan's daughter Arnavaz recalls how the ground plus one floor unit was manned by a single nurse each

for the day and night shifts. Jehangir gathered a fine team of doctors under Cooper which included ophthalmologist Adarbad Irani and ENT specialist Joe DeSa. With a course in Montessori teaching, desultory knowledge of book-keeping and a "completely alien interest in language and literature," Khan says she felt at sea in the field of social work when she joined the HU, but got her bearings thanks to Noble's and committee member Muncherji Cama's ready support. When the hospital expanded with a second floor the number of inmates grew to 18, she recalls. But after Jehangir's death, "it fell to bits."

The strike and lockout at the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital in the mid 1980s gave the HU a shot in the arm. By that time Gamadia had taken over as the chief medical officer and was instrumental in getting some of its patients accommodated here. Two private rooms were created and the meeting room organized with a few hired beds.

With donations for a new operating table and an operation microscope for ophthalmology coming in, Khan and Noble are currently busy planning to revive the weekly cataract operations scheme. To that end they are making space for a recovery room where patients can relax for the day before being sent home. Poor patients however prefer to remain in the hospital for eight days and they will continue to be accommodated, says Khan.

The committee is emphatic that the HU is not an old people's home but a working hospital. When Gamadia's sister-in-law Shirin Elavia made the ex-

continued on page 102

HOMAGE TO THE FOUNDER - PRINCIPAL
Of
DAVAR'S COLLEGE OF COMMERCE



Prof. Sohrab R. Davar
1879 - 1949



From



DAVAR'S

Since 1900

Join Us For Professional Job Oriented Courses

- ★ Special Computerised Personal Secretary
- ★ Executive Secretary Administrator
- ★ Personality Development, Public Speaking
- ★ Interview Preparations & Group Discussions
- ★ Computer Courses

Also enquire about other Professional Job Oriented Courses
English, Arabic, Hindi, Typing, Shorthand, DTP, Graphics,
Animation, Computerised Accounts Yoga and many more.

Excellent Placement and Translation Service

Govt. Recognised
Davar's College of Commerce

Come only from FRONT ENTRANCE to 1ST Counter

3rd Floor, Mulla House, Fort, Mumbai-23.	Vashi: Sector 17	Tel. 789 1009 / 789 1449
E-mail: davar1@bom7.vsnl.net.in	Goa Panjim:	Tel. 421024 / 221140
Mumbai Tel: 204 2007 / 282 4678	Goa Raibunder:	Tel. 444155 / 444256/57

Bomanji and the Mahatma

Shavaksha Bomanji's moral and financial support to Mahatma Gandhi is recalled on his 50th death anniversary

S. P. K. Gupta

In response to a call by Mahatma Gandhi, endorsed by the Congress working committee, India observed January 26, 1930 as "Independence Day." The compatriots were trying to assert that complete independence or *purna swaraj* was the freedom movement's goal. Shortly afterwards, Gandhi had a visitor, Shavaksha Ratanji Bomanji, at the Sabarmati Ashram asking if he had an alternative offer to complete independence which he could convey to Ramsay MacDonald, the British premier during his forthcoming visit to London.

Gandhi dictated his famous "Eleven points" in the five minutes between the two Ashram bells for the evening meal wherein he advocated prohibition, restoration of the old sterling-rupee exchange rate, halving of land revenue, military expenditure and civil service salaries, abolition of salt tax, tariff protection to textiles, enactment of a coastal reservation bill, release of political prisoners, abolition of CID (criminal investigation department) and issue of firearms to the public for self-defence.

Bomanji who was the founder-director of *Bombay Chronicle* asked for the document to be typed and mailed to him at Bombay as he had a train to catch. The Eleven-point document came back to Sabarmati a few days later from an Anglo-Indian lady in Darjeeling to whom it was mailed by mistake in response to her enquiry where she could get two rupees eight annas worth of khadi. Bomanji had meanwhile left for Europe and the document was mailed to his Paris address by the India-UK airmail service inaugurated only that week.

In the meanwhile on January 31 Gandhi released the "Eleven points" to the Press saying it was his response to Viceroy Irwin's offer of conciliation,

assuring that he would put off civil disobedience if they were conceded. While many Indians thought it was a poor substitute for complete independence, the British thought they went far beyond what Britain would be losing by granting independence to India.

Contrary to the impression at Sabarmati, Bomanji did receive in Bombay the letter delineating the "Eleven points." Gandhi further wrote to him in Paris explaining his rationale for releasing the points to the Press: "I had thought if MacDonald meant to do anything my public mention of the points would prepare the ground. I do not want to think of anything new that I may not make use of in public. The matter is far too great to be disposed of in a hole-and-corner manner. For, any substantial reform would mean previous educating of public opinion, both here and in England. No diplomacy, therefore, is required. The straightest dealing alone can bring us near a solution."

Bomanji met the Prime Minister on February 27, 1930 who was not the same MacDonald he had known for the previous 18 or 19 years. There were no friends in England for India except the left-wing Laborites but these would be kept out by MacDonald of any Round Table Conference (RTC) or constitutional reforms. "I have no faith in MacDonald..." Bomanji reported to Gandhi. He was afraid the English with their superior diplomacy "which is a respectable term for duplicity and treachery" would get the better of Gandhi despite his grasp and negotiating powers and give India a semblance and not

the substance of independence. He urged Gandhi to insist on selecting 51 percent of the Indian delegation to the RTC.

Gandhi replied: "Surely you had no difficulty in realizing that they had no

intention of yielding to the points mentioned by me. The thing for you to do is not to listen to the honied words but to go on with what propaganda you can make. The true propaganda is the power I am generating among the people." In response to Bomanji's counsel to Gandhi on the eve of the RTC in August 1931, Gandhi replied before sailing for London, "If we reach the stage of arbitration, I shall remember your valued advice."

When Indian friends in America were keen that Gandhi proceed from London to USA before returning to India. John Haynes Holmes, minister of the Community Church of New York advised him to defer his travel plans saying the time was not opportune. He got a hint from Bomanji who cabled him on October 10, "Some journalists here are uncomplimentary about your intended visit. Please await my return before making definite plans." Bomanji met Gandhi in London during a stopover on his way back to India and gave him a firsthand account of the situation in the US. American journals had carried "cruel caricatures" of Mirabehn ministering to Gandhi in London.

Bomanji had known Gandhi since 1919 when in October the Government of India announced a commission to enquire into the Jalianwalla Bagh massacre and martial law administration in Punjab. The Hunter Commission had only three Indians among its eight members and its appointment was coupled with legislation to indemnify officers



Bomanji and Gandhi (below): valued advice





The world might envy Mr. and Mrs. Raina's sense of fashion. They themselves are proud of their sense of economics.

At Westside, it's not just our stylish range of apparel, household accessories and gifts that will leave you speechless. It's also our truly affordable prices. So if you are looking for a chic top, a trendy sahar kameez or kids' wear, a wide range of trousers or vibrant bed linen, choose now to please your heart and your wallet.



Surprisingly affordable style

MENSWEAR WOMENSWEAR LINGERIE KIDSWEAR HOUSEHOLD ACCESSORIES

Mumbai: 39, Hughes Road • Pune: 1B, Moledina Rd., Camp

from action against anything they might do to establish law and order. The Congress leaders criticized both the composition of the Commission and its appointment by the government which was the accused party. Bomanji telegraphed Gandhi on October 21, advising boycott of the Commission and inviting him to Bombay for a discussion as he had "lots" to tell him. Incidentally the nationalist *Bombay Chronicle*, which Bomanji had co-founded in 1913 with Sir Pherozeshah Mehta and B. G. Horniman, was suppressed and its editor Horniman whisked off to England for its exposure of oppression in Punjab. This was the reason why Gandhi took control of *Young India* which was until then run by Jamnadas Dwarakadas, Umar Sobani and Shankarlal Banker who were connected with the *Chronicle*.

Besides the *Chronicle* connection, Bomanji was one of the owners of the sister Gujarati publication *The Bombay Samachar*. Born on September 19, 1868, Bomanji had vast landed property in India and oil interests in the United States where he settled down in the early 1920s. He married a French lady and had a house at 69, Boulevard Louvres in

Paris. His daughter married and settled in the US.

Yet another cause espoused by Gandhi to which Bomanji had liberally contributed was the Tilak Purse Fund. Bal Gangadhar Tilak had lost his libel case in 1919 against Sir Valentine Chirol of *The (London) Times* for writing in his book, *The Indian Unrest* that Tilak instigated Hindus against Muslims, collected funds through blackmail and was connected with the killing of certain British officials. Tilak had to pay £ 1,40,000 in costs and was bailed out by the fund of Rs 3,75,000 collected by the people. The *Bombay Chronicle* wrote: "Who cares what the British jury and judge said about our beloved Lokmanya. Their pronouncements are powerless to dethrone him from the loving hearts of the people."

The Bomanji papers show that he was consulted by the secretary of state for India, Mr Montague, on events in India in 1921. He wrote to Montague in September saying businessmen like him were driven to powerfully support the non-cooperation movement because of the adverse effect British financial and commercial policies were having on them. "Non-cooperation, you can take it from me, is not likely to be killed just

yet," he said in his letter from Braemer, Germany where he was recuperating from surgery. "It is very much alive and growing."

Upset by Gandhi's pronouncements against big corporations and their exploitation of patents, by the failure of khadi and swadeshi movements to give a boost to industrial activity in India, Bomanji was somewhat disillusioned with him by 1939. Further disappointed by reports that Gandhi was surrounded by sycophants and self-seekers, that he was seeking viceregal interviews and intervention by the federal chief justice of India, that... Bomanji asked Gandhi to reassure him that what he had heard was only gossip.

Despite all, when Gandhi was assassinated in 1948, Bomanji together with Ardeshir Godrej donated a substantial sum to the memorial fund. Bomanji passed away on his 83rd birthday on September 19, 1951.

The inputs for this article were supplied by Rusi Pudumjee, grandnephew of Shavaksha Bomanji, based on his research of the documents preserved at the Gandhi National Museum in Delhi and the obituary in the *Jam-e-Jamshed* of September 22, 1951.

With Best Compliments from

N&N

Systems and Software Private Limited



Anti Virus • Network Security • Network Management

Head Office: #105, OM Chambers, 123 A. K. Marg, Kemps Corner, Mumbai - 400036
Tel: 022-368 0512/17/18 Fax: 022-368 0513 Email: info@bom.nandn.com Website: www.nandn.com

A Neville Bulsara and Nadir Karanjia Venture!



1916 to 2001

85 *Years of
Quality and Service*

PARSI DAIRY FARM

H.O. Princess Street, Tel.: 2062795, 2080711, 2013633/34

Branches: Dadar Tel.: 4143031

Lalbaug Tel.: 4713584

Farm: Varawada — Talasari

EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING



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

Prestigious projects handled by Dasturco include Misurata Iron and Steel Complex, **Libya**; Qatar Steel Plant expansion, **Qatar**; SIDOR IV expansion, **Venezuela**; Alloy and Special Steels Plant, **Egypt**; Mini Steel Plant, **Morocco**; Trengganu Steel Plant, Kemaman, **Malaysia**; Caribbean Ispat Ltd. modernisation, **Trinidad and Tobago**; Thai Special Steels integrated steel plant at Rayong, **Thailand**; etc.

In **India**: Visakhapatnam Steel Plant – India's first coast-based integrated plant; Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur; Special Steel Plant, Salem; Tata Steel and Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation; Sunflag Iron and Steel Plant, Nagpur – India's first composite DR-EAF plant; Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd. – India's first Compact Strip Plant (CSP); Tata Steel's new integrated steel project at Gopalpur, Orissa; Larsen & Toubro's integrated steel project, Gopalpur, Orissa.



M. N. DASTUR & COMPANY LIMITED

Calcutta: Tel: (033) 225 5420, 225 0500, Fax: (033) 225 1422;

DASTUR ENGINEERING INTERNATIONAL GmbH,

Düsseldorf: Tel: (0211) 17854-0, Fax: (0211) 363913;

Sydney: Tel: (0061-2) 92473166, Fax: (0061-2) 92472587;

Tokyo: Tel: (03) 3545-3621, Fax: (03) 3545-3681;

DASTUR INTERNATIONAL INC.,

Pittsburgh, U.S.A. Tel: (001-412) 2999422, Fax: (001-412) 2999427

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Visit us on Dasturco website home page : <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~dastur/engg.html>

Kanpur's past glory

The barely 60 Zoroastrians remaining in Kanpur have made their mark in the commercial, municipal and welfare fields

Gopinath Bhaleker

Just before and after Independence, the Parsi community was predominant in Kanpur city, then regarded as the 'Manchester of Northern India.' They were in the forefront of trade and commerce, with a good number employed by banks, railways, mills and in high posts in government departments. The Batliwalas, Lentins, Karadias, Kotwals, Sadris, Lalas and Patels were familiar Parsi names associated with entrepreneurial skills.

In 1948-52, there were 800 members of the Parsi community in Kanpur city, followed by 500-600 by 1961; at present they number approximately 60. Parsis have remained faithful to the land of their adoption, integrating with the local people and contributing magnificently towards the growth and development of the country, at the same time maintaining their distinct ethnic culture.

Amidst the clamor for reservations by minority communities, this tiny community never begged nor agitated for special status. This despite their members becoming impoverished in the post-Independence social, economic and political milieu.

The first Parsi to visit Kanpur was one Hormusji Vakil from Poona in connection with a dispute regarding the family pension of Dhondo Pant alias Nana Sahib Peshwa, adopted son and heir of the last deposed Peshwa, Bajirao II, four years before the Sepoy Mutiny. According to a city historian and medical practitioner, Dr Munishwar Nigam, Hormusji drafted a petition to be submitted to Queen Victoria in 1853 and contested the case in Kanpur courts. After 1857, the first Parsi family to settle in Kanpur was that of the Lalas who came from Rawalpindi, followed by the

Patels. Ardeshir T. Patel married Dhunbai, daughter of Jamshedji Jehangirji Lala.

Ardeshir Patel was the chairman of the Kanpur municipal committee between 1923 and 1925; and a magistrate in 1931. His grandson, Jamshed alias Jimmy Patel, is ex Indian Air Force and now engaged in business along with his

Subsequently, Cawasji became a company sergeant in the NCC and stood first in the 300 yards bull's eye firing event. He was offered direct entry into the army as a captain by the British.

After Ardeshir Patel, Cawasji Sadri was the other Parsi to play a civic role as a member of the Kanpur Municipal Corporation between 1959 and 1973. Cawasji was instrumental in setting up colonies for refugees and civic workers by securing Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) loans. According to him, the Kanpur Municipal Corporation happens to be the only civic body in our country to take the maximum financial advantage of HUDCO's multifarious civic schemes. He

was also instrumental in setting up the Sen Commission in 1982 for the construction of the Ganga Barrage despite the state government's reluctance during the water famine in Kanpur. Cawasji's younger son Minoo is one of Kanpur's well-known cricketers, while his elder son Viraf is employed by Godrej in Lucknow.

Considering their insignificant numbers in the ever growing population of Kanpur which now stands at 40 lakhs, the Parsis have been doing fairly well in their fields. For instance, one of the oldest trading firms, Byramji Framji and Company, is said to have been established in 1869 by Byramji Framji Siganporia, great-grandfather of Adil Byramji. A chartered accountant himself and running his ancestral business Adil Byramji is one of the enthusiastic and dynamic young personalities of his community. He is a member of the Parsi association, including the fire-temple trust.

There are other families such as the Narimans, the Merchants and the Mehtas



Kanpur's B. N. Jhaveri Dar-e-Meher

son. Jimmy Patel is the convener of the Minorities Commission, Kanpur.

Amongst the present members of the community, Cawasji Manekshaw Sadri, now in his 80s, is an outstanding and many-faceted personality. His father came to Kanpur city to join the Muir Mills. Cawasji was born, brought up and educated in Kanpur and was a public figure in his hey days. He began his career as a journalist, serving on various newspapers like the *Northern India Patrika*, *The Patriot* and *The Pioneer* and was the secretary of Kanpur's Press Club. Cawasji was an active member of the Communist Party of India and was associated with Aruna Asaf Ali.

During his student days, Cawasji excelled in extracurricular activities like sports and the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in Christ Church and D. A. V. College, Kanpur. He also represented the UP Eleven in football as their centerforward in Lahore and Peshawar.

who have made their mark in the educational and marketing fields.

The activities of the Parsi community are mainly centered around the Seth Behramji Navroji Jhaveri Dar-e-Meher. The agiary was founded in 1928 by the Jhaveri family of Kanpur in memory of Seth Navroji Byramji Jhaveri. It is situated two to three km away from the Kanpur Central Railway Station on Mall Road (now Mahatma Gandhi Road). The holy fire was brought from Poona. According to *Parsi Prakash*, Volume VI, the atash adarian was enthroned by Sardar Dastur Noshirwan Dastur Keko-bad on March 21, 1930 at Kanpur.

Ervad Kershasp Rustomji Aibara, who is in his 70s, has been officiating as a priest there. The community had its own cemetery set up in 1873 in Mc Robertganj. In it lies the tomb of the first Parsi who came to Kanpur.

The agiary building, standing so magnificently amidst the British Raj and post Independence structures, is in dire need of renovation, an urgent task considering its historical and strategic importance. It is pointed out that the temple cannot be maintained in good condition because of the scarce financial resources. It is looked after presently by a trust of 12 members among whom are Sam Meh-



The Sadri family (from left): Cawasji, Roshan and Minoo

ta, Adil Byramji and Pervez Rustomjee, all from Kanpur city.

It is regrettable that in spite of the remarkable role played by the members of this tiny community in the growth and development of Kanpur during the pre-Independence days, its civic and government authorities did not deem it necessary to perpetuate the memory of any of the Parsi members who competed with Europeans with such remarkable ease — in particular with the English, in commerce and other avocations.

Nigam has summed up the contribution of the Parsi community very aptly.

In a seminar held in June 2000 on "Restoring the Glory of Kanpur — Environmental Challenges," Nigam submitted his paper entitled "Kanpur's Glory — That Once Was." He laments the bygone era in the following words:

"The solar hat sahibs are no more to be seen, the skirt-clad memsahibs have vanished. The aristocracy has disappeared. The white shirt and white pyjama-clad Parsis with round topis on the mall have significantly disappeared. The Anglo-Indian community, so famous for night dancing and balls have migrated to Australia and England. Marwari families so known for their traditional dress and costumes have changed to modern dress. And no more does Lala Kamalpat Singhania sit in a buggy driven by four stout white horses with a syce standing behind moving a peacock feather *punkha*... Such was the glory of aristocratic, spectacular Kanpur."

Working for the Life Insurance Corporation of India as administrative officer and a journalist by training, Gopinath Bhaleker has been freelancing for different publications. His interest in history and the Parsi community prompts him to research articles in the course of his many sojourns.



With Best Compliments From

ANTELEC Limited

Turnkey Electrical Engineers and Contractors

Projects executed as per Indian and International Standards for the last 31 years in India, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Nigeria, Yemen, UAE, Oman, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

If **QUALITY, RELIABILITY** and **TIME** are major parameters of your project, call **Antelec Limited**

Registered Office: 73 Jolly Maker Chamber No 2, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021

Tel: 2021067/2020563/2850383/2850384 Fax: 91-22-2021040

E-mail: antelec@bol.net.in

Branch Office: 802 Chiranjiv Tower, 43 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019

Tel: 6417345, 6463974, 6480167-68 Fax: 91-11-6217662

E-mail: antelecd@ndf.vsnl.net.in

ENGINEERING & AGENCIES

Private Limited

Represent

1. **W. Schlafhorst AG & Co. - Germany** for Automatic Winding Machine 'Autoconer' and Open End Spinning and Winding Machine 'Autocoro'
2. **Picanol N. V. - Belgium** for Airjet and Rapier Weaving Machines
3. **Sucker Mueller Hacoba GmbH & Co. - Germany** for Indigo Dyeing and Sizing Machine, Emerizing, Shearing and Raising Machines and Sectional and Direct Warpers
4. **Babcock Textilmaschinen GmbH - Germany** for continuous scouring and bleaching ranges, continuous dyeing ranges, pad-dry and pad-steam lines, washing, ranges, stenters, curing chambers, loop steamers, etc
5. **Fong's National Engineering Co. Ltd. - Hongkong** for atmospheric and high temperature dyeing machines for all kinds of knitted and woven fabrics, high temperature package dyeing machines and dryers including Radio Frequency Dryer
6. **Otto Funke GmbH & Co. KG - Germany** for high class energy efficient jiggers for atmospheric dyeing having directly driven rollers without any kind of gear boxes
7. **Barco N. V. - Belgium** for Monitoring Systems and cotton sorters
8. **Loepfe Brothers Ltd. - Switzerland** for Electronic Yarn Clearers and Monitoring Systems
9. **Verbrugge N. V. - Belgium** for all Weaving accessories
10. **Textilmaschinenfabrik Dr. Ernst Fehrer AG - Austria** for Friction spinning & Non/woven plants

For full particulars please contact at:

Ahmedabad office: Cambatta Central, Bharat Bobbins Ltd Premises, Rakhial Road, Ahmedabad 380023

Phone: (079) 2740925/2744500

Fax: (079) 2742651/2743649 E-mail: engamd@enaIndia.com

Mumbai office: Sterling Centre (4th Floor), Dr Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400018

Phone: (022) 4932327, 4988512

Fax: (022) 4986038 E-mail: cmb@bom8.vsnl.net.in

A 'grave' and 'burning' issue

Quoting from historic and religious texts, the author states customs can keep pace with changing times without religious values being forsaken

Kersee K. Kabraji

Since the dust does not seem to have settled on this 'grave' and 'burning' issue, I feel motivated to write this article. At the outset I would like to make it clear that I am not a scholar of our religion. I am neither a reformist nor an orthodox. I like to believe in whatever makes sense to me from what I hear and read. Being fond of reading history books (including history of religions), I keep coming across interesting material, some of which I am sharing with our community members along with my comments, with a hope that a good consensus can be reached on this issue.

The first extract is from a book called *The Wonder That Was India* by Prof A. L. Bhasim (professor of Asian civilization in the Australian National University, Canberra): "This funeral ceremony (i.e. cremation) was that followed by the upper classes in ancient India, and is no different from present-day Hinduism. There were other funeral customs, however. The Harappa people buried their dead, whilst the early Aryans did not throw the charred remains into a river but buried them, in the case of important people, under a large burrow. Small children whose bodies do not carry the same impurity as those of their elders and who are not full members of the Aryan community are still often buried, as are ascetics and members of some low castes in South India. These customs have probably survived from very early days. In most literary references the *smasana*, or cremation ground, is described as covered with putrefying corpses and haunted by dogs and vultures, rather than as a scene of cremation. The descriptions of such places show that many people in ancient India did not cremate their dead, but like the Zoroastrians of Persia, merely abandoned their bodies to the wild beasts. No doubt economic considerations played a big part in this practice, especially in those parts of the country where timber

was scarce..."

The above extract shows that since ancient times people have used three classical systems — burial, cremation and offering dead bodies to the birds and animals, perhaps depending upon the local conditions. There does not seem to be anything 'unique' or 'sacred' or 'holy' about any of these systems, including ours, which other people have also used and are still using in Tibet and some other places. We certainly have a highly refined dakhma system which works rather well when there is a sufficient number of scavenger birds. From very basic principles of science, it is to be understood and appreciated that sunlight (Khurshed Nigirishn) plays only a complementary role of drying up the remnants of flesh left on the bones (without rotting and polluting the atmosphere) till the bones are thrown in the central well. If the body has not been eaten up by the birds or animals, a plain exposure to sunlight can only dry up the body, as a whole, over a period of time. The flesh cannot vanish into nothing even by powerful rays of the sun i.e. Khurshed Nigirishn. The exposure to sunlight, therefore, can never be a substitute for flesh-eating vultures.

History of Zoroastrianism by Dastur (Dr) Maneckji Dhalla, high priest of the Parsis, Karachi (one of the most comprehensive works I have come across on our religion, is available from the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, 136 Apollo Street, Bombay 400001, for Rs 100) traces the history of our religion, right from ancient times to Zarathushtra's period (i.e. about 1200 BC) down to present times and describes how our religious thoughts and practices have been influenced by different doctrines and cults. On the magi, the Zoroastrian priesthood of western Iran, Dhalla writes: "Herodotus tells us that the magi formed one of the six tribes into which the Medes were divided and constituted their

sacerdotal class. They wore the white robe and covered the head with woolen tiara with long flaps on each side to cover the mouth. The Median empire was short-lived. Cyrus overthrew Astyages, the last Median king in 550 BC and laid the foundations of the great Achaemenian empire. The Persians thus conquered the earthly possessions of the Medes and the magi, their priests: but they were in turn conquered by the latter in spirit. The magian victory in spiritual domain more than made amends for the loss of their temporal power... The magi were the priests of the Medes; they now became the priests of the Persians. This strengthened their position... It seems that the magi took a long time to supplant the religious practices of the Persians by their own. The two races differed very widely on some of the main religious observances. For example, the magi held the elements of nature sacred. The earth was to be kept pure from defilement. Hence they exposed the corpses of the dead to be devoured by birds; though the Persians, on the contrary, enclosed the corpses in wax, and interred them in the earth. The Persians continued this practice for a considerable time, until finally with the complete fusion of two races they seem to have exchanged burial for the exposure of the corpses."

My next few extracts are from the *Vendidad* (translated in English by James Darmesteter). Our priests often quote this book as the reference book on our religious practices. Greek authors suggest that this was the creation of the magi. To understand the dialogs in *Vendidad*, I quote again from Dhalla's book: "Zarathushtra's monologs in the *Gathas* as against his dialogs in the *Avesta* — In the *Gathas* the Prophet addressed several questions to Ahura Mazda, but the replies were left to be inferred from the context. An advance is made upon this method, and now we have Zoroaster depicted as putting ques-

IN

THOUGHTS, WORDS & DEEDS,
TATA AIG INSURANCE IS WITH YOU ALWAYS.

SAAL MUBARAK



WITH YOU ALWAYS

CALL US

**AT OUR TOLL FREE NUMBER
1-600-119966**

Name: ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. _____ Residence Address: _____
City: _____ Pin Code: _____ Tel: Residence _____
Office: _____ Fax: _____ Birth Date: DD MM YY Email: _____
Organisation: _____ Designation: _____
Which Tata AIG products are you interested in? ☐ Life Insurance ☐ General Insurance

MAIL US

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT INSURANCE**

PRIORITY PROCESSING CENTRE
POST BOX NO. 777, MUMBAI GPO
MUMBAI 400 001

tions and Ahura Mazda himself as answering them categorically. To invest their compositions with divine sanction and prophetic authority, the later sages wrote in the form of a dialog between Ahura Mazda and his Prophet. The greater part of *Vendidad* and some of the *Yashts* are composed in this style." (Therefore the dialogs given below are to be read as composed by someone else and not by Asho Zarathushtra.) With this as the background, let us see what the *Vendidad* has to say on the disposal of the dead body i.e. naso.

As written in the *Vendidad*, Fargard V, 44(92): "O Maker of the material world, thou Holy One! Whither shall we bring, where shall we lay, the bodies of the dead, O Ahura Mazda?"

45(93): Ahura Mazda answered: "On the highest summits, where they know there are always corpse-eating dogs and corpse-eating birds, O holy Zarathushtra!"

46(94): "There shall the worshippers of Mazda fasten the corpse by the feet and by the hair, with stones or clay, lest the corpse-eating dogs and the corpse-eating birds shall go and carry the bones to the water and to the trees."

During winter or otherwise when there are no birds the *Vendidad* says in

Fargard VIII, 4(11): "O Maker of this material world, thou Holy One! If in the house of a worshipper of Mazda, a dog or a man happens to die, and it is raining, or snowing, or blowing, or it is dark, or the day is at its end, when the flocks and men lose their way, what shall the worshipper of Mazda do?"

Ahura Mazda answered 5(14): "The place in that house whereof the ground is the cleanest and the driest, and the least passed through by flocks and herds, by the fire of Ahura Mazda, by the consecrated bundles of baresma, and by the faithful:-

8(18): "On that place they shall dig a grave, half a foot deep, if the earth be hard, half the height of a man if it be soft; (they shall cover the surface of the grave with ashes or cow dung); they shall cover the surface of it with dust of bricks, of stones, or of dry earth.

9(21): "And they shall let the lifeless body lie there, for two nights, or three nights, or a month long, until the birds begin to fly, the plants to grow, the hidden floods to flow, and the wind to dry up the earth.

10(23): "And when the birds begin to fly, the plants to grow, the hidden floods to flow, and the wind to dry up the earth,

then the worshippers of Mazda shall make a breach in the wall of the house, and two men, strong and skilful, having stripped their clothes off, shall take up the body from the clay or the stones, or from the plastered house, and lay it down on a place where they know there are always corpse-eating dogs and corpse-eating birds."

What comes out clearly is that an elaborate practice of making a temporary grave was used till it was certain that corpse-eating dogs and birds were available to do their job; but the bodies were never thrown away in the open with a hope that Khurshed Nigerishn would do the job! Also, how does one interpret "where they know there are always corpse-eating dogs and corpse-eating birds?" Does it not clearly mean that the heart of the dakhma system is the presence of scavenging birds and animals? Does it also not straightaway say that when these creatures are not there, the use of dakhma should not be made?

In Poona we have no vultures, even then should we keep dumping the bodies there to rot and putrefy, under a false and misguided notion that "it is so mentioned in our religious books?" And the

*With Best Compliments
And Season's Greetings*

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
Mumbai 400002
Phone: 3425422, 3442639

Residence: S-1, Pearl Mansion,
M. Karve Road, Mumbai 400020
Phone: 2063099

'The Gourmet' Restaurant OFFERS

Buffet
Breakfast
from 7.30 a.m.
to 10 a.m.

Buffet
Lunch from
12.30 p.m.
to 3 p.m.

Buffet
Dinner
for
10 Persons

Continental
Food
including
Sizzlers

Tandoori
&
Chinese

Take away
and
Tea Time
Snacks



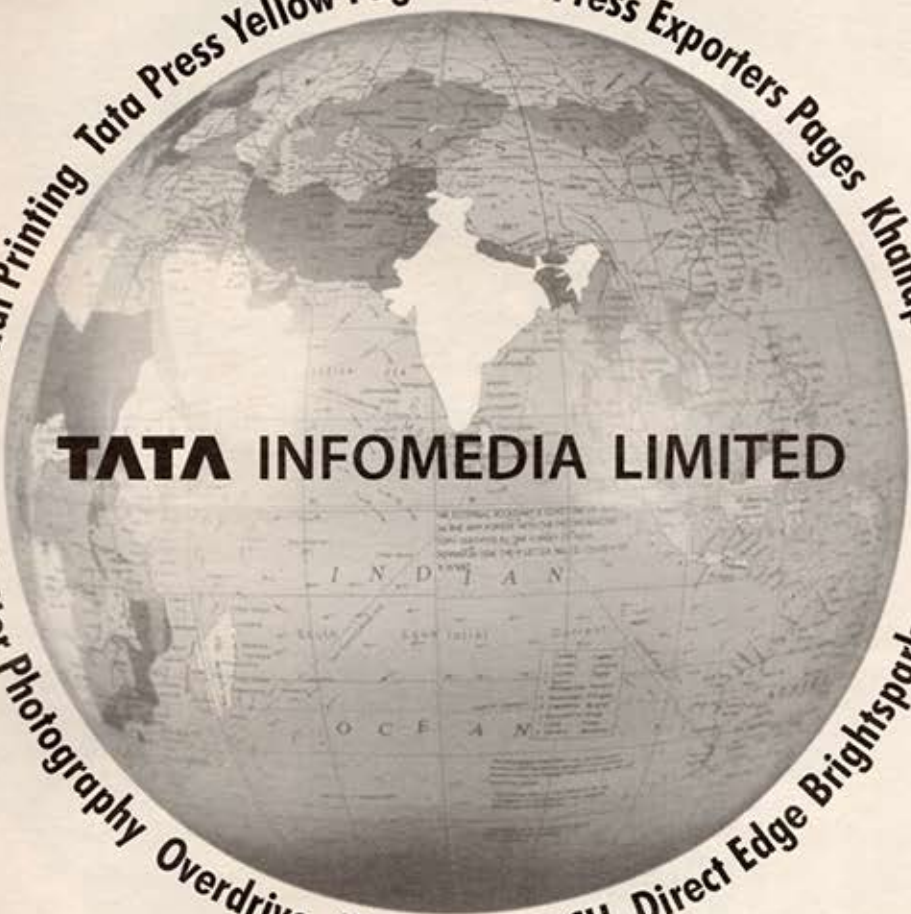
Fish
Specialities

Pure
Vegetarian
Food

West End Hotel

45, New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 20
Tel: 2039121/2057484 Fax 91-22-2057506
E-mail: westhotel@vsnl.com
Website: www.westendhotelmumbai.com

With Best Compliments From :



Commercial Printing Tata Press Yellow Pages Tata Press Exporters Pages Khanapina Touchstone
TATA INFOMEDIA LIMITED
Better Photography Overdrive AV Max SEARCH Direct Edge Brightsparks

414 Veer Savarkar Marg Prabhadevi Mumbai 400 025
Tel 91 22 430 0941 Fax 91 22 430 2707
Email tilho@tatainfomedia.com
<http://www.tatainfomedia.com>

*Making dreams a reality
for a hundred years!*

K. Wadia Designer Jewellers



K. WADIA

FOR PURE DIAMONDS

Since 1901

324, Grant Road, Bombay 400007. Telephone 3099648 Fax 3073483
APPOINTED GOVERNMENT OF INDIA VALUERS

putrefied bodies to be dumped again, after a few months, in a pit specially dug outside, for a kind of 'mass burial,' under the label of 'cleaning up operations?' One would like to know which of our religious scriptures suggests this practice? And who will stop it? The enlightened high priests? The enlightened trustees of the anjuman or punchayet or the enlightened community members?

One also wonders what were these corpse-eating dogs — wild dogs or hyenas or wolves? Another fact that needs to be appreciated by all of us with some humility is that the vultures, like some other species of birds and animals, are getting extinct from all over the world due to great ecological changes taking place. Is experimenting and fighting with the forces of nature possible at all? One cannot but admire the zeal and spirit of those taking up such a project but one finds it extremely difficult not to doubt their wisdom.

A few questions that keep baffling some of us, we would like to address to our high priests:

•What is really holy and sacred? The prayers (as being recited after the death for the departed soul) or the method of

disposal of the dead body (naso)?

•If the prayers and ceremonies are holy, then why bother about what happens to the corpse and how it is got rid of afterwards? Why not let each Zoroastrian make her/his own choice in this respect of opting for electric cremation or burial?

•If the method of disposal of the corpse is also taken to be holy, then how is it that a burial system (as was used by the ancient Zoroastrians) and as presently used in Madras, Nagpur, Delhi, etc is holy and sacred and our priests perform the prayers there, but when used in Poona, Surat and Bombay it suddenly becomes so unholy and so impious that you have advised our priests not to perform the prayers and ceremonies? Can you justify these 'double standards' either by reasoning and logic or by quoting any of the scriptures?

•As per the paragraphs quoted earlier from the *Vendidad* would you not agree that it would be improper to use the dakhma if the scavenging birds and animals are not there? The *Vendidad* does not certify anywhere such a use of the dakhma system in the absence of birds. In fact, if read properly, it prohibits such a use.

We trust our high priests will give

this serious matter the attention it deserves and come up with some practical solution which does not violate any basic principle of our religion, and at the same time is affordable, pragmatic and proven (no experimentations please)!

Often we hear the words: "our age-old and time-tested traditional customs." One would like to think that real traditions can only be of religious 'values' or 'principles' which are permanent and not of customs, habits or rituals which can never be permanent and will have to keep changing as per the dictates of time and circumstances. I think some of our innocent community members are not clear on this and seem to genuinely fear that by changing our rituals and customs "aapro dharam doobi jase" (we will lose our religion)."

Herodotus, the father of history, wrote of our 2,500-year-old ancestors — the Achemenians — that they were valiant and courageous in envisaging changing times and circumstances and conditioning their lives according to the country and the age in which they lived.

Let us, as their rightful heirs, follow in their footsteps and learn that there is grace, dignity and wisdom in fashioning

continued on page 240

FAG

FAG Bearings India Limited

Best Compliments

Head Office and Works: Maneja, Vadodara 390013, Gujarat
Tel: (0265) 642651-2-3-4-5, 643551 Fax: (0265) 642197 Gram: FAGBEAR

Registered Office: Nariman Bhavan, 8th Floor,
227, Backbay Reclamation, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021

Regional Offices: Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune

Resident Offices: Bangalore, Coimbatore

A Member of the FAG
Kugelfischer Group



**Let your fingers do all the talking...
... and asking, requesting,
ordering, demanding etc.**

No power cuts for me.
I pay my electricity bills
via the Internet through
Infinity

Thanks to **Electronic
Funds Transfer**, I could
send money from
Hyderabad to my aunt in
Bangalore instantly

Ran out of gas at 2.00 a.m.
last night. Saved by the
24-hour **ICICI Bank ATM**
round the corner

With **Phonebanking**
I can check my account
balance at any hour

Convenience is personified by ICICI Bank which lets you bank without entering the bank! Right from opening an account to drawing and depositing cash & cheques. From ordering drafts & requesting statements to transferring funds. And even secure transactions on-line. Through the phone, the

Internet and a widespread ATM network. Of course, ICICI Bank's Anywhere Banking facility also gives you the choice of operating your account from any ICICI Bank branch anywhere in India.

Interested?

To open an account call **830 7777** or log on to **www.icicibank.com**

 **ICICI Bank**
We make Banking a Pleasure

● 347 Branches ● 40 Extension Counters ● 553 ATMs

CARE AT THE COTTAGE...

continued from page 86

ecutors of Wadia's will aware of this institution and the money was released, Maneck Engineer, vice president (constructions) of Godrej and Boyce created "an excellent plan" which envisaged new construction and extra space, said the ladies. "However when we applied to the Sankli Street municipal office for permission, we were denied (on the basis of mixed usage as there are also residential and commercial establishments on the property)," Khan recalled the disappointment.

Noble and Gamadia are acutely conscious of the need for more old age homes in the city apart from the F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla at Hughes Road and the Dr Dosibai Homes in the Masina Hospital compound. "The problem is that youngsters migrate abroad. They are prepared to pay" for the facility, but it needs to be created elsewhere. They feel that the Parsi Lying-in Hospital building off D. N. Road would be ideal.

At the HU, there is "intense desire that it become an active hospital," notes Gamadia, adding, "as and when proper staff becomes available; it may yet come to pass..."

SORABJI & Co

Distributors of

**Crompton Fans,
Lamps, Motors and
Other Accessories
Ringsdorff and Morgan
Grade Carbon Brushes**

Works: Sorab House,
555, Senapati Bapat Marg
Dadar, Mumbai 400028

Office: 166, Sir Jamshed
House, Bora Bazar Street
Fort, Mumbai 400001

Tele: Office: 2612036/2619476
Works: 4221924
Fax: 91-22-4150853

World's Most Efficient!

STEAM JET VACUUM SYSTEMS

Croll-Reynolds 75 years experience can help your plant save Rs. 1.5 to 2 million on operating costs. Local guess - work designed steam ejectors have proved to be steam guzzlers and many time ruin processes, but we can save it.

Today, Croll - Reynolds Vacuum technology is at work at fifteen thousand vacuum installations the world over, at almost every major process industry.

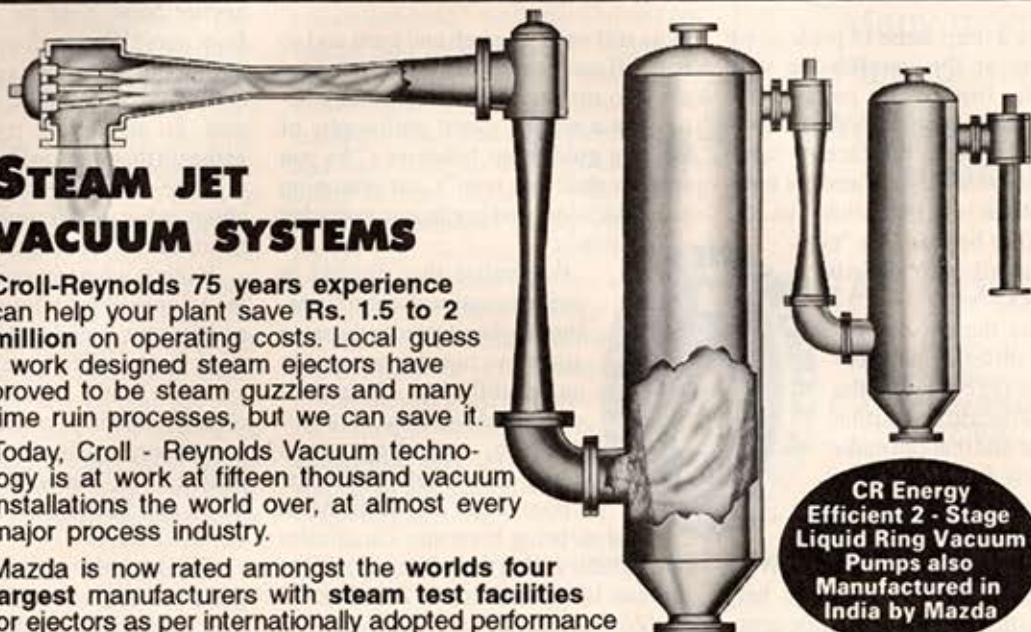
Mazda is now rated amongst the **worlds four largest manufacturers with steam test facilities** for ejectors as per internationally adopted performance test codes.

No wonder, we are the only Indian steam ejector and Vacuum System manufacturer and one of the few in the world to steam test the Vacuum systems for site conditions. These systems are guaranteed by **ASME PTC - 24 tests.**

Call or Fax : **Mazda Limited**
Croll-Reynolds Department,
Mazda House,
Panchwati 2nd Lane,
Ambawadi, Ahmedabad - 380 006, INDIA.
Phone : 6431014, 6431151, 6431654, 6405277
Fax : 079-6565605
E-Mail : mazda@ad1.vsnl.net.in
Please visit us at :
<http://www.mazdalimited.com>

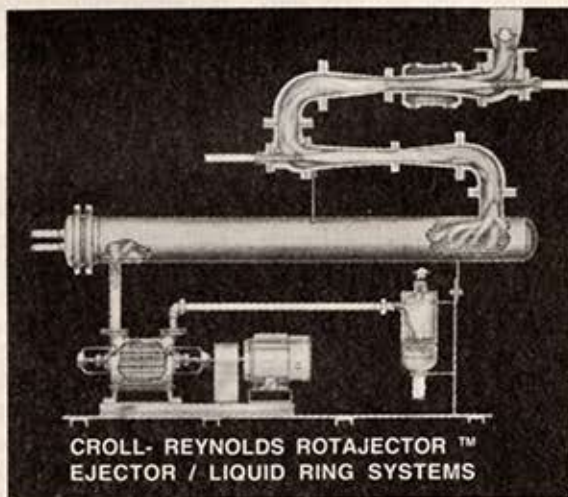
Mazda LIMITED

An Indo-American and German Joint Venture



CR Energy
Efficient 2 - Stage
Liquid Ring Vacuum
Pumps also
Manufactured in
India by Mazda

Designed in USA by :
CROLL-REYNOLDS



CROLL-REYNOLDS ROTAJECTOR™
EJECTOR / LIQUID RING SYSTEMS

What binds us?

How can we fasten the ties that hold us together as a community, asks the author

Dr Zareen Karani Araoz

We all have a deep sense of pride as we gather here at this conference with Zarathushtris from many parts of the world. What is it that binds us as a community, even in the face of much that may differentiate, but need not separate, us? What is it that allows us to meet together here as one "community," albeit with differing perspectives?

What are the reasons behind these differing perspectives and ways? What is the essence of Zoroastrianism that we all value and that can make us genuinely feel and behave like a true community? What else can help us feel like a community and foster more unity? What kind of leadership is needed to help harmonize differing groups, while genuinely respecting and allowing differences? What guidelines do we have for community members who are committed to enhancing the cohesiveness of our small and precious worldwide community, and members who are very spirited, and often combative to the detriment of our future? How can we model a community that helps our younger generation want to stay within the community and perpetuate what is essential to being a Zarathushti? How can we foster the important traditional values in the context of our modern and fast changing world? How can we help encourage and maintain the essential character of a true Zoroastrian who is a moral leader of whatever community he/she is part?

We are all committed to trying to follow the teachings of our great prophet Zarathushtra, but as we understand them (the important caveat!). For some of us it is the social and cultural practices that bind us — our food, our *koyla* (silly) jokes, our banter, our language, our dress, our common ancestry and heritage that help us feel linked, the fact that most of us have had our navjote, and that some

of us still wear a sudreh and kusti and so feel differentiated from other individuals who may not. Many of us may believe in a similar moral philosophy of life that guides our behavior ("As you sow, so shall you reap"), our reasoning and decision-making in our everyday lives.



We realize that situated in various continents, and sometimes even situated in the same town, we may be exposed to many differing life experiences and information about religion, including world views and beliefs about the purpose of life and death. Most of us being born into Zarathushti homes believe that there is, or should be, just one interpretation of "Zarathushti" or "Zoroastrianism" (so even what we call ourselves may differ). What we need to understand is that this "ethnocentrism" is a natural human tendency (the way we have been conditioned to believe appears to be the right way). But this ethnocentric tendency can be overcome by enlightened souls if we face life with a true Zoroastrian spirit that encourages us to seek the truth with an open mind. We need to search together and be respectful of the variations in interpretation that we may encounter. And as enlightened human beings help each other explore the meaning of life together and realize that our conclusions may differ without allowing our respect for each other to decline. I believe that is the enlightened way.

What can unite us and give us an identity as a united diaspora? A world religious or social leader (like the Aga Khan)? A common country of origin (like Israel for the Jews or Iran)? A distinctive skin color or physical features (like the Africans)? A common inheritance/blood (like some believe we have)? A common economic agenda (like the Chinese)? A common practice

of rituals (like Catholics worldwide)? Common social/cultural customs? A common scripture and beliefs (the *Gathas*)?

Wouldn't it be nice to really feel like a supportive, loving community where we could all trust each other? Does it really matter if, for example, the supportive community member celebrates his/her New Year on a different day from ours? We are all searching, I think, during our short stay on this earth, for belonging, fellowship, caring and support. So should we try and come together in that spirit as Zarathushtris, even if some of our conclusions or beliefs about what our Prophet propounded hundreds of years ago differs?

If this is what we want, let us consider the essence of the religious aspects first, and then the social and cultural. Do you think that we all believe in the following virtues? Truth, righteousness, purity, charity, equality, peace and harmony, community spirit, divine wisdom and justice? Yes. But what do we mean by these, and how would they play out in our daily lives?

What are the social and cultural aspects that help us come together? We all love good food, we like to tell funny stories and laugh together, we like to talk about the community and to see how we are connected, through relatives or friends, and we like to celebrate our festivals together in similar ways — be it navjotes, gahambars, marriages, Navroz, etc. We also like to debate about the future of our community, and we like to recall places where some of us may have grown up together, specially if we have left our homeland and migrated. Some of us also believe that since we are Zarathushtris, we are raised with similar values and think on similar lines; so being together is fun.

If all this binds us together, then why do we differ? Unfortunately, the very reasons that bring us together also often manage to split us. For example, does belief in truth mean that it is our duty to seek the truth and having found it, fight for it, and destroy what we believe is "not-truth"? Or does it mean that each individual has a right to search for his/her own truth with an open mind, and that the many perspectives add to the depth of truth? It is in these interpretations that our struggles ensue. If we like

RUSTOMJEE....homes for all.



Turner Road, Bandra (W) • 3 & 4 BHK Flats

The Keystone Group has redefined the concept of gracious living for the discerning Mumbaiite. From its established landmark township in Borivali to an array of beautiful homes in other suburbs, the Keystone Group has set new standards in modern living for the entire family. Each of the projects exudes a harmonious blend of natural gifts and man-made comforts. Strategic easily accessible locations, elaborate planning, tastefully handpicked amenities and value for money accommodation makes every Rustomjee Home, the preferred favourite among home-makers who simply want the best!

FORTHCOMING PROJECT AT DADAR, PARSİ COLONY GARDEN FACING RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

Other ongoing Projects in Malad

Rustomjee Adarsh Regal

2BHK (1005 sq.ft.) 3BHK (1310 sq.ft.)

Rustomjee Adarsh Residency

2BHK (1005 sq.ft.) 3BHK (1310 / 1295 sq.ft.)

Rustomjee Adarsh Regency

2BHK (1005 sq.ft.)



Dahisar (W) • 1 BHK & 2BHK Flats



Dahisar (W)



Rustomjee Acres, Dahisar (W), Mumbai - 400 068. Tel.: 892 1853 • Fax : 890 4643
e-mail : rustomjee@vsnl.com Website : www.rustomjee.com

With best wishes

**JIMMY GHASWALA
& ASSOCIATES**

Architects o Interior Designers

708 Patel Mansion, Apt 3, 4th Road
Parsi Colony Dadar, Bombay 400014
Tel: 4129858 Fax: 4166950

to share good food, should it be Parsi food or Iranian food at a mixed gathering? Or, if we have been brought up in different countries, it may be that I grew up believing that a Zoroastrian is one who wears a sudreh and kusti. That is not universally true. That you can be a Zoroastrian in a country where it was not allowed for one to wear the sudreh and kusti.

How we react to this realization of difference is critical. In our community, perhaps because of our dynamic spirit and vital energies, "healthy debate" and "choosing with the Good Mind," as our Prophet propounded, often gets out of control and becomes indignation, and then denigration, leading often to destruction of the others' point of view. This often happens, I believe, because of a sincere belief in a misunderstanding of our doctrine of truth that some mistakenly believe means "there is only one way."

I think there may be two main ways that people can react when confronted with these surprising differences:

- *Maara-maari* (the Gujarati term for fighting): To hold on to your way, and not try to understand the other, and decide to battle or to part ways.

- To genuinely discuss the differences,

With Best Wishes From

Mr Rusy M. Shroff, M.B.E.

and

Mrs Purviz R. Shroff



JIMMY BOY

FAMILY RESTAURANT AND BAR

*Wishes Parsi & Irani Patrons
Saal Mubarak*

The restaurant for all seasons,
the taste of all regions

Try our Tandoori, Indian
and our forte, Lagan Nu Bhonu

Let us play host to your auspicious or regular events
like birthday and anniversary celebrations or kitty parties
Outdoor catering is also undertaken

For Reservations and Take Aways
Contact: 2700880, 2662503

Happy New Year

*to our very dear
Parsi/Irani Patrons*

State of the art
projection, sound,
air-conditioning,
comfort and ambience



The All New

CHITRA

C I N E M A

198, Dr B. Ambedkar Road, Dadar, Mumbai 400014 Tel: 4182264

Fully Air-conditioned with

DD DOLBY
D I G I T A L
SURROUND • EX

Strong® Projection
and Platter
Systems (U.S.A.)

Fibre-Optic Lighting

Elegant foyer and lobbies

Comfortable seats

try and understand one another's perspectives, and then share/learn/adapt, find the common ground, and accept differences in areas where differing may not matter. Or, respectfully co-exist, with differences. They may determine some areas in which each feels strongly about their own practice, but respects the other. Or, accept unresolvable differences when their customs and beliefs differ so strongly that they agree to disagree, but maintain the respect.

Some major issues that are really challenging the unity of our community today are:

- Should we convert and/or accept converts as genuine Zoroastrians? Can we trust the motives of converts and those that try and convert?
- Should we allow mixed marriages and accept the spouses and children at our religious functions?
- How much should we hold on to our ancient traditions and who decides what is essential to change with the times?
- Or, more currently, should we allow those who claim to know something about our religion, but whom some might strongly disagree with, to address our community gatherings?
- Who is responsible for supporting and developing our (priests) and our scholars?
- How can our young Zoroastrians get to know other Zoroastrians so we give them a fair chance to choose a spouse from our own religion?
- When there is a Zarathushti community consisting of Parsis and Iranians, can we see ourselves as one community, and whose ways and guidelines should prevail?
- Who should lead, speak or take credit in our committees, communities, organizations etc? And, our ability or inability to respect and support those we have chosen as leaders.

It is here where we should appeal to the human values that our Prophet surely propounded. Nowhere is exclusion advocated in our religion. It is at this juncture, where we begin to put up barriers, denigrate and exclude good human beings, that I would like us to reflect whether our Prophet would support us in our actions.

I believe we have a choice, beginning from how we choose to behave at this conference. We have to choose:

- Are we here to search and discern with a critical mind our own truth with our own conscience, and allow others to find theirs, or are we here to propound what we know is the truth for all?
- Are we here to promote unity, or to create factions and go about telling others why one way is the better way and why one group feels wronged?
- Are we here to appreciate the tremendous hard work that has gone into this conference and overlook a few things that may not be "just right," or are we here to find fault in what is not OK with the conference?
- Can all of us pledge to be upholders of respect, decorum and charity, and graciously honor the holy spirit of Zarathushtra by our own honorable and courteous ways?
- Are we here to give and gain love, and set an example to our children of our special community with pristine supportive values that we want them to embrace, evolve and pass on, or are we here to have the youth lose faith in what we claim is a great religion, when all they see is controversy and struggles and a combative spirit within the community?
- Are we here to ensure our cohesive future, or to allow really insignificant matters to split the community?

Do we pay enough attention to the leaders that we select to lead us? What kind of leadership is needed to help harmonize



Wok
N
Roll

*Wishes all our Zoroastrian
patrons a very happy
and prosperous new year*

Jasmine Farms Pvt. Ltd.

Sea View, Jn. of Juhu Rd & Juhu
Tara Rd, Juhu, Mumbai - 400049.
Tel: 6608840, 6606758, 6609356



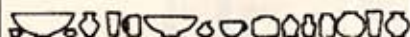
The only gallery
exclusively for
Ceramic Art
Currently presents
the work of
45
Indian Studio Potters



**POTTERY WORKSHOPS
COURSES FOR
BEGINNERS AND CHILDREN**



73 Nagindas Master Road
Fort, Mumbai-1
Gallery: 265 2091
zeramicz@artlover.com



LALA TOURS

TOURS:

- SHIMLA-MANALI
- NAINITAL-MUSSOURIE
- DARJEELING-SIKKIM
- KASHMIR • NEPAL
- SOUTH INDIA • RAJASTHAN
- GOA • BHUBANESHWAR
- USA-CANADA • UK-EUROPE
- SOUTH AMERICA
- AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND
- EGYPT-ISRAEL • KENYA
- SOUTH AFRICA • MAURITIUS
- SRI LANKA • THAILAND
- SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA
- HONGKONG • JAPAN • CHINA

CRUISES: ALASKA, NORWAY,
BAHAMAS, MEDITERRANEAN, ETC.

For details contact:

H.K. LALA & COMPANY

Capitol Cinema Building,
Murzban Road, Mumbai 400001
Tel : 2075094 / 5744 / 3006
Fax : 91-22-2076925

**Tours to any other destination
of your choice available**

differing groups, while genuinely respecting and allowing for differences?

My dream is that this Congress renews a special spirit in us as we enter the new millennium, so that we are determined to come together as a community. This would involve networking, youth guidance, hospitality, constructive, harmonious attitude, inspiring leadership. Harmonizing the community begins with harmony in our own homes and hearts. We should distill the essentials of our religion and foster the important traditional values, while always adapting them to our modern context and fast changing world. Although we follow most of the marriage and other celebratory rituals (*tili*, *achhoo michoo*, *madavsaro*, etc), we do it for the fun of it and for the symbolism and with good cheer, never with a critical strictness of having to do things a certain way only, as my 90-year-old mother said, a few weeks before she passed away. Last year in Boston, my husband Alberto, who is a non-Zoroastrian, came home with a dry coconut on his birthday and inquired of my mother, "No *tili* for me on my birthday?"

Our local and international leaders should stand above petty controver-



AVA MARINE SERVICES

For everything in small boats,
watersports and water transport

11/4, Rustom Baug, Byculla, Bombay 400027

Tel: 3720603/3714209

E-mail: mainstay55@hotmail.com

TROPICANA TELECOM

Offers
Complete wireless connectivity
networking solutions

for

* ISP, Last Mile * Wireless WAN/VPN Solution
Providers * VAST Service Providers * Corporates * Basic
Service Providers * Project Consultants & Free Lancers

Special Product Features

- 2.4/5.4 GHz DSS - 64 to 768 Kbps (scalable)
Data Speed (UC Wireless)
- 2 Mbps to 8 Mbps Data Speed (io - WAVE)
- 11 Mbps Data Speed (Speed LAN) - Router based Radio
 - Voice, Fax, Data & Video - 40 Km, LOS
 - Bridge/In-built Router
 - In-built Spectrum Analyser, BER Tester,
Antenna Alinger, Wayside Channels - Support MVOIP
 - Ethernet and Serial ports on same Radio
 - Single Radio performs as Repeater:
(over 70 Radio - Links installed all over the country)

Existing Customers include

Bharati BT - Comsat Max - Army - Satyam Infoway
Primus - HCL Infisystems - EID Parry - Etc...

(All India Presence)

Please contact

Tropicana Telecom

(A Division of Tropicana Enterprises Pvt Ltd)
C-37, Pamposh Enclave, (GK-I), New Delhi 48
Tele: (011) 6452248/49, 6291931/32 Fax: (011) 6292738

BILMAT® SANITARY FITTINGS

*for
Design...
Quality
and
Style*



BILMAT®
BATHROOM FITTINGS & ACCESSORIES
AND DEALERS IN SANITARYWARE
Office and Showroom
73 Nagindas Master Road,
Fort, Mumbai 400 001
Phone s: 265 3310-265 2091

THE BOMBAY BUILDING MATERIALS TRADING CO.

London Parsi lady
has double bedroom,
in a centrally located
flat, on rent on a daily
basis for tourists.

Terms:- £ 25 per night for
couple, £ 16 single lady.
Tea/coffee on the house
whole day, use of
kitchen and lounge.

Call/write:

Miss S. Bharucha

Flat 282 Latymer Court
Hammersmith Road
London W6 7LB
(020 - 8748 3234)

sies and inspire us to nobler heights. We are proud of being Zoroastrians because of the legacy and reputation of honor of those who went before us. Let us, in the same spirit and with their same integrity and generosity, help our younger generation. Let us all commit ourselves to rising above our differences and be there for each other in the true Zoroastrian spirit — to share, support, reflect, honor, serve, learn, contribute to the 21st century and help push new frontiers for humanity as well as eat, laugh and have fun together harmoniously while upholding the highest values set forth by our great religion.

Abridged and edited from a paper titled "Harmonizing the worldwide Zoroastrian community" presented at the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress, 2000.



Dr Zareen Karani Araoz has a doctorate in Psychology. She is currently President of Managing Across Cultures, a cross-cultural management consulting firm.

Burjor Framji & Company

Licensed Plumbers
Sanitary & Drainage Contractors

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



THERE'S A

I should know it! Even after years, my Storwel looks stunning. I'm sure they use

LOT MORE

superior steel, which is specially protected against rust. And what superb

TO A GODREJ

construction! No gaps for pests. Adjustable shelves - so I can create the storage space I need. And a Godrej lock, so I needn't

S T O R W E L

worry. In fact, with so much value for money, I've decided my second cupboard will also be a Godrej Storwel. There are so many

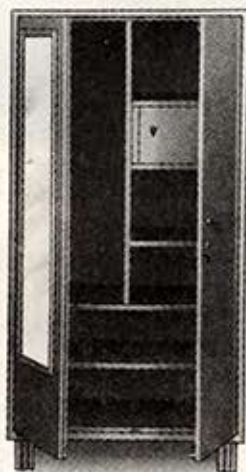
THAN JUST

models and colours, I'm sure to find one right for me. And so will you!

GOOD LOOKS

Godrej
STORWEL®

GOOD LOOKS OUTSIDE. GREAT VALUE INSIDE.





With Best Compliments From

LEACH & WEBORNY

When in Bombay Contact us
for attending to your laundry.
We are Launderers & Dyers of repute.
We 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



Over one hundred years in global freight forwarding

Jeena
& COMPANY
Estd. 1900

GLOBAL LOGISTICS

Elphinstone Building, 1st floor, 10, Veer Nariman Road, Mumbai 400 001, India. Tel.: (22) 204 2032 Fax: (22) 202 6853 E-mail: info@jeena.co.in

BANGALORE • CHENNAI • COCHIN • GOA • HYDERABAD • KANPUR • NEW DELHI • PUNE • TUTICORIN

www.jeena.com

"Nothing short of the best"

Amongst the community's most successful ventures, the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's Holiday Programme for Youth completes 15 years

Hilla P. Guzder

It was the season of close encounters — of the select kind. For the 187 Zoroastrian students fresh out from school, HPY (Holiday Programme for Youth) laid out a canvas of careers to choose from — would it be old faithfuls BA, BCom, BSc, perhaps architecture, fashion, media, software or a future in rhythm and dance, yoga, sports, religion?

In its landmark 15th year, HPY introduced more firsts — swimming was added to its sports activities, glass painting and tattooing joined the growing list of artistic skills. "HPY has been tended with great care and thought," stated the program's chief coordinator and sheet anchor Diana Marfatia at the inaugural function at the Patkar Hall on May 3, 2001. "We are among the foremost youth organizations of the city and we provide nothing short of the best."

"Explore your world," chief guest Zarir Cama, chief executive officer of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, exhorted the boys and girls. "Doers have always made a difference. You could be a captain of industry or the prime minister of India if you look for opportunities and seize the day." Impressed by the meticulous organization and the range of activities laid out by HPY for bright young minds to absorb, Cama quipped he might like to reverse the clock and join HPY! "Feed your mind — in correct doses and at regular intervals. The mind has to digest what you have fed it," he urged, citing the example of visionaries like Jules Verne and Arthur C. Clarke who probed the distant reaches of their minds to foresee events now coming to pass. "No knowledge is redundant. It has no boundaries and knowledge is to be shared with others," he stressed. "The here and now will soon become the past, the memory of a lost opportunity. Set the stage now for an even better tomorrow."

In a down-to-earth address, guest of honor Adi Engineer, managing director

of Tata Electric Companies, asserted that 20 years on employers would not ask for school or college marks, nor was it necessary to be amidst the topmost rung of students. "We live in a performance-oriented culture. Find your bent of mind, build on your strengths," he said. Gravitating towards a career merely because it is a paying one is the wrong approach, he emphasized, adding that his emolument on the first tentative rung of his working life had been the princely sum of Rs 300 per month. "I was a creature in one corner of Dadar Parsi Colony. If we had had programs like HPY in our time, we would have been much higher in our careers," he quipped. Advising the students to be true to their ideals and values, Engineer observed that organizations that stick to their value system win. "Our community has been outstanding in this. Don't throw away our heritage of the past 1,000 years."

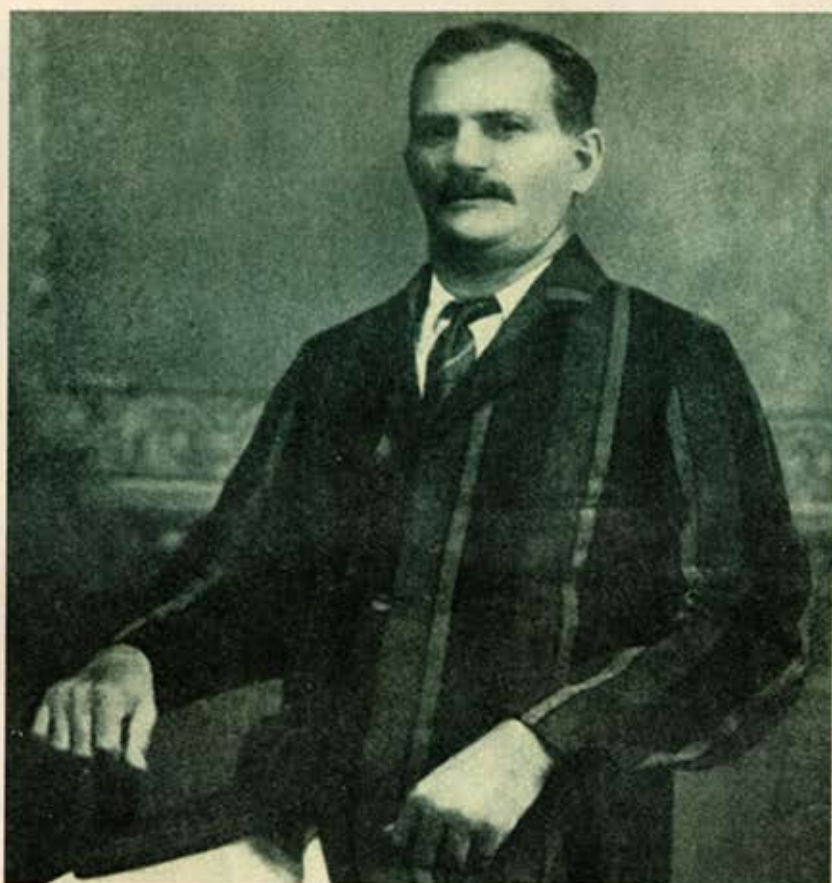
"Show me one community which spends so much time and money on a program for its youth year after year," asserted Silloo Commissariat, principal of the Bai R. F. D. Panday Girls' High School, handing out figurative bouquets of red roses to the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) for "sponsoring and sustaining HPY." She recommended the inclusion of 20 minutes' study of the Gujarati language every day over the four weeks of HPY. "I am sorry to say today's children don't even know the farajyat prayers," she lamented, advising five-minute sessions each day on the kusti prayers so that youngsters "absorb the energy and vibrations of prayer." Commissariat's commendation of the BPP prompted Minoo Shroff, BPP senior trustee chairing the inauguration, to smilingly remark that her good words came like "a breath of fresh air" to BPP trustees more used to brickbats than encomiums! "HPY provides ample avenues for social interchange among the youth and I am told nine matrimonial

alliances have resulted so far," asserted Shroff. "A pound of pluck is worth more than a ton of luck. The winner always has a plan, the loser an excuse," he counselled.

Marfatia appreciated the time, energy and expertise put in by the resource persons, specialists in their fields, which have lent shape and structure to the program. The inaugural function saw the felicitation of 15 individuals "who have played silent and significant roles, often behind the scenes over the past 15 years," stated Marfatia — former BPP trustee Dr Mehroo Bengalee whose brainchild HPY was, Rustom Anklesaria, former chief executive of the BPP for his guidance and leadership in HPY's early years, Perin Adrianvala, convener of the Punchayet's Vocational Guidance Bureau, caterer Minoo Bharucha, manager of the F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla Nadir Bhesania, HPY coordinator and "indispensable member of the team" Priya Bhujwalla, teacher of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable (BJPC) Institution Tehmina Damanwalla, Kumi Daroowalla and Dr Porus Turner of Rustom Baug's Sir Ness Wadia Club, Jehan Daruwalla, then editor of *The Bombay Samachar*, Rusi Dhondy of the *Jam-e-Jamshed Weekly*, Jehangir Patel of *Parsiana*, photographer and actor Boman Irani, Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia of Dadar's Athornan Boarding

From left (1st row): Diana Marfatia; at the inaugural; (2nd row): Bhujwalla; Cama (right) and Bharucha; A. Engineer (right) and Daroowalla; (3rd row): Cama, Shroff, A. Engineer; Guzder (right) with Tehmi Poonawalla and Marfatia (center); (last row): At the navjote of Taronish Gandhi (from left) Rustom Tirandaz, Sheroo Master, Marfatia, Silloo Kavarana, Bhujwalla, Bakhtawar Dastoor with Taronish's family; organizing team

IN 1997, RONNIE WADIA
noticed a discrepancy of 27 paise
IN HIS ELECTRICITY BILL.
It cost him Rs. 7842 to rectify it.



How do we get our reproductions right the first time, 97.3% of the time? Could it be the old Parsee integrity and dedication we bring to our work, no matter what the cost?



COMART Lithographers
PARSEE driven since 1934!







MRS. ALOO HIRJEE'S
RECIPE FOR DHANSHAK
has remained unchanged
FOR 25 YEARS.

{Her husband can testify.}

We've been getting our reproductions
right the very first time, 97.3% of the
time. Year after year for over 65 year.



Consistency of this kind is hard to
achieve. And, perhaps, harder to live
with, as Mr. Hirjee would testify.

COMART Lithographers

PARSEE driven since 1934!



The **NETERWALA GROUP**

is a professionally managed concern, that has, over four decades of steadfast growth, evolved into a diverse and techonologically robust conglomerate.

Liberty Building,
Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Marg,
Mumbai-400020
Tele: 2066231/2056866, Fax: 2082113
email: uniferro@vsnl.com
www.neterwala.com

NETERWALA C

Exploring the Unknown,



INDIAN OXIDES &
CHEMICALS LIMITED
An ISO 9002 certified
Company, producing
different grades of
Antimony Trioxide.



OIL FIELD INSTRUMENTATION
Mud Logging, M
Drilling Services
Instrumentation



UNI DERITEN
the largest for
Investment C



BAKER OIL TREATING (I) LTD
a pioneer in manufacturing
Oil Field Chemicals.

UNI KLIM
Fluid Cor
Fluid Sea



DAI-ICHI

Vision, Qu

GROUP OF COMPANIES

Exploiting the Known

UMENTATION
WD & Direction
Rig & Process

The logo for UNI Abex, featuring the word "UNI" in a blue, blocky, sans-serif font, followed by "Abex" in a blue, stylized script font.

UNI ABEX ALLOY PRODUCTS LIMITED
Manufacturers of Centrifugally Cast Tubes
Static Castings in heat resistant and
corrosion resistant alloys.

A yellow triangle with a brown border, containing a brown letter "D".

ND LIMITED
undry producing
astings in India.

The logo for Netel, featuring a green stylized "N" composed of two parallel diagonal lines, with the word "Netel" in a green, sans-serif font below it.

NETEL CHROMATOGRAPHS
Analytical & Health Care
Instrumentation Division.

The logo for UNI KLINGER, featuring a blue globe with a grid pattern, with "UNI" in a blue, stylized font above it and "KLINGER" in a blue, sans-serif font across the middle.

INGER LIMITED
ontrol Division
aling Division

DAI-ICHI KARKARIA LTD.
a pioneer in surfactants and
speciality chemical manufac-
turing in India.

UNIVERSAL FERRO &
ALLIED CHEMICALS LTD.
the largest manganese
based Ferro Alloy
producer in the private
sector in India.



Quality, Ethics, Excellence



From left (top row): At the valedictory function; K. Mehta (inset) and (second row) presenting shield to Mowdawalla; Modi; Darayush Marfatia, Hormuzd Mehta, Porus Bhatporia; S. Engineer;



(3rd row): Zenobia Mehta with P. Dastoor, Goila, H. Gandhi and Modi; Kimmin Kal-yaniwalla, Gev Bapuji and Karl Madon; Z. DeVitre
Photos: C. C. Gandevia

Madressa and the late Sam Poonawalla and his family for providing the sound system year after year.

Leavening the proceedings was the presentation for the first time at the program's inaugural of a 60-minute entertainment by last year's HPYites, with Mazda Turel a confident master of ceremonies and Tina Kavarana and Beza Khambatta choreographing a dance and fashion show. *Dreams in the Park* — a play directed by organizer Shirzad Khory — saw Khursheed Mistry and Rayumand Irani donning the garb, speech and mannerisms of a young Maharashtrian couple, unfolding the simple story of their middle-class life in what was, rather unusually for a gathering of Parsis, an Indian rather than a western setting.

The valedictory function on May 31

in the venerable, high-ceilinged BJPC Institution hall witnessed enough youthful Zoroastrian energy and exuberance to drive dents in oft-heard predictions of doom for the community. "This year's group was extra diligent, enthusiastic and cohesive," stated Marfatia. The blood donation drive saw volunteers bring in 150 blood donors for the St George's Hospital Blood Bank — a figure unsurpassed in all the 12 years of the drive. "This is the sort of involvement and commitment we try and instil in our participants, so that they may grow up to be caring and responsible citizens of our country," she noted. The jashan on the day after the inaugural was performed by mobed ex-HPYites Khory, Jim Vimadalal and Palash Anklesaria. Talks on religion by Zoroastrian Studies, so-

cial service and the navjote of a Parsi child served to foster community spirit. Aptitude tests, talks on environmental issues, anti smoking and drugs, emotional hygiene, etc sought to jog young minds towards serious issues. The first HPY of the new millennium also sported a new slogan — "Fifteen Years of Showing The Way."

Presiding over the valedictory, BPP chairman Jamshed Guzder lauded Marfatia as well as BPP executives and staff for the "dedicated team they have built around themselves." Eminent eye surgeon Dr Keiki Mehta who was the chief guest emphasized the "infinite power of the mind." The world makes way for a man who knows where he's going, he remarked; and chance favors

continued on page 126



Clockwise from top: Shekhdar in mid-ocean; departing Ilo; presentation of plaque by Mayor of Ilo (Photo: Paul Visscher and J. G. Augustin); Australian welcome to the seafarer (Photo: Ken Brown)



ZOROASTRIANS ABROAD

continued from page 37

as notes *What's On* (May 2001), the KZBM newsletter. The newsletter first apprised its readers of Shekhdar's intrepid bid in its December 2000 issue, when the adventurer had already been 133 days out at sea and passing the Marquesas Islands, a half-way mark, according to the write-up.

A civil engineer in the UK, Shekhdar began his voyage from Ilo, Peru on June 29, 2000, with an estimated landfall in Australia's Sydney region in mid February 2001 where he promised a "victory party," according to an article in *The Times*, London.

With web address www.pacific-challenge-2000.com his progress was monitored by leading publications on the Internet. Surrounded by sharks on his 239th day in the boat, Shekhdar said he could not wait to get off the ocean! The hardy seafarer had been rowing in circles, noted *What's On*, and by February 21 had rowed 9,371 miles to cover 7,529 miles of what should have been a 8,134 mile voyage! Rowing 12 hours a day,

surviving on cold porridge made with desalinated sea water, he had lost 38 kg, he told *The Times* by satellite telephone. With three broken stoves and the satellite link scheduled to end, "he said he was dreaming of ice cream, steak and chips and bread and cheese, in that order," the KZBM newsletter had noted.

According to *What's On* (January 2000) Nostradamus, the medieval French astrologer, had predicted that the 21st century would be ruled by someone/something linked to the number 666 — the devil according to one association. However, 666 is written as *www* in Hebrew, the language of the Bible! So, is it the Internet he was referring to?

Zoroastrian heroines

Two Zoroastrian entries in the UK-based magazine *Asian Woman and Bride* (Winter 2000-01) received 35 percent of the vote as Asian Women Heroines. MTV presenter Jasmine Dotiwala nominated her mother Roshan. In a letter straight from the heart, Dotiwala recaptured

her mother's courage and fortitude to raise her daughter as a single parent, concluding, "You are the rock and inspiration in my life."

Television actress Nina Wadia nominated her sister Nergish, a successful business woman, re-

Clockwise from below left: Nergish and Nina Wadia; R & J Dotiwala

Photos courtesy: Asian Woman and Bride



Matheran's Only Hotel with Mountain & Valley View



A 100 Years Heritage charm • New swimming pool • Unique Narrowest Gauge Mountain Railway • Horse Rides and Cool Walks in the Rain Forest
Pollution Free • Vehicles Banned

Lord's Central Hotel

MATHERAN 410102, INDIA

Phone 02148-30228 Fax 02148-30595 Email: lord@wspl.net.in

spected hairdresser and opera singer who managed hair salons in Harrods and Canada, runs Jopirza Consultants and works as guest speaker for L'Oreal and advises brand names like Toni and Guy, Charles Worthington and Saks.

Roshan Dotiwala and Nergish Wadia polled 18 and 17 percent of the vote respectively.

A copy of the publication carrying the write-up was given to *Parsiana* by one of our readers Rashid Khosravi of Bombay.

New team in Vancouver

Perviz Madon has succeeded Bella Tata to the presidency of the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia (ZSBC). The new team, with Roshan Mistry as secretary and Azadmehr Kaviani as treasurer, includes Khushrav Dastur, Kaikhosrow Edalati, Minoo Mehrayin (Namdarian) and Homa Sorooshi.

In his first message as president in the ZSBC newsletter *In Search of the Truth*, Madon expressed his concern at the diminished attendance at community functions of Parsi as well as Iranian Zoroastrians.

Compiled by Arnavaz S. Mama

Tanaz R. Godiwalla
Caterer

**Wishing all Zoroastrians and
Iranians, Well-wishers
and Esteemed Patrons a very
Happy and Prosperous New Year**

**Tel Nos: 3736136, 3736194
Mobile 98201 33399**

**THIS NAVROZE,
GET IN THE
TRUE SPIRIT
OF THINGS!**



Gwalior Distillers Limited

**Makers of quality Indian Made Foreign Liquor,
also RS & ENA from Mollasses & Grain.**

Regd. Office : Mount Road Extension, Nagpur 440 001.
Tel.: 533293, 521183 Fax : 0712-532220 Gram : 'DISTILLERS'
email : gwalior@iqindia.com Visit us at : www.bapuna.com

"NOTHING SHORT OF THE BEST"
continued from page 122

the prepared mind. "Go the extra mile, the extra half hour," he urged, "but help the people around you as well. They will buoy you along later." The fear of criticism or the jealousy of others should never deter one from treading the chosen road, he added.

In keeping with HPY's policy of honoring the organizers who, despite university examinations or work pressures, have been with the program for two or more consecutive years, Bhujwalla, Khorram Siodia, Fabian Panthaki, Khory and Dilber DeVitre received special felicitations. Flinging an all India net, HPY participants this year came from places

like Calcutta, Rishi Valley, Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda, Ratlam, etc., covering an all-time high of 80 participating schools, 22 of which were from out of Bombay, with 32 outside students participating. Mr Hotshot, Mehrab Modi from Baroda won the personality contest with Sharmin Engineer of Bombay the Miss Congeniality. Cool in guru shirt and pyjama among a sea of ties and jackets, Modi confidently pronounced that "friendships stood tight through the stormy seas of competition." The personality contest was organized differently this year as a six-round contest designed to test intelligence and creativity. Judged by teenage heartthrobs and well-known models John Abraham and Parizad Zorabian, the contest was "a super, super hit," Marfatia later told *Parsiana*.

Amidst cheers, claps and whistles, participants received at the valedictory function the fruits of their might and main, covering a gamut of intellectual and physical pursuits — on-stage and off-stage talent contests, elocution, debating, quiz, cricket, football, basketball, throw ball, swimming, bowling and more. The loudest applause was for visually impaired Shireen Mowdawalla who triumphed in the on-stage talent contest, playing the piano and singing

the theme from *Titanic*, as well as winning the elocution trophy. "HPY is the best thing that has happened to me," Mowdawalla, a student of Bandra's Avabai Petit School, said to *Parsiana*. "At the start of HPY I was very nervous, but the love and encouragement has been amazing."

Zarir De Vitre claimed the best sportsman and Modi the best literary all-rounder trophies. Pakzan Dastoor, Modi, Hufish Gandhi and Hoshaang Gotla were the best participants in their respective groups. At the 'queen of contests,' the fashion show, Aazin Printer was adjudged the best male model, with Binaifer Chichgur his feminine counterpart. Striding the ramp as best male catwalker was Farhad Driver, with Denese Bastani the best female catwalker.

"What I really enjoyed was meeting different kinds of people, from outside Bombay as well," remarked on-stage talent contest runner-up Shazneen Acharia. "HPY has given me the chance to come out in the open, recognize myself and know what I am and what talents I possess. The program has not only met my expectations but surpassed them," commented Dastoor, voicing her appreciation of what was for the adolescents a spirited, not somnolent, month of May.

*Parsiana wishes
all its readers,
advertisers and
well-wishers a very
Happy and
Prosperous New Year*

The Zoroastrian Cooperative Bank Ltd.



Wishes its Patrons and Customers Navroz Mubarak

Fort
2665617

Andheri
6238237

Lokhandwalla
6396172

Tardeo
4927173

Dadar
4182644

Mahim
4443055

Bandra
6456244

Pune
6119177

Borivali
8022728

With Best Compliments

THE OLDEST BAKERS

Cashew Macaroons
Khari Puff Biscuit
Nankhatai

Chocolate Cakes
Decorated Cakes
Eggless Cakes

Our Specialities



Surti Batasa
Pizza Bread
& Breads

Methi Biscuit
Fig-8 Biscuit
Sweet Biscuits



Dotivala

BAKERS & CONFECTIONERS

M/s Dotivala Enterprise

Ardeshar Kotwal Rd, Makkai Bridge, Nanpura,
Surat-1, ☎(O) 3475027 (R) 3222705, 3222942

M/s C. S. M. Enterprise

H-19, Parle Point Place,
Ghoddod Road, Surat -7. ☎ 3227404

Fax no: 0261-3460193

E-mail: dbc1@vsnl.com

Website: www.dotivala.com

Lording over the hoarding

Recognized as the leader among outdoor advertising companies in India, the Selvel-Vantage Group is reaping the benefits of technology

Parinaz M. Gandhi

The advertising message flashed on the rear side of the public transport bus keeps staring us in the face as we trail the bus realizing that overtaking it will be next to impossible in the heavy traffic. As the vehicles inch forward, there is time enough to study all the kiosks on the lampposts and even the bus shelters across the road. Waiting for the signal to turn green we notice the hoardings placed strategically at the intersection, each vying for attention. Not all billboards though announce the sale of a product or service, as some bear a forlorn look displaying just the telephone number of the agency in charge of the vacant site. With the economic downslide, there are fewer dotcom companies and financial ventures announcing their latest schemes but compensating for their absence are the different satellite channels and the perennial Bollywood releases.

"It costs seven times less than television, but you can't turn it off or zap it. It costs three times less than newspapers but you can't turn the page. It costs half as much as radio but you can't change the station." This promotion pitch from the Selvel-Vantage Group, rated as the largest outdoor advertising company in India, stresses on the value and effectiveness of this publicity medium. The company headquartered in Calcutta has an all-India network of 44 branches with management offices in Bombay, Delhi and Madras and owns 15,000 sites, a quarter of all outdoor sites in India. "And that's over two million square feet in terms of usable space! It means you can place your product almost anywhere. From wall signs, hoardings and kiosks to traffic signs, neons, backlights, retail shops or awning displays..." announces a brochure from the company.

"We are number one, and we are going to remain number one," says a confident Noomi Mehta, managing director of the company which boasts a turnover of well over Rs 50 crore. "We will do what it takes to remain in this

position. One has to accept and excel in this environment," he adds, referring to "the terrible disadvantage Parsis suffer from." In this sea of rampant corruption, Parsis are "expected to be fair, to subscribe to the highest moral standards...It is a terrible burden to bear." Speaking for his firm, Mehta noted, "We are as decent a people you can get in this business. Whatever we do is only with a view to avoiding problems and not to gain any advantage."

And although a private limited company it is deemed a public company on account of its turnover, we are reminded by the non executive chairman Rustom Daroga. "Close to 20 percent of the all-India market is with us," he adds. "We'll do it all," the company assures its prospective clients of a complete outdoor consultancy package: "From conceptualizing, designing and planning your outdoor campaign to on-site installation. From guidance on technology to on-schedule delivery. From painted signages to the widest range of outdoor vehicles..."

With hoardings constituting 85 percent of their business, the Group offers sites up to 300 feet wide or 100 feet high and one of their sites on the Eastern bypass in Calcutta bore the largest digital print in the country, measuring 120 feet by 30 feet, lit with 735 tubelights, as mentioned in their company literature. In fact, the company prides itself on its many firsts: for introducing hoardings on highways and in the airport vicinity, digital printing and backlights, unipole hoardings...

Other innovations for this medium too have been pioneered by the Selvel-Vantage Group. The hoardings which formerly were hand painted now bear the polished look of Vutek ink-jet printers. A collaboration with Show-Ads of Australia has resulted in Megasel Digital Private Limited to offer the latest in electronic art; another joint venture project between Selvel-Vantage and

Metromedia Technologies of USA has led to state of the art unipole structures all over India for the first time, incorporating the latest technology in the world. A company write-up describes the unipole as an aerodynamically designed many faced outdoor structure held together by 24 bolts, each of which is made of a special alloy weighing 60 kg and measuring six feet in length.

Referring to the "quantum leaps and dramatic changes seen in this medium" joint managing director Darius Bahadurji gives credit to Mehta for "bringing the digital technology to India. It's on par with the rest of the world. Ours is the only national outdoor company which has grown consistently over the years," points out Bahadurji. "It is fairly unique in the sense that three sons-in-law (Daroga, Mehta and Bahadurji) have treated the business as their own and helped it to grow. And being a family based business we have tremendous values. We look after people and get tremendous loyalty in return," he adds.

While Daroga with his entrepreneurial skills and cautious optimism headed Selvel Media Services Private Limited in New Delhi, Mehta's dynamism and passion for innovation kept him in charge of Selvel Advertising Private Limited in Calcutta and Bahadurji's enthusiasm and indomitable spirit made him captain Vantage Advertising Private Limited in Madras. But since this zonal segregation was not presenting a picture of one consolidated company, often evoking "rivalry within the ranks, we adopted a policy whereby there would be one common board for all the groups," explains the eldest son-in-law Daroga who has been steering the ship after founder Rusi Gimi's demise in 1992. "Citicorp came in as strategic investor in 1998 wanting to deal with one company," he adds. Thus was born the Selvel-Vantage Group with mother-in-law Zarin Gimi officiating as chairman emeritus. Although the Gimis' three daughters, Frenny Daroga,

MASTER GROUP OF COMPANIES



www.mastergroups.com

Corporate Office:

22/D S. A. Brelvi Road, Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel: 2873567-2886642-2886643 Fax: 91-22-2870139
Cable: "MOORINGS" Telex: 118-2119 MMSB Email: mmsplb@mastergroups.com

Administrative Office:

55A/63A, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Opp G.P.O., Bombay 400001
Tel: 2692787 (10 Lines) Fax: 91-22-2652841 Cable : "SHIPMENT"
Email: prudential@mastergroups.com



**MASTER
MARINE** *Services*
1973, 259.

*Certified Marine Surveyor
(Govt. Licensed) and Loss Assessors*



**Prudential Shipping Agencies
Private Limited**
*Shipping Agents, Cargo Brokers and
Multi Transport Operators*



**Meher Container Terminals
Private Limited**
(A division of MMSPL)
Yard and CFS management



Kalson Power Tech Private Limited
Hydro-Power

** Where Growth Is A Way Of Life **

Prochy Mehta and Tehnaz Bahadurji serve as directors, they are not involved in the day-to-day running of the company as "we did not want the ladies to get involved in the acts of omission and commission of the firm," explains Rustom Daroga.

Recent offshoots in outdoor advertising are bearing the fruits of the seeds sown by Rusi Gimi and his partners in 1945. As the son-in-law of the caretaker of the Calcutta dharamshala, Gimi had access to a modest room where was laid the indoor foundation of Selvel. Frenny Daroga remembers being told by her father that he was among the four young males, two of whom contributed the money and two their energies, to launch Selvel. Whilst those with the financial resources apparently lost interest along the way, the remaining two, Gimi and Sohrab Nicholson, went about consolidating the business. As Nicholson continued to maintain a stronghold in Bombay, partner Gimi set up headquarters in Calcutta in 1947. After Nicholson's death in 1965, his widow Gul and Gimi had a mutual agreement whereby she would have the exclusive use of the company name in the west and southern part of India, with Gimi's domain being the



A unipole in Bombay Photo: Chetan Mistry

eastern and northern regions of the country. Thus initially Gimi's group operated in the southern areas in the name of Vantage Advertising, and Nicholson expanded to other regions in the name of Highlight Advertising. This scenario continued until Gimi's death in 1992,

Rustom Daroga provides the historical details.

By the time his three sons-in-law joined him in business, Selvel with Gimi's vision and professionalism had already covered a lot of ground and space. And once they ably started shouldering their responsibilities, Gimi, the founder president of the Outdoor Advertising Association, preferred to apply himself to charitable and social causes. "Bengal gave me a home and a reasonably fair scope to prosper," had been Gimi's rationale for reciprocating the largesse. His idols being Subhas Chandra Bose and Swami Vivekananda, during his younger days Gimi had joined Gandhi's Quit India call and when working for the freedom struggle he had been imprisoned for the offence of inciting college students.

Outdoors was once dismissed as "pollution on a stick" and "the beer, butts and babes medium." Now though it is made "more attractive to customers," observes Bahadurji. Selvel-Vantage publicizes their business as "Outdoors. Where the sun never sets, or cracks or peels." Yet, the directors will admit that there are menacing clouds in the form of inconsistent government policies.

With best compliments from

MARCONS GROUP

Marcons Shipmanagement Pvt Ltd, Marcons Maritime Pvt Ltd, Marcons Shipping (Konkan) Pvt Ltd, Marcons Shipping Services Pvt Ltd, Marcontainer Agencies Pvt Ltd, Marcons Inc, Seaking Maritime

**Mumbai * Calcutta * Haldia
Chennai * Goa * Gujarat ports**

Head Office

G3/G4, "A" Wing, Navbharat Estates, Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai 400015

Tel: (22) 4108001 (8 lines) Tlx: 1171650 'ADIL IN'

Fax: (22) 4161731/4161732 Cable: "shiphubby"

E-Mail: marcons@bom3.vsnl.net.in Website: www.marconsgroup.com

Shipping Agents • Brokers • Exports



**STYLE 172
DURALON**



**STYLE 36
GRAFLON**

STYLE 176 KOMBIFLON



STYLE 146 METAFLEX-L



SPITMAAN

SETTING NEW STANDARDS IN MECHANICAL PACKINGS / SEALANTS

With over 35 years experience in manufacturing packings and sealants and keeping in mind changing industrial environments, we have developed up to date packing materials with highest functional reliability from proven natural fibres and asbestos to modern synthetic materials such as PTFE, ARAMID, CARBON, GRAPHITE, GLASS FIBRE and other environment - friendly materials.

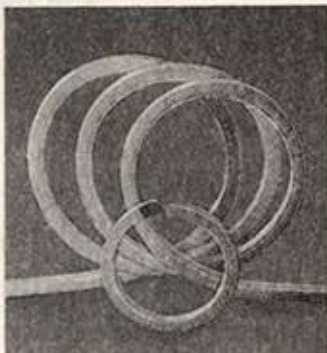
We offer with confidence the benefits of our craftsmanship and past experience as well as the research skills of the present, to our customers in India and overseas.

The SPITMAAN team under the watchful eyes of the German technicians working with us will solve all your sealing problems in valves, high pressure pumps and shafts in different media such as steam, water, oils, acid, in steel plants, chemical plants, fertilizer units, power plants etc. *We invite you with your SEALING PROBLEMS.*

MECHANICAL PACKING INDUSTRIES LTD.

Regd. Off: 15, Parsi Panchayat Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-69.
Tel: 832 9787 / 836 7311-5 lines / 8383790
Fax: 091-22-8382496 / 8353207

STYLE 2 NEOFLON



**STYLE 1916
BELKA
METALLIC**



**STYLE 600
'A' STEAM**



FLEX-O-SEAL



**STYLE 1094
PTFE IMPREGNATED**



SPRAY PRODUCTS (India) Private Limited

J-154, M.I.D.C., Bhosari, Pune 411026
Tel: 020 7122249 Fax: 020 7120411

Manufacturers and contract packers of AEROSOL PRODUCTS.
Experts to provide Formulations and Aerosol Packaging
System. Furniture Polish, Oven Cleaners, Rust Removers, Paint
Spray, Stain Remover, Fabric Starch and a host of Domestic
and Industrial Applications in Aerosol.

FILPAK (India) Private Limited

46/47, Pilerne Industrial Estate, Bardez, Goa 403511
Tel: 0832 409276 (4 lines)

Sole contract manufacturers of HIT household
insecticides for Godrej Sara Lee Limited

Visit us at www.sprayproductsindia.com
E-mail patels@pn2.vsnl.net.in



A service tax that is levied on hoardings but not on newspapers or the TV is viewed by Rustom Daroga as "discrimination, an irritant." Considering that 55 percent of an advertising budget is spent on the print medium, 35 percent on the electronic medium and 10 percent on outdoors, Daroga fails to understand the government rationale in imposing this tax.

But a major setback for Selvel-Vantage came two and a half years ago when a school bus fell off a bridge in Delhi resulting in a public interest litigation with the Supreme Court directing the removal of all hazardous hoardings in the Delhi city limits. Only those hoardings which are hazardous or an obstruction to the safe movement of traffic were required to be vacated. An over enthusiastic municipality however interpreted the court order as implying that every hoarding should be removed, an agitated Mehta supplies the details. Considering that 2,800 of the 4,000 sites in Delhi were genuinely illegal, this decision gave the municipal commissioner an excuse to remove the unlawful sites. In the long run though everyone has been the loser: Selvel-Vantage lost out on Rs 25 crore business in Delhi, the advertising community in Delhi suffered from an annual loss of Rs 50 crore and the Delhi Municipality was poorer by Rs 12 crore which it could otherwise have earned from auctioning its sites. "These people will wipe out an industry. I cannot believe it," rues Mehta. "It's a precarious state for the industry. We are taking a risk on non-business parameters," he adds referring to the inconsistent policies governing the industry. He is all in favor of regulating the industry "but create a proper environment," he maintains. New hoardings are supposed to be banned in Bombay too "but I've seen hundreds unless I am seeing things!"

Having built up the business site by site, only to be snatched away from their hands overnight, Mehta observes, "If it

From left

*(1st row): Rusi and Zarin Gimi
(2nd row): Noomi Mehta, Rustom Daroga and Darius Bahadurji
(3rd row): Darius and Tehnaz Bahadurji with sons Tushad and Rishad; Rustom and Frenny Daroga with daughters Navaz, Naomi and Shelley
(4th row): Noomi and Prochy Mehta with Sanaya and Jahan*

does not break you, it certainly makes you stronger, more focussed, more clear." The moratorium on hoardings in Delhi prompted the company to be innovative yet again, creating glowboxes anchored on lampposts at 16 petrol pumps in the city, reports *billboard*, the inhouse magazine of the Selvel Vantage Group. Rustom Daroga now prefers to take a detached interest as he has "had enough," according to Mehta who though is "still in it and absolutely happy because by character and nature we are very different."

In the absence of a "single policy for all India it is extremely challenging to conduct national business in this country," says Mehta. Nineteen permissions are needed to put up a single site in Bombay, reveals Mehta. "Everything depends on bureaucracy." The environment, the customs, the habits of the people, the government's approach, the citizens' approach dictate the laws in different regions, he notes. When it comes to Delhi, a highly charged Mehta comments on its "habits, culture or lack of it" and has a simplistic solution to



A bridge at Chowpatty serves as an ideal venue for outdoor advertising

offer: "I think if India is to be saved, we need to take the government out from there."

A disunited industry and an insufficient database also plagues outdoor publicity in India, observes Mehta, contrasting the scenario with the Outdoor Advertising Association of America which has "done its homework perfectly and has an incredible database of research and statistics." As reported in *Span* (November-December 2000), "Broad social trends also favor billboards. Americans are spending fewer hours at home, where TV, cable, magazines, newspa-

pers, books and the Internet all clamor for attention. People are spending more time than ever in their cars — daily vehicle trips are up 110 percent since 1970, and the number of cars on the road is up by 147 percent — and for most people the only media options in a traffic jam are radio and billboards." In contrast, the industry has been unable to

create an identity in India due to lack of adequate signage, finance and management, says Mehta, announcing their efforts to bring to India the International Sign Association in the hope that it can show the value of signage (glow signs and neon signs) to enhance the business prospects for the fraternity.

The several thousand kiosks in their control has helped the Group make its formidable presence felt in towns like Ambala, Jamshedpur, Amritsar, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Rourkela, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Howrah and Haldia. When they bagged the franchising rights to 28,000 kiosks in Bombay, they were able to "give a cosmetic lift to the city, especially after dark," states the com-

With compliments from

B. B. GARDA & SONS

10 B. J. Road, Poona 411001



ALBAJ ENGINEERING CORPORATION

An ISO 9002 Company

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

Manufacturers of all types of steam boilers.

Specialized fabricators in S.S. and C.S. for coded pressure vessels, heat exchangers, fly ash arrestors, economisers, super-heaters, chimneys, base frames, boiler panels, air receivers, LPG and propane bullets, and oil and gas installations at site, with approval of C.C.O.E., Nagpur.

Complete modification and re-tubing of existing boilers, with IBR approval.

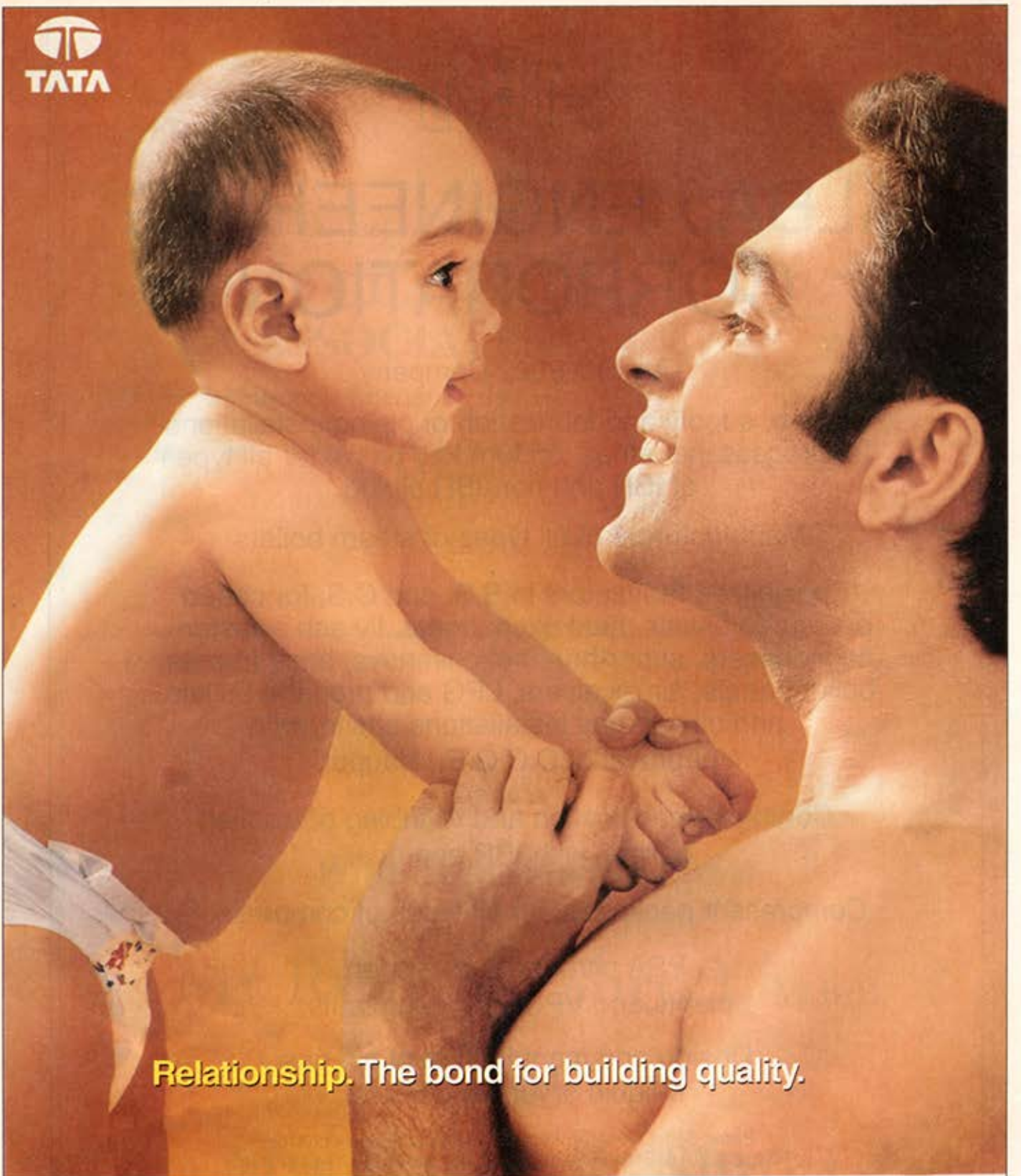
Compressor packages, for all types of compressors.

PSA nitrogen & hydrogen plants and VPSA oxygen plants.

Design and manufacture of air, gas & liquid dryers and filters.

Pune: 340, Clover Centre, Moledina Road, Pune 411001
Phone: (020) 6131511/6133018/6121542 Fax: 91 (020) 6137255
E-mail: albij@vsnl.com

Mumbai: 8 'Arcadia', 1st Floor, 195, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021
Phone: 2821659/2823103/2825516 Fax: 91 (022) 2814044

A close-up photograph of a man and a baby. The man is shirtless, looking up at the baby with a smile. The baby is also shirtless, wearing a diaper, and looking back at the man. They are holding hands, creating a sense of connection and trust.

Relationship. The bond for building quality.

Relationship forms the building blocks of quality. More than technology, more than processes, it's our concern for you that spurs us to create quality. A quality based on empathy and lasting ties.

Visit us at www.tatasteel.com

TATA STEEL

pany profile. At one time the Group had exclusive advertising rights over 2,000 bus shelters in Bombay which were illuminated for the first time, to "transform them into virtual traffic-stoppers!" Their present efforts in Bombay seem to be focussed on consolidating their stronghold in this city by buying over the local players for, as Rustom Daroga explains, "Sixty percent of the total outdoor is spent in Bombay."

Rustom recalls joining Selvel in 1965 on a monthly salary of Rs 300 while he was still studying commerce at Calcutta's St Xavier's College. After attending morning lectures he would proceed to work where he learnt about every nature of the job, workshops, painting, meeting clients, taking pictures of sites... A year after his marriage to Frenny in 1969 they moved to Delhi and Rustom continued his Selvel association from Delhi. Now the second generation sons-in-law are also in the business. The Darogas' eldest daughter Navaz with her husband Zubbair Aria are in Delhi, second daughter Naomi and her husband Percy Mistry are based in Ahmedabad with Percy starting the Ahmedabad office of Selvel-Vantage, and youngest daughter Shelley withb

husband Jimmy Subawalla are settled in Madras.

Nagpur born Mehta's primary education was at Bombay's Campion School after which he joined Calcutta's St Xavier's School and College. His association with Selvel dates to 1976 after he completed his CA from S. R. Batliboi and Company. Earning a monthly stipend of Rs 40 plus tram fare when he was doing his articles, Mehta says he had plans to start his own accountancy firm although he hated accounts. A frank conversation with his father-in-law convinced him to join Selvel, Mehta remembers Gimi prodding him on his future plans until Mehta said that he wanted to make a success of his business and leave it for his children. Gimi then asked Mehta: "So what's wrong if I leave my business to my children?" Happy with his decision to join Selvel, Mehta would now like his daughter Sanaya who is doing her MBA in UK to get experience outside and then get into the business. "It is necessary to follow the business norms; not think it is a *baap nu* (father's) business, which attitude makes you very lax," he believes. His son Jahan has started taking an interest in the business too.

For best
Dhanshak Kabab
in town every
Wednesday and
Friday

Many more
Parsi dishes
We also serve
Chinese

IDEAL CORNER

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

With Compliments from Langrana's

FRAMROZ & SONS

Investment Consultants/Share and Stock Brokers
(Bombay and National Stock Exchange)

Hamam House, Ambalal Doshi Marg
Near Patuck's Fort, Mumbai 400023
Phone 2656327/2652621

811, Parsi Colony, Above Central Bank
Dadar, Mumbai 400014 ○ Phone 4152237/4166635

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, 9%
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

Youngest son-in-law Bahadurji who joined Selvel in 1983 says he had an opportunity to see both his parents-in-law at work. Fifteen days after his marriage to Tehnaz in 1985, he started the southern chapter of the family enterprise. He too had studied at St Xavier's School and College in Calcutta, done his CA articles with S. R. Batliboi and Company and had ambitions to launch out as an entrepreneur. Tehnaz serves as his sounding board, notes Bahadurji, declaring, "We make a pretty good team." Their two sons Tushad and Rishad are still at school.

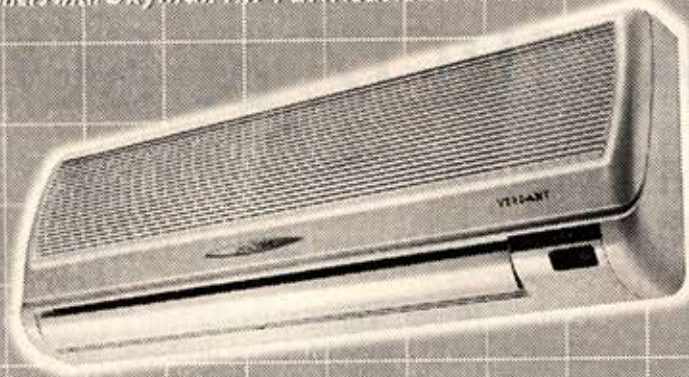
All the three Gimi daughters had found their mates at the Calcutta Parsee Club of which Mehta is currently president. He still enjoys his game of hockey, football, cricket, rugby, basketball, tennis, table tennis... "In fact it was our common love for games and our personality that brought Prochy and me together," says Mehta referring to his courtship period for eight years. Till today Noomi enjoys playing his field games, while Prochy wins laurels for herself and the country participating in international veterans' athletic meets. Noomi is also the seniormost trustee of the Calcutta Zoroastrian Community's Religious and Charity Funds. His association with the

board started when the three "very fine old gentlemen had sadly lost faith in each other." Soon the elections were due and when no one wanted to stand for it, Noomi says he was "young enough and mad enough to venture. The community made a mistake in electing me," he continues with his lighthearted banter. The original three-member board was extended to five once the senior trustees opted out and Noomi was left as the seniormost trustee who by custom is asked to take the chair at the board meetings. Although by consensus the community in Calcutta has shown a preference for change from the dakhme-nashini system, Noomi says since this is "a religious issue it has little to do with our financial institutions." Personally though he was hoping that the priests would permit prayers for all, irrespective of their preferred mode of disposal. Children of intercommunity marriages should be accepted into the community, he recommends, despite his pride in the Parsi characteristics, including their long noses.

"Intercommunity marriages are inevitable, but I wouldn't like to encourage it (especially females marrying out of the faith)," says Rustom Daroga admitting to his notions of male chauvin-

A **TATA** Enterprise

Presenting **Verdant,
Future tech**
air conditioners with OxyMax Air Purification Process



Come home to nature

VERDANT
WITH OXYMAX TECHNOLOGY

VOLTAS
AIR CONDITIONERS

SPREAD HAPPINESS EVERYWHERE



*With Best
Compliments from*



HERBERTSONS LIMITED

ism. His rationale is, "It is very difficult for our girls to adjust into other communities. Ours is a forward-looking community. We look after our daughters-in-law better." Children of intercommunity marriages should be accepted within the fold, prescribes Daroga, many of his progressive views being imbibed from the late Shiavax Nargolwala, the dynamic president of the Delhi Parsi Anjuman under whom Daroga had served as honorary secretary of the Anjuman. On the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, Daroga was the co-opted representative of the north zone. Being used to an aramgah in Delhi, Daroga cannot empathize with the malfunctioning of the dakhmenashini system saying, let the individual "die with dignity and be treated with dignity."

Darius Bahadurji, the tactful president of the Madras Parsi Association which looks after the social and cultural aspects of the community, chooses not to comment on any of the controversial subjects, being content to say, "By nature, I like change; radical change." In his second term as president of the Association, Bahadurji says they have "a lovely team of people who work in tandem with the Anjuman and the Jal

Clubwala Dar-e-Meher." Travelling with his family, reading and contributing back to society and its many charitable causes are his major stress busters. An active member of the Madras chapter of the prestigious Young Presidents' Organization, Bahadurji believes the community "should stop living on its past glory. It's time now for more youngsters in their thirties and forties to shine in their chosen profession, to strike out boldly and be in the forefront." In the nascent stages the firm did not employ Parsis. "Now we have taken a fairly bold decision to employ more Parsis, youngsters as also senior citizens. They are a tremendous asset to our business," Bahadurji maintains.

"Entrepreneurship in the community is practically nil in Bombay. In Delhi people do try," observes Rustom Daroga. The fixation of wanting to live in a big town is bogging down the community, he opines. "I would encourage youngsters to look into small towns, get a foothold; unless they are loaded with money and prepared to take big gambles," says Daroga who is the steward of the Delhi Race Club and has been serving on its managing committee for the last 25 years, even owning seven race horses.

"Parsis are becoming lazy. They are very easily content with things small," notes Noomi Mehta suggesting that syndicates of five youngsters be formed with the intention of starting a business on the premise that even if one of the five succeeds, he can employ the remaining four. He was particularly disparaging of the prevailing attitude of measuring a person in terms of how much he/she is worth, disregarding his qualities of head or heart. He referred to the magnanimity of Edulji Olpadvala who during his lifetime donated his prime property worth crores to the Calcutta Zoroastrian community and finally died in penury, with artefacts from his house being perforce sold to afford the cost of his daily groceries and bazaar. As a businessman his cold drinks concern failed but his "amazing gesture of generosity which forms the cornerstone of our trust set him apart from all entrepreneurs," realizes Mehta. In terms of value, "here was a man who is immeasurable."

Nurturing such values the stars of the Selvel-Vantage Group resolutely move from the finite to the infinite, the known to the unknown, from darkness to light as they conquer space and outshine the others in business.

With Best Compliments From

DINSHAW SHAPOORJI & COMPANY

414/3, Kasarwadi, Bombay-Poona Road, Pune 411034

K. Wadi: Phones 7146373, 7147055
Fax (020) 7145656
Poona Phone 6362052
E-mail: dinshaw@pn3.vsnl.net.in

Branch Office: 92C Mohamedali Road
Mumbai 400003
Phones 3432497, 3423977 Fax 3435392

**TRANSPORT CONTRACTORS
& STAFF BUS OPERATORS**



Everyday, Tata Tea helps bring
fingers together.

The difference is either a fresh new day.
Or a fresh new life.



Tata Tea runs 280 adult literacy centres. 160 child care centres. 26 hospitals. Schemes like Project Dare in the High Range of Munnar to take care of the educational needs of mentally handicapped children. Schools to educate workers' children. Wildlife protection foundations and sanctuaries. Yes, the name Tata Tea means more than a giant tea company. For thousands across the country it means life.

TATA TEA



SAATCHI & SAATCHI-054/00

Socking success

Balancing assets against adversity, entrepreneur Naazneen Katrak has firmly established Mustang Socks among the leading brands in India

Hilla P. Guzder

As a collegian, her courage and commitment saw her scale the summit of Hanuman Peak in the Himalayas, amidst blustery winds that threatened to blow her and her mountaineering mates off the 18,000-foot monolith.

Traversing many a valley through the following decades, no stranger to the frowns and favors of fortune, intrepid entrepreneur Naazneen Katrak has battled illness and business adversity to establish an enterprise which socks it to competitors with a four crore rupee turnover. Leaning on her crutches, Katrak cheerily guides *Parsiana* on a tour of her office deep within the innards of Bombay at Cotton Green — the area where in days of yore Bombay merchants were the kings of cotton.

Katrak's Mustang Enterprises and Mustang Apparels Private Limited manufacture and market around eight lakh pairs of socks annually in cotton and cotton blends. They come in all shapes and sizes — ankle length, long leg, sports socks, panty hose, etc for ladies, gents and children. Mustang are also the official licensees in India for Walt Disney transfers of well-known characters like Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald and Daisy Duck, Winnie the Pooh, etc which enliven children's socks, vests, briefs, hairbands, handkerchieves and baby wipes (face cloth for infants). "We pay a license fee for the use of these transfers," explains Katrak whose portfolio spans the spectrum of designing, production and marketing. An entrepreneur who has her finger firmly on the pulse of the market, she is not one to go by the book. "The catalog may say lime green is the preferred color. I may go in for red and navy blue if I feel that is what the market wants. I go by my gut feeling and study of the market. Of course, I do it at my risk," laughs the lady who strongly believes in the maxim "win some, lose some." "If you are not prepared to take risks you should not be in business. Become a professional or take up a job," she asserts.

With their products sold in smaller shops as well as upmarket stores like Shoppers Stop, Pyramid, etc, Katrak elaborates: "We are considered expensive in the market. But that is because we use combed cotton, good quality yarn, superior elastics, etc so that the final product is soft, does not shrink and has a good finish." Mustang also has institutionalized sales — they manufacture for others, including MNCs (multi national corporations). "I love working with the MNCs," she says. "They are very particular about all parameters — manufacturing facilities, lighting, provision of toilets, etc. If you don't have all the facilities, they don't deal with you! I have no mental block at all about supplying others."

With Mustang merchandise finding a market all over India — Delhi, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Madras, Hyderabad, etc — Katrak says sales are particularly good in North India because of its cold winters. An avid 'on the beat' salesperson, Katrak's travelling days have been somewhat reduced after a severe attack of viral fever in Bangalore in 1989 laid her low, affecting the nerves and depriving her of muscle power in her left leg. Yet her animation for her work is apparent, melancholia is not part of her balance sheet. "I have no regrets. I live without expectations and am happy in any situation," she says calmly. And this from someone for whom mountaineering and motorcycles were passions!

Climbing up to her first floor residence at Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari, travelling by car every day to Cotton Green, regularly visiting their factory at Palghar in Maharashtra — the lady takes it all in her stride. "I love going to the factory with its green garden, particularly during the rains and in the winter. It is so pollution free you can almost smell the clean air," she enthuses. With her office cum bedroom housed in the factory itself, Katrak says she works

happily till two in the morning!

With finance and figures not her cup of tea, financial aspects of the business are looked after by her brother Jimmy Katrak who joined Mustang three years ago. "Initially it was terrible as I had no background in finance," he laughs. "All my life I have been a car consultant, running my own garage. I came into the company as I felt Naazneen needed help. I have gradually settled in and am now enjoying being in the business." Administration and public relations are in charge of brother Adi who used to be a freelance writer and who became a part of the company four years ago. "We are among the first three leading brands in socks in India," he points out, adding that socks account for 70 percent of the companies' turnover. "Our family has always been close-knit right from childhood. We are absolutely united, there is no jealousy," he says. Sharing in the spirit of success is their aunt Roshan Cama (mother Nina's sister) who joined the company three years ago. "We used to have our own business — a factory in Nasik retreading tyres of dumpers. I was the managing director. Later I worked for some time with Dai-ichi Karkaria as secretary, but when Naazneen suggested I join Mustang I readily agreed," explains Cama.

Naazneen's spirit of enterprise sparked off when as a child of eight she made and sold flannel caps, decorated with cutwork flowers, etc from the pieces of flannel her neighbors (who dealt in flannel) gave her. At 14 she gave tuitions in English and French to earn money. "My father Maneck was a happy-go-lucky man. We had a wonderfully happy family life, but he could never hold on to a job. So we lived like kings for two years, like beggars for the next two!"

Eager to join St Xavier's College for her BA, the College authorities told her she should apply in suburban colleges as Jogeshwari was much too far from Dhobitalao. Well then, she told them

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, Mumbai 400020 Tel: 2821613 Fax: 2836303 E-mail: sgsh@vsnl.com



firmly, as she had already decided that it would be Xavier's or nothing, she would just have to drop studies altogether! She was granted the admission, the last on the list!

Augmenting family income by doing door-to-door selling for companies like Hindustan Lever, Nestle, etc after 1.30 p.m. when lectures ended, Naazneen's love of the outdoors drew her into joining the Adventurers and Mountaineers Club at Xavier's. Treks in the Sahyadris whetted her appetite, she enrolled for the basic mountaineering course at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering at Uttarkashi. The opportunity to join an expedition beckoned plumb in the middle of her graduation exams. The peak took precedence and she appeared for her exams that October.

Then it was on to the advanced course and the conquest of Kedar Dome — all

of 22,410 ft up in the clouds. Naazneen remembers the testing times and the triumphs, the planning and the team spirit: "I could not scale Makarbeh Peak; bad weather thwarted us. But expedition member Thrity Birdy did." In 1986 while attempting the 22,000 ft Central Peak Naazneen was stricken by high altitude pulmonary edema. "I had to be brought down to the nearest base camp, walking! There was no other way," she narrates. Of her hospital stay in Manali she remembers very little. "For four days I was completely 'out,'" she states matter-of-factly.

In the late '70s Naazneen moved to



Naazneen (top left); at the Palghar factory (Photos: Chetan Mistry) and (alongside from left) Adi, Roshan, Jimmy and Naazneen

Muscat for some time, working as a sales representative for a Middle East firm. The huge showroom encompassed goods from music systems and office equipment to cement mixers, Landrovers and Jaguars! Always strong on sales she laughingly says she made sure customers bought at least something!

On her return to Bombay she set up, together with a friend in 1979, Mustang Exports which exported an array of items



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
E-mail: eastlite@bom3.vsnl.net.in

Estd. 1881

**ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL
& LIFT ENGINEERS AND
CONTRACTORS**

to the Middle East — from hinges and taps to heavy machinery. The going was good till their contact in Muscat died in a road accident there.

Resoluteness undampened, Naazneen's next venture was the marketing of socks for a manufacturer, going personally from shop to shop collecting orders. Her contacts stood her in good stead when in the late '80s she decided to manufacture socks herself. Along with a partner she set up Mustang Enterprises with each of them pooling in their meager resources to open a bank account and take a loan to buy 10 kg of yarn! Hopping onto her motorcycle, Naazneen would carry the yarn to the dyers and then it was a long ride to a slum area in Airoli in New Bombay where it would be spun into socks. Then back to their small office in a garage in Dadar where they would sit on upside-down crates to sort out the socks!

Business prospered and despite her illness Naazneen decided to go solo, buying over her partner's share, moving her office to an industrial estate in Cotton Green and setting up a plant and machinery to manufacture socks in Palghar. Family support has been

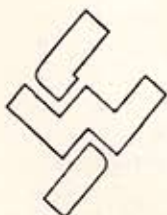


Naazneen: scaling the summit

solid throughout. "I owe so much to my mother. I could put all my time and effort into my work as she has handled everything on the home front," she declares. Her father passed away in 1975. Marriage has never been a priority though she loves children, she says, and thoroughly enjoys the company of Jimmy's three sons and her friends'

children. Why does our community distinguish between sexes, she laments, seeking an answer as to why the navjotes of children of Parsi men married out can be performed, but not the other way around? Touching on the controversy regarding dakhmenashini she opines: "Dakhmenashini may have been the best method of disposal in ancient times. Today, why do we use a car and not a cart? Cremation is best." Personally, she says she is keen to donate her heart, eyes and anything else that might bring hope to a fellow human being. Not a strong believer in rituals and ceremonies, Naazneen says she has great faith in the *Ashem Vohu* prayer, as also in Sai Baba of Shirdi. "We are all one. The Lord resides in each of us. If you can't respect that you can't respect anyone."

With Mustang a well-established brand, the future looks bright, say the family, despite the presence of strong competitors. As Jimmy puts it, "superhuman being" Naazneen works at a galloping pace almost 365 days a year and 11-12 hours a day, keeping on course the company that embodies in its logo the might of a mustang.



STERLING AND WILSON ELECTRICALS PVT LTD

Electrical Engineers & Contractors

Associates of: **Shapoorji Pallonji & Co Ltd**

Mumbai Office Esplanade House, 2nd Floor, Hazarimal Somani Marg, Fort, Mumbai 400001
Telephone: 2074177, 2071882, 2087318 Fax: 2073741 E-mail: swilson@vsnl.com

New Delhi Office Flat No 202-205, G. K. House, 187/A Sant Nagar, East of Kailash, New Delhi 110019
Telephone: 6233381, 6236319/20/21 Fax: 6486282 E-mail: swilson@del2.vsnl.net.in

Hyderabad Office 6-1-132/104, Shandagiri Temple Road, Padma Rao Nagar, Secunderabad
Telephone: 040-6611250, 3111202

Bangalore Office 183/C K. H. B. Colony, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore 560095
Telephone: 080 5521358

Registered Office 70, Nagindas Master Road (Meadows Street), Fort, Mumbai 400023
Telephone: 2653287

Visit us at: <http://www.sterling and wilson.com>



selvel

Publicity & Consultants Ltd

REGD. OFFICE: Ravindra Annexe, 4th Floor, 194, Dinshaw Vatcha Road,
Churchgate, Mumbai 400020
Tel: 2026512, 2027560, 2024670, 2855685 Fax: 2041970
E-mail: selvel@vsnl.com
WEBURL: selvel.com

Wish you a Happy New Year

Quick and easy

Plan the meal, keep the ingredients handy, be organized and cooking will be hassle free, says the author

Bhicoo Manekshaw

Today's trend is quick and easy recipes for the working woman and that is what I have been asked to give you by *Parsiana*.

I can understand the exhaustion of a working woman, coming home tired and having to prepare a good meal for her family. She has to be well planned. So she should keep handy all ingredients that are used every day, such as ginger and garlic paste, kept covered in the refrigerator, and plan her weekly shopping for vegetables, fish, meat and chicken. Cut fish and meat and make portions as required for the family before freezing so that you don't have to keep on defrosting and re-freezing which is very dangerous. Keep the store cupboard up-to-date so that everything is at hand. Be well organized, and half your troubles will be over. Do not buy cut pieces of chicken. It has lost all its flavor before you buy it. If you can, cut meat and chicken at home so that you don't lose the precious pink juice which has all the flavor and food value. Don't cut and wash meat and poultry; first wash then cut. Fresh fish may be cut by the fishmonger and then washed at home.

Most of us use coconut in our curries, so peel and cut a coconut, grate and purée it, section off portions and freeze. This helps cooking curries much easier. Maggi coconut milk powder is also very good.

Buy whole cumin and coriander, roast lightly, grind and store. The flavor you get

using this rather than the packaged variety makes the effort well worth it. The turmeric and different varieties of chilli powders marketed by MDH are excellent, but try a combination of two parts Reshampati chillies, two parts Kashmiri chillies and one part of the small local chillies. Buy them in bulk and have them ground at a chakki, or grind small portions at home.

Here are some quick and easy recipes.

First Courses

AVOCADO DIP

(serves 6-8)

Avocados (2 large, ripe)
Lime juice (of ½ lime)
Onion (2 tsp — very finely chopped)
Garlic paste (¼ tsp)
Salt and freshly ground pepper (to taste)
Purée avocados just before serving, else they will dis-



color.

Mix all ingredients and serve with Melba toast.

MARSH MELON WITH VINAIGRETTE

(serves 4)

This dish has always been appreciated whenever I have served it.

Marsh melons (2 medium-sized — peeled, seeded and cubed)
Vinaigrette dressing

Olive oil or ordinary oil (¼

cup)

White vinegar (2 tbsp)

Worcestershire sauce (1 tbsp)

Sugar (a pinch)

Garlic (2 cloves — crushed)

Tabasco sauce (a dash)

Salt and freshly ground

black pepper (to taste)

Parsley (1 tbsp — chopped)

Mix melon with dressing in a bowl and chill.

Serve in coupe glasses.

Soups

For a quick and good chicken soup, add about ¼ cup cream and ¼ cup white wine to a can of creamed chicken soup.



Dress up a can of good tomato soup with 2-3 tbsp of port or red wine.

Main Course Dishes

PASTA WITH CHILLI

(serves 4)

Good pasta of your choice (500 g)

Salt and freshly ground

black pepper (to taste)

Olive oil (8 tbsp)

Garlic (½ pod — finely chopped)

Dried red chillies (2-3 — seeded and crushed or cut into small pieces)

Bacon (4 slices — chopped and fried crisp)

Parmesan cheese (grated — to serve)

Cook pasta in plenty of boiling water with a pinch of salt and a few drops of olive oil till al dente. Drain and refresh

in cold water.

Heat remaining oil and fry garlic and chillies till crisp. Add pasta and mix well.

Season to taste with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with cheese and serve immediately with a crisp salad.

Note: You may substitute chopped ham in place of bacon.

SCRAMBLED EGGS WITH SMOKED SALMON

(serves 4)

Butter (100 g)

Cream (2 tbsp)

Eggs (8 — lightly beaten)

Salt and freshly ground

black pepper (to taste)

Smoked salmon (200 g — cut into thin strips)

Whole-grain bread (8 medium-sized slices — toasted)

Chives [2 tbsp — finely

snipped (use scissors)]
Melt butter with cream in a small saucepan. Add eggs, salt and pepper. Cook on low heat, scraping base and sides of pan with a wooden spoon.

Cook till just set and still slightly liquidy.

Remove from heat and continue stirring slowly (eggs continue to cook even after they are removed from heat) till they are just done. Do not overcook and make the eggs dry. Scrambled eggs should be just set, not watery or dry.

Mix in smoked salmon and spoon onto hot toast, lightly buttered, if desired.

Sprinkle with chives and serve immediately.

Serve with a thick, nutritious soup and a tomato, mozzarella and lettuce salad, or

Presenting a new flavour this season

Call 2824511 / 2833418

for delivery in Colaba,
Cuffe Parade, Churchgate
& Marine Drive

Dinshaw's Ice cream Hotline now brings a range of the choicest ice cream to your doorstep. Just call us and we'll be there within an hour of you placing the order (unless of course, we're stuck in a jam or traffic cops find the package irresistible).

**Free
home delivery**

**Delivery centres opening shortly
all over the city**

Minimum value of
order Rs 100
Timing
12.30 pm to 10.30 pm
100% vegetarian

Call 5342299 / 5346868
for delivery in Thane city

The Centre Manager too is just a call away should you ever need his assistance. And after you've had your last bite, do call back with your suggestions. That'll help us make your experience even sweeter.



any other substantial salad of your choice.

Note: Canned tuna, cut into chunks, coarsely chopped or crisp fried bacon or thinly sliced ham, may be substituted for smoked salmon.

STIR-FRIED VEG-ETABLES

(serves 4)
Broccoli (400 g)
Oil (6 tbsp)
Onions (2 — sliced)
Green chillies (2 — seeded and chopped)
Garlic (½ pod — crushed)
Ginger (4" piece — peeled



and julienned)
Red peppers (2 — cut into strips)

Baby corn (300 g)
Whole button mushrooms (400 g — remove stalks to make stock)

Snow peas (100 g — trimmed)

Thai fish sauce (6 tbsp)

Soya sauce (4-6 tbsp)

Bean sprouts (300 g)

Divide broccoli into florets, cut off stalks and slice them.

Heat oil in a wok or large kadhai. Add onions, chillies, garlic and ginger. Toss for 1-2 minutes.

Add broccoli stems and sauté for 2-3 minutes.

Add red peppers, baby corn, broccoli florets, mushrooms, snow peas, fish sauce and soya sauce. Stir-fry for 2-3 minutes. Add bean sprouts and stir-fry for 1-2 minutes further.

Serve immediately.

CHICKEN WITH CASHEW NUTS

(serves 3-4)
Chicken (1½ kg — deboned and cut into 1" cubes)
Ginger (2" piece — grated)
Ginger (2" piece — finely sliced)

Salt and freshly ground pepper (to taste)
Sherry (3 tsp)
Sesame oil (2 tsp)
Egg whites (4 large — lightly beaten)
Cornflour (4 tsp)
Oil (8 tbsp)
Dried red chillies (10 — seeded)
Spring onions (8 — cut into 2" strips)
Black mushrooms (10 — soaked and chopped)
Cashew nuts (200 g — halved)
Mixed together for sauce

Cornflour (4 tsp)
Sherry (4 tsp)
Sesame oil (4 tsp)
Chicken stock (600 ml)
Mix chicken with grated ginger, salt, pepper, sherry, sesame oil and egg whites. Mix well. Sprinkle in cornflour and mix again.

Heat oil in a wok or kadhai, add chillies and stir-fry till crisp. Add chicken and stir-fry for 4-5 minutes.

Add sliced ginger, spring onions, mushrooms, cashew nuts and sauce. Continue to stir-fry for about 3-4 minutes longer till sauce is glossy and thickened.

Serve with noodles.

CHARRED VEG-ETABLES

(serves 4-6)
Oven temperature: 190°C (375°F)

Red peppers (2 large)
Long aubergines (300 g)
Courgettes or toori (400 g)
Baby onions (100 g)
Salt and freshly ground pepper (to taste)
Dry thyme (½ tsp)
Garlic (4 cloves — chopped)

Olive oil (6 tbsp)
Cherry or small tomatoes (250 g)
Balsamic vinegar (1-2 tbsp — optional)

Remove pith and seeds of red peppers and cut into chunks. Top and tail aubergines and courgettes and cut into chunks.

Place peppers, aubergines, courgettes and onions in a large bowl, sprinkle salt, pepper, thyme, garlic and olive oil and mix well. Place in a greased roasting tin and roast for 20 minutes, stirring to turn the vegetables around several times.

Add tomatoes and roast for a further 20-30 minutes, stirring occasionally till vegetables are tender and charred.

Sprinkle with balsamic vinegar and a little extra olive oil if desired and serve hot or cold with mashed potatoes and roasts, grilled steaks or chops, or grilled or fried fish.

GRILLED POMFRET WITH MUSTARD AND BUTTER SAUCE

(serves 4)
Pomfret fillets (8 — weighing about 80-90 g each)

Oil (4 tbsp)

Salt and freshly ground pepper (to taste)

Sauce

Onion (1 small — finely chopped)

Dry white wine (100 ml)

White vinegar (1 tsp)

Pasteurized cream mixed with a pinch of sodium bicarbonate (100 ml)

Cold butter (100 g — diced)

Whole grain mustard (1-2 tbsp)

Salt and freshly ground pepper (to taste)

To make the sauce, place onions, wine and vinegar in a pan, bring to boil, lower heat and cook for about 5 minutes till almost dry. Add cream and simmer for 2-3 minutes.

Whisk in a little butter at a time, adding more butter only after the previous lot has been incorporated. Strain into a bowl and add mustard, salt and pepper.

To cook the fish, brush grill with oil and heat it. Place fish on grill, brush with oil, sprinkle salt and pepper.

Grill for 5-6 minutes on both sides.

To serve, arrange fish on a platter and serve the sauce

separately. Serve with a crisp salad, parsley potatoes and buttered French beans and baby corn.

Desserts FRUIT SALAD

(serves 6-8)
Apples (2)
Pears (2)
Peaches (4)
Lime juice (of 2 limes)
Sweet limes (2)
Bananas (2)
Kiwi fruit (2)
Green grapes (250 g — separated from stems)
Mint sprigs for decoration
Syrup
Granulated sugar (150 g)
Cinnamon stick (1)
Star anise (1)
White or red wine (200 ml)
Put all ingredients for syrup in a pan and cook slowly, stirring constantly till sugar dissolves. Bring to boil and remove from heat immediately. Cover pan and allow to cool.

Peel and cut apples, pears and peaches into small chunks and place in a bowl. Mix in lime juice. Peel sweet lime and remove pith and seeds



from segments. Catch any juice that falls into the bowl. Peel and slice bananas and kiwi fruit. Add to fruit bowl with grapes. Strain in cooled syrup and chill.

Spoon into individual bowls, decorate with mint sprigs and serve.

Quick Ideas

•Sprinkle chilled pineapple slices with white rum or kirsch.

•Sprinkle mixed citrus fruits with sugar and kirsch.

•Soak ½ kg seedless grapes in 3 tbsp whiskey, 1 tsp lime juice and 2 tbsp honey. Chill overnight. Spoon into coupe

continued on page 240

Cheron Caterers

*Wishing all a very
Happy New Year*

We excel in outdoor catering for parties, wedding receptions, navjotes and social gatherings. Call at least 24 hours in advance to place your order for home delivery service.

THE GOOD NEWS

In addition to fine cuisine and all the amenities that go with parties, wedding receptions, navjotes and social gatherings



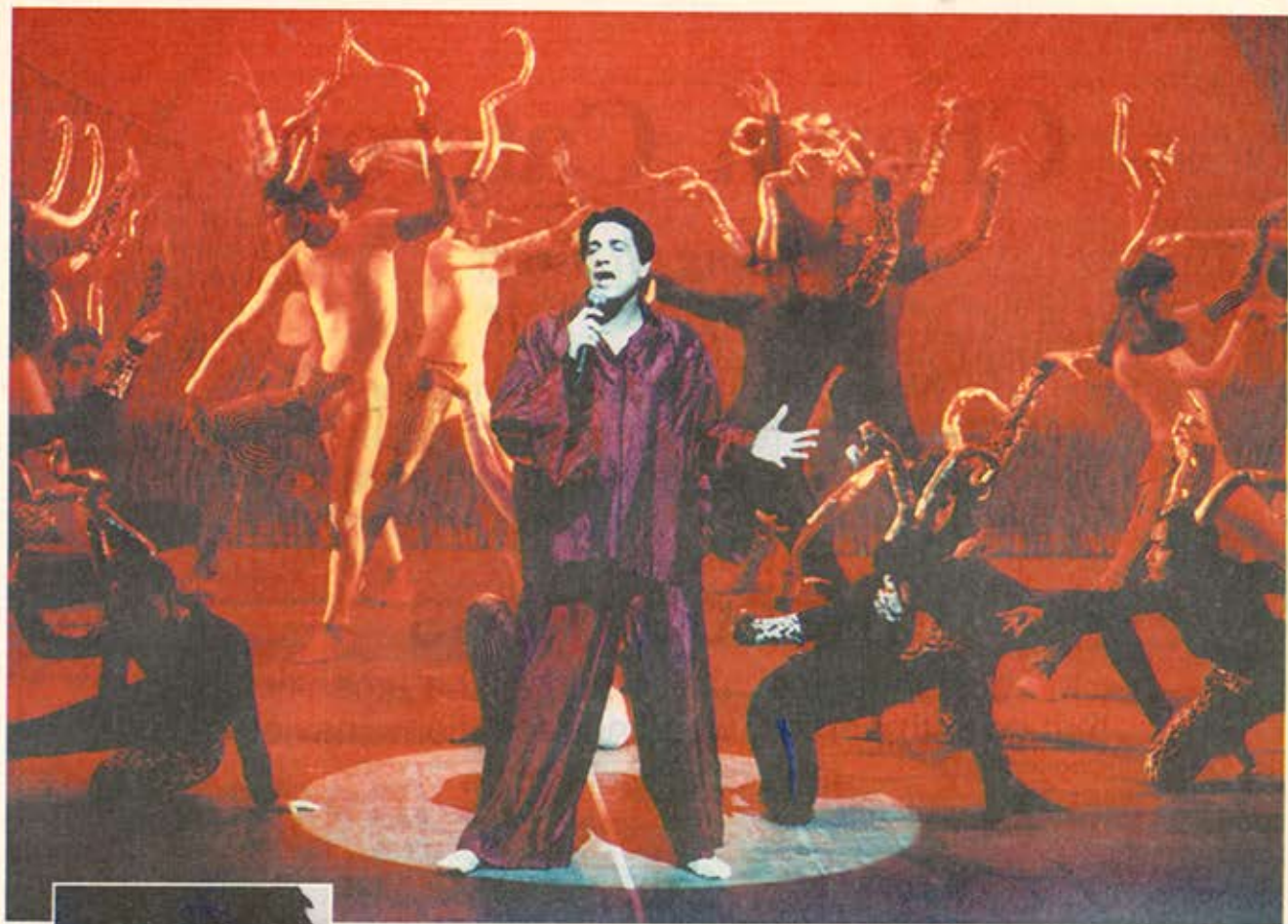
CHERON CATERERS

offers you the facility of an open air ground in
Bandra West (Off Hill Road), capacity 600 guests

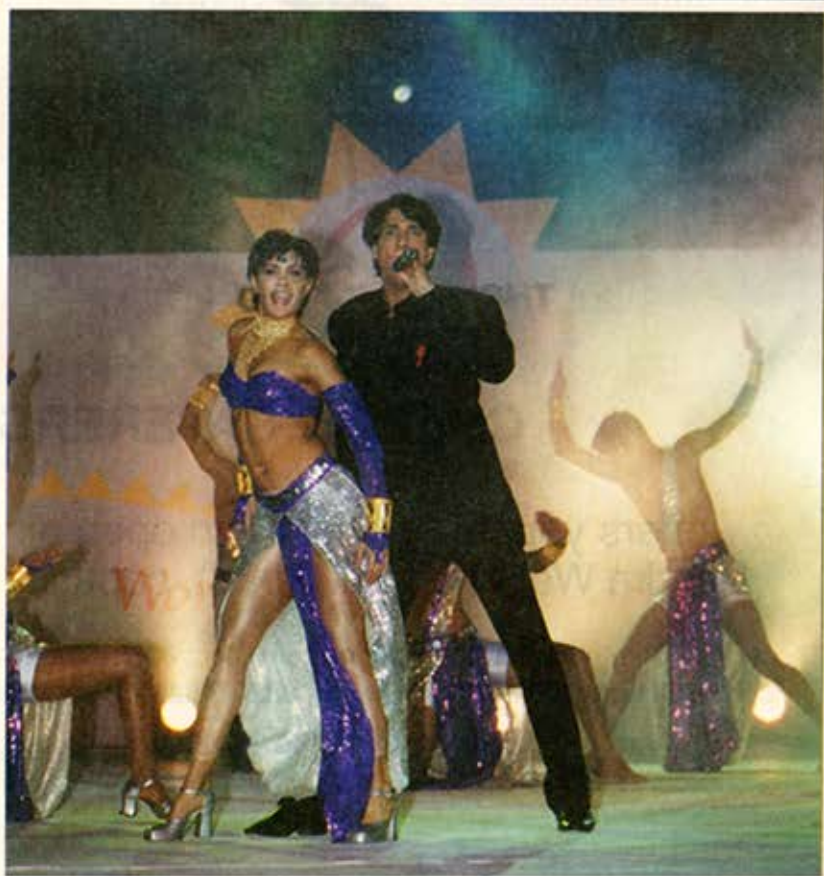
For further inquiries call us on: 6052113/6044869

Mobile: Sohrab: 9820023748, Alwyn: 9820148263 Pager no: Viraf: 9624-251248

Address: Shop 1/2: 237 Khaushe House,
20th Road, Dhanpada, Khar (West), Mumbai 400052



*Davar: blending
body, mind and spirit
in his spectacular
Yes! The spirit of
triumph (above) and
(alongside) live
performance of
Mohabbat Kar Le
with his dance
company*



The scale of the production was spectacular — a heady mix of striking sets, glittering costumes of cloth, paper, metals, coins, blades, the chiselled bodies of dancers in sinuous silhouette or snappy rhythm — all of it enveloped in a glitzy wrap of pulsating sound and light. In the center of it all was Shiamak Davar — high-energy performer, man of myriad moods, giving expression in song to the stirrings of his soul.

Yes! The spirit of triumph, a two-hour dance theater extravaganza directed and choreographed by Davar, portrayed the triumph of the human spirit over the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Sponsored by the *Bombay Times*, the shows at the Jamsheer Bhabha Opera House in April 2001 were dedicated to the survivors of the Gujarat earthquake. "Yes! The spirit of triumph is our humble contribution in rebuilding the lives of those affected by the earthquake..." stated Davar in his message in the souvenir.

"Dance is a blend of body, mind and spirit," says Davar, the initiator and the inspiration behind the Shiamak Davar Dance Company, the Shiamak Davar Junior Dance Company and the Shiamak Davar's Institute for the Performing Arts (SDIPA). Davar's creative calling encompasses singing, acting, songwriting and costume design, besides dance and direction. His first love, he informs *Parsiana*, has always been not dancing but singing and acting and "forget choreography completely!" As a youngster he won singing competitions, striking the right chords and crooning, with scant formal training in piano playing or vocals. "Oh, I'm no great pianist," he shrugs slender shoulders, "but I can sing and play a tune and I love it."

One of the pioneers of jazz dance in India in the '80s, at a time when people's reactions to this art form leaned towards astonishment and alarm rather than accolade, Davar's Institute lives up to its motto "Have feet. Will dance." SDIPA trains in jazz, hip hop, rock 'n' roll, Afro-jazz and Salsa styles the young and not-so-young, the fat and the thin, the handicapped, street children and even prostitutes' children, aiming to channelize their energies constructively. "I just want people to dance and I don't really care if they are Hindu, Parsi, Christian, Harijan or whatever," says the man who strongly believes in God, angels, the power of prayer, UFOs (unidentified flying ob-

Show man Shiamak

Shiamak Davar's creative calling encompasses singing, acting, dancing, choreography, teaching as well as songwriting

Hilla P. Guzder

jects which he claims to have seen in Mahabaleshwar and at Worli in Bombay), karma and communication with the spirit world.

His dance 'n fitness Institute brings enjoyment each year into the lives of thousands of children. SDIPA centers (mostly in school halls) stretch from South Bombay to the distant suburbs, Thana and even Vashi. Dancing to SDIPA's tune are students in Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and a new center in, as Davar puts it, "God's place" Canada. "Our Toronto classes are picking up," he remarks. A highlight of the Institute's activities are the six-week summer workshops, culminating in the Summer Funk shows. Every student "from four to 64," including the hearing impaired or physically impaired, are given the opportunity, says Davar, to perform on stage with sets, lights and costumes turning the evening into a theatrical whole even for the amateur performer, and a memory to treasure for doting dads and mums in the auditorium.

Tapping talent early, Davar selects promising students, taking them from beginner to senior status, absorbing them, if they so desire, as class assistants, instructors or even as trainees in his dance company.

Davar himself doffs his cap to theater legend Alyque Padamsee and singer/director Celia Lobo for launching him

on his stage career. His portrayal of Che Guevara in *Evita* in the '80s brought him into the spotlight, while *They're Playing Our Song* and *Cabaret* catapulted him into choreography. Davar has under his belt stints at an assortment of dance/theatrical schools abroad in jazz, modern, ballet, hip hop, Afro-funk — at the Pineapple Dance Centre, London Contemporary Dance Theatre, Summer School at the Guildford School of Acting and Dance in London; the Alvin Ailey American Dance Centre, Broadway Dance Centre, etc in New York. As a collegian (Sydenham College of Commerce, Bombay) he put on his dancing shoes to jive at competitions with his partners Rachel Reuben and Rukshana Todiwalla, invariably winning, he relates. For a while he took classes in ballet with teacher Tushna Dallas who, he says, had predicted great potential in him early on.

But it was in the earthy world of jazz, not the ethereal one of ballet, that Davar found his milieu. Beckoned by the Broadway melodies of Andrew Lloyd Webber, inspired by the nimble feet of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, Jerome Robbins and Bob Fosse, stirred by the soulful singing of Ella Fitzgerald and Nat King Cole, Davar took his plunge into the performing arts.

He set up his classes in jazz in 1985 with just eight students. Successes followed — he played the lead role of Danny in *Grease Lightning* in the same year, by 1989 he had formed his own dance company. At the Festival of France Davar was appointed assistant to French choreographer Gighi Caceaulieanu and Davar and troupe performed on the Chowpatty sands before President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The thrill of choreographing 1,000 children and 100 dancers for the opening and closing ceremonies of the Eighth Asian Track and Field Games in Delhi in '89, composing and performing the theme song in honor of Raju, the lion mascot of the Third National Games in Poona in '94, being joined on stage by chess grand master Anatoly Karpov at the World Chess Championships in Hyderabad, choreographing a fusion of Kathak and jazz for the Cinthol Ford Supermodel Contest, performing in Bombay at the opening of the Fifth World Zoroastrian Congress in 1990... these are among his assortment of landmark



Davar: dramatic dance; parents Puran and Nani; with sister Shirin and brother Darab (right); spiritual brothers Ratoos (left) and Vispi Bhavnagri

events. But evergreen in his mind, he says, is his singing with legendary pop artiste Sting at the 1998 Channel V Music Awards in Delhi. "We had just one day's rehearsal. It was most memorable," he reminisces.

Stepping into Bollywood tinseltown in 1997 with his choreography for Yash Chopra's *Dil To Pagal Hai*, Davar with his senior and junior dance companies swirled and twirled alongside Shahrukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit and Karisma Kapoor, winning in the bargain a slew of awards including the Screen Videocon Award and what Davar says he treasures most — the National Award for choreography that year, presented to him at the hands of President K. R. Narayanan. "I loved doing the sequences," he remarks. "It was a thoroughly professional setup, not at all filmy." Two years later came Subhash Ghai's *Taal*, with leading lady Aishwarya Rai whom Davar had coached earlier for the Miss World contest (as he had Diana Hayden and Yukta Mookhey), with the dance numbers being filmed at the Skydome in Toronto with Davar's troupe and foreign dancers.

Up his singing sleeve currently is an audio album in Hindi expected to be released in September/October. "I am totally adaptable," says the singer. "But because of my Parsi bawa Hindi I do

have to work a little harder!" Davar's earlier successes in Indipop were *Mohabbat Kar Le* and *Dil Chahe*. The music video for the latter won him an award at the Bollywood Music Awards in New York last year. His first foray into recording was in 1995 with the English album *Survive* whose songs dealt with issues like God and UFOs.

Behind the scenes, behind the songs and on stage at many a product launch and television commercial, Davar's *Yehi Hai Right Choice Baby...* aha proved to be the judges' choice for the Indian Academy of Advertising Film Arts Award in 1993. Putting *Body 2 Body*, *Soul 2 Soul* together, Davar hosted 32 episodes of a fitness and dance teleserial on Zee TV in '93-'94. AIDS and cancer patients and other social causes have



often reaped the benefit of his shows.

But behind the showmanship, the lithe bodies and precision dancing, the glamor of bringing Broadway to Bombay lie the hard realities — rehearsals that begin at 10 p.m. after instructors/dancers return from the various venues, the fatigue, the occasional injury — part and parcel of a dancer's life. Says longtime troupe member Shiraz D'Mello who also assists in costume design, publicity and administration: "Even as a collegian attending his six-week workshop, I could see the professionalism in him. Shiamak is a hard taskmaster, he wants commitment from his dancers, but he is very caring, affectionate and humane — a great guy if you deliver your work. Not only is working with him fulfilling, it's monetarily good too."

Adds colleague Renita-Ann Lobo who has been with Davar's establishment for 12 years: "I love it here. There is a lot of team spirit, each one is not for himself/her-



Encouraging the hearing impaired to perform

With best compliments of

JMM ASSOCIATES & JMM IMPEX

***Buying Agents of Readymade
Garments and Accessories for Importers
in Germany, Holland and U.S.A.**

Empire House, 3rd Floor
414, Senapati Bapat Marg
Lower Parel
Bombay 400013

Phone: 4604787 (3 lines), 4950308
Fax: (91) 22-4604790 Cable: ROOFTOP, BOMBAY

**E-mail: jmma@bom3.vsnl.net.in
jmm@bom4.vsnl.net.in**

self alone. Shiamak is really amazing."

But as important to him as the adrenaline pumping and the enjoyment, says Davar, are his spiritual inclinations. Strongly believing that whatever good or bad you do will come back to you, he declares: "Many years ago I read an article in *Savvy* magazine about Khorshed and Rumi Bhavnagri who communicated with their deceased sons Vispi and Ratoo (who died in a car crash in 1980 at a young age) through a process called automatic writing. I wanted to meet them in person but had no intention of writing to the magazine to ask for their address." Shortly thereafter Davar happened to be at a friend's house when the Bhavnagris came calling. And from that time began an association that has endured, despite Rumi's passing away in 1996. It was Vispi and Ratoo, he says, who guided him towards starting his own dance classes when he stood unsure at the crossroads many years ago. "I was a chorus dancer, nothing more. I en-



joyed being on stage, acting and dancing like a thousand others," wrote Davar in the Bhavnagris' book *The Laws of the Spirit World, Book Three*, reprinted in 2001. "Today I am one of the leading choreographers in my field... my classes are expanding continuously." While looking upon Khorshed as his "spiritual mother," Davar acknowledges that his own family has been wonderfully supportive, with mother Puran, father Nanabhoy (Nani), sister Shirin (now Vaghaiwalla and living in the US) and brother Darab encouraging him to follow the dictates of his heart despite the fact that the family-run Davar's College of Commerce is a well-established business. Not involved in the day-to-day running of the College, Shiamak says he takes fitness classes for the students. "I must have done something great in my last life to get the family I have," he muses. Darab runs the College's Third Counter subsequent to Nani's failing health. "My grandaunt Nadia Mary Homi

Wadia (Fearless Nadia or Nadia Hunterwali, as she was known on the silver screen) also encouraged me to go for the performing arts," he declares.

Adorning the doorstep of SDIPA's office at Tardeo are the chalk designs typical of any Parsi household. Dotted all around the rooms are divas. Photos of Zarathushtra stand alongside pictures of Lord Ganesh, Sai Baba, Jesus. "I pray the *Yatha* a lot very powerfully, not the *Ashem*. I go to the temple, the church, the fire-temple. No one religion is superior. God is within you, you don't have to go outside to find Him," he asserts. Rituals and ceremonies hold scant significance for him. "Death is not the end. It is a beginning. It is the spiritual body that has a physical body, not vice versa."

Six feet tall, slim, unmarried and nudging 40, Davar relates that as a child in school (Cathedral and John Connon) he was extremely mischievous, loved to have fun and still has child-like responses to a few of his favorite things — be it a movie, a step or a song. "But I can't believe I'm so boring now! People say I have achieved a lot; I think I have achieved a little. But I am a very hard worker and what I have enjoyed has been the ride, the working towards the accomplishment."

*With Best Wishes
From A*

A WELL-WISHER

Navroze Mubarak

"Oodva Chalo Jee"



**It's Khai Pee Ne Majaa
when you fly us.**

एअर इंडिया AIR-INDIA

Take off with Aapro Maharajah

Sporting siblings

At 11 and eight years respectively Raiyan and Aresh Banaji already have 32 medals to their credit and continue to create new state and meet records. Students of the Cathedral and John Connon School the brothers have been declared individual champions at all the athletic meets they have participated in, notes their bio data.

Raiyan holds the Maharashtra state record for 100 m and 200 m having broken records of the past 10 years. A standard seven student, Raiyan notes that school work and tuitions allow him to train only thrice a week from six to eight in the evening. Raiyan commenced serious training under sprinter and national champion Adille Sumariwala, founder of the Ace Athletic Club, and Homiyar Mistry in September 2000. He has won 22 gold medals so far and has been declared individual champion at all the seven meets he has participated in. He took part in the 100, 200, 300 and 4 x 100 m relay and long jump events in athletic meets which include the Bombay City District Amateur Athletic Association meet, the Milo-Ryan Maharashtra state level open athletic meet, the Mumbai School Sports Association inter-school athletic championships and the All Parsees Annual Athletic meet where he was declared the 'best boy athlete.' Raiyan's other hobbies include playing the guitar, football and gymnastics. Interested also in judo and training

under Cawas Billimoria he bagged a bronze medal in an inter school judo event. "I want to become an eye doctor like my dad," notes Raiyan, though he would like to continue his training in sports.

Winner of the 'Champion of Champions' Burhani Cup at the inter ICSE schools athletic championship, Aresh set a new meet record in the 50 m dash and equalled the Maharashtra state record. A student of standard three Aresh trains more often at the Priyadarshini Park at Napean Sea Road as his academic schedule is less hectic than his brother's. He has participated in the 50 m, 80 m, 100 m and 4 x 50 m relay events for which he won 10 gold medals in athletic meets including the Bombay YMCA Open State Level Athletic meet, the Mumbai School Sports Association inter-school athletic championships, the All Parsees Annual Athletic meet and the Dadar Parsee Colony Gymkhana Annual Athletic meet. He has won the individual championship in his age group at all the meets he has taken part in. Aresh is also a talented gymnast and judoka like Raiyan.

Says their mother Jenai, "They do pretty well in school. Personally I don't push them too much since an all round development of a child is necessary."

An enthusiasm for sports runs in the family. The boys' grandmother Piloo Soonawalla was a national level hockey player and cyclist who is still active with

the hockey association, grandfather Dr Rustom Soonawalla was a sprinter. Eye specialist Dr Burjor Banaji, their father, enjoys playing squash while Jenai was involved with athletics in her school days.

Simin J. Patel

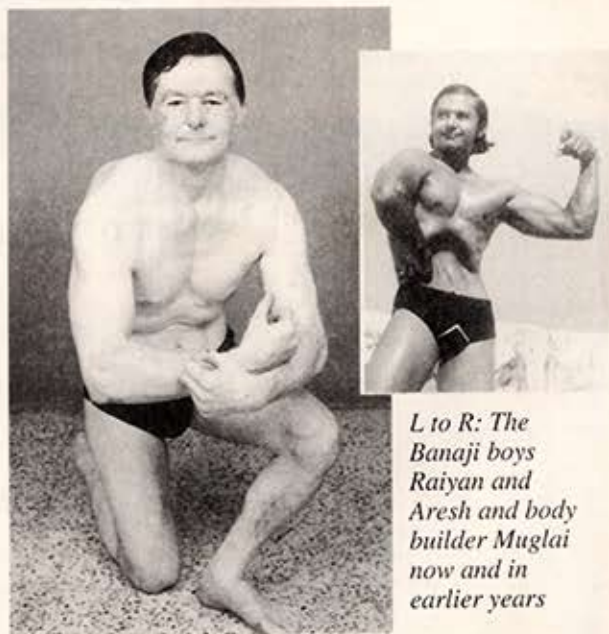
Muglai's muscle

He won the Gujarat State Body Builders' Association championship title of 'Mr Gujarat' in the Masters (over 50) age group in the 60 kg category in December 2000 in Ahmedabad. Before that, Jimmy P. Muglai had secured that distinction seven times, progressing in different categories to Masters over a 30-year period.

It was in 1970 that Muglai embarked upon body building, guided solely by the diet and program charts he read with avid interest in American body building magazines. "For posing and display of the body, regular timings for meals are most important," he says. "There is no shortcut in body building. Practice every day is a must."

Employed with the Central Bank of India as a stock inspector (scale I officer), Muglai did his BCom from Gujarat University in 1966. Born in Vesu in 1945, Muglai's early education was at the Sir J. J. High School in Surat where he was a boarder at the Parsi Orphanage, winning gold medals on two occasions, states a write-up forwarded to *Parsiana* by advocate Kersi J. Shethna of Ahmedabad.

continued on page 240



L to R: The Banaji boys Raiyan and Aresh and body builder Muglai now and in earlier years

Darashaw estd. 1926

Broking & Investment Banking

*7 decades of value added intermediation
in the Indian Capital Markets.*

Corporate Finance

Portfolio Management

Treasury & Cashflow
Management

Retirement Benefits
Consulting

IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUST

Darashaw & Company Pvt. Ltd.

• 12th Floor Regent Chambers, Nariman Point, Mumbai- 21

Tel : 022 2883136-37 Fax : 022 2040031

• Chennai : 044 8267910

• Bangalore : 080 5353653/4

• New Delhi: 011 4620395-99

• Vadodara : 0265 361412

• Pune : 020 6114201



"Mera Colgate with Calcium.
Stronger teeth every time I brush"

Mera Colgate has got even better. Its Super Shakti foam with Calcium fights germs better and makes my teeth stronger every time I brush. That's why Colgate will always be Mera Colgate.



Meri Big Super Shakti. Meri Big Suraksha.

Rediffusion-DY&R/Bom/CP/409k

Against all odds

Triumph over Discrimination: The Life Story of Farhang Mehr by Lylah M. Alphonse. Printed by Regal Press Canada, Ltd. Available from Union Press, Zoroastrian Association Building, 13, Homji Street, Bombay 400001. Pp: 246. Price: Rs 800 in India.

The only Zoroastrian ever to reach the level of Deputy Prime Minister in the modern world, the life of Dr Farhang Mehr is not merely a saga of high achievement but an object lesson in the graceful acceptance of life's vicissitudes.

As a member of Iran's minority Zoroastrian community Mehr reached undreamt of heights in his career and would have reached even higher but the laws of Iran stood against the appointment of a non-Muslim as a minister in any capacity. Indeed, titles had to be invented to enable the government to utilize Mehr's services because he was recognized as a talented man with the moral courage to speak up against highly placed corrupt officers and the fidelity to his faith that withstood the lures of office. Had he agreed to renounce Zoroastrianism in favor of Islam, Mehr's material prospects would have shone even brighter.

Even so Lylah Alphonse records how Mehr grew from an obscure position in the silo department under the ministry of finance to be the National Iranian Oil Company's (NIOC) representative on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and on OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), eventually becoming and remaining Iran's representative on OPEC's board of governors for six years in the 1960s when Iran's volatile political scene saw prime ministers and finance ministers come and go. Appointed director-general of petroleum and foreign affairs in the ministry of finance, reporting directly to the finance minister, his innate abilities were tapped in reforming tax law and training new employees for which purpose he

created a school of finance with a two-year course within the ministry. One of the finance ministers, fluent in French but uncertain in English, conducted discussions with English speaking economists and diplomats through Mehr, providing him hands-on experience in dealing with the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the IBRD (World Bank) and other international financial agencies. As director-general of economic affairs and later as technical vice minister for finance — an unprecedented title — Mehr controlled all activities of the finance ministry except personnel, administrative work and answering questions in Parliament. The next prime minister made him Moaven-e Kol (general deputy minister), a title created for Mehr alone.

The fact that Iran's law disbarred Mehr from becoming finance minister in his own right galled him. Throughout his career his aim had been to effect a change that would permit capable individuals from all minority communities to reach the top of the political heap on their own steam; not play second fiddle to lesser men because of their religious convictions. His frustration led him to tender his resignation more than once and the prime minister who had kept the title of finance minister to himself while Mehr performed the myriad tasks, could think of no better way of keeping Mehr by his side than to offer him the post of Deputy Prime Minister!

"It was a promotion for me. I enjoyed all the minister's privileges — salary, fringe benefits, etc — and attended cabinet meetings. But I was still not, technically, a minister," Mehr reminisced to Alphonse. He had been "presented with a decree, written in rich calligraphy on thick cream-colored parchment and adorned with the official seal of the Shah. It read 'With the confirmation of God, we, Mohammad Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, are appointing by this decree his

excellency Dr Farhang Mehr as Deputy Prime Minister in pursuance of the request of his excellency Amir Abbas Hoveyda, the Prime Minister of Iran.'"

A good man though Hoveyda was, his unwillingness to take a stand against corruption was a constant source of frustration to Mehr. After only four months in the job, Mehr opted out, availing of a long-standing invitation from the US to visit for two months as a guest of the government, learn about its various institutions and meet people he had long admired. It opened his eyes to the difference between a genuine democracy and a dictatorship, witnessing black ghetto poverty at first hand in the company of the editor of *Ebony* magazine, his government escort dismissed for the occasion!

In the meantime the Iranian Prime Minister and new finance minister had chalked up a new job for Mehr — as president and managing director of the state-owned Iran Insurance Company (IIC), the largest insurance provider in Iran. It was "a challenge... a new experience." Mehr was hooked.

It was a company without credibility — corrupt, disorganized and in the red. Mehr created a program for putting his house in order. "Through experience I had found out that in financial institutions, systemization and accountability are extremely important. There must be control. And then all the activities of the organization should be open, transparent, so that everybody would see that the work is done properly, with honesty," Mehr told Alphonse. He talked, negotiated and worked until he had regained the confidence of the reinsurers in Switzerland, Germany and London. Among the objectives on his agenda was the provision of a regulatory agency to control the industry, the introduction of compulsory third-party insurance for automobiles, the promotion of life insurance and the establishment of a reinsurance agency in collaboration with Turkey and Pakistan. To create the necessary skills and impart knowledge two private schools were established, first with English as the medium of instruc-

Triumph over Discrimination



The Life Story of Farhang Mehr

By Lylah M. Alphonse

tion with three foreign experts hired to establish the curriculum and later with its Farsi equivalent.

"In 1966, the Parsi head of the Indian Reinsurance Company (IRC) — a company within the Tata conglomerate of India — visited Mehr and asked that the IIC cede a percentage of their reinsurance contracts to his company. Mehr agreed, motivated by his respect for J. R. D. Tata, a Parsi whom Mehr had met and entertained in his home during Tata's visit to Iran. Collaboration between

Iranian Zoroastrians and the Parsis of India had always been among Mehr's major goals, and he instantly agreed to do business with the Tatas. He instructed his colleagues to give a share of their reinsurance portfolios to the IRC, and each year, Mehr says, the share was increased," chronicles Alphonse.

While involved with the IIC the Shah asked Mehr to oversee the construction of a hotel in Esfahan which the king wanted complete in time for his corona-



In conference with the Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi (right)

tion in 1966. The project with cost overruns had been lying incomplete and untouched for seven years. As against its earlier director who had opted for French labor, Mehr chose to use Iranian artisans, Iranian concepts, motifs and decor. He hired an Iranian architect trained in Paris' School of Fine Arts. The restaurant's chairs were designed on the model of King Darius' chair at Persepolis; frescoes were painted in the manner of palaces and mosques of the Safavid and Qajar periods. Named the Shah Abbas Hotel in memory of the 16th century Safavid king who had restored the territorial integrity of Iran, the property welcomed the King and Queen of Thailand accompanied by the Shah and Queen Farah three months ahead of the coronation. But, more importantly, it created a team of Iranian craftsmen whose self-assurance led them to other prestigious projects internationally.

Mehr was five years into the IIC

when he was handpicked by a former Prime Minister for the post of chancellor of Pahlavi University at Shiraz — an institution very close to the Shah's heart. It was a corrupt, run-down institution he inherited, its students unruly, its faculty demoralized, as narrates Alphonse. This was in 1971 and positions were hardening with the students resenting the Shah's policies of enforced westernization. Islamic fundamentalism was gaining ground but the government's response was the increasing use of its intelligence service, the hated SAVAK.

Mehr refused to allow SAVAK free play at Shiraz University, preferring to take the rational approach of dialog with the students and staff. The University's campus had been host to international dignitaries attending the 2500th anniversary celebrations of Cyrus the Great at Persepolis and Pasargadae. Originally an Israeli idea, the Shah had been permitted by the Jews to mastermind the celebrations because Cyrus had been a Persian. But the open-ended drain on Iranian resources that the spectacle eventually became appalled rational Iranians including Mehr and buttressed the Shah's burgeoning mass of critics, Pahlavi University students among them. Within weeks of the University reopening three

With Best Compliments From

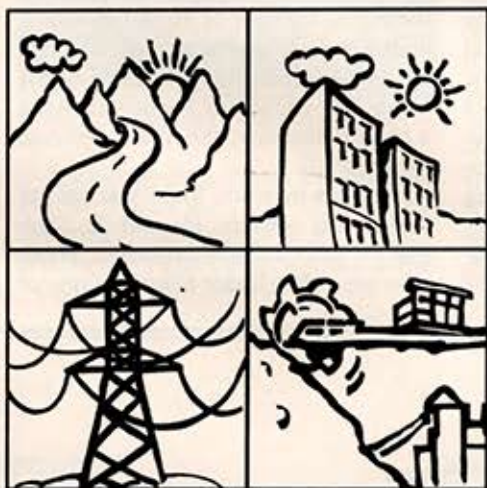
R. NOWROJEE and Company

**Specialised in
MICR Cheques, Public Issue
and Multicoloured Offset Printing**

Pallonji Compound, Dadoji Konddev Cross Marg,
Victoria Garden, Bombay 400027

Tel: 3745863, 3722550, 3745825 Fax: 3704930

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 : (020) 7474461, Fax: (020) 7471150



Chancellor Mehr (center) with faculty members at Pahlavi University

students were blown to bits in a dormitory on the campus. A bomb they were making detonated accidentally. They were among those whose dismissal SAVAK had demanded even before the term began. All of Mehr's Spenta Mainyu and goodwill were called into play, placating the body of striking students, staving off SAVAK and restoring order without abrogating authority.

An example of Mehr's rational approach is documented by Alphonse: "By

proposal empowering guards to forcibly remove the chadors and scarves of female students before they entered the campus.

"The Shah and Queen Farah chaired the Royal Council of High Education, and the report from the minister was said to have originated in a meeting of the Council of University Presidents. After a short discussion, the Shah approved the proposal.

"At this juncture, Mehr was able to register his concern. He told the Shah that the proposal was too harsh. 'Those who wear the chador belong to one of

1977, the Islamic Revolution was already starting, albeit slowly. Female students began wearing the chador and scarves as a sign of resistance against the monarchy. The minister of higher education submitted to the Royal Council of High Education a

three groups,' Mehr explained. 'First, there are those who come from low-income households, who are able to attend college only through the free education system. They cover their poverty with the chador; to rip it from them would alienate them.

"Second, the daughters of clerics, who constitute a small minority, wear them, and it would not be wise to hurt their religious sensitivities,' he continued. 'And thirdly, the politically minded students who form a majority would take advantage of any excuse to go on strike or to instigate violence and cause damage to University property.' In view of this, Mehr said, the proposal would fail in keeping peace.

"Mehr's reasoning made sense to the Shah who asked him why he had not offered his opinion during the meeting of the Council. Mehr replied that he had not been invited to the meeting."

As he improved teaching standards and ensured fairness to students and staff, the Pahlavi University's reputation continued to rise. Alphonse chronicles Mehr's labors and policies that ensured that it was the only university in Iran where the army had not been called in by the time the Shah left the country.

*"Whom shalt Thou send, O Mazda, to protect
Us all, when Untruth threatens us with hate,
Other than Thine own Fire and Thy Love?"*

*When both these are roused within our hearts,
Asa shall be fulfilled, O Ahura; —
May my Soul realize this Sacred Truth."*

Translation by I. J. Taraporewala of Yasna 46.7
of Ustavaiti Gatha, 4.7



Lightning speed Low maintenance Smooth handling



It's the Union Miles Vehicle Loan we are talking about.

Quick processing • Low charges • Simple procedures

Eligibility : Any Union Bank account holder above 18 years of age, with net take-home income of Rs. 2,500/- (for two-wheeler loan) and Rs. 5,000/- (for four-wheeler loan) after deduction of loan installment. Finance available on any new two / four wheeler vehicle. Second hand vehicles upto 3 years old also eligible.
Amount : Upto 3 times the net income / annual salary. **Support :** Proof of income and one guarantor only.
Repayment : 36-60 equated monthly. **Interest :** 14.5% p.a. with 1% discount for group borrowers.
Processing : Quick and hassle free.

Over 23,000 customers to date.

For further details contact your nearest Union Bank of India branch.



यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Good people to bank with

Website : <http://www.unionbankofindia.com>



Mehr's parents, Mehraban and Paridokht, as newlyweds

By then it was also time to move into obscurity. The Islamic fundamentalists and their jurors displayed no fairness. Those who had held high positions under the Shah were marked men. Once identified, they were shot.

Mehr moved with his family to the relative anonymity of Tehran. Once he began to be recognized there he had to remain in hiding. A fainting fit led to hospitalization where Mehr acquired a new identity as Haji Mohammed Faqihy.

Eventually he had to be smuggled out via Turkey. His family was only able to join him in the freedom of North America a year later where he began to head Boston University's School of International Relations, creating courses born of his own experiences.

'A political animal'

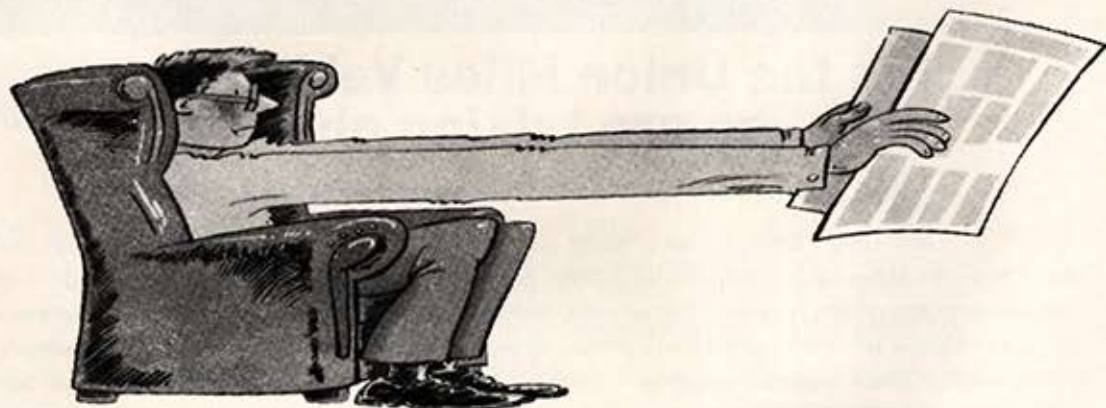
Bowing to the belief of his father Mehraban

Mehr (a Kermanian waif who pursued education at night in Tehran and rose to become an accountant in the Majlis) that a non-Muslim could only hope to do well in the medical or engineering professions, whereas the judiciary was barred to them as also any significant position in government, Mehr, the second of four siblings, had acquired an engineering degree concurrently with a basic degree in law to which he was naturally attracted. "A political animal," as he describes himself, his principled and discreet approach to politics even as an undergraduate helped lighten the

burden of imprisonment on a friend. (The good deed, done for its own sake, was reciprocated with an elaborate arrangement when, decades later, Mehr had no option but to flee Iran after the Islamic Revolution.) After a few years' work Mehr had gone on to acquire an MSc in economics from the London School of Economics and a doctorate in law from the University of Southampton, qualifications that secured his initial posting in the NIOC.

Early forays into the Anjuman Zartoshtian Tehran, then dominated by conservatives like Arbab Rustam Guiv, had been frustrating for younger Zarathushtis like Mehr and Farhangis Shahrokh who sought to create their niche in general society rather than remain in the seclusion of a minority community. Though elected more than once, his election was scotched by the 'elders' on whimsical grounds until some years later. However, during the First World Zoroastrian Congress in 1960 Mehr was its secretary. Eventually he was president of the Anjuman for 12 years and had direct links with the Parsis of India and Pakistan. Along with the Indian ambassador, Air Marshal Aspi Engineer, he petitioned the Shah to consider

Difficulties in reading?



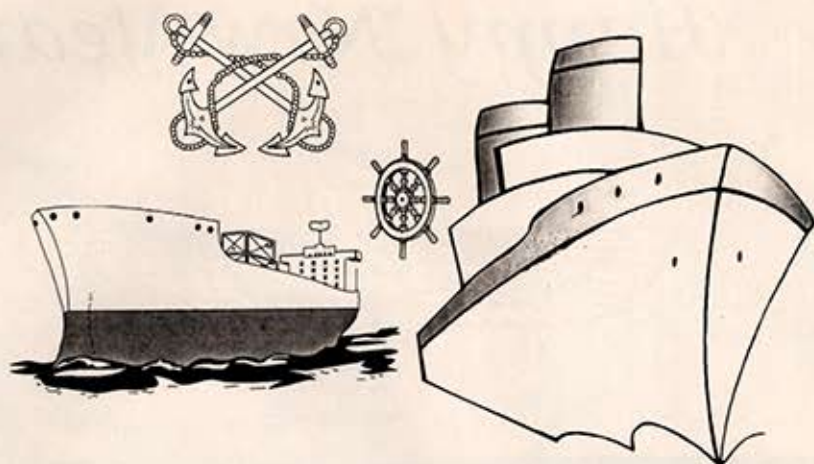
*It's time you saw a professional optician.
It's time you came to Baliwalla & Homi.
One of the finest optometrists and contact lens practitioners*



Baliwalla & Homi
Private Limited

OPTOMETRISTS

Flora Fountain: 365, Dr. D.N. Road, Bombay 400 001 Tel: 287 4916, 287 1762 • Dhobi Talao: 614, J.S. Seth Marg, Bombay 400 002 Tel: 201 4906
Fax: (022) 206 4363 • Parel: J. Merwanji Street, Parel, Bombay 400 012 Tel: 412 6051



WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

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
Tel: 2610161 (10 lines) Fax: 91-22-2615725 Cable: "MACKINTOSH"
E-Mail: jmc@jamesmackintosh.com

Offices at:

Calcutta Tel: 033-2170115, Delhi Tel: 011-6226735
Ludhiana Tel: 0161-672150, Chennai Tel: 044-8529336
Kandla Tel: 02836-70793, Jamnagar Tel: 0288-550801
Pipavav Tel: 02794-86430

*Wishing all Parsis a very
Happy New Year*



Leopold Cafe

A Century Old Cafe

Since 1871

Colaba Causeway, Mumbai 400039
Tel: 2873362, 2020131 Fax: 91-22-2852037



With wife Parichehr in Iran

hiring skilled unemployed Parsis to supplement the Iranian workforce in Iran's booming economy. The Shah agreed and his minister of economy, a man who genuinely admired Zoroastrians, extended a special offer: "Since the Parsis originally came from Persia, they could have the status of ancient Iranians and avoid the complications that foreigners working in Iran often encountered. Instead of a lengthy wait for work permits and visas, Parsis would have their work permits granted immediately once the request was submitted by the Parsi applicant and the prospective Iranian employer," notes Alphonse. Mehr in Iran and the late Peshotan Nargolwala of Tata Chemicals in Bombay became the respective liaison men for the scheme

that enabled nearly 2,000 Parsis to be employed in Iran, recounts Alphonse.

It was during his first year at the IIC that the 39-year-old bachelor, hitherto completely involved with his work and his ideals, had begun to wonder where he was headed on a personal level. It occurred to him that his life was empty. Almost as if on cue, he met the lovely Parichehr Naderi, visiting her parents after qualifying as a nurse and midwife in England. They met, they danced, he proposed, they married and left for Bombay where Mehr was scheduled to visit the IRC. It all happened so fast, there was no time for a change of passports or to apprise the hosts. The initial reaction was that Mehr was travelling with his secretary, but matters were soon sorted out and Mehr and his wife enjoyed a honeymoon that biased them forever in favor of India.

The children now grown — Mehrdad, a pediatrician, Mehran, a fashion designer, Mitra, a lawyer practising in New York — Mehr and Parichehr have accepted their quiet domesticity in Boston, shorn of the many gracious adornments of their earlier homes in Shiraz and Tehran. When Mehr at-

tended the Sixth World Zoroastrian Congress at Tehran as a special invitee, the Congress to a man gave him a standing ovation, including the Islamic dignitaries. But his impounded estates and possessions have not been restored to him. Despite that, there is no bitterness in his approach. The last chapter of the book documents his hopes, dreams and aspirations:

"A thriving Zoroastrian community and a prosperous Iran were my twin dreams. These dreams were constantly in my thoughts, and their realization is my life's goal... I dream of the preservation of Zarathushtra's teachings, which make up the core of Zoroastrianism, and of the preservation of the meaning behind our rituals and customs... I dream of the formation of a large and flourishing Zoroastrian community... The acceptance of people born to non-Zarathushti parents is not a threat to the survival of the religion. The tradition of non-acceptance is a threat to our very existence... Modern life begets change, and change begets progress. Modernity, economic independence, the disappearance of the family influence, exposure to new ideas and social values and yes, even intermarriage with people outside of the Zoroastrian community seems

POLYMER PRINTING INKS

Manufacturer of all types of Printing Inks

We specialise in

Metallic Inks:

Offset, Gravure and Flexo, Gold and Silver Inks

Gravure:

Alluminium Foil Inks

Heat Seal Medium for PP, PVC and PS

Foil Wash, etc.

Agents/Stockist for: Vartec Speciality Coatings, UK.

For Water Base Coatings and UV Coatings

Factory: 633/635, G.I.D.C., Vapi 396195, Gujarat, India.

Telephone (0260) 32581, 426707, Fax: 430741

Office: 24, Laxmi Woolen Mill Compound, Shakti Mill Lane, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400011

Phone: (022) 4922419 Telefax: (022) 4939637 E-mail: polyinks@vsnl.com

unavoidable. Abhorring these things will not bring back the old ways with which many of us are most comfortable. Disapproval of these behaviors will not make them stop. We must embrace our youth and so, embrace change, and move forward with them into the future... The *Gathas*, once regarded as a compendium of ethical rules, can once again be a beacon of light in a vast sea of moral darkness and decline, providing guidance and answers to modern ethical dilemmas. It is my dream that Zarathushtis so excel in their chosen professions that they once again influence the global community, entering into the uppermost echelons of honor and achievement in society as a whole."

Alphonse, assistant editor of national news at *The Boston Globe*, has done a fine job of documenting priceless oral history. Sponsored as a legacy project of the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress by Rumi Sethna, chairman of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) and his wife Hilda — Mehr's experi-



Alphonse:
documenting
oral history

ence as a refugee has made him a steadfast votary of the creation of a representative world body of Zoroastrians under the WZO — the 246 pages of text capture the turbulence of Iranian politics. What it might have benefitted from are a couple of charts documenting the chronology of the often confusing governmental changes under the Shah and of Mehr's own achievements, datewise. While the paper and print make for clear, easy perusal, more stringent proof-reading would have eliminated the many gaffes that have crept into the body of the work.

Being a first person account by the main protagonist, Mehr does not emerge as a fully rounded personality. His likes and dislikes, despairs and heartaches, individual quirks and eccentricities have been forgotten in the rapid chronicling of events. Perhaps, at a later date, Alphonse will revisit her work and paint in the greys behind the gold of Mehr's many achievements. As a Zarathushti and a human being he is worthy of our love, apart from our admiration.

ARNAVAZ S. MAMA

"Do something for India"

India Calling: The Memories of Cornelia Sorabji, India's First Woman Barrister by

Cornelia Sorabji. Edited by Chandani Lokujé and published in 2001 by Oxford University Press, YMCA Library Building, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi 110001. Pp: xxxvi+262. Price: Rs 495.

If the facts of her life are the stuff exotic novels are made of, what is remarkable about her book is that Cornelia Sorabji's erudite personality keeps in step with the sheer romance of her story. She never ceases to qualify herself for what she sets out to do, and the 211 pages of her memoirs relate, in lucid and animated prose, her resolute accomplishments in India at the end of the 19th century, and well into the 20th.

Her story begins early. She is only eight years old (in 1874), when a troubled Kathiawar Thakurani, a widow in full purdah, visits her mother. The tragic rani is the victim of a mercilessly callous patriarchy, an inequitable legal system and her own ignorance. The child is stirred to a poignant recognition of the widow's helplessness; and prompted by a mother who believed that all her progeny — five surviving daughters and a son — should "do something for India," Cornelia promises herself a career in law. Surely this would empower her to improve the legal and personal status of

MAZDA EXPORTS

Distributors of Chemicals

Soda Ash, Sodium Bicarbonate, Bromides,
Salts and Caustic Soda Lye

Office: 404, Apeejay House, 4th Floor
130 Bombay Samachar Marg, Mumbai 400023
Telephone: 2834065, 2833780, 2833941, 2833891
Fax: 2855818/2043874



UNICON
INTERNATIONAL

Represented in India by

P & I SERVICES OF INDIA

SURVEYORS & MARINE CONSULTANTS

Malhotra House, 4th Floor, Opp GPO, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Telephone: 2618562/2653414 Fax: 2693548

E-mail: unibom@vsnl.net.in

1. CONSULTANTS ON MARINE MATTERS
AND SURVEYS.
2. FOR ALL PROBLEMS RELATED TO MARINE
CONTAINERS AND CARGO.
 - DRY VANS • SPECIALS • REEFER'S • TANKS.
4. ONLINE FACTORY INSPECTION FOR
CONTAINER NEW BUILDING.
5. CONTAINER FLEET M&R MANAGEMENT.

Branches at

• New Delhi • Calcutta • Chennai • Tuticorin • Cochin

the *purdahnashins*, the Hindu women living out their lives behind purdah in their isolated inner quarters or *zenanas*.

Gender discrimination

In the pursuit of her career, Cornelia encountered not just disguised prejudice — as women do in all professions even today — but undiluted opposition. And it was in spite of gender discrimination constantly hindering her progress that she attained extraordinary firsts in education: the first woman to graduate from the Bombay University; the first to pass the Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) from Oxford University; and, later, the first woman barrister of India (admission to the British Bar, a qualification essential for practising law in India, was denied to women till 1922). But well before this Cornelia had begun her work of representing, under *sanads* (deeds of appointment), Hindu *purdahnashins* who were wards of the British government.

The work gave her immense satisfaction. It allowed her to roam the country

to her heart's content and in *India Calling* she describes the Indian scene vividly and at times with wry humor. An unbreakable bond was forged between her and her clients as she fought to liberate them from the clutches of a brutal patriarchy, a corrupt and manipulative priesthood, and the *zenana* ladies' own politics and rigid attitudes bred by years of virtual imprisonment behind four walls.

Indeed, what chance did they have in a society that denied them literacy? The Hindu girl's education was further restricted as child marriage gained approval. The early indoctrination that her future lay in her role as *pativrata* (worshipful wife) gave rise to popular beliefs that learned women were immoral and that a literate woman was condemned to premature widowhood. The ideal wife voluntarily surrendered herself to her husband, equating him with God, however repulsive he was as a human being. The first girls' schools opened by Christian missionaries (among the pioneers of female educa-

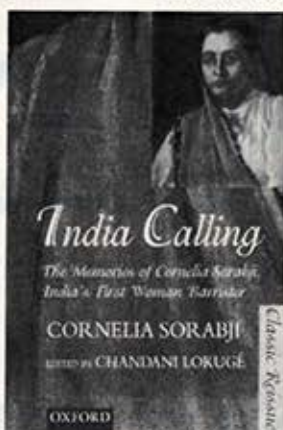
tion in India) were reviled by orthodox Hindu males who feared that by the introduction of Western concepts like individualism and freedom of choice, their cosy haven of *pativrata dharma* was doomed.

This, then, was the condition of her protégés when, years later, as India's first woman barrister Cornelia found her niche as *zenana* official to the Court of Wards in Bengal.

Cultural influences

Three streams of cultural influences shaped Cornelia Sorabji's identity — the Parsi, the Indian and the British. The fifth daughter of a Zoroastrian Parsi converted to Christianity, Cornelia and her siblings were "brought up English," but at the same time they were familiar with their Parsi ancestry and responded positively to the racial pluralism and religious contrasts that were their Indian heritage.

But there is no mistaking the fact that Cornelia developed an unreserved admiration for the British and the Empire, and was dedicated to the colonialist view that India *needed* the protection and intervention of the British government; and she justified, in these terms, the Raj's and her own "civilizing" mission



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

INNOVATIVE ELEVATORING AND CAR PARKING SYSTEMS



INTELLIGENT AUTOMATIC
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING



MECHANICAL CAR PARKING



PREMIUM INCLINED LIFTS



CAR ELEVATOR



LIBERTY STAIR LIFT



CAPSULE ELEVATOR

ZAINA ELECTRIC & MECHANIC WORKS PVT. LTD.

Prospect Chambers Annexe
2nd Floor, Office No. 28.
Dr. D.N. Road, Fort,
Mumbai-400 001.
Phones: 2041830/2047460.

**CON
CORD**
ELEVATOR



PASSENGER ELEVATOR

Appeal for donations

MANCHERJI JOSHI MEMORIAL EDUCATION FUND

C/o Mrs Zareen J. Engineer
623, Marker Mansion
Lady Jehangir Road
Parsi Colony
Dadar, Mumbai 400014

Ever since its Establishment in 1969 our fund has been making steady progress every year. Last year the educational aid disbursed was Rs 5,99,250/- to 744 poor and deserving boys and girls of the Parsi Community from Mumbai, Surat, Navsari, Pune and other parts of India.

Our Establishment expenses are kept to the bare minimum of Rs 3,135/- for inevitable expenses, which works out to 0.52% of our total income of Rs 6,02,385/-.

Recently there has been a downward trend in the interest rates, hence our interest from investments declined drastically.

We firmly believe that educating our young people is the most essential factor in the progress of our community. We therefore count upon our generous donors to give us substantial donations that will enable us to grant maximum amount of Educational

Aid to poor and deserving students to meet the ever increasing cost of education.

Kindly draw your cheques in favor of Mancherji Joshi Memorial Education Fund and forward them to the above address.

All donations will be promptly acknowledged.

Mrs Zareen J. Engineer
Granddaughter of the
Late Mancherji Joshi
Founder of Parsi Colony
Dadar

Ms Katy R. Bharucha
Barrister-at-Law

Trustees and
Jt. Hon. Secretaries

for the Indian woman.

Certainly, her *zenana* stories lend some credence to this viewpoint. The ignorance of the secluded royal ladies was abysmal — one little Thakurani who had never seen growing things (never been allowed out in the garden by her mother-in-law), thought "flowers were picked up off the ground like stones!" (To her Cornelia gifted a potted rose plant.) The priests fattened on the widows' gullibility, male relatives plotted to cheat them out of their annuities — and Cornelia even cites the case of a grandson who, to get his hands on his grandmother's estate, schemed her death by sending her a poisoned garment to wear — à la the Borgias. And the great-hearted lady, who escaped this fate thanks to the vigilance of her maid, forgave the monster! Writes Cornelia: "...and the old saint who had learnt — how had she learnt? — that love is never irritated, never resentful," actually willed the major part of her income to the abominable grandson's heir!

Cornelia's memoirs are peppered with such tales and case histories, and examples of her own knight-errantry for oppressed women. But what is strange, on reflection, is that she appears to have never examined certain features of the 'beneficent' British rule: why, for instance, millions of illiterate natives from birth to death never for a day ceased to feel the pangs of hunger. She never did question the legitimacy of the government's efficient exploitation of salt, liquor, opium; of the revenue machine that oppressed the farmer and the peasant; of the crushing load on indigenous industries by the dumping of cheap foreign goods on the market; of the divide and rule policy that succeeded in giving the country a communal problem... This brilliant woman never stopped to consider that the roads and railways, law and order, social reforms — the 'good' the British were doing in India was incidental, to make the country more profitable for British rapacity.

This set of blinkers she wore all her life, but it did not take anything away from the service Cornelia rendered her country. Comments her nephew Richard in his *Afterword* at the end of the memoirs that though she failed "to recognize the greatness of Gandhi and of the Congress movement, her approach to welfare has seemed to me still very relevant to modern India."

continued on page 240

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 60 years.

Only at

Grant Rd; tel 3823980
Peddar Rd; tel 3861073
Girgaum Rd; tel 3823564

BUILDTECHTM INDIA

Engineers & Contractors

FOR

RESTORATION RENOVATION

REHABILITATION WATERPROOFING

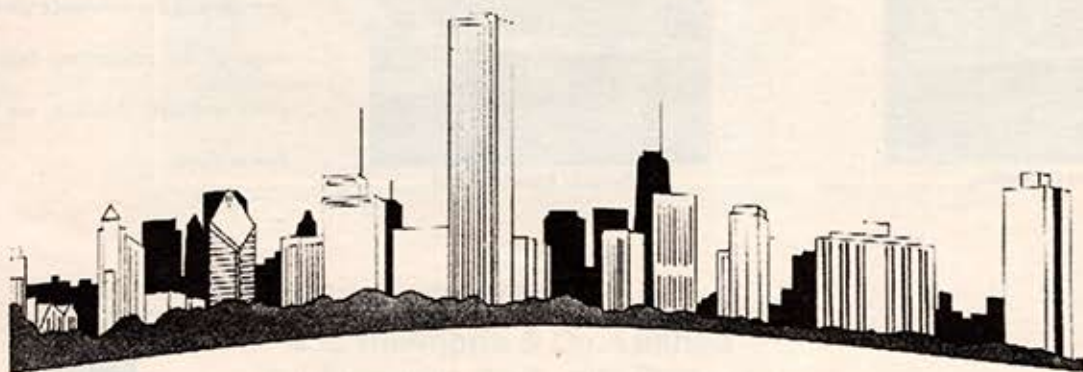
EPOXY & POLYMER TREATMENTS

GUNITING GROUTING PLASTERING

PAINTING AND PLUMBING

OF

MULTISTORIED BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES



27 Kailas Darshan 7th Floor Kennedy Bridge Nana Chowk Mumbai 400 007
Tel : 3890912 389 0913 389 3364 Telefax : 389 3364



*A story of
lasting structures,
and
more importantly,
lasting relationships.*



SmithKline Beecham Corporate Office



The Volvo factory



The Coca Cola factory



Technopolis Knowledge Park

Some of Corporate India's most dynamic names have relied on Shapoorji Pallonji to house their ambitions. Names like Coke, HongKong Bank, IL & FS, Mahindra & Mahindra, SmithKline Beecham, Telco and Tisco. If these corporates came to SP, it wasn't merely on the strength of our 135 year old reputation. It wasn't also for the fact that we were the only construction major to receive an ISO 9002 certification for all our processes. And nor was it for the fact that we have the widest range of expertise in construction. From plants and factories, to banks, buildings, hotels and schools. No, these names came to us for the total quality systems we employ, the value addition we provide and the difference we make at every stage of the interaction. Proving that with every enduring structure, we build a bond that endures.



SHAPOORJI PALLONJI & CO. LTD.

S.P. Centre, 41/44, Minoo Desai Marg,
Colaba, Bombay 400 005, India.
Tel : 91-22-287 1040. Fax : 91-22-202 4119.
E-mail : bd@shapoorji.com
Website : www.shapoorji.com

The Chinese Connection

Guangzhou and the overseas civilization by Deyan Guo. Published in Chinese in 1997 by the Department of History, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, Sun Yat Sang University Press, China.

Guangzhou and the overseas civilization contains eight chapters on the history of foreign merchants on the shores of China during the Tong, Sung, Ming and the Ching dynasties. In the eighth chapter (pp 356-412), the author deals with the Parsi merchants at the port of Guangzhou, which is the actual Mandarin phonetic translation of Canton, the capital of the province of Guangdong. Canton was the name given by the British to that city. Chapter eight gives us not only an insight into the trading relations Parsis had with the Chinese since 1756 and the impact they made on the economy of the country, but it also informs us that the Parsis made up one-third of the foreign merchants in Canton.

Heerjee J. Readymoney was the first Parsi merchant to come to China. Then between the end of the 18th century and the middle of the 19th century a significant number of Parsi merchants appeared at the port of Canton. Their flourishing trade with China gave a push to the economic development of the Parsi community in western India as well.

The religion of Zarathushtra was introduced to China around the sixth century CE. The author does not elaborate on this further. There were no written records of religious activities until several hundred years later, in the Ching dynasty, when a group of Parsi merchants appeared at the port of Canton to establish trade.

The author writes that the Tower of Silence is the trademark of the footprints the Parsis left behind in all parts of the world and mentions that there is a cemetery in Canton. It is not very clear whether he is using the term Tower of

Silence and cemetery interchangeably. He continues to mention that the "foreign cult" followers entering China many centuries ago in the Tong dynasty probably shared the same ancestors as those entering in the Ching dynasty, because of similarities of the burial customs.



Parsi merchants (clockwise from top left): Jejeebhoy, P. Cama, K. Cama and H. Readymoney. Photos courtesy: Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil

There were documents about their history of establishing their burial ground and renting the cemetery from the local Chinese. There were cemeteries in Canton and Macau, as well as a 'Parsi church' in Shanghai and Hongkong.

At this time the Parsis in India had gained the trust of The East India Company (EIC) and had helped them build warships. In return the EIC sent them to China as their representatives. Through this connection they familiarized themselves both with the British style of business and the Chinese market. When

the EIC encountered cash flow difficulty, the individual merchant was permitted to use his own cargo ship to send the merchants to China.

The author then gives us glimpses of Parsi families settled in Canton. Mention has already been made of Readymoney, one of the three most important founders of the Readymoney clan which traded with the Chinese for over 100 years. His nephew Sorabji became rich and famous. He made such enormous profits from trade with the Chinese that he was able to supply two free meals daily to several thousand refugees from Gujarat.

Cama is another name associated with trade in China. Till the end of the 19th century there were a number of the famous Cama clan merchants active in China e.g. Mancherji Framji, Pestonji Hormusji, Kharshedji Nasarwanji and Mancherji Hormusji. They became the pride of Bombay as well, because of their business success in China and because of their sincere, honest nature.

Lovji Nasarwanji Wadia started the first shipbuilding factory in Bombay for the EIC and this industry stayed within the family. His sons built 29 ships for the Company and his grandson Jamshedji Bamanji gained his famous silver trophy from the British naval minister J. Johnstone after building the warship *Minden*. His other grandson Pestonji Bamanji was involved in large-scale trade with China and owned several cargo ships.

Dadabhai Nasarwanji Dadiseth also amassed great wealth in trading with China. During the great famine from 1805 to 1806 his son Ardeshir was able to give alms to 5,000 to 6,000 poor people daily.

Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy (1783-1859) was known as the 'Prince of Commerce' in China. He came there at the age of 16; he later entered into partnership with

Jardine Mathieson and Company, a well-known British trading company, to sell Malwa opium to the Chinese. His wealth grew and his trade limit in China exceeded £ 1,000,000. Every year he paid a tax of £ 1,50,000 to the British. However, true to his religious beliefs, he

Hence there are no Chinese records available of their religious activities.

There is a fascinating section on the involvement of the Parsis in the opium trade. Three grades of opium were traded: Patna (highest grade), Malwa and Turkey (lowest grade). In 1800 a unit of opium traded for the equivalent of \$ 560; in 1817, the same unit traded for \$ 1,300.

In 1770 China had a major famine at which time the Chinese government asked the farmers to grow food on the fields where they previously had grown cotton and opium. This caused an acute shortage of cotton and opium and the Parsis stepped in to satisfy the demand. Gradually the Parsis became quite wealthy and

showed off their wealth to the British. It is said to their credit that they did not behave as if they came from the British colonies; rather they behaved as equals, if not superior to the British, by donating monies to the Chinese, unlike the British.

In 1800 the Ching emperor stopped the import and the local production of opium and the EIC cooperated. The trade went underground and the Parsis filled the vacuum. The income of Jardine Mathieson and Company from opium, when Cowasji Framjee joined it in 1818, soon grew to over two million dollars. Rustomji Cowasji was the first to sail the ship *Agnes* right up to north China to open new markets. Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy and Company was supposed to be the best run commercial enterprise east of the Cape of Good Hope.

Between 1810 and 1838 there were three major financial crises in Canton

and all were blamed on the Parsis. The local Chinese merchants could not sell the goods they had purchased from the Parsis as the market for those goods had collapsed. They owed the Parsis hundreds of thousands of dollars, and all went bankrupt. During this period, the Parsis were viewed as greedy, cunning and unethical "loan sharks," and were nicknamed "Big Ear Hole" after their physical features.

After the British won the Opium War, they intended to colonize China like India and did not need the Parsis as before, with the result that Parsis began to withdraw from the Chinese business circle. They became active in the territories of Guangzhou, Hongkong and Macau eventually arriving at Amoy and Shanghai.

The Parsi traders also sold cotton and other daily goods. The trade between India and China was termed 'Port Foot Trading' and the main traders were the Parsis.

According to the author there was a lack of systematic archival research on the historical details of the Parsis in China. It was only in 1985 when Yui Kwang Huang of the Guangzhou City Museum published *The Tower of Silence in Guangzhou* that an interest resurfaced in the national scholars of China for the Parsis in Guangzhou. The book, *The Parsi Fire Worshippers and Ancient China*, written by Wu-Shu Lim helped Chinese scholars understand the background of the Parsis and their customs and traditions. In Dosabhai Framji Karaka's *History of the Parsis* in 1884, only 40 years after the Opium War, there is very brief mention of the activities of the Parsis in China.

The most reliable and largest source of research data for this book was provided by the detailed historical records kept by Jardine Mathieson and Company, the British parliamentary papers,



Top: M. H. Cama (sitting, extreme right) with other Parsi merchants
Photo courtesy: Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil
Below: Prayer hall and cemetery in Shanghai

shared his wealth. From 1822 to 1847, he donated £ 221,981 to various schools and public charities.

The author then spends some time explaining the Parsi names and the origin of family names based on the type of commerce in which they were involved. In 1851 there were 75 Parsis living in Canton and Whampoa and the reader is given some insight into the social structure of the society at that time.

The author has not been able to unearth any records of their schools, women, children and families. It appears that the Parsis did not preach their religion to outsiders and did not allow outsiders to look into their ceremonies.



*From industry pioneer
to industry leader
we are innovation in motion*

**COVERING
THE WORLD WITH
THE FINEST IN NON-FERROUS
METAL POWDERS**

ACuPowder International, LLC

901 Lehigh Ave., Union, NJ 07083
908-851-4500, • Fax 908-851-4597

ACuPowder TN, LLC (formerly Pyron Metal Powders)

6621 Hwy. 411 So., Greenback, Tn 37742
865-856-3021 • Fax 865-856-3083



e-mail : daver@acupowder.com
Web : <http://www.acupowder.com>
ISO 9002 CERTIFIED
ISO 14001 CERTIFIED

**ACuPowder Wishes
ZARATHUSTI'S
A HAPPY & SUCCESSFUL NEW YEAR**

*Dreaming the greatest dreams
Seeking the highest goals
and building the brightest tomorrows*

With best compliments from



We Manufacture:

- Whirlpool (Jacuzzi)
- Masseur (Bubble Bath)
- Sauna Bath
- Steam Bath Unit
- Multi Shower Systems
- Resistance Swimming Pool
- Chill Shower Unit
- Geysers
- Heat Pumps (for Swimming Pool Heating)

Office

Pink Apartment, "A" Wing
1st Floor, Office No 6
Seven Bungalow, Versova
Mumbai 400061
Tel: 6360986 Telefax: 6324785
E-mail: delzad@bom8.vsnl.net.in

Factory

3, Mahavir Industrial Estate
Ghoddeo Road
Bhayander East, Dist Thane
Tel: 8193205

British foreign office records, the EIC, the Chinese trade office and the Chinese repository on the Parsis in China. Documentation from all these sources was compiled by Michael Greenberg (*British Trade and the Opening of China 1800-1842*, Cambridge 1951). In this there is a reference to the Parsis as 'Port Foot' merchants at the port of Canton. N. Benjamin became the first person to take a personal interest in this subject and published in *India Historical Review* (1974, Vol 1, No 1, pp 295-303) his essay "Bombay's country trade with China (1765-1865)."

I thank my friend Wilfred Liao Wha, originally from Hongkong and presently head nurse at Montreal's Douglas Hospital, for painstakingly translating this chapter and providing me with the materials for this review. The author writes with great feeling and reverence for the Parsis and reading the book in Chinese would have provided the depth and warmth for the activities of the Parsi 'Port Foot' merchants at the port of Canton.

DOLLY DASTOOR

Edited and reprinted with permission from FEZANA Journal (Spring 1999)



*With Best
Compliments From*

**A
Well-Wisher**



Wishing our friends
Papeti Mubarak
and welcome to
"Maid Stone"

From the
Virjees
of Panchgani

REACHING OUT TO YOU

The Centre of High Returns.



KHAZAANA DEPOSIT SCHEME

- Minimum deposit Rs.5,000/-
- High returns
- Flexibility to withdraw in units of Rs. 1,000/- without any penalty for amounts upto Rs. 25.00 lacs

Contact your nearest branch for further details.

**सेन्ट्रल बैंक
ऑफ़ इंडिया**

(भारत सरकार का एक उपक्रम)



**Central Bank
of India**

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

आईये, एक बेहतर जीवन बनायें.

Build a better life around us.

Visit us at <http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in>

"PREPARE FOR IMPROVEMENT"
continued from page 56

all India body has a surplus of Rs 60,000. Anjumans could "suggest one or two small projects that the Federation could underwrite," he recommended whilst reminding the gathering that interest rates had fallen and "may come down further." This would mean declining revenues for most trusts. Chartered accountant Hoshang Wania complimented Gandhi, stating "that the accounts were given properly." He said the actual surplus was Rs 1,20,000 and that next year's income would be three percent less on account of the reduced interest rates. He wondered if the Federation faced any tax liability on account of the surplus. Gandhi replied that no tax was to be paid and they were permitted to carry the surplus to the next year.

It was brought to the attention of the Federation that according to the last finance bill framed by the finance ministry all religious and charitable trusts with an income of over one crore rupees had to publish their accounts. DPA vice president Dadi Mistry noted that the government had specified that trusts with an income of Rs 10 lakhs had to publish their accounts but after representations

from many trusts, the figure was changed to one crore rupees. "We need to be vigilant," he asserted. Mistry said that Sethna and he called on noted lawyer and member of the Rajya Sabha, Fali Nariman who advised them to make a representation to the government. Sethna, representing the Delhi Anjuman in coordination with other trusts, was able to convince the government to raise the limit.

There was apprehension amongst some of the delegates and other trusts in general that publishing of the accounts would expose them to threats from extortionists.

Demography

The Federation delegates addressed the problem of collecting reliable data on births, marriages and deaths in the community. As the municipal corporations such as in Bombay no longer require the newborn child's religion to be mentioned in the birth certificate, ascertaining the number of births has been reduced to guesswork.

Shroff suggested collecting data from nursing homes that Parsis frequent. While Balsara recommended "subsidizing delivery charges" Gandhi suggested

that the punchayets could give *parikaas* (gifts) at the time of birth so that Parsi parents would come forward with the information. Paghdwalla noted that many Parsis had shifted to the suburbs and opt for suburban nursing homes for deliveries. There were around 1,000 Parsis in Borivli, he observed. Dara Irani advocated that Parsi parents' names be culled from the municipal records, an idea that was endorsed by both Gandhi and Dastur. The *Parsiana* representative stated that their birth figures were obtained from only two or three hospitals in Bombay and from parents or relatives writing in with information. The list of marriages featured in *Parsiana* is culled from the Bombay High Court and from the office of the Registrar of Marriages. The data on deaths is obtained from the BPP and the crematorium at Chandanwadi. Dastur felt it was possible for a person to be assigned the task of frequenting the municipal office to ascertain the number of Parsi children born in the city each year.

Defunct anjumans

The oft repeated problems of preserving the properties of anjumans that were defunct or almost defunct were once



MAGNUM ARMS

Dealers in most kinds of Arms & Ammunition

Railway Hotel Building, R. M. Roy Road
Off Grant Road, Bombay 400004
Tel: 3895855 (12 to 6), 3852035

75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



For the special occasion called life.

Raymond presents its stunning range of fabrics, in a wide variety of colours, designs, textures and blends. All-wool, wool-rich, poly-wool blends and more. Whatever you're looking for, you're sure to find it with Raymond.

The Complete Man

Raymond
SINCE 1925



www.raymondindia.com

Wishing You A Happy & Prosperous New Year

HOMA ENGINEERING WORKS



**ENGINEERS, SHIP REPAIRERS AND MARINE
CONTRACTORS AND SHIPPING AGENTS**

- ◆ A Firm of Qualified Electrical, Mechanical & Marine Engineers dedicating services to Ship Repairing.
- ◆ MBPT license to carry out all types of ships repairs in wet dock and in dry docks at Mumbai Port.
- ◆ MBPT license to carry out Chipping and Painting
- ◆ 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, Rudder and Propeller Shafts at MBPT Dry Docks, including renewal of Lignum Vite.
- ◆ 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. Approved by all classification surveyors.
- ◆ We are contractors for ONGC, Mumbai and Government firms.
- ◆ Undertake Sand Blasting, Jet Cleaning, Spray Painting with own equipment.
- ◆ Registered with D. G. Shipping.
- ◆ Carrying out repairs including refit to Coast Guard Vessel.
- ◆ Carrying out repairs to Indian Navy Ships.
- ◆ Quality Assured Company ISO 9002 Certified by ISC Pvt. Ltd.

Managed personally by Senior Partner Mr H. B. BENGALI

HEAD OFFICE

Trapinex House,
5th Floor, Room No 504/506, 15, Sholapur Street, Mumbai 400009
Tel Nos: 3772044, 3730166, 3772452 Telex: 011-76643 HOMA IN Fax: 3739378

DOCK OFFICE

Opp P & V Docks, Clock Tower, Mansion Road, Mumbai 400009. Tel Nos: 3427765, 3401432

WORKSHOP

147, Tokersey Jivraj Road, Cotton Green, Mumbai 400015. Tel Nos: 4711065, 4711871

"SHIP REPAIRING IS OUR LIFE AND PART OF IT"

again reiterated by Shroff. The senior Bombay trustee lamented "the lack of cooperation from some of the resident trustees" in the anjumans. "They can't manage but at the same time will not let go." Shroff noted there were hundreds of different trusts in Bombay but more of them need to come forward to cooperate. There are 15 crores of assets largely in Gujarat, he noted. "We should try and have a go" to capitalize on those assets for community use. Dastur mentioned that the Neemuch Anjuman had property worth two crore rupees. The Neemuch representative Noshir Jal noted that Neemuch was located between Ajmer and Ratlam. There were 36 bungalows there with four Parsi families residing in the town.

Gandhi noted that Neemuch had expressed a desire to follow Mhow's example and appoint a custodian trustee. "As long as more than 15 members of an anjuman exist, it is allowed to function under the Federation's watchful eyes. The anjuman is independent except for sale of immovable properties. Once the number falls below 15, the administration of the anjuman is taken up by the Federation. The residents of Neemuch number 13. Can the Federation manage?"

Gandhi proposed that the anjumans close to Neemuch i.e. Mhow or Ratlam should take Neemuch under their wing. Masani asked what 'manage' entailed. "Manage everything," said Gandhi. "The entire administration" has to be looked after by the neighboring anjuman. Masani said Mhow was "willing to take on the responsibilities."

In Khandwa, a civil suit has been filed to prevent trust property from being sold, informed Masani. "The suit decree is not in our favor," he noted, adding that the judgement has been appealed. The Anjuman could accept two lakhs and settle the matter or spend Rs 25,000 on litigation. Anklesaria advised Masani to "take the two lakhs and save Rs 25,000." Masani also referred to 14 acres of prime aramgah land along the railroad line which has been encroached upon. "All that remains are the graves."

Cama asked if to date the Federation has realized any monies from defunct anjumans. Gandhi said "there were some deposits" and Shroff noted "in one case four to five lakhs have come in." Cama referred to the similar condition of the aramgah in Godhra. Shroff pointed out that there was no man from the Federa-

tion on the spot and the trustees were uncooperative: "Both ways we are stuck." Gandhi noted that Surat's Sorab Katpitia had sent a report on 20 anjumans. "Instead of frittering energies" on many anjuman properties, it was better to "concentrate on four major properties," he emphasized. Dastur then read out the names of anjumans where large amounts of money were involved: Rajkot, nine crores; Nanded, five crores; Amroli, two crores; Bhavnagar, three to four crores; Disa, 50 lakhs; and Dhulia, 10 lakhs. "There are six to 10 anjumans and we will go hammer and tongs after them," said the BPP CEO.

Save Udvada

The plight of the Udvada shoreline was explained to the delegates by the Save Udvada Trust (SUT) trustees and committee members. Guzder welcomed the group that included patron Thrity Taleyarkhan, Tehmus Pandole and Bejon Baldawala, chairman and co-chairman of the Trust, and advisory committee members Dr Zal S. Tarapore, Dr Vispy M. Meher-Homji and Homai Modi.

Likening the breakwater walls on the Udvada beach to speed breakers on a highway, Tarapore noted that the manmade structures lessened the damaging impact of the waves striking on the shoreline. The segmented sea wall indigenously designed by the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWAPRS) helped to cut down the cost. The wall consists of 50 meter blocks in six segments. "The gaps save money without too much damage" being caused to the shoreline, said Tarapore. Plans for putting up trees to break the force of the water is under study but the CWAPRS cautioned that "vegetation does not easily take root in eroding areas." They advised that the shoreline "should first be stabilized by other means" and thereafter "supplemented by appropriate vegetation which would then hold the fine sand from being blown away during periods of high winds."

Of the total cost of the sea wall, 75 percent came from the Gujarat Government and 25 percent from the public. "This is the first time public participation has taken place" in a project to save the coastline, said Tarapore. "Preservation of the coastline is the responsibility of the state government. The Gujarat Government will maintain the wall for the next two years. The wall has survived two monsoons and is entering into



With
best wishes
from

**Farah
&
Tanya**

the third. Sand has collected between and behind and in front of the sea wall offering greater protection to the shoreline."

The initiative to form the SUT has its genesis in the devastation caused by the monsoon in 1992, stated a write-up by Pandole. Media stories highlighting the destruction caught the attention of the late Homi Taleyarkhan (after whom the sea wall has been named) who spearheaded the movement. Tarapore, an expert on coastal engineering and retired director of CWAPRS, lent his expertise to examine various alternatives to protect the coastline.

Tetrapods made of heavy concrete, as are located at Bombay's Marine Drive, were rejected on the grounds of cost and aesthetics. Other options such as constructing a sloping concrete wall, beach nourishment by pumping sand brought down by the Kolak River onto the Udvada beach, creating a bio-wall by planting trees and a shore sea wall were all considered. While the segmented sea wall has been implemented, the other alternatives are still being examined. The late Sohrab Godrej provided saplings of *salvadora-persica* (pilu) which

were planted with the cooperation of the social forestry department of Navsari. The cost was partly financed by the Sir Dorab Tata Trust which donated Rs 25,000. A danger exists that the local villagers may chop the trees for firewood and the SUT is in touch with the gram panchayat to inform the local population of the need to preserve greenery.

Udvada is like a sand pit separating the Arabian sea from the Pariyali Creek, informed Tarapore. Salt water from the sea enters the creek. The salt water then permeates into the foundation of the buildings including the Iranshah, as well as the neighboring wells. To prevent this saline seepage, a dam over the Pariyali Creek is proposed so that salt water is prevented from entering into the town in the dry season while permitting rain water to drain out during the monsoon. Funds have to be raised for this project.

Gandhi noted that the delegates were concerned about cartloads of sand being removed from the beach by contractors and the possible danger this posed. He also said that the delegates wanted to know if the Central Government should be involved in protecting the Udvada coastline. As the Iranshah was being

threatened, the government should not distance itself from assisting the town on the assumption that the Parsis are a rich community and they can finance the projects, he added.

Terming the delegates' concern as genuine, Meher-Homji noted that coastal areas in India are heavily populated. Kerala and the Konkan had the highest population density in the country. Where people are living on the beach "a certain amount of abuse of the environment is bound to occur." While the law provides that sand cannot be carted off from the beach, one has to live "with this reality in the Indian context," Meher-Homji noted, adding that maintaining the coastline is "strictly speaking the responsibility of the state government." He noted that the sea is "taking land away from us" at the rate of 50,000 cubic meters per annum. The Government of Kerala had made a pact with the Government of India to jointly work on preserving the state's coastline. Sethna noted that saving Udvada was not only saving the Iranshah but was part of a national effort.

Tarapore concurred that erosion is related to human habitation. Pandole



*With the
compliments of*

**DAKS COPY
SERVICE
Private Limited**

Apeejay House
3rd Floor
130 S. Bhagatsingh Marg
Mumbai 400023

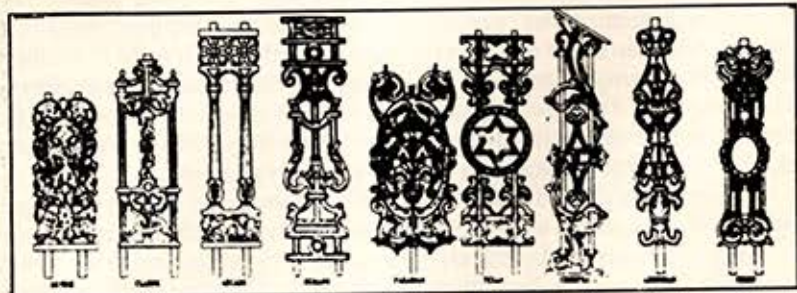
Phones: 2844672, 2844862

Kalianiwala Spring Works

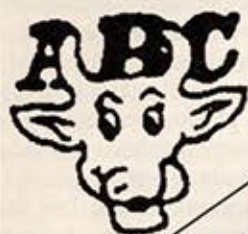
Engineers and Contractors

Manufacturers of Wire Springs and Cast Iron
Products (Colonial & Contemporary Grills,
Railings, Balustrades, Bench handles, etc)

Partner: Mr Minoo D. Kalyanwala



Factory: 90, Suprabhat Indust. Estate Pvt Ltd.
O/S Dariapur Gate, Bardolpura, Ahmedabad 380016
Office: 2045, Ghanchiole, Delhi Chakla,
Ahmedabad 380001. Tel: (O) 5625707
Time: 1 to 6 p.m.



A.B.C. Farms Pvt. Ltd.
S. No. 35/36, Koregaon Park, Ghorpadi, Pune 411001. Tel: 6876999

**NO FAST FOOD
NO JUNK FOOD**

ONLY GOOD FOOD

At :-

1. Swiss Cheese Garden

Fondu, Raclette, Rosti, etc. We also serve Indian food.
Lunch/Dinner throughout the week

(Tel: 6817413)

2. Greenfields Jazz Garden

Italian, Mexican and regional Indian cuisine.
Live music on Wednesday's and Saturday's

(Tel: 6817412)

3. Sala Thai

Authentic Thai served to you by a Thai Chef.
Numerous inputs are grown at our farm. (Tuesday closed)

(Tel: 6817414)

4. Golconda

Serving speciality Hyderabadi Food

(Tel: 6817415)

5. Tampopo

The first authentic Japanese Restaurant in Pune.
Also serving Italian Gourmet foods

(Tel: 6818883)

6. Firepits and Pizzas

Our Ethnic Indian Cooking in Firepits with a fusion of
People's Pizza of high quality and low price... Rs 20/- only

(Tel: 6833573)

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS AND LOTS OF CHEESE

Available at our dairy and three shops :-

1. Dairy :- S. No. 35/36, Koregaon Park, Ghorpadi
2. Shop :- 95, M. G. Road
3. Shop :- Brij Bhavan, Salunke Vihar Road, Kondhwa
4. Shop:- Stall No. 80 & 81, Shivaji Market, Pune Camp

Tel: 6876999
Tel: 6348438
Tel: 6833573
Tel: 6356019

Now in Goa at Calangute
Tel: (0832) 281182

1. A.B.C. Farms Dairy Parlour
2. Cantorian Thai Restaurant
3. La Mozzarella — Italian Restaurant
- 4.

281182
281875

Firepits & Fondues
Restaurant & Bar

281653

Address: No. 1/281, Gaurovaddo, Calangute, Bardez, Goa 403515

Fax: (0832) 281181

Visit us at www.abcfarmindia.com

Get good value
for your money

Visit
**RAILWAY
HOTEL**

Railway Hotel Building
Charni Road Junction
Bombay 400004
Telephone: 3821028

Beer Parlour
Permit Room
Homely Comforts

pointed out that the walls of the King's and Majestic Hotels had collapsed in the cyclone this monsoon. Noted Tale-yarkhan, "The object of the SUT is not only to save Iranshah but everything in Udvada."

Open forum

Dara Irani suggested that the Federation institute an annual prize for "the punchayet that does its best during the year. It would motivate all the anjumans to do well." Gandhi said that for the prize to be initiated they needed a sponsor and guidelines to be drawn up on how to adjudicate the entries. Yezdi Panthaki of Saronda inquired if research could be conducted to ascertain where the Parsis "landed first" in India.

Marshall inquired about reports of there being 500 Parsi beggars in Bombay. Dastur said that the Punchayet wished to impart training to them so that they could take up jobs. The Baroda youth delegates mentioned that at a beggars' home in Baroda the inmates were making brooms for the municipal corporation. Mistry pointed out that "once the habit of begging is formed it is hard to break... there is no easy solution." He recommended that a small committee be formed to tackle the problem. Guzder said he would be "happy to financially support such a committee." BPP trustee Silloo Kavarana spoke about drug addicts in the community and steps being taken to wean them away from their addiction. She requested the delegates to send those who wanted to work to the Ratan Tata Institute. "We need Parsis to work," urged the social worker. Palsetia said "it was a *ghuna* (sin) to give, not to ask." Gandhi pointed out that begging is a profitable business and Mistry stated that mothers of other communities reportedly left their children with beggars near Bombay's Crawford Market on their way to work in the morning and then collected the child and the money at night while returning home.

Dakhmenashini

A subject that has agitated the community all over India for the last several months and which Gandhi termed "the BPP's severe problem" was discussed threadbare by four authorities on the subject of the disposal of the dead. The aviary project, the solar concentrators, the ozone system and the chemical/herbal application alternatives were discussed by scholar-teacher Khojeste

Mistree, scholar Dr Homi Dhalla and noted chemical engineers Mehernosh Behramkamdin and Zerkas Lashkari.

The chief proponent of the aviary project to transport and later breed vultures at Bombay's Doongerwadi, Mistree lamented that the project had received a lot of unfortunate media coverage. "There is an accusation that I'm not media savvy," he noted, adding that "we need the support of the powers that be."

Terming the aviary undertaking the "only long-term" solution that is doctrinally acceptable, Mistree said that "the system though weakened is still working quite well." He noted there was a 'pecking order' and in the absence of vultures, kites and crows stepped in.

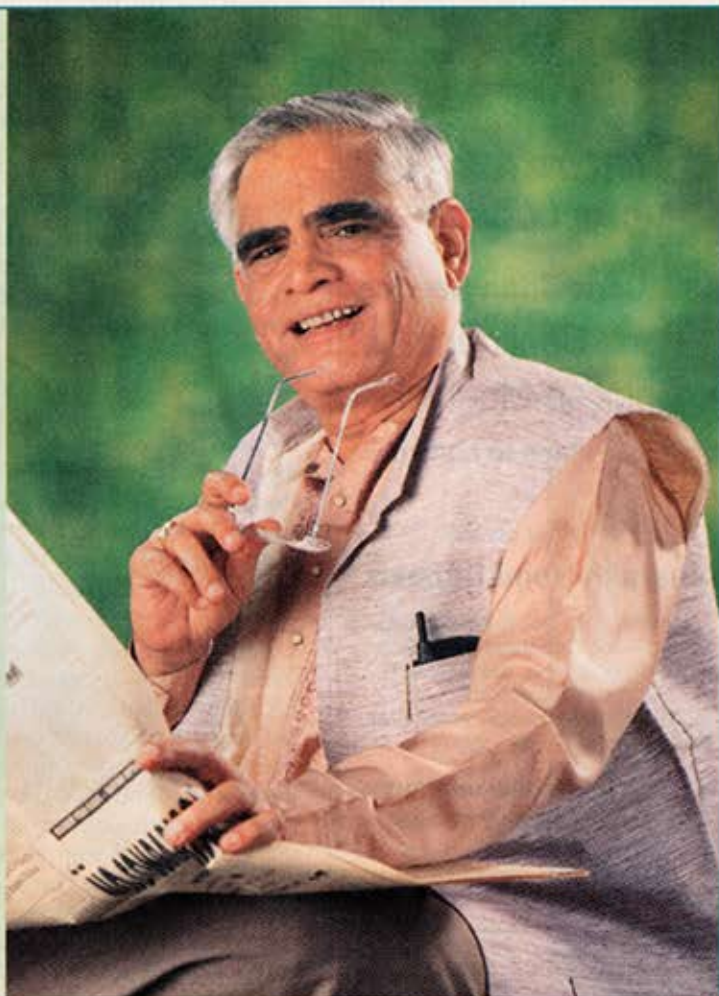
Mistree cautioned there were no simple solutions to revive the vulture population. "You can't just capture and then release vultures" at Doongerwadi, he stated. Vultures were protected birds and government permission was required to transport them from one place to the other. As for the suggestion of cutting the feathers of the vultures once they were at Doongerwadi to prevent them from flying elsewhere, Mistree noted that the vultures have "blood feathers. If you chop their wings they will die." Mistree said over 60 vulture specialists met in Delhi recently. They expressed the need to develop a Government of India policy to rear vultures. Noting that the government was in favor of any project that would preserve the vultures, Mistree believes that the successful undertaking of the aviary project would put India on the conservation map of the world.

The Government of Rajasthan has granted permission to environmentalist Rishad Naoroji to transport birds from their state to Bombay. "We are now awaiting permission from the Gujarat Government," said Mistree. They are also waiting for the aviary designs which were delayed as Jemima Parry-Jones, the UK based birds of prey expert, had been hospitalized. The BPP has sanctioned one crore to build the aviary, said Mistree. If for any reason the BPP "reneges on its commitment," it would have "a domino effect" on the project in India.

The project will be in two stages: first bringing in the fledgling birds and subsequently breeding them. Mistree offered to step down from the project if it proved financially unviable.

Thanking the BPP trustees for their

**At
60 plus
you
deserve
added
comfort.**



SBI Senior Citizens Deposit Scheme

At SBI, we believe, as a senior citizen you deserve a little more in terms of security and regular returns for your lifetime earnings.

SBI Senior Citizens Deposit Scheme is devised to cater to these very financial needs.

Features :

- **Eligibility :** Age 60 years and above.
- **Minimum amount :** Rs.10,000/- plus multiples of Rs.1,000/-
- **Interest rate :** 1% above the rate for term deposits of 1 year to less than 3 years and 0.75% above the rate of interest for term deposits of 3 years and above.
- Available at all branches accepting personal segment deposits.



State Bank of India

With you - all the way.

"Visit SBI on the Internet at <http://www.sbi.co.in> & <http://www.statebankofindia.com>"

With Best Compliments
From

Sharukh's HOME COOKED

A La Carte Tiffin Service
Parsi-Continental
Chinese-Moghlay
Cuffe Parade to Mahim

For details contact

Sharukh Homi Dubash

Dattatray Bldg No. 1, Shop No. 6,
Ground Floor, Chikalwadi, T. J. Road,
Bhatia Hospital Lane, Grant Road (W),
Mumbai 400007
Tel. (R): 3082229 Mobile: 9820117643
Kitchen: 3812909

**We also undertake minimum
orders of 10 and above
for any kind of parties**

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,
3740913, 3774531,
Mobile: 9820077300

support "in the face of criticism and problems created by certain people," Dhalla spoke of the "solar breakthrough. What used to take four to seven months is done in four to five days," said the scholar referring to the dehydration of corpses placed in the Towers of Silence. Terming the solar concentrators which reflect the sun's rays onto the corpses as "very cost effective" Dhalla noted one concentrator cost Rs 1,60,000 and was "cheap to maintain." Even if the panels were broken or stolen, a new set of 25 to 26 would cost only Rs 6,000. He felt that anjuman in different parts of the country could install the concentrators "as they were cheap and easy to assemble." Ronnie Sabawalla of Baroda had designed the solar concentrators and after the successful trials at the Sethna Dakhma at Doongerwadi three more concentrators have been ordered following a donation of five lakh rupees from philanthropist Naryman Dubash. "The BPP does not have to shell out anything for the first six concentrators as donations and voluntary work have covered the costs," said Dhalla. The concentrators start functioning around 9 to 9.15 in the morning and stop at around 4.30 p.m., he added. The "birds also play a role," he stated having seen some kites and crows pecking at a corpse that had been placed in reflected sunlight from the solar concentrators.

Going back to the genesis of the problem, Dhalla stressed that three issues had to be tackled at Doongerwadi: dehydration of corpses which was not taking place; the stench from the decomposing bodies; and the disposal of the bones. The solar concentrators have "the potential of solving all three hurdles," said the scholar. While defending the system as being "within the parameters of religious requirements," Dhalla noted that the concentrators were not generating any heat but only reflecting the heat of the sun. The temperature was between 120° to 125°C. This was similar to Khurshed Nigernishn whereby corpses are exposed to the rays of the sun. "In four to five days a complete skeleton is placed straight away into the bhandar (the central well of the dakhma)." He said no smell emanated from the corpse as evidenced by nasasars who stood beside the bodies. Microbial activity did not take place therefore there was no putrefaction and hence no smell. There was "propaganda" that the concentrators would generate "excessive



With Best
Compliments From

M/s PATEL PLASTIC CORPORATION

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

Tel No. 8323754/8300986

Fax: 6431851

E-mail: Silloo@bom2.vsnl.net.in



Season's
Greetings from

PARAGON TOY SHOP

108 Heera Panna
Shopping Centre
Bhulabhai Desai Road
Mumbai 400026

Under the auspices of the **MAZDAYASNE 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
E-mail: <mazocol@hotmail.com> and <mazocol@bom7.vsnl.net.in> mazocol@vsnl.com

WORLD CONGRESS OF MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA INTERNATIONAL, Held in Mumbai at Russian Cultural Centre. CONVOCATION CEREMONY - 26TH May 2001

The Medicina Alternativa World Congress organised by Zoroastrian College, on 25th - 27th May, in Mumbai at Russian Cultural Centre, drew a Galaxy of distinguished Doctors and Research Scientists, as well as Zoroastrian Religious Scholars from several countries, as far apart as Costa Rica, Canada, Iran and Dubai. The following persons were conferred Degrees by Research Thesis or Honoris Causa.

[1] Mobed Korosch Niknam —

Ph.D., - Iran;

[2] Dr. Dip. Eng. Korosch Behizade - Ph.D., Iran;

[3] Mrs. Ruby Lilaowala - D.Litt., Honoris Causa, India

[4] Mrs. Gulrukh Bala - M.Phil - India

[5] Ervad Yazedi D. Karanjia - B.Phil., India

[6] Dr. Thobias P. Maliekal - Ph.D., - India

[7] Dr. Manoj Kalantri - Ph.D., - India

[8] Dr. Nitin Chhoda - D.Sc., - India

[9] Dr. N.H. Sahasrabudhe - Ph.D., -

India

[10] Dr. R.D. Mahatme - Ph.D., - India

[11] Dr. Mahendran - D.Sc., - India

[12] Dr. [Mrs.] Bhuvaneshwari - D.Sc., - India

Khushnum Ukaji and Diana Panthaki, completed the first year Diploma in Avesta and Scriptural Studies with Prof. Sam Doctor.

Meher David and Firoza Moos completed the Diploma in Acupuncture with Dr. Mrs. Mangala Chavan.

O.I.V.C.M. degrees convocated through Zoroastrian College



[1] Ervad Yazedi D. Karanjia, First Mobed in India to be conferred B.Phil. Degree, with Ervad Aspendiar Dadachanji, reciting HUMBANDAGI, - Mrs. Freny Bhagat in background.

[2] Mobed Korosch Niknam of Tehran, First Mobed in the World to complete Ph.D. Degree by Research Thesis - with Mr. Sohrab Dehmobed, on left and Siddarth Desai in the background.

[3] Mrs. Ruby Firoze Lilaowala, First Zoroastrian Lady in India being conferred D.Litt. Degree by Dr. M. Varghese, Retd. Vice Chancellor S.N.D.T. University with Dame Dr. Prof. Meher Master-Moos, President - Zoroastrian College.

[4] Prof. Sam Doctor, Incharge of Avesta and Scriptural Study Department and Dame Dr. Prof. Meher Master-Moos conferring the Kaikhushroo Ardeshir Master Q.C. Memorial Award on Mr. Jamshed Guzder, Chief Guest.





Above (clockwise from top left): Udvada breakwater at high tide; sand harvesting at Udvada beach; saplings of mangrove *Salvadora* with school children for plantation; Meher-Homji; Modi; Tarapore, Taleyarkhan and Pandole



Alongside (L to R): Dhalla, Mistree, Behramkamdin, Lashkari

Below: Air purification plant over Bombay's Anjuman Dakhma overhanging the pavis (left) and the outer wall (right)



With Best Wishes From

TARAPORE & COMPANY

Engineers and Contractors

TARAPORE CONSTRUCTIONS

Private Limited

Engineers and Builders

Head Office

Dhun Building, 827 Anna Salai, Chennai 600002
Phone: 8521567 (8 lines) Fax: 044 8520143

Branches

New Delhi, Bangalore, Jamshedpur, Lucknow,
Babrula, Dharwad, Hyderabad, etc

HOTEL AADITHYA

(A unit of Tarapore & Company)

155/1 Arcot Road, Vadapalani, Chennai 600026
Phone: 4880488/4845157 Fax: 4844303

heat... trees and birds would die and it would be so hot that no one would be able to step inside the dakhma. These allegations are totally baseless," insisted Dhalla. The nasasalars said there was no overheating. As regards the bones, in the Baroda experiment with goats it was found that after two to five hours a two-foot bone broke.

Once the bones were deposited in the bhandar, another solar concentrator would focus solely on that area at a temperature of 400°C, causing the bones to disintegrate as in the Baroda experiment. Dhalla noted that solar energy could be used to even liquify steel at 4,000°C. Dhalla mentioned the contribution made to the Baroda experiments by Cama and Sabawalla.

The use of ozone gas to counter the stench from the decomposing corpses and to function as a germicide has been functioning successfully around the Anjuman Dakhma. Behramkamdin, a noted chemical engineer and director in Gharda Chemicals, said that ozone has been successfully used abroad both in purifying the smell in high-rise buildings as well as in morgues. "It is a very well established system." The question

was "how to handle the system in an open area." The ozone is generated in a small machine 30 to 40 feet away from the dakhma and is released into the tower through a system of ducts. "The ducting does not touch the pavis or any wall of the dakhma," said Behramkamdin, "nor is there any breaking of the wall."

"When the system is working, if you walk around the dakhma, there is no smell. Even if you stand directly in front of the exhaust there is no smell. If however, the ozone is switched off, after five minutes the smell starts," noted the engineer. He called the method "silent, non-invasive and doctrinally not contradictory... it does not change the old method nor does it interfere with it... The ducts form a good perch for the birds."

The only detriment for smaller anjumans using this system may be the expense. Behramkamdin said it cost Rs 15 lakhs to set up the system (and Rs 200 a day to run it) despite the fact that the work was done by individuals on an "honorary and volunteer" basis and there was no profit derived.

"I spent my time and the company's time. Dr Keki Gharda (the company's founder) is very happy to contribute to

the community," stated Behramkamdin. As they could not use non-Parsi labor, 24 young volunteers from Nowroz Baug, Godrej Baug and Khareghat Colony worked under the supervision of Ervad Asphandiar Dadachanji and his two sons. The volunteers were led by Cyrus Siganporia. Noting that smell is inevitable when bodies decompose, Behramkamdin remarked that in the past it was not so noticeable because of the lush habitation around Doongerwadi. It is only after complaints were raised about the stench that the ozone alternative was resorted to. He termed it "a complement to the dakhmenashini system."

Photographs on page 196: L to R (1st row) Clubwala, Nargolwala, Mistry, Sarosh Ginwalla, Dandiwalla; (2nd row) Palsetia, Nariman Balsara, Dolat Debara, Dick, Marshall, Pilloo Ginwalla; (3rd row) Behram Irani, Omin Debara, Vesuna, Mubarakai, Beji Bulsara, Illava; (4th row) Panthaki, Wadia, Talati, Marazban Mehta, Jal, Farhad Wadia; (5th row) New building in Poona, Vinifer Gandhi, Delna Pastakia; (6th row) Jennifer Paghdwalla, Kadva



BHARUCHA STONE AND SAND WORKS PRIVATE LIMITED

India's first commercial sand making plant to be set up in Pune using complete Swedish technology imported from Svedala, Sweden for a world class product.

Manufactured out of black basalt rock, this sand will cater to all the needs of the construction industry in the Pune region

Registered office

"Kutika" 31/1, Pune-Sholapur Highway, Pune 411013
Tel no: 91-020-670030, 670494 Fax no: 91-020-670094

Saal Mubarak



SINCE 1974

Viraf N. Chiniwala **VELDON**TM COATS

Guniting, Civil and Painting Contractors

Specialists in renovation of
multi-storied buildings

Some of our past and current projects

The Oberoi Towers -- 33 floors
Mount Unique -- 18 floors
Monalisa -- 17 floors
Kamal -- 9 floors
Kshitij -- 32 floors
Citadel -- 10 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
Maker Towers-L -- 14
Delstar -- 6 floors

The Oberoi Mumbai -- 15 floors
Akash Ganga -- 23 floors
Rajat -- 7 floors
El Cid -- 15 floors
Dalamat 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
Empire Estate-B -- 9 floors
Neeta -- 6 floors

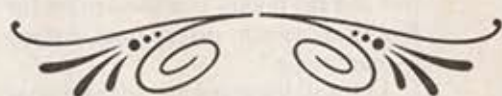
1st Floor, 7 Cassinath Building, Cassinath Street, Tardeo
Mumbai 400034

Phones: 4923560/4938949 Fax: 4925601 Gram: VELDCOATS





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



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

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

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



The application of chemicals to hasten bodily decomposition was basically a stop-gap solution till other systems become a reality, explained Lashkari, a chemical engineer who for over eight months has been working honorarily for the BPP on the project. "Mixtures of powders help natural decomposition of the body. They reduce the smell to the extent possible," said Lashkari adding, "The method is 70 to 80 percent effective and the bodies that used to lie for four to six months disintegrate in three to four weeks."

Lashkari informed the delegates that the smell comes from the bodily cavities. "The fat oozes out and remains on the pavi. The skin and bones remain intact," he remarked. He likened the body to a leather bag whose contents are spilling out from the openings. The powders are made into liquid and applied over the body's orifices. During the monsoons the liquid would have to be applied again as the rains may wash away the chemicals, he noted. There are three different powders none of which penetrate the skin. The application did not require the nasasalars to touch the body. The engineer felt that the system

was suitable for smaller anjumans which have fewer corpses, the cost being an economical Rs 36 to Rs 40 per body. The powder is supplied at cost, observed Lashkari.

While Gandhi congratulated the BPP trustees for having withstood the testing times, Tirandaz voiced apprehension about the efficient functioning of the solar panels during the monsoons. He mentioned that research was on to examine the possibilities of high voltage bulbs. He conceded however that even when the vultures were present they had a problem during the monsoons. BPP trustee Dadi Engineer noted that despite the cost involved the Panchayet was committed also to the aviary project. "We are striving to uphold, maintain and sustain the method of dakhmenashini," Mehta added that all the four systems were "not complementary." The Bisney Dakhma was solely for the aviary project, the Sethna Dakhma for the solar panels and so on. In response to Mistry's contention that the aviary project meant incurring a heavy expenditure which could be used for other purposes, Mistry retorted, "In any society allocation of funds is a tricky business... so to your question is this expenditure justified,

my answer is yes. This is the only long-term solution and we are being faithful to our scriptures. This is mickey mouse money. The funds appear to be (available) in-house. This is money extremely well spent." He noted that the American Condor Project to rear birds in captivity was "highly successful."

Guzder however voiced his apprehensions about the aviary project, noting that "we require not one but three aviaries" at an approximate cost of four crore rupees. "Suppose the vultures catch a virus infection and all of them die, all our money will be down the drain. We are putting up a system against nature." Engineer noted that to avoid that calamity full time veterinary doctors "would be on hand to see no disease occurs." Alluding to the controversy that has been boiling over the past several months, Engineer referred to "the torture we have been through... no one can imagine." Tirandaz interjected that "not a single paisa is taken from other purposes. With a corpus of 55 crores, one crore is not going to hurt us."

While assuring the delegates that a breakthrough was imminent on combating the virus that afflicted the vul-

WHITE CLOUD FILTER PADS

Private Limited

*Pioneer Manufacturers of Finest Quality Machine-Made
Filter Pads in the Country and Merchant Exporters*

**We are now an ISO-9002:1994 Company
and our Quality and Management Systems have
been certified by Mr Det Norske Veritas**

412, Gultekdi Road, Mukundnagar, Pune 411037
Gram: Filterpads Phones: 4263476, 4262236, 4261078
Fax: 0091-020-4270923 E-mail: wcfp@vsnl.com

WISHING OUR BRETHREN A JOYFUL YEAR

- International Ticketing
- Domestic Ticketing
- Visa Assistance
- Passport Assistance
- Personalised & Special Group Tours
- Hotels/Car hire worldwide
- Corporate/Leisure Travel arrangements
- Conference/Seminars arranged worldwide
- **Foreign Exchange**

From Management & Staff of



FARSHAK TRAVELS

13 Ganesh Niwas, Veer Savarkar Marg,
Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025.

Tel : 4364741(5 lines)

Fax : (91-22-) 4306813

Email : farshak@vrthere4u.com

Website: www.vrthere4u.com

Open 365 days a year
We are there for you



ARMAYESH

We Have Designs
on You!

Armayesh can hand-embroider your fantasies on to sarees, dupattas, ghagras, cholis, jackets, vests, hand bags, cushion covers and other products.

(Exquisite Parsi Garas are our forte.)

An Armayesh creation is a duet between needle and fabric, labor and love, for we are a world-leading manufacturer exporter of the finest hand-embroidered designs.

International quality and timely delivery are our hallmarks.

In our case beauty isn't skin-deep.

Armayesh
hand embroidery lasts!

The Finest Hand Embroidery - Forever

Please telephone Ms NILOUFER IRANI or Ms VARSHA ADVANI on 91-22-2658071, 2661364, 2662987 to finalise the date and time of your visit to our Design Studio and Showroom.

Armayesh Fashions Pvt Ltd. Design Studio and Showroom, Kamanwala Chambers, 2nd Floor, Sir P. M. Road Fort, Mumbai 400001 Fax: 91-22-2662183, E-mail: armayesh@vsnl.com

Visit our updated Website: www.armayesh.com

tures, Mistree noted that "vultures have not died in captivity. They have died in the wild." He added that "if an epidemic occurred in captivity" it would be controllable... If 50 vultures die can we not get 50 more?" he queried. He noted similar risks existed in poultry farming. "Can we control the risk? We are trying.... Risk comes at a price... Take that element of chance." He said vultures, which are nature's greatest scavengers, have the "toughest digestion in the world." The only substance they cannot handle is arsenic. "If a Parsi dies of arsenic poisoning we have a problem." The body is the most contaminated during the first eight hours after death, noted Mistree. After that the risk is less.

Hitting out at the critics of the aviary project Tirandaz alleged that "someone in Delhi referred to dakhmenashini as a barbaric system." Nargolwala told Tirandaz not to "browbeat people" to which the latter retorted, "(Jurist) Rustom Gae has put it in writing."

Lashkari pointed out that "no nasasalar has died in the last 300 years" due to exposure to the corpses. "So disease cannot spread in the dakhma."

The delegates then discussed the plight of the Zoroastrians in Iran where it was noted that the Zoroastrians in Tehran were better off than their counterparts in the smaller towns and villages.

Mistree noted that President Khatami was trying to bring minorities into the mainstream as part of his liberalization program.

Those present at the Federation meeting were: Dolat Debara from Agra; Shireen and Homi Dandiwalla from Allahaabad; Baman Cama, Bomi Talati and Farhad Wadia from Baroda; Pilloo and Sarosh Ginwalla from Bharuch; Jamshed Guzder, Minoo Shroff, Dadi Engineer, Silloo Kavarana, Dinshaw Mehta, Rustom Tirandaz, Dinshaw Tamboly, Behram Dastur, Mehli Colah, Sheroo Master, Godrej Dotivala, Gool Kias and Adil Crawford from Bombay; Khurshed Pastakia, Noshir Paghdwalla, Yazdi Motiwala and Marazban Mehta from Borivli; Beji Bulsara and Rohinton Indorewala from Calcutta; Darius Marshall from Calicut; Marazban Wadia from Davier; Zarhost Mubarakai from Dahanu; Adi Sethna, Keki Gandhi, Dadi Mistry and Adil Nar-

golwala from Delhi; Mehrwan Irani, Pervez Irani and Behram Irani from the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman; Homi Bodhanwalla from Jamshedpur; Ronny Dick and Feringez Pestonji from Jhansi; Nariman Mogrelia from Madras; Dolly and Behram Masani and Phiroze Illava from Mhow; Hoshang Wania from Nargol; Noshir Jal from Neemuch; Eruch Irani, Firdous Kayani, Dara Irani and Porusasp Mehta from Poona; Nariman Balsara from Sanjan; Dinshaw Patel, Homi Palsetia, Jhangoo Mandviwalla, Sarosh Poonawalla and Yezdi Panthaki from Saronda; Omin Debara from Secunderabad; Mehroo and Sarosh Bhacca from Surat; Soonoo Vesuna from Vesu; Mani Clubwala from the South Zone and Rustom Anklesaria from the West Zone. Ness Lakdawala from Quebec, Farrokh Antia from the R. D. Sethna Scholarship Fund, Thrity Taleyarkhan, Tehmus Pandole, Zal Tarapore, Vispy Meher-Homji, Homai Modi and Bejon Baldawala from the Save Udawada Committee and Esphandiar Arya Mehr from Tajikistan were the special invitees. The Press was represented by *The Bombay Samachar* and *Parsiana*.

With Best Compliments

From

A WELL-WISHER

BORDI BEACH TAPOVAN RETREAT



Residential Retreat of the Tapovan Vihar Trust at Bordi

- Ideal Sea-Front
Location for Physical/
Mental relaxation;
- Enjoyable warmth of
togetherness with
Family/Friends;
- Spacious Rooms with
all modern amenities
- Wholesome Delicious
Parsi Food;
- Easy driving distance to
Holy IRANSHAH at
Udvada.
- Trekking excursion to
Bahrot Hill and Caves.
- Central location for visit
to historical Sanjan and
neighbouring villages.

*Reservation at
Tapovan Trust Office*

Tel: 022-2665322 / 3674998

E-mail: nhm@vsnl.com

READERS' FORUM *continued from page 20*

thushtira stand out in a subtle way from those of all the other revealed faiths.

This brings to the fore my point on the social behavior of humans. Take the subject of dakhmenashini, currently under much discussion in India. If ours was a faith of strict dogmas, as in the case of many revealed faiths, or even of strict traditions one would have less of a difficulty accepting and continuing the practice, the tradition that has come down to us in respect of the disposal of the dead.

In this regard, two vital factors need to be kept in mind. First, the quickest way of disposal and, second, to give back to nature what came from nature. In the days gone by dakhmenashini perhaps met the second factor profoundly but again the question: is it relevant today to man's chosen way of living? Or are we to totally disregard realities? Would that be a good Zarathushti tradition? Can human actions totally divorce realities?

Of all the systems of disposal known to man today, perhaps the modern cremation is the most logical and practical. It causes almost no pollution. I would further add that one may indeed have the choice of donating the body for the interest of medical research for the good of humanity, and then the remains be cremated. Through that one may have the satisfaction that, having been unable to give back to nature as we do through dakhmenashini, we have contributed to humanity, even in our final closing. Would that not show our ultimate belief in charity, something we so pride ourselves in?

I sincerely hope and pray that humans losing all perspectives do not slip back to the pre-Zarathushtra days.

ESADVASTER S. BAMJI
Maryland, USA

Marco's misconceptions

Did you know how fire came to be venerated in our religion and in Persia? According to the May 2001 issue of the *National Geographic* (NG) magazine, which carries an article "The Adventures of Marco Polo Part 1" the author Mike Edwards, an assistant editor, writes: "The three magi, the wise men who went to Bethlehem to worship the infant Jesus... were probably Zoroastrians, who revered fire. That was the principal religion before Islam came from



*With best
compliments
from*

**NARIMAN
NALLASETH
Private Limited**

**PLUMBING
ENGINEERS
&
CONSULTANTS**

27, Tamarind Lane
1st Floor, Block No 11
Rajabhadur Compound
Opp Allahabad Bank
Apollo Street, Fort
Mumbai 400001
Phones: 2650066 & 2652986
Fax: 091-022-2655834
E-mail: karakaco@vsnl.net



With Compliments

SUN-UP BOTANICS

Private Limited

806-B Empire Mahal, Khodadad Circle
Dadar, Mumbai 400014

Tel: (22) 4148576 Fax: (22) 4148283

Manufacturers of 'ROOSTER' Mosquito
Coils, Mats and Plant Micronutrients



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: 5545425, 5544859, 5543875
Fax: 5544907

Branch: Baroda:
Tel No 791818 Fax: 792924

Arabia in the 600s."

In Marco's account, the wise men journey to Bethlehem with gifts—gold, incense, myrrh—and the baby Jesus gives them a stone. It signifies that their faith should be strong, but they misunderstand and toss it into a well. Then "a burning fire came down from heaven and comes quite straight to the well." The magi realize the fire is holy and take it home, to be kept eternally. And that, Marco concludes, is how fire came to be venerated in Persia.

And that is what hundreds of thousands of *National Geographic* readers, who haven't heard of Zoroastrians, will also conclude about the world's first and oldest religion, a religion which venerated fire and was founded almost 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. A religion which was the principal religion of the known world at the time, a world which then stretched from the Hindu Kush mountains in the east, to beyond the Mediterranean Sea and from the Urals in the north to the Indian Ocean in the south.

Did Marco fake the account of his travels? A whiff of suspicion has lingered about him ever since he wrote his book in 1298, writes the author. But he also adds, "Most scholars who have dissected Marco's work, however, regard him as truthful."

Now it is left for us to prove him incorrect, at least about his above conclusions.

RUSI SORABJI
California, USA

Demand for reservation

We have remained quiet for too long and the time has now come to demand and fight for reservation of seats in educational institutions. The reason we did not do it earlier was because we considered ourselves Indians first, then Parsis. But soon we realized that our silence was mistaken for acquiescence. We were refused admissions in well-known institutions built by our forefathers and saw our youth frustrated. Some other guy with poor marks got the coveted seat, while we were left holding the baby with the bath water!

Well the time has come to face the facts. We demand that our youth gets its due. And if that means we need to apply for reservation, then so it must be.

GOOLOO MEHTA

Mama's boys

Strange is the behavior of us Parsis.

When we decided to leave Iran, our forefathers took recourse in India. Why didn't they think of going elsewhere? Some intuitive power drew them towards India. Parsis soon established themselves all over the country and we became pioneers in every field.

Soon a trend started and Parsis tended to concentrate in Bombay, and ever since it has remained so. On the pretext of higher education, and to better one's standard of living, we started to migrate westwards. The state in which we find ourselves now is either live and die in Bombay or go West. Is this the only choice? If the "mutthi bhar (handful)" could have such an impact on the whole of India, what is stopping us from reviewing the old game plan?

"Mama nobucho (Mama's boy)" was specially coined for the Parsi boys of Bombay. To a big extent mamas are to be held responsible. *Dikro* (son) can happily go settle in any foreign land, but the most lucrative position in any other city of India, other than Bombay, would meet with a typical reaction "Mama Bombay *chhodvaanaa kéj* (mother does not want me to leave Bombay)." Once they are released from the shackles of Bombay and mamas, Parsis will once again be the community of India, to look up to with pride.

RODA D. HAKIM
BARODA

Better known as Busybee

Behram Contractor, the veteran and versatile editor of *Afternoon Despatch and Courier* (ADC) passed away on April 9, 2001 at the age of 70 years. With the death of Contractor our community has lost a humorist, a satirist par excellence. Only Dorab Mehta lives who regales his audiences with his popular column "Jamasni Jiloo" in Gujarati.

Wherever he went, Contractor carried Busybee with him. Busybee became so well known that poor Behram Contractor was relegated to the back seat.

His "Round and About" column was a must reading from which readers would glean the history of Bombay. The columnist often became nostalgic about the Billimoria High School at Panchgani where he was a boarder.

Then there were pieces of fictitious conversations between Busybee and his wife or between them and their two sons. Prominence was also given to Busybee's beloved Bolshoi, the Boxer, and his ever-helpful, influential and

**A house is not a
home
till it is your
own.**

Make it yours with a
BOB Housing Loan.



- Loans for new dwelling units - Houses or Flats upto Rs. 50 lacs
 - Loans for Repairs/Renovation/Extension of existing houses
- Low rate of interest with option for Fixed or Floating rates
 - Convenient repayment process
 - Interest calculated on daily products basis under EMI plan
 - Minimal documentation and low processing charges
- Loans available for Rural area also, under Golden Jubilee

Rural Housing Finance Scheme on attractive terms

For further details and application
form please contact our nearest branch or
visit our website.



बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)



Bank of Baroda
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Visit us at <http://www.bankofbaroda.com>

stinkingly rich friend living on the 21st floor.

Busybee was the pioneer in starting another column "Eating out" which became an instant hit. Other newspapers soon picked it up.

BHIKHAJI M. ADENWALLA

Obliging Busybee

One fine morning I entered the *Mid-Day* office where Behram Contractor was sitting at a small table near a corner. I took some courage and went to him. He was writing something when I interrupted, "Sir I have come to give my article." He took it with a faint smile and told me that I should inquire after three days. Then I started sending my articles and letters by post and to my great surprise all were carried.

When he started his own paper, *Afternoon Despatch and Courier*, the short letters I sent were published as well. Busybee had a soft corner for all letter writers and columnists. He had two other good qualities: he was a man of few words and a soft-spoken person.

DINSHAW D. NATERWALLA

Scholarship available

The Parsi Panchayat of Vadodara in-

vites applications for the Prof Sohrab Manchershaw Wadia Scholarship from Parsi or Irani Zoroastrian students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate or research studies at doctorate/postdoctorate level, for the academic year 2001-2002, at any of the understated institutions: any Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAR), Department of Chemical Technology (UDCT), Bombay, Engineering University, Roorkee, Dhanbad School of Mines and Applied Geology, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), any national laboratory or institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), any all India institute of repute, any foreign university or institute of repute.

Only outstanding students with consistently excellent record would be considered. Prescribed application forms for one scholarship of about Rs 6,500 may be obtained by sending a self-addressed envelope (4"x9") to The Secretary, Shree Vadodara Parsi Panchayat, Hira Baug, Post Office Road, Fatehgunj,

RATAN SURVEYOR & Co

Engineers, Contractors
& R.C.C. Specialists,
GOLD Medallists

Engineers of repute
for construction
works of best quality

Fifty years:
1950 A.D. to 2000 A.D.

Arbitrator:
Life Member, The
Indian Council
of Arbitration

Peninsula House
Dr Dadabhoy Naoroji Road
Fort, Mumbai 400001
Phone: 2619670



M. NUSSERVANJI
and Company

Transport Contractors

Pune • Mumbai • Bangalore • Chennai



JAPAN

Hi-Fi & Home Theater
Musical Keyboards
require

PRODUCT DEMONSTRATORS
FIELD SALESMEN
TECHNICIANS

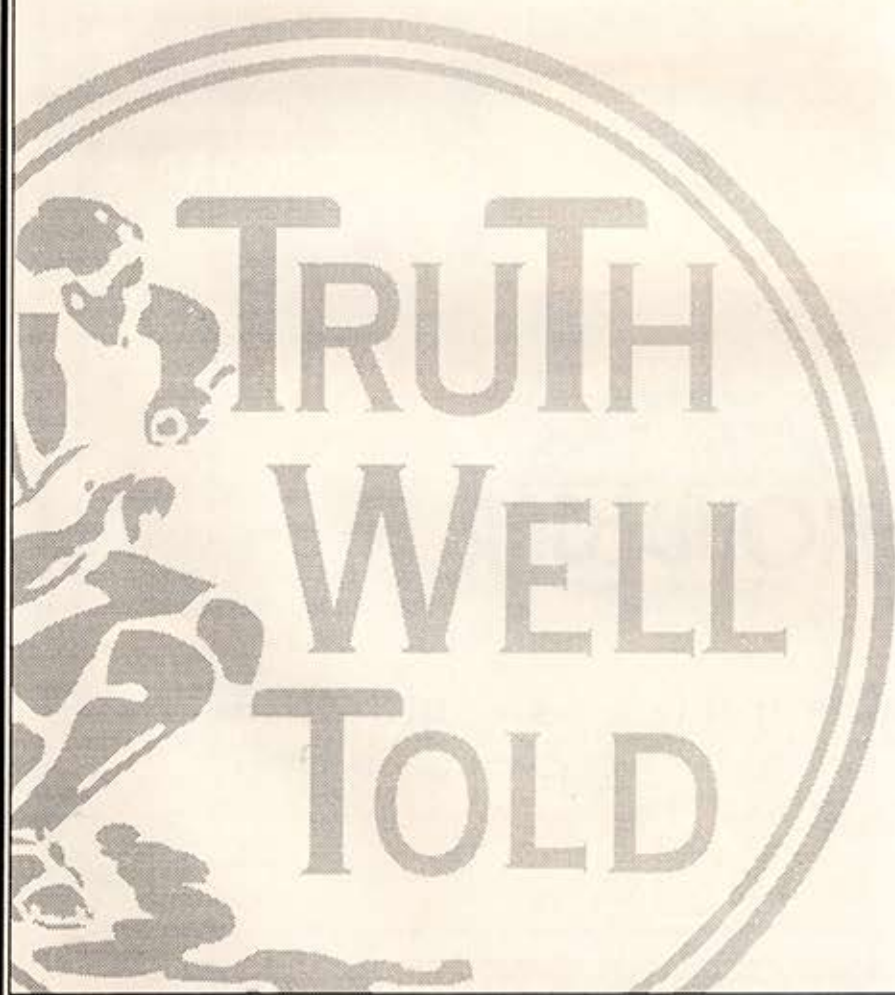
For

Keyboards, Amplifiers,
CD/VCD/DVD Players, Speakers,
Cassette Decks.

Applicants with knowledge
of Hi - End Audio and
Keyboards preferred.

SAVOY ELECTRONICS
PVT LTD

With Best Compliments
from
McCANN-ERICKSON INDIA



Happy Navroz



where you can mix music with beer
a place to be...

Vadodara 390002, Gujarat.

The last date for receipt of filled application forms is September 30, 2001.

BAMAN R. CAMA

Trustee and Hon Secretary, Shree Parsi Panchayat,
Vadodara

Memorable melodies

If beauty is in the eyes of the beholder then appreciation is in the heart of the hearer. From times immemorial, we Zoroastrians have had a rich cultural heritage in the realm of music. Many a Zoroastrian has carved a niche in the annals of the music industry in India. Many a musician regaling us at wedding and navjote functions in our baugs and clubs have gone unnoticed. The loss is ours, for in the process we have lost forever the vast repertoire of Parsi songs, both amusing and traditional.

In the light of this Marazban Dara Mehta has embarked upon the task of keeping alive the memories of our Parsi melodies by producing a cassette of traditional Parsi melodies.

The son of the famous Dara Mehta of Darling Orchestra and the brother of Pervez Mehta, the dramatist Marazban first appeared on stage at the very young age of five. Over the years he mastered various musical instruments like drums, percussion, rhythm congos, bongo, dholak and keyboard, etc. His presence was noticeable at the late Adi Marzban's variety revues.

He has been the lead crooner in his own Darling Orchestra which he inherited from his illustrious father and has kept it alive for over half a century. In addition to this he has rendered his services to other band leaders like Goody Seervai, Nelly and her dance band, Phil Davar and Behli Gandevia and Minoo Marawalla's band. His forte is duets where both the male and female renditions are sung by him, his favorites being Mohammad Rafi and Kishore Kumar. He has appeared on television and radio as also at functions organized by Parsis and other communities.

He has just brought out a cassette of famous Parsi numbers with professional recording arrangements. The cost being approximately Rs 80,000 to 90,000, he has appealed to all to contribute towards his endeavor. Cheques favoring Marazban D. Mehta may be sent to him at A/12, 404, Yogi Nagar, Eksar Road, Borivli (West), Bombay 400091. Tel (Res) 8077852, (Off) 2618071 Ext 110. The audio cassette is priced at Rs 60 and

APPOINTED
VALUERS OF JEWELLERY
TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

GAZDAR
PRIVATE LIMITED

Taj Mahal Hotel
Bombay

Tel: 2023666, 2023366 Ext 3204

Telegrams: "MANUSCRIPT"

JIMMY'S ENNIS

The Renowned
Beauty Parlours
for you and your family.
In the heart of the city
where you can feel
relaxed, where quality and
hygiene is concerned. Our
trained staff of boys and
girls are specialists in facials,
manicure, pedicure with
beauty and hair treatment.

At Calcutta

NU ENNIS

(Gents and Ladies Hair
and Beauty Parlour)
Phone: 2442272

ENNIS AUGUST MOON

(Strictly a Ladies Beauty Parlour)
Phone: 2298873

At Chennai

ENNIS-I

(Ladies Hair and Beauty Parlour)
Phone: 8262956

JIMMY'S ENNIS

(Gents Hairdressing Saloon)
Phone: 8278760

ENNIS - II

(Ladies Hair and Beauty Parlour)
Phone: 6427117

GENTLEMEN'S JIM

(Gents Hairdressing Saloon)
Phone: 5325906

ENNIS-III

(Ladies Hair and Beauty Parlour)
Phone: 8270618

**Jimmy S. Ardesher
Enterprises**

the CD is available for Rs 160.

NOSHIR PAGHDIWALLA

Reveal your identity

Through your column, I would like to appeal to those who write to me regularly on irregularities committed by some of the trustees/officials of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), but unfortunately under false and fictitious names and addresses, to please write to me in confidence with their correct and traceable identities. These community members claim to have knowledge of underhand/ clandestine dealings in allocation of flats in bays and colonies and regularly level allegations of varying kinds against specific BPP trustees and officials. Based on this information, they flood me with such letters and suggest I initiate legal steps.

If the authors of these letters have definite and reliable knowledge and information, they should also have the guts to write with their correct name and address if they genuinely desire to help me in my crusade. They must appreciate that their efforts are wasted if they are not forthcoming with their identity which I assure will be kept strictly confidential.

PHIROZE AMROLIWALLA

Edited by Parinaz M. Gandhi

- * 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

M/s G. D. ANKLESARIA & Company

New Road — Ratlam

Authorised Dealer

Cummins

Kirloskar

Greaves

Diesel Generators

Ph: (07412) 53509-35109

Fax: (07412) 33909

*Best wishes
and
Navroz Mubarak
to one and all*

R. P. R. Enterprises

66K, A. K. Marg
Mumbai 400036

**Mrs Jeroo & Jehangir N. Medhora,
Ms Zenobia J. Medhora & Viraf J. Medhora
Wish a Happy and Prosperous Navroz
and Pateti Mubarak to the Parsee community**

JEHANGIR MEDICAL ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES

**ASSOCIATE COMPANIES
JEHANGIR ENGG ASSOCIATES
JV BIOMEDICS INTERNATIONAL
Tel No: Factory 4922782/4930853 Fax: 91-022-4930853**

PRODUCTS RANGE Manufacturing Cautery Machine and Physiotherapy Equipments

- * ELECTROTHERM Portable 350 Watts Unit (Short Wave Diathermy)
- * THERASONIC Portable Ultrasonic unit
- * ELECTROMYODYNE STD-3 Muscle Stimulator
- * FARADYNE Faradic Stimulator
- * NEBULISER Ultrasound Portable
- * CONTINUOUS PASSIVE MOTION UNIT (CPM)
- * TRANSCUTANEOUS NEURONALGESIA (TENS)
- * ELECTRONIC TRACTION FOR CERVICAL & LUMBAR
- * TRACTION TABLE FOR TRACTION UNIT

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

**Our Popular latest Jehangir's Solid State ELECTROSURGICAL
unit MEGATOM-UROATOM-BIPOLAR COAGULATOR-ACE: 300-ACE: 200-
MEGATOM CLASSIC (State of Art) are widely used all over the vast country.**

**Our MEGATOM-UROATOM-ACE: 300-ACE: 200-MEGATOM CLASSIC
is specially used for TCRC & ALL TYPE OF LAPAROSCOPIC surgeries**

All correspondence to

**Factory: Unit No 308 & 309, Bussa Heavy Industrial Estate, Off Ferguson
Road, Hanuman Lane, S. N. Path, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013**

MILESTONES

The age of Zoroastrian brides (as listed in this issue) ranged between 22 and 52 years, the arithmetic mean (the total number of individual ages divided by the total number of brides) being 33 years. The corresponding figures for the grooms were 29 and 74 years, averaging at 41 years.

There were eight babies born in Bombay in June as compared to 80 Zoroastrians who were consigned to Bombay's Towers of Silence. June's major killers were heart disease (24, seven of whom were 80 years and above), cancer (13) and diseases related to the lungs (11). Brain disease and old age/general debility felled four victims each whereas three patients each succumbed to kidney failure and septicemia. Asthma, diabetes, anemia and hypertension claimed two Zoroastrians each. There were 11 isolated cases registered: cyanosis (a bluish tinge under the nails, lips and skin caused by the lack of oxygen), high fever, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, liver disease, uremia, necrosis (death of a tissue), spinal muscular atrophy, depression, sepsis and motor neuron disease. In the case of one death the viscera was reserved for chemical analysis. The age range fluctuated between four months and

97 years. A 28-year-old youth was also lost to the community. The Zoroastrian life expectancy at birth for June, in Bombay, was 73 years.

The data on births, marriages and deaths has been compiled from information supplied by various newsletters and anjuman in India and abroad, courts and hospitals. This information is not always complete or consistent: we are unable to carry data from areas where the anjuman do not furnish the particulars; the birth figures for Bombay are supplied by two 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 break-up of deaths according to illnesses, especially of the elderly, death is often due to a combination of several diseases.

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

AHMEDABAD

MARRIED

Binaifer Nadir Dumasia of Surat and *Vistasp Rohinton Karanjawala* on June 10, 2001

BARODA

BORN

A boy, *Farhad*, to *Hufrish* and *Narikhani Mistry*; May 12
A girl, *Jennis*, to *Jennifer* and *Yezdi Talati*; May 13

MARRIED

Monaz Ashok Shah and *Arpan Desai*; May 13

DIED

Godrej Darabsha Bhagwagar (63), husband of *Bapsy* and father of *Farhad* and *Vispi*; March 22
Rati Kersasp Contractor (85); April 28
Nergishbanu Bejonji Anklesaria (85), mother of *Roshan Edulji Contractor*;

May 8

Hector Shavaksha Elavia (48); May 10

BOMBAY

BORN

A boy to *Farida* and *Vizak Ankleshwaria*; April 21
A boy, *Arzan*, to *Hufrish* and *Marzban Variava*; May 21
A girl to *Shermaz* and *Kurush Daruwala*; June 1
A girl to *Cooma* and *Bahadur Contractor*; June 5
A boy, *Nash*, to *Gargi* and *Homiyar Jilla*; June 5
A boy, *Yohan*, to *Khushnum* and *Percy Avari*; June 6
A girl to *Zaver* and *Baji Sepoy*; June 11
A boy to *Seema* and *Zarir Mullan*; June 12
A boy to *Dinaz* and *Navzad Cooverji*; June 14
A girl, *Benaiza*, to *Percis* and *Ardeshir Billimoria*; June 21

MARRIED

Jehan-Ara Rustom Bharucha and *Jehangir Firdosh Poona-wala*; December 17, 2000
Behroz Jemi Hansotia and *Hirji Eddie Nagarwalla*; May 13, 2001
Nawaz Dhanjishaw Mistry of Deolali and *Mehernosh Lovji Shroff* of Kalyan; May 18
Kamal Rusi Shroff of Thana and *Hoshedar Bomi Pitha-wala*; May 18
Niloufer Nariman Bamji and *Nauzer Khurshed Bharucha*; May 28
Sanobar Boman Umrigar and *Sarosh Gustadji Kapadia*; June 3
Franak Shapur Khandhadia and *Navroz Jimmy Pagdiwalla*; June 3
Villoo Aspiandiar Kapadia and *Nariman Phirojsha Talaty*; June 6
Nilufer Keki Doctor and *Daraius Khurshedji Ghyara*; June 22

DIED

Hoshang Bejonji Buhari-walla (71), residing at S/11, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd., 400039; May 31
Nariman Jalejar Taraporvala (83), 3/31, Sion Mans, Sion Rd, Sion, 400022; May 31
Adil Noshirwan Dastoor (28), 43, Hirabai Petit Bldg, Opp Grant Rd Rly Stn, Grant Rd, 400007; June 2
Mani Savaksha Morena (76), 786/A, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 2
Bhikhu Ardeshir Hilloowalla (85), Strand Hsc, Opp Strand Cinema, Colaba, 400005; June 4
Perviz Bahadur Badhni (67), 5/27, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parcel Tank Rd, 400033; June 5
Mithoo Jamshedji Desai (77), 4, Noman Manzil, Tardeo, 400034; June 5
Aspiandiar Gustad Irani (80), 19, Station Ter, Sleater Rd, 400007; June 5
Bhikhaji Manchershaw Katrak (79), 643, Gulshan Ter, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 5
Perviz Sorab Pavri (66), J/12, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd., 400039; June 5
Jehangir Framroze Damania (81), 382/A, Powwalla Bldg, Grant Rd, 400007; June 6

Nader Erachshaw Kapadia (79), D/15, Godrej Baug, Napean Sea Rd, 400036; June 6
Aloo Gustasp Lala (85), 207, Alpaiwala Bldg, Dr Cawasji Hormusji St, 400002; June 6
Daulat Parvez Sharit (64), 22A/31, Takshila Bldg, Mahakali Rd, Andheri (E), 400093; June 6
Mehroo Eruch Sorabji (84), 7/A-1, Takshila, Mahakali Rd, Andheri (E), 400093; June 6
Dhun Peshotan Balsara (83), C/1-26, Contractor Baug, Mori Rd, Mahim, 400016; June 7
Philly Furdoon Engineer (54), Purshotam Bldg, Grant Rd, 400007; June 7
Hilla Dosoo Khadiwalla (67), 3/9, Lady Dorab Tata Bldg, S. V. Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; June 7
Manijeh Ardeshir Mistry (92), Star Bldg, Uranwala St, Grant Rd, 400007; June 7
Minoo Savaksha Batliwalla (71), J/24, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; June 9
Katy Jemi Bexter (59), 25/10, Sethna Bldg, Old Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; June 9
Gool Firoze Billimoria (83), Empress Bldg, 13, Nusserwanji Petit St, Grant Rd, 400007; June 9
Banoobai Cawas Irani (89), 758, Road no 7, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 9
Piloo Jehangir Irani (76), 16, Lam Bldg, Delisle Rd, Lower Parel, 400013; June 9
Hoshang Faramji Mirza (72), 26A, Tata Mills Co-op Hsg Soc, Elphinstone Rd, Parel, 400012; June 9
Kaiki Sorabji Tamboly (86), 803/A, Mistry Manor, Kingsway, Dadar, 400014; June 9
Eruch Merwan Irani (Borzooyan) (60), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; June 10
Pestonji Dorabji Bhanja (83), R. C. Sethna Bldg, Zoroastrian Bldg, Golanji Hill, Parel, 400012; June 11
Jalejar Dorabji Bhathena (97), 2B/32, Tata Mills Co-op Hsg Soc, Elphinstone Rd, Parel, 400012; June 11
Gool Sorab Dotivala (73), 603, Goola Mans, Jame Jamshed Rd, Matunga, 400019; June 11



*With Best
Compliments from*
**Irani Foods
& Investment
Company
Private Limited**

Manufacturers of 'Wibs' Products

100 D'Lima Street, Dockyard Road, Mumbai 400010

Mahavir's Embroidery wishes all Parsis Saal Mubarak

- Ready hand and machine made Parsi garas available as well as made to order
- We transfer old jari sarees/garas onto new materials and also polish original jari borders and sarees
- Ready original jari borders and zardosi net borders available as well as made to order
- Japanese crepe, butter crepe, Italian crepe, Georgette and plain materials available
- We undertake international quality embroidery on a variety of plain sarees and churidar sets

Mahavir's Embroidery

Mahavir Building Compound, Bhandarkar Road, Opp Kabutar Khana, Matunga (C.R.), Mumbai 400019 Tel No. 4025070 C/o 4021818

Telefax: 4313328 • We accept all major credit cards



Sunday Closed



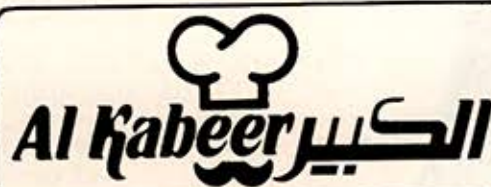
Tehmina Darabshaw Driver (83), 2/3, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; June 11
 Dinshaw Rustomji Gamir (78), Munsaf Bldg, Captain Clny, Tardeo, 400034; June 11
 Perin Ratan Baja (75), 22, Old Wadia Bldg, 7/A, Chandanwadi, Dhobitalao, 400002; June 12
 Kaiti Khurshed Choksy (92), C/o Naval K. Choksy, Niamat Manzil, N. Petit St, Grant Rd, 400007; June 12
 Maharookh Rustom Sabawalla (53), 293, Habib Bldg, Grant Rd, 400007; June 12
 Eruch Maneckji Wadia (90), C/22, Asmat, Srishti Co-op Hsg Soc, Mira Rd, Thana, 401107; June 12
 Kiyan Kerman Bharucha (4 months), D/8, Jer Baug, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Byculla, 400027; June 13
 Purvez Jamshedji Chinoy (67), Jaiji Ter, Sleater Rd, Grant Rd, 400007; June 13
 Bapai Rustom Karani (85), Ness Baug Annexe III, Nana Chowk, 400007; June 13
 Jamshed Pohchaji Munsif (86), M/13, Palm Springs, Cuffe

Parade, 400005; June 13
 Roshan Hormasji Vasanani (72), Pundole Bldg, Opp Mithaiwala Fire Temple, Sleater Rd, Grant Rd, 400007; June 13
 Nargish Nariman Bharucha (79), 4, Jehangir Baug, Juhu, 400049; June 14
 Mani Nariman Khambatta (62), 13, Hirabai Petit Bldg, Opp Grant Rd Rly Stn, Grant Rd, 400007; June 14
 Najoo Cawasha Lovji (86), Chanshavilla, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; June 14
 Hutoxi Jamshed Hateria (65), Golwala Bldg, 8th Lane, Khetwadi, 400004; June 15
 Rustam Behram Kuka (84), 12/A, Lalit, Wodehouse Rd, 400005; June 15
 Rustom Dhanjishah Langrana (53), 2, Dhuswadi, Dhobitalao, 400002; June 15
 Sarosh Ratanji Wadia (91), Alipur Trust Bldg, Colaba, 400005; June 15
 Bachan Rustom Mehta (73), Yusuf Mans, 204, Khetwadi Back Rd, 400004; June 16
 Ketayun Nariman Kerawalla (73), 622, Palia Mans, Lady

Jehangir Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 16
 Homi Behram Bharucha (63), 17, Malegamwala Bldg, Station Rd, Mahim, 400016; June 17
 Jehangirji Nusserwanji Commissariat (75), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; June 18
 Zenobia Naval Wadia (74), 2, Nadir Dinshaw Bldg, Babulnath Rd, Babulnath, 400007; June 18
 Dhunmai Faramroze Gandevia (86), 662, Apoorva, Sohrab Palamkote Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 19
 Khurshid Jal Irani (72), A/1-4, Proctor St, Grant Rd, 400007; June 19
 Firoze Jehangir Karbhary (57), 2-G/7, Blue Arch Soc, Four Bglws, Andheri (W), 400053; June 19
 Jer Behram Sahiar (78), 11/4, Tata Blocks, C. J. Clny, Tardeo, 400034; June 19
 Homi Darab Sethna (79), 72, Ashoka Apts, Rungta Lane, Off Napean Sea Rd, 400006; June 19
 Jehangir Dorabji Dadademery (94), 12/7, Rustom Baug,

Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; June 20
 Jerbanoo Faramroze Marawalla (80), 2, Meherbai Wadia Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; June 20
 Dolat Jal Patel (68), N-1/21, Cama Park, Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; June 20
 Sam Framroz Mistry (68), G-12, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; June 21
 Dhan Mervanji Poonawala (70), B/1, Petit Block, Avabai Petit St, Balaram St, 400007; June 22
 Mehra Ardeshtir Dastur (92), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; June 23
 Minoo Jehangir Pastakia (67), Kamshet Taluka, Maval Dist, 410405; June 23
 Alamai Gustadji Patel (75), 3/1, Baria Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; June 23
 Homai Darayus Postwala (48), 13, Jyoti Mhl, Sleater Rd, Grant Rd, 400007; June 23
 Minoo Maneckshaw Jijina (51), G/43, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; June 24
 Roshan Nadir Pardiwala (52), Reward, Tardeo, 400007; June 24

Celebrate
 Meal Times
 With



World class fresh frozen meat and ready to cook items: Chicken Biryani, Samosa, Tikka, Seekh Kabab, Burger, Mutton: Samosa, Seekh Kabab, Burger, Vegetable: Samosa, Burger

More than 8,000 shops in eight countries stock AL-KABEER Products

Now available in Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore, Pune, Goa and Lonavala

Al-Kabeer Exports Ltd

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

Tel: 2025768/2029361 Telefax: 2028475/2836897 E-mail: alkabeer@bom3.vsnl.net.in

**BORN 1822
STILL GROWING
STRONG**

**THE
OLDEST NEWSPAPER
IN ASIA**

**THE
KEY
TO
BETTER
SALES**



*Advertisers prefer
the Oldest Newspaper*

THE BOMBAY SAMACHAR

For the first time in India

A soap that makes you fairer

New Godrej FairGlow



New Godrej FairGlow Soap contains Natural Oxy-G, a **—with—** unique bio-Natural Oxy-G[®] extract that makes you fairer, naturally. Natural Oxy-G reduces the dark melanin without changing your skin's natural balance. It also removes blemishes to give you a clear and smooth skin.

Natural Oxy-G - Action



What's more, Godrej FairGlow gives you an all over fair and glowing complexion through your daily bath. New Godrej FairGlow provides fairness for your entire family. Try it and see the difference.

This is an introductory offer. Offer available till stocks last. Offer available all over India on 75 g. pack and in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi on 125 g. pack. 125 g. pack available only in Punjab, Haryana & Delhi. Net wt. 75 g.: MRP Rs. 10. Net wt. 125 g.: MRP Rs. 16.50. 125 g. pack available for Rs. 16.50

Mudra:GS-8372

Rusi Dhunjishaw Patel (75), F. S. Parukh Dharamshala, Hughes Rd, 400007; June 24
Zarine Darabsha Vesuna (61), L/7, Dalal Est, Lamington Rd, 400008; June 25

Keki Phiroze Balsara (45), 201, Helene Heaven, 33, St Cyril Rd, Bandra, 400050; June 26

Bachan Kavas Katrak (89), 601, Pete Ann Lov, 138, St Anthony Rd, Bandra, 400050; June 27

Parin (Perin) Framroze Papa (92), 601, Pete Ann Lov, 138, St Anthony Rd, Bandra, 400050; June 27

Katy Minocher Sahukar (72), 2/17, A. H. Wadia Bldg, Parcel Tank Rd, 400033; June 27 (cremated)

Jerbanoo Homi Baria (85), C. Banoo Mans, Cumballa Hill, 400036; June 28

Khorshed Dara Daruwalla (86), 9/C, Sagar Sangeet, 58, Colaba Rd, 400005; June 28

Phiroze Sorab Engineer (74), Suresh Bhavan, Next to Wilson College, Chowpatty Sea Face, 400007; June 28
Roshan Dhunjishaw Mama (88), Wimbridge Hse, Girton School Comp, Sleater Rd,

400007; June 28
Dhun Minoo Baria (63), 8, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculia, 400027; June 29
Nariman Maneckji Bhatena (86), 3, Sumukh Co-op Soc, Off Gurunanak Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; June 29
Roshan Dhunji Contractor (61), H/24, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; June 29
Rusi Dosabhoj Elavia (71), Mackawee Mans, 7, Gunbow St, Fort, 400001; June 29

CALCUTTA

DIED
Dali Keki Fatakia, husband of Mary and father of Keki; June 14
Mithoo Vatcha, wife of Khursheed and mother of Jimmy, Feroza and Jehangir; June 20
Navaz Wadia, daughter of Nergis and Eruchshaw and sister of Dinaz Howe; June 29

SECUNDERABAD

DIED
Pesi Barjorji Vakil (80), brother of Naval, Sohrab, Feroze, Rohinton, Guloo, late Behram and Khorshed; June 20
Homi Faramroz Daroovala

(77), brother of Jamshed, Dolly and Bachoo Bai Illoo; June 25

SURAT

DIED
Aspi Pirojshaw Elavia (67), 23, Mistry Adarian Bldg, Sayedpura, 395003; June 3
Jamshedji Navroji Bacha (85), 2/238, Malesar Mohallo, Rustompura, 395002; June 5
Nariman S. Dadi Burjor (83), Nariman Home and Infirmary, Shapore, 395003; June 28

AUSTRALIA

BORN
A boy, Darius, to Christin and Adil Vaghaiwala, brother to Cyrus in Alice Springs; May 21

CANADA

British Columbia

DIED
Sharyar Iranshad (77), husband of Banoo and father of Ardeshir, Shahrokh, Farrokh, Kourosh and Shahram in Richmond; June 19

Ontario

BORN
A boy, Farzan, to Shaan

and Behram Dubash; December 17, 2000
A boy, Vahaab, to Kainaz and Junaid Ladha; January 5, 2001
A boy, Aditya, to Nergish and Gautam Khande; January 19
A girl, Ayesha, to Claudine and Zarir Medhora in Toronto; May 21
A girl, Aban, to Hutoxi and Jamshed Pithawala in Toronto; May 22
A girl, Kyra, to Rinavaz and Nariman Vatcha in Toronto; May 25
A boy, Jahan, to Riah and Shahroukh Sidhwa; June 6
A girl, Shanaya Zara, to Michelle and Ron Patel in Mississauga; June 13
A boy, Rushad, to Roxana and Behram Daboo, brother to Zal, in Aurora; June 22
A boy, Xersis, to Zenobia and Mehabad Dastur in Toronto; June 23

DIED
Dossan Burjor Mistry, mother of Siloo and Ronnie; January 20
Mahrokh Keyannejad (86), sister of Homi Kapadia in Toronto; March 23
Shirin Yeganegi, daughter of Shekoufeh and Shahbahrman in

“Sure Relief of All Aches & Pains”

Madhivala

Liniment And Pain-Balm

For • Pain in joint • Muscles
• Neck • Back • Knee trouble
and other
bodypains,
Especially for
Chronic
Complaints
a really
effective
medicine.



Manufactured by:
Remedies Pharmaceuticals 127, Wadala Udyog Bhavan, Wadala, Mumbai 400 031.
Phone: 414 7642

Toronto; March 23
Shirin Yeganegi, daughter of
 Shekoufeh and Shahbahr in
 Sudbury; May 17
Kaikhosru Bicajee Sarkari
 (94), father of Pouruchisti,
 Behram, Dinyar and Zarir in
 Toronto; June 18
Naval Jehangir Sanjana (92),
 husband of Perin and father of
 Sanobar in Toronto; June 23

Quebec

MARRIED

Aruna Nilakantar and Zubin
Chinoy in Quebec; June 10

IRAN

MARRIED

Nazanin Mehin, daughter of
 Parvindikht and Houshang of
 North Vancouver, Canada and
Hooman Darabian of France,
 in Tehran; March 30

DIED

Dowlath Kaviani (Qumarsi),
 mother of Giti Hormosyari in
 Kerman; May 1

NEW ZEALAND

BORN

A boy, *Yazdy*, to *Jarafshan*
 and *Tehmus Mistry* in

FIGURES AT A GLANCE*

	This issue	Bombay 2000*	2001 ^o	This issue	India 2000*	2001 ^o	This issue	World 2000*	2001 ^o
BIRTHS									
Boys	6	87	41	1	15	3	14	23	18
Girls	10	84	58	1	14	3	8	20	13
MARRIAGES									
Parsi	9	129	162	1	13	11	3	20	5
INTERCOMMUNAL									
Males married out	—	20	—	—	2	—	1	4	1
Females married out	—	19	—	1	2	1	—	1	—
DEATHS									
CONSIGNED									
Males	34	463	211	8	79	32	13	58	23
Females	48	461	228	4	57	26	7	45	12
CREMATED									
Males	—	5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Females	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Running totals for 2000 (January 2000-August 2001 issues)

^oRunning totals for 2001 (January 2001-August 2001 issues)

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.



- Mawa cakes,
- Shrewsbury biscuits,
- Seven grain bread,
- Apple pie,
- Brun pav
- Spanish Buns at:

YAZDANI BAKERY

CAWASJI PATEL STREET, FORT, MUMBAI 400001 TEL.: 2870739

Your Daily Bread



The Tata vision: to improve the quality of life. 2.7 lakh Tata employees share common goals and a common vision. To continuously pursue excellence. To provide world-class products and services to our customers. To ensure superior returns to our shareholders. And to create a brighter future and a better life for our employees and the community.



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

With best
compliments
from

**Sharick
Exports**

Auckland; November 2, 2000

UK

MARRIED

Meher Bhathena of Bombay, daughter of Freny and Dara, and *Malcolm Printer* of Middlesex, son of Nergish and Kersee, in Twickenham; May 11, 2001

DIED

Nariman Ardeshir Chichger (92), of Linde, Malawi; February 20
Barjor Ardeshir Chichger (83), 54, Colesbourne Drive, Downhead Park, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AP; March 19

Dorset

DIED

Keki Ardeshir Patel (81), 29, Pergin Crescent, Fleets Bridge, Pool, BH17 7AL; April 23

Hertfordshire

BORN

A boy, *Xaal*, to *Anahita* and *Rohinton Aderianwalla*, brother to *Xarius* and *Xerxes* in Barnet; March 11

Kent

BORN

A girl, *Havovi*, to *Natasha* and *Khurshed Katrak*, sister to *Benaisha* in Westerham; April 3

DIED

Naju Hosang Mehta (85), 277, Pickhurst Rise, West Wickham, BR4 0AB; February 22

Leicestershire

DIED

Minoo Rustomji Bhot (82), 1, Locke Avenue, Fosse Est, LE4 7RZ; May 22

London

DIED

Dolly Mistry (84), 123, Revelstoke Rd, Wimbledon Park, SW18 5NN; April 24
Phiroze K. Randeria (76), 215, Stanstead Rd, Forest Hill, SE23 1HU; May 7
Kekobad H. Patell (84), 60, Harvard Court, Honeybourne Rd, NW6 1HN; June 14

Middlesex

BORN

A boy, *Shayan*, to *Delnaz* and

Hanoze Contractor in Harrow; February 23

A girl, *Aniza*, to *Kashmira* and *Homyar Fanibanda* in Edgware; February 28

DIED

Naushir P. Patel (67), 59, Court Farm Rd, Northold, UB5 5HQ; March 20

Surrey

BORN

A boy, *Zal*, to *Mahafid* and *Farhad Jamooji* in Weybridge; February 2

DIED

Homi Dinshaw Kapadia (84), Bennett Hse, Coombe Park, Kingston, KT2 7JB; February 4

West Midlands

DIED

Hilla Dosabhoy Batki (81), 10, Finchall Croft, Solihull, B92 9QP; February 24

USA

Arizona

BORN

A boy, *Zain*, to *Gulnar* and *Shyamuk Sidhwa* in Phoenix; June 7



Friendly Zoroastrian Tour of Iran

For 18 days. Departure: 26th October 2001•

Arrival: 12th November 2001

Accommodation: 3, 4 & 5 Star Hotels

Visiting: **Tehran:** Mt. Damavand, Palaces, Museums, Crown Jewels, Fire Temples. **Shiraz:** Passargade, Persepolis, Takhte-Jamshid, Naqshe-Rustom. **Yazd:** Tower of Silence, Holy Shrines, Zoroastrian villages. **Mashad:** Tomb of Ferdowsi, Tomb of Omar-Khayyam, Reza Bazaar. **Isfahan:** Palace, Museum, Armenian Church. **Hamadan:** Ali-Sadar Caves, Treasure Book. **Caspian Sea:** Boating, Cable-Car, Hot Spring Bath.

Cost: 1,200/- U.S.Dollar (Air Fare, Visa not included).

We also conduct tours in November, April and May.

For more details contact: **Mr Farhang Irani**

Mumbai Tel: 2025210 Tele Fax: 2840588 Pune Tel: 9520 6931338

E-mail: farhang_irani1@rediffmail.com



With Compliments

VEERA TANNERIES PRIVATE LIMITED

(A Government Recognised Export House)

Established: 1978

Manufacturer Exporter of Finished Leather

Recipient of
"Outstanding Export Performance Awards"
from

Maharashtra State and Marathwada Region
for the years 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87,
1987-88, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94,
1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000

Darab C. Pader

Factory

Gut No. 124, Chitegaon, Tq. Paithan, Dist. Aurangabad, Maharashtra, (India)
Phone: 0240-323010 Gram: "VERATAN" Bidkin P.O. Fax: 02431-51439

Registered Office

266, Innawadi, Dharavi, Mumbai 400017 (India)
Phone: 4076277-4078123 Res: 6485763 E-Mail: veratan@bom4.vsnl.net.in
Fax: 91-22-4071029 Website: <http://www.veratan.com>



*From
A
Well Wisher*

*Best wishes
from*

**RAMESHKUMAR
AND
COMPANY**

Massachusetts

DIED

Homi Kapadia (Keyannejad)
(73), of Athens, Greece, in
Boston; May 9

New York

BORN

A girl, *Adina*, to *Nina* and *Adil*
Mistry in New York; March 21

MARRIED

Liley Gheewalla of Bombay,
daughter of *Daisy* and *Yezed*,
and *Cyrus Mehta*, son of *Vera*
and *Dara*; January 28

Texas

BORN

A boy, *Zarius*, to *Thrity* and
Kersi Engineer in Houston;
November 15, 2000
A girl, *Aliya*, to *Rubina* and
Feroze Byramji in Houston;
December 27

Virginia

BORN

A boy, *Zen*, to *Mahrugh* and
Sorab Pandey in Herndon;
February 2, 2001

Compiled by Roxana A. Driver

With best compliments from

**SEW ELECTRICALS
Private Limited**

Electrical Engineers and Contractors

104, Shree Hanuman Ind Estate, 42-B, G. D. Ambekar Marg
Wadala, Mumbai 400031



RALLIS INDIA LIMITED

**The chemical leader
with a history of strengths**

Manufacturers

**Fine Chemicals, Pesticides,
Fertilizer Mixtures**

Distributors

**Seeds, Fertilizers, Agrochemicals,
Tanning Materials**

Export

Agrochemicals and Fine Chemicals

**A GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED
TRADING HOUSE**

Group Headquarters

Ralli House, 21, D. Sukhadvala Marg, Mumbai 400001

A TATA Enterprise

GLOBE THEATRES Pvt Ltd

Established
April 3, 1915

Pioneers of Show Business
in India for
the last 86 years

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

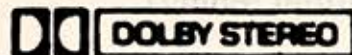
**NOTHING BUT
THE BEST**

to our ever increasing
number of Patrons

Controlling:

**REGAL
BOMBAY**
•
**CAPITOL
BOMBAY**
•
**GLOBE
CALCUTTA**

All the above Cinemas have
now been equipped with



Sound System

EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES *continued from page 31*

segregating waste by enacting street plays, reported the *Bombay Times* of May 2. "Some people are receptive; others choose to remain ignorant," Zia Parakh was quoted by *Bombay Times*. The paper also reported that there are some politicians from the local area who are provoking citizens not to segregate saying that it's the duty of the BMC and not the residents' job. In July, nearly 5,000 pamphlets were circulated among the residents, discouraging citizens from complying with the BMC's directives, reported Tannaz Parakh.

According to Mehernosh Fitter, president of the Mahapalika Congress Committee in Ward 39, who was quoted in the *Mid-Day*, "Since there are no demarcated roadside dumps anymore, those who miss the collection van dump their garbage anywhere. Now there are little garbage dumps all over the colony... And how are they planning to impose the scheme in the slums that house 55 percent of the city's population?" In his circular letter Fitter maintained, "As things stand today, our cooperation towards segregation has been a wasted effort of investing in a second dustbin and teaching domestic help/garbage attendants to do the needful conscientiously. After criticism in sections of the Press, whereupon Parsee Colony compost was discontinued from being dumped in a public garden in Wadala, it now stands exposed that... our Colony refuse ends up in Deonar like from all Bombay. It is a sheer mockery that after overnight enforcing a hastily conceived segregation scheme only in our demarcated section of Ward 39, our painstakingly and civic minded separated waste is disposed collectively alongside mixed garbage from the rest of Bombay which does not have to adhere to this rule. This practice (should)... be promptly abolished and restarted only when all of Bombay is geared with proper infrastructure for this ambitious project."

"While the rest of Bombay is awaiting directions from the BMC regarding segregation, wouldn't it be wonderful if all our Parsi baugs began with the scheme immediately?" asks Tannaz Parakh.

"With a burgeoning population, citizens should realize that this is the only way to tackle the menace of piling garbage," Dadar resident Dinaz Wadia's letter was carried in the *Mid-Day* of May 14. She added, "It does not involve any

effort on our part to dump wet garbage in one bucket and dry in another. If we do not wish to do more for our environment, we should at least desist from making negative statements and discouraging dedicated workers..."

Mysterious death

Fifty-four-year-old builder Keki Balsara "the witness whom the Maharashtra government was heavily banking on to clinch the extradition case against music director Nadeem in London... was found dead under mysterious circumstances in a toilet in the police headquarters near Crawford Market" on June 26, 2001, notes a report in *The Times of India* of the next day. While the doctors at G. T. Hospital stated that Balsara had died of a cardiac arrest, his brother has asked for a detailed postmortem and viscera report, according to the newspaper.

The sibling was quoted by the *Times* as saying, "I am surprised why my brother went to the police headquarters in the first place. My brother was continuously harassed by the police. He was innocent and had no role to play in the (music mogul) Gulshan Kumar killing... He invariably informed me before going to the crime branch. But on Tuesday morning Keki said he was visiting a lawyer. In the afternoon I received a call from a policeman at my Bandra residence asking me to rush to G. T. Hospital. When I reached the Hospital I was informed by a constable that my brother was dead... Of late he was very tense and was suffering from high blood pressure."

Balsara had apparently been implicated in the murder mystery following the dispute in connection with a property he had purchased in August 1992 near D'Monte Park, Bandra (west). Although the Bombay city civil court decision was in his favor Balsara allegedly received threats from members of the Dawood gang who prevailed upon him to settle the matter out of court. The first instalment of Rs 25 lakhs paid to Balsara he was forced to surrender to three members of the gang who unknown to him were plotting the murder of Gulshan Kumar, it was reported in the *Times*.

The crime branch officers did not arrest Balsara in the case although they made him a key witness against Nadeem, specified the news item. The police though maintained that Balsara's was a case of "natural death."

Compiled by Parinaz M. Gandhi



With Compliments of

Hindustan Lever Limited

makers of

Surf, Rin and Wheel

Samachar scion

Parinaz M. Gandhi

Frequent ailments followed by hospitalization in his later years invariably required Nusserwanji Cama, managing director of *The Bombay Samachar*, to sign documents urgently. On April 1, 2001, when in good humor as was his wont, Nusserwanji told his family that he was leaving, his elder son Muncherji immediately reminded him to sign some papers. "This time you are too late," responded Nusserwanji and before the family could understand the implication of his statement, he had breathed his last, conveys Muncherji. Although 80-year-old Nusserwanji (better known as Noshir) was reportedly one of the longest surviving cardiac bypass patients in the world, ultimately his death was attributed to kidney and not heart failure.

Until a couple of months before his demise, he attended the newspaper's office and press at Red House regularly, even if it required him to be brought to the office on a wheelchair. He joined his father Muncherji in business in 1942 and in 1982 took over as managing director of India's oldest existing newspaper and the fourth oldest in the world. "He pioneered all the printing changes and developments in the company," Muncherji gives his father credit, adding, "My grandfather was not mechanically oriented...My father was passionately fond of anything that moved. Machinery was his first love. He loved to dismantle and assemble different gadgets." He took the initiative to introduce color printing in the 1960s, the change of technology from hot metal composing and letterpress printing to offset printing and then progressed to computers.

Respected for his knowledge of the printing machinery, he was frequently

consulted by the Indian customs department when they needed an expert opinion on whether the import of a particular equipment was genuinely for use in the print industry as claimed or a subterfuge for underhand dealings. Muncherji referred to the audacity of one importer who tried to bribe his father, declaring, "No one who had known him would have dared to do so. You don't sell your principles!"



Cama: eclectic interests

"Unless my shirt gets the ink and oil from the machines, I don't feel well," was Nusserwanji's reply, recalls his then editor Jehan Daruwalla who had enquired after his health following major surgery which required an unprecedented absence from office. Referring to Nusserwanji's "complete dedication to *The Bombay Samachar*," Daruwalla appreciated his willingness "to accept changes. He was most particular about maintaining discipline at any cost and was happy that at the only time when the workers resorted to a strike, the management stood firm such that ultimately the workers had to accept the conditions of the owners."

Corroborates Muncherji, "He was very fair and straightforward in his dealings with everyone. He enjoyed excellent employer-employee relations...was always accessible to all members of the staff." Concerned about the well-being of his employees and their family members, Nusserwanji would enquire after their welfare "without being obnoxiously inquisitive," mentions the son.

It was during his stewardship that the *Samachar* was able to continue with its crusade for demanding the same privileges for Zoroastrian women married out of the fold as enjoyed by the men following the unjust treatment meted out by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) to the family of Roxan Shah who

had died in a car accident in 1990, acknowledged Daruwalla. He felt that not enough was being done by the Punchayet for the living Zoroastrians, according to a family source.

Whilst Zoroastrian issues received the coverage they deserved, his "approach to the paper was almost secular," observed Daruwalla who had served as editor of the *Samachar* for nearly 25 years. "Wherever there is anything wrong, you have to come out," Daruwalla had impressed on Muncherji senior who supported his stand, a trend continued by Nusserwanji too. "He saw to it that the Hindus and Jains (who constituted a major segment of their readership) received the attention they deserved" by trying to resolve their internal differences without causing any major rift, added Daruwalla.

On the subject of dakhmenashini which had triggered a lot of reports in the Press due to the absence of vultures to support this ancient mode of disposal of the dead, Nusserwanji had ambivalent views, reveals Muncherji saying his father had left it to the family to dispose his body in such a manner that causes the least inconvenience. "Given the circumstances we felt cremation was the only option," notes Muncherji maintaining, "We had all the after-death prayers despite the tyranny of the priests."

Frequenting agiaries was not a regular routine for Nusserwanji although "he was a religious man who believed in prayers," says the son. The agiary visiting ritual had never set in the family "for the simple reason that we had a *chokkho* (ritually pure) prayer room in the house where almost every day prayers would be recited" for some long deceased soul. And although the seniors in the family, including Nusserwanji and his brother Rustom would maintain that the children were in attendance only due to the lure of paapri-malido, Muncherji insists that was not the case.

A love for rich food though runs in the family as attested by their size, unabashedly states Muncherji. He remembered his father's urge to eat chivda when recuperating in the Intensive Care Unit in an overseas hospital. He respectfully told his doctor there, "I will listen to your advice, but whether to follow it or not is my decision." As one who hated pomposity, he could enjoy food even from unpretentious outlets and made

Always ahead of the advances in medical science &
as pioneers in Pune, Ruby Hall Clinic has been

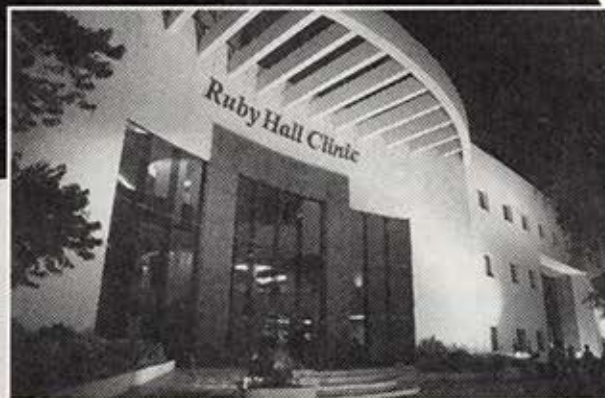


Ruby Hall Clinic

Ruby Hall Clinic today is a multidisciplinary health service hospital with 535-bed facility, 150 consultants, 500 panel doctors & 1500 paramedical staff.

Ruby Hall Clinic has state-of-the-art facilities in Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Neurology, Nuclear Medicine, Intensive Care and Cancer treatment to name only a few.

- ✓ First to start
Cobalt Therapy for Cancer Treatment
- ✓ First to start
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (M.R.I.)
- ✓ First to start
Computerised Tomography (C.T.) Scan
- ✓ First to start Lithotripsy
- ✓ First to start Angiography
- ✓ First to start Angioplasty
- ✓ First to start Bypass Surgeries
- ✓ First to start Kidney Transplant



GRANT MEDICAL FOUNDATION
RUBY HALL CLINIC

40 Sassoon Road, Pune 411 001
Tel : 6123391 (8 Lines), Fax : 6124529

optimum use of the plate and mug which were his constant companions in his car, discloses the son. Recently when the family was worried about his whereabouts one day, he sheepishly informed them that he had taken a stopover to enjoy the samosas at Tiwari Brothers at Opera House! "His zest for life did not extend to parties or dances," mentions Muncherji stressing repeatedly that his family valued their privacy and did not deem it right to make public the condolence messages they had received.

Nusserwanji's hobbies were dependent on the season. If it was summer or winter, he enjoyed repairing his cars, regardless of the grease and grime he collected. Come monsoons, and he was indoors setting right the many watches and clocks. He was also very fond of western classical music being a talented violinist who played with the Bombay Chamber Orchestra many years ago. A good amateur artist, Nusserwanji could create beautiful sketches, having inherited his talent from his mother Avabai who could embroider lovely tapestries. His paternal grandmother Virbaiji Cama who was the granddaughter of Sir Dinshaw Petit (first baronet) could make copies of old European masters, Muncherji refers to the family's artistic lineage.

Nusserwanji was an accomplished boxer who participated in competitions during his early days at the Bharda High School and the Royal Institute of Science from where he graduated in science. After a course in commercial education at the Davar's College, he was sent as an apprentice to a small printing press before he joined his father in business in 1942. The idea was "what you learn outside you can never learn as the boss' son," Muncherji explains the paces which every generation of the Cama family has been set through. For a while Nusserwanji had served as director of the Bombay School of Journalism.

Fond of animals, Nusserwanji had dogs, geese and ducks at his homestead and as an environmental conservationist would not allow even a snake to be killed on his property, states a family source. Always willing to try anything new, his "eclectic interests" extended to his collection of fragile miniatures. Muncherji referred to his father reading issues of the *Voyage* magazine with avid interest although he was "not one of the Marco Polo types." With "his terrific sense of humor," he had no qualms

about puncturing inflated egos, says Muncherji referring to one occasion during a hospital stay when, irritated with an overbearing houseman, he pretended to have some discomfort in his prosthetic eye (it was crafted so beautifully that it resembled a real eye), to an unsuspecting doctor who would even have administered him eye drops had Nusserwanji allowed him to!

As trustee of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute for 28 years, the last seven as its vice president, Nusserwanji is remembered for his "level-headed advice" and his willingness to give free publicity to the Institute's activities in his newspaper. When he was confined to a wheelchair, for his convenience, the meetings would be held at the *Samachar* office, mentions one trustee.

Jamshed Guzder, chairman of the BPP, who had interacted with Nusserwanji at the Rotary Club felt that in Nusserwanji's death "the community has lost one of its pillars."

Nusserwanji is survived by his wife Banoo, daughter Villy, sons Muncherji and Hormusji, and brother Rustom.

Paeans to his pen

When their staple fare of "Round and about" appeared intermittently the readers feared that something was amiss with Busybee. But little did they realize that after April 9, 2001 Behram Contractor would no longer be around to offer them insights into the strengths and frailties of real and almost real characters in his well read column, claimed to be the longest surviving column (from 1966 to 2001) in the history of newspaper journalism. Nor would their senses be titillated by the flavor and aroma of gastronomic delights as only he could describe. His style of writing left an indelible imprint; created a void enough to fill countless columns of "Missing You, Busybee" in the *Afternoon Despatch and Courier* (ADC) of which he had been editor since 1985.

With his lungs progressively deteriorating, Contractor had been ailing for over a year, requiring an oxygen mask to assist his breathing. "Half a lifetime of smoking 60 cigarettes a day," as noted an obituary by his protégé Mark Manuel in the ADC of April 9, 2001, had brought



Contractor: indelible imprint

about a major bout of illness in April 2000. Five months later, a major spasm of coughing caused a fracture in the lower region of the spine, a disability he coped with cheerfully while he resumed his column. By January 2001 he suffered a relapse of the old lung problem but he battled on for another three months. At 70, "he might have pulled through yet again for both Behram and Busybee were fighter and survivor but he had been through a major shock earlier in the day that must have weakened him considerably. His wife Farzana's eldest brother Capt Ishrat Khan died tragically in a road accident near Panvel. And although Busybee usually kept his emotions in check, Farzana's loss must have upset him for by midnight we were fighting to save his own life," wrote Manuel. When rushing him by ambulance from his residence at Malabar Hill to Bombay Hospital he passed away along Walkeshwar Road.

In his laid-back style, Contractor had written in the *Afternoon* in 1998, "At 40 I crossed the Rubicon, at 50 I did not feel 10 years older than I was at 40 unless I sat down and counted, and by 60 I had forgotten to count... At 60, I thought 50 was so young, and at 90, an age which I intend to attain, I am sure 80 will appear young... This happens to me frequently now, recognizing my age through another person. And yet it is not a full recognition, deep down there is a feeling that I am not as old as the other person, the calendar has stopped somewhere along the way after the age of 40... The mind continues to be young and active, full of ideas, plans, energy, also a little forgetful. Most of the time it does not remember that the body has not kept pace with the mind, it has lagged behind, way back..."

Everybody, somebody, anybody and even the nobody chose to publicly ex-



M. PALLONJI GROUP OF COMPANIES

Corporate Office:

Prop of: Taj Printing Works, 46/A, Cawasji Patel Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001.

Tel: 2042432 ♦ 2854218 ♦ 2853058 ♦ 2853080 Fax: 022-2855325

E-mail: mpgoc@bom3.vsnl.net.in Website: www.mpallonjigroup.com



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.

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 Sparte Parts

NASHIK (Main Dealer)

Old Agra Road, Nashik 422 001. (0253) 598298/591598/594576 Fax: 596598

E-mail: sterling@bom6.vsnl.net.in

Spare Parts Shop: Swastik Chambers, New Agra Road, Nashik 422001 tel: 591090

SOLAPUR (Dealer)

74/3, Bale, Solapur-Pune Road, Taluka North Solapur, Solapur 413006. Tele/Fax: (0217)

720337 City Office: Super Mkt, Murarji Peth, Solapur 413001. Tel: (0217) 720458

AHMEDNAGAR (Dealer)

Opp. S. T. Stand, Bableshwar 413737, Dist Ahmednagar. Tel: (02422) 53594

Apt. No. 202, Office No. 106, Raj Chambers, Kothala Road, Ahmednagar.



press their bereavement on Contractor's passing away.

"Without him there to comment wryly and warmly on its upper crust and its underbelly, Bombay may well stop wanting to exist," commented Bachi Karkaria, group editorial director of *Mid-Day* of her "sometime mentor, long-time colleague, all-time friend." "Busybee did set out to prick people's pomposity, but his barbs, though telling, were gentle," added freelance columnist Anil Dharker.

"Contractor was my inspiration in starting *Mid-Day* and I shall always remain grateful to him for that," wrote Khalid Ansari in *Mid-Day*, April 9 recalling "how on the day we launched *Mid-Day* with almost no money, very little human resource, insufficient newsprint stock and antiquated machinery which would not start, Behram and all of us worked on our old-fashioned typewriters under umbrellas because the roof of our cracky premises leaked during the monsoons... We parted company professionally when he decided to go his own way along with wife Farzana who then worked with us. But we remained good friends until the end."

Busybee too had referred to his working conditions at *Mid-Day* in one of his

"Round and about" columns in 1989 when he humorously commented that since his days at the *Free Press* until the starting of his own *Afternoon Despatch* he did not have a desk he could call his own: "In my first job at the *Free Press*, all the reporters used to sit around a large table. It was like a dining table... All our belongings we used to carry in our pockets... When I moved to the *Times*... I thought I would have a desk of my own. (There too) since you did not have a particular table of your own, your drawer could be in one corner of the room and you could be sitting in another. Also the older reporters had occupied all the drawers so the new reporters had no drawers."

"The younger reporters waited for the older to retire... In *Mid-Day* there was no question of my having a desk of my own. For half the staff to be able to enter the office, the other half had to go home. But those were early days and you have to begin small and without desks... And when the *Afternoon* started and began printing from Sewri, the proprietors of the press could not give me a desk, but on my chair they got a pillow from their house and placed it. I thought that was very touching... Still, there is

hope, one day I may be able to send notes from my own desk..."

Ace cartoonist and long-time friend Mario Miranda had known Contractor when he was a reporter with *The Times of India* (TOI). "It was a pleasure illustrating what he wrote because he did it vividly... Contractor and I had always planned to do an exhibition together where he would write and I would draw. But that never materialized..." In a write-up in *The Indian Express* of April 10, he mentioned, "In the evenings after work I would meet him at those bars they used to call the 'aunties... run by these nice old ladies... A few drinks always did Contractor good... We also frequently met at his house — he was after all a great party giver. A good host. The parties were wild... Once he met Farzana... the scruffy man living in a one-room apartment moved to a fancy one, and his ties started matching his clothes. She was the best thing that happened to him. Contractor loved food and luckily for him Farzana was a great cook..."

Actually Farzana and Behram had made a success of their May-December marriage for they were soul mates and 'media' mates! Just when everyone expected the ladies' man to remain an

MEHER DISTRIBUTORS Private Limited

Wishes all our patrons Saal Mubarak

Head Office: Sant Savta Marg, Mumbai 400010
Tel. Nos: 3724823/3754183

Branch: Borivali (East)

A HALLMARK OF
INTERNATIONAL CLASS




TITAN

Copyright/Master 5681

TITAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED: CORPORATE OFFICE: Golden Enclave, Tower 'A', Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017, India.
Tel: 5268551, 5273180. Fax: 080-5269923, 5263001.

"evergreen bachelor boy" he wed Farzana who was described as "young, creative, zestful and leggy" in the Woman's Extra supplement of the *Afternoon* of April 19, 2001. "At any party, you'd see a few social butterflies buzzing around the Bee. Even as an editor, his favorite pictures involved attractive women. A little 'oomph' in the newsprint didn't hurt him," added Woman's Extra.

"Behram's strength was his lucidity of expression, his economy with words and his choice of themes. He wrote simply, directly and with incredible but very effective brevity," noted S. Viswam who was the chief reporter of the TOI when Behram was on the team. When Viswam was in charge of *The Evening News of India*, the afternoon tabloid of the TOI, he had started a couple of popular columns including "Round and about" under a pen name Busybee. When he could not continue with the column he assigned it to Behram. "In a matter of a few weeks the column became the talk of the town. Neither Behram nor the column looked back and *Evening News* rapidly picked up the circulation it had lost...In all his interviews to the media or in his personal accounts of his journalistic career he never failed to thank me.

But that was his innate modesty," noted Viswam in the TOI of April 11.

Yet another colleague in the TOI Rina Kamath wrote, "Behram taught me a couple of lessons that I will always value. One, you don't have to shout to be heard, whether as a writer or in any other field. The other was that the message is always more important than the messenger."

"He never forgot his past and realized that it was a living connection that would take him forward," pointed out stage director Feroz Khan. His schooling was at Panchgani's Billimoria School, graduation at St Xavier's College after which he studied law at the Government Law College. "He was in his own way a remarkable educator of public opinion on a wide variety of issues. He was a master in painting vivid images...We at St Xavier's College are particularly grateful to him for the many occasions when he wrote fondly or published articles about his alma mater," wrote the principal of the College, Fr Joseph Dias.

His cousin Naju Khusro Rustamji remembers Behram as a child with "sparkling bright eyes and a sly sense of humor. We enjoyed taking him to the

movies, usually a matinee, and after we came home, the whole evening was spent going over the dialogs with a lot of giggles...Heaven help us if there were any songs in the movie for then he would be thumping the piano and singing...His gentle and kind parents (the late Hirabai and Pirojshaw) were the favorite uncle and aunt in our family. So loving and with the time to listen to our insignificant problems. His mother took her blindness in stride, never grumbled. Her husband devotedly looked after her for many years..." When his "gentle and careful" father died, Contractor had written how the father "quietly went about preparing for his death" distributing his assets, paying a priest in advance for his after-death funeral ceremonies, "then for the first time in his life, at an age well past 80, he fell ill and got himself admitted in a hospital." The following night when Contractor decided to keep his father company in the hospital the old man was more worried that his son's productivity would suffer the next morning. "Within half an hour he became restless, gulped once or twice, and died. As considerate in death as in life, he had spared me the effort of keeping awake the whole night," Contractor acknowl-

We wish all our Patrons Saal Mubarak

Byculla Pharmacy
Stores and Wine
Department
at Byculla (East)

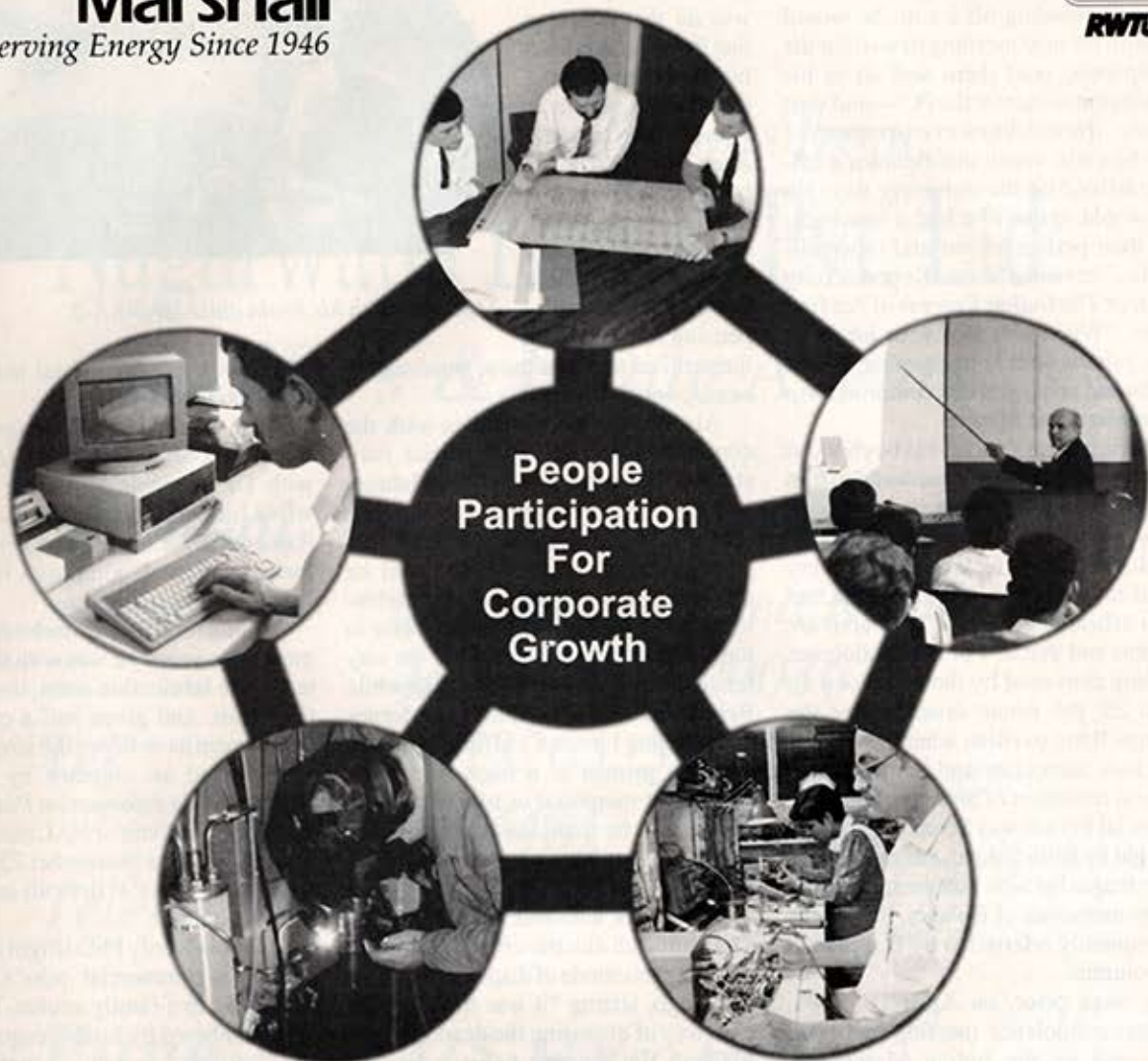
Byculla, Mumbai 400027
Tel Nos: 3725836/3776537

*54 years of dedicated
customers service*

**Masina Hospital
Chemist**

**Chemists and
Druggists**

Byculla, Mumbai 400027
Tel Nos: 3703776



For over half a century, Forbes Marshall has been building steam engineering and control instrumentation solutions that work for process industry. But we're proud of much more than just the products we make. We're committed to creating a progressive work culture that uniquely puts people first.

Creative contributions for organisational competitiveness and productivity, is a way of life at Forbes Marshall. We encourage employees to share experiences, to achieve the competitive edge. People participation is the only way we can become industry's best choice to better harness their steam, air and water.

Forbes Marshall Ltd.

Mumbai-Pune Road, Kasarwadi, Pune 411 034, India. •Tel: 91(0)20 - 7145595 •Fax: 91(0)20 - 7147413
www.forbesmarshall.com

edged.

But skipping a column was not his usual style. "Even if he had had a drink too many the previous night, even if he was pub-crawling till 2 a.m...he would wake up the next morning to wait for the newspapers, read them and sit at his Remington — later at the PC — and start writing... News editors who have worked with him will vouch that Behram's column arrived on the dot every day. No one would suspect he had a bad back, less than perfect vision and other ailments..." revealed Smruti Koppikar, city editor of *The Indian Express* of her first editor. "When you like your job, it is easy, otherwise it is impossible." Contractor had conveyed his commitment to columnist Ayaz Memon.

Having spent a part of his boyhood at Cusrow Baug, Farzana encouraged him to visit the agiary there at least once every year. "He was religious but not ritualistic," she affirms. "He was very proud to be a Parsi," and Farzana had often to hear tales of how "we Parsis are like this and that..." For the condolence meeting convened by the *Afternoon* on April 26, the venue selected was the Cusrow Baug pavilion where several of his close associates and admirers had come to reminisce of his many qualities. A special invitee was Scuzzy, the boxer brought by Bittu Sahgal, editor of *Sanctuary* magazine who was meant to bring happy memories of Bolshoi, the canine so frequently referred to by Busybee in his columns.

A week prior, on April 18, 2001, another condolence meeting had been convened by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Giants International, Common Man's Forum, and I Love Mumbai which was presided over by the Maharashtra governor Dr P. C. Alexander. Describing him as a "popular and brilliant journalist," Alexander noted in his condolence message, "He was not just an individual; he was an institution to (Bombay), a city which he so dearly loved. With his informal and laid-back style of writing and sharp but witty observations, he had endeared himself to the readers from all the walks of life... I had never missed 'Round and about' ever since I became a regular reader of *Afternoon* eight years ago."

Selected for the Padma Bhushan award in 1990, the self-effacing Contractor had skipped the presentation ceremony in Delhi and opted instead to attend his newspaper's fifth anniversary

function in Bombay. The newspaper's financial stability being established by then, it was on that occasion that Behram expressed his intention to reserve one paisa from the sale of every copy of *Afternoon* for charitable purposes. Thus was born the Afternoon Despatch and Courier Charity Trust which has since been dispensing funds to meet the medical needs of those genuinely in need, conveyed Farzana.

Always able to empathize with the common man and his financial constraints, Farzana remembers Behram impressing on her the need to keep his compilations of "Round and about" reasonably priced so that they could be affordable to all. "Any good future historian of (Bombay) will have to refer to them. They will tell him what the city felt like, smelt like and looked like while Behram lived in it," wrote Dom Moraes appreciating Farzana's efforts to get his columns printed in a book format. A permanent memorial or tribute to Contractor will be finalized in time for his first death anniversary, conveyed Farzana.

Contractor who was cremated at the Chandanwadi electric crematorium had opted for this mode of disposal nearly 10 years ago, stating "it was the most Indian way of disposing the dead," recalls Manuel. But Farzana believes he was convinced of its efficacy much prior to that as reflected in his columns, also referring to the influence of his theosophist aunt who had chosen to be cremated. His ashes were buried at their farmhouse, Beehive in Karjat as Contractor's first landlady and friend Kumudhben Patwa recited mantras. Farzana then planted a laburnum tree on that spot.

The popular editor and columnist is survived by his wife Farzana, brothers Darius and Dadi.

P. M. G.

Ahead of aviation

Died: Prof Rustom Behramji Damania (62), scientist at the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) who pioneered in India the design and building of small aircraft out of fiber glass composites, on March 25, 2001 in Bangalore following



Damania with his brain child HANSA-2

multiple myeloma, a fatal malignancy of the bone marrow.

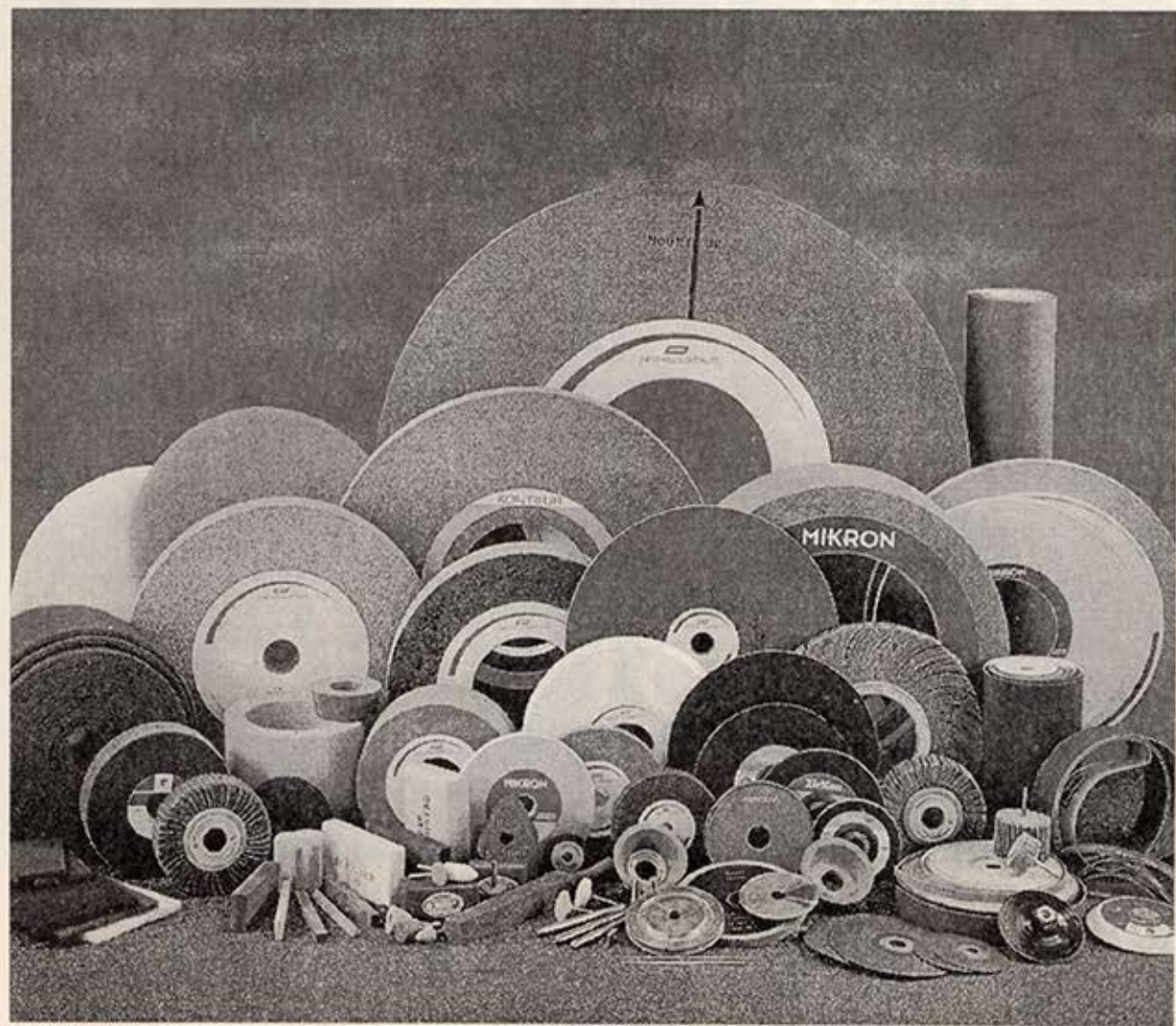
"The era of aircraft design, for research and development, at NAL began with Dr Damania's untiring efforts," wrote former director of NAL Dr K. N. Raju, adding, "He worked very hard to make the first all composite HANSA to fly in the Bangalore skies."

"Damania worked tirelessly for almost three years: he was with the design team, the fabrication team, the integration team...and given half a chance he would even have flown the aircraft himself," noted an obituary by Srinivas Bhogle in *The Information Pasteboard*, the weekly bulletin of NAL recalling the maiden flight on November 23, 1993 of HANSA-2, India's first all-composite trainer aircraft.

As India's only PhD (flight research) having a commercial pilot's licence, according to a family source, Damania is remembered by his colleagues as being "smiling, energetic, confident — even to the point of being labelled a daredevil — and with such wonderful personal charm." Damania, a director grade scientist, was "always a gentleman in a great hurry. He walked fast, he drove incredibly fast and, to no one's surprise, even built the HANSA-2 very fast," mentioned Bhogle adding, "Damania brought to NAL a work ethic model of passionate commitment, deep involvement and great energy and urgency..."

Besides his dedication to NAL, Damania was associated as professor of the Indian Institute of Science, was consultant with Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, USA, worked with the Fokkers Aircraft Company in Holland and collaborated on other international research projects, mentions his life profile. In 1997, the year the multiple myeloma was diagnosed, Damania was invited to

NORTON



**Your only full line source
of all abrasive products**

NORTON

• Ahmedabad • Bangalore • Baroda • Calcutta • Chennai • Coimbatore • Delhi • Faridabad • Indore
• Jaipur • Jamshedpur • Kanpur • Ludhiana • Mumbai • Nagpur • Pune • Rajkot • Ranchi • Secunderabad

**GRINDWELL
NORTON LTD.**

set up an Aviation Design Centre in Malaysia and was involved in the design and execution of a project of strategic importance at the time of his demise, states a press release.

"He loved the outdoors and was happiest when out on nature treks or driving into the countryside or parachuting and flying planes while visiting different countries," states his wife Deenaz. "Within three months of undergoing major surgery and being diagnosed, he encouraged me to climb a 15,000-foot mountain on the island of Borneo along with him (symbolizing) his life and approach to living," she added.

The Indian Institute of Science where he was a respected faculty member happened to be Damania's alma mater from where he had done his master's degree in aerospace engineering before proceeding to the Mississippi State University to do his doctorate in aeronautics. Damania's early education was at Bombay's Don Bosco High School after which he went to Ruia College and thence to Baroda's M. S. University to do his BE in mechanical engineering, notes his curriculum vitae. Rather than stay on abroad, he preferred to return to the

country of his birth "whose progress was of prime importance to him," states Deenaz.

When their elder daughter Tarana studying for her master's in computer engineering at the Washington State University qualified as a J. N. Tata scholar in 2000, the parents were very happy, reports Deenaz. Younger daughter Delara is studying visual communication and graphic design at Srishti in Bangalore. At the after-death prayers for Damania at his residence, it was the daughters who tended the fire for all the ceremonies, mentions Deenaz in her circular letter to family and friends. Since the Damania's had opted for the electric crematorium it was a foregone conclusion that no priest from the orthodox Bangalore bastion would say the prayers.

Damania's after-death prayers were recited by family and friends. As relates Deenaz in her letter, "My 82-year-old mother who adored Rustom prayed constantly and fervently ably assisted by Rustom's brother and...our dear friend Dr Manchi Disawalla and Keki Mistry (who) took care of all the prayers... After the prayers were said, we played a

simple rendering of *Amazing Grace* sung and sent by a nephew who could not travel from (Bombay). This was followed by all of us singing *Abide with me* and a reading by a brother-in-law for a well loved friend...Lots of cars went down...to the crematorium where to our surprise and delight, Rustom received a 21-gun salute (there was a gunnery close by)! Zoroastrian prayers were recited by the whole group before the final farewell. At the uthamna, a sister-in-law beautifully sang the *Ave Maria*, substituting Ahura Mazda for Ave Maria. This was followed by Tarana singing for her dad *You are the wind beneath my wings*, very moving and so meaningful... Rustom and I built this home brick by brick over 22 years ago. Today his ashes lie scattered in the garden he loved and planted with me..."

"Damania's seminal contribution to the Indian aircraft industry and NAL will long be remembered," summed up Dr S. S. Desai, chief of certification, deputy director, NAL, adding, "How can we forget his very personal contribution... and total involvement in the LCRA (Light Canard Research Aircraft) project, the first of its kind in the area of



Seasons' Greetings

From Aspy Bharucha

Vice President

Forex Advisory and FFMC Division



VADILAL INDUSTRIES LTD

Ahmedabad

Vadilal Forex Advisory Division is now **vadilalmarkets.com**

Ask for our complete Advisory service in:

Forex Advisory and Exposure Management

LME (Base/Minor/Scrap) Advisory

Precious Metal (Gold/Silver) Advisory

RBI Authorised Money Changer

Ahmedabad: Tel/Fax: Direct: 79-6564025-26

Tel Direct: 79-6421193-6470054 E-mail: bharucha@vadilalmarkets.com
forex@vadilalgroup.com bharucha@icenet.net



See



Feel



Taste



Listen

By listening closely to customers for over 130 years, we've found they value honesty, integrity and common sense. So this is what we strive to deliver to over 25 million customers in 79 countries and territories. Wherever you are in the world, wherever you are in your life, we're always ready to hear from you.

Call us on - Ahmedabad: 640 1249. Bangalore: 559 1381. Chandigarh: 743 336. Chennai: 522 3227. Gurgaon: 635 9786. Hyderabad: 335 6367.
Kolkata: 243 5555. Mumbai: 498 2424. New Delhi: 621 5020. Trivandrum: 328 240. Visakhapatnam: 568 936. Email: info@hsbc.co.in
Visit us at: www.hsbc.co.in

HSBC 

YOUR WORLD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

all-composites in the country? It required dedication and a sense of immense courage to build and then also to prove the aircraft by flying it oneself... (He) has been a source of inspiration to all of us..." The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (under whose auspices NAL functions) has decided to honor Damania by naming after him the Flight Research Hangar that he was instrumental in building, conveyed a senior scientist from NAL.

The aeronautics wizard is survived by his wife Deenaz, daughters Tarana and Delara, and brothers Minocher and Ardeshir.

P. M. G.

Polson's penchant

Died: Minocher (Minoo) Pestonji Polson, 91, former chairman of Polson Limited and the Bombay Society of Model Engineers which was established on his initiative, following liver and kidney failure on March 27, 2001 in Bombay.

"No sum, however large, can express the gratitude of those fortunate individuals who have benefitted by the Society, but this token is a symbol of the high regard in which he is held by his

friends and admirers... In grateful appreciation of the untiring labor and unflinching zeal he has shown in forming and running the Bombay Society of Model Engineers," Polson was presented a public address and a silver casket in 1945, three years after the formation of the Society. Youths of all castes and creeds who were interested in using their leisure hours gainfully to acquire technical knowledge and craftsmanship were provided the necessary opportunities through this Society.

He continued as chairman of the Society for over 18 years during which time he was elected an associate of the Society of Engineers (Inc), England, the third oldest national engineering society in Great Britain, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and of the Royal Geographical Society. Polson also holds the distinction of being the first non-British subject to be elected vice president in 1958 of the Model Power Boat Association of Great Britain, recognized as the paramount body of model boat clubs all over the world, notes his life profile.

After acquiring practical and technical knowledge at Bangalore's Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and

Dairying, he joined Polson Manufacturing Company, a firm founded by his father Pestonji to manufacture coffee and butter, as partner in 1931, and was appointed director when the firm was converted into a private limited com-



Polson: all for a cause

pany in 1939 and a public limited company in 1948. In 1965 he took over as chairman and managing director of Polson Limited until his retirement from the business in 1971. While director of Polson

he was invited as member of the Food and Forest Industries subcommittee appointed by the Government of India and had an occasion to visit Denmark and USA as member of the National Productivity Council's food preservation and canning study team under the US-Aid program, notes his bio data. Polson had also served as committee member of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, the All India Manufacturers Organisation, The In-

DIANA SOAP COMPANY

Sussex X Road, Byculla, Bombay 400027

Tel Nos: 3723779, 3720863 Fax: 3720863

Manufacturers of

Perfumed Liquid Soap * Diana Cleaning Paste
Diana Liquid Cleanser (Phynile Type Disinfectant)
Frog Brand Bar Soap * Diana Soap Powders

Free delivery from Colaba to Mahim

Go ahead.

Pour out

your love.

Only Aquaguard delivers absolutely safe drinking water. Guaranteed by renowned UV technology that eliminates all known waterborne disease causing bacteria and viruses. Only Aquaguard has the unique Electronic Monitoring System which stops the flow



of water if the purification level falls. Only Aquaguard is backed by the Eureka Forbes assurance of efficient after-sales service. Naturally, today over five million people in India trust only Aquaguard. So call your friend from Eureka Forbes, today.



Visit us at: www.eurekaforbes.com

Aquaguard

WATER PURIFICATION SYSTEM

Absolutely safe drinking water

TRITON/2000/EFL/012

For absolutely safe drinking water, page your friend from Eureka Forbes at 9622-343434 or call us at : Mumbai: EUROHELPLINE (24 HOURS) Tel: 8206060. Tel: 430 1725, 836 8328, 600 7579, 494 9183, 564 0962, 218 7441, 894 9953, 911-201629. Pune: Tel: 649173, 7124532. Ahmedabad: Tel: 7541380, 7542570, 5359356, 7504001. New Delhi: Tel: 6229540, 6419611, 573 5308, 3267302, 6467279, 2155779, 7216054, 5449959. Calcutta: Tel: 4749708, 4786845, 2451548, 4745326, 5545729, 4134533, 3373107, 4751305. Bangalore: Tel: 2224453, 2093041, 5522333, 0811034443. Hyderabad: Tel: 7844128, 3315451, 7567185. Chennai: Tel: 4348328, 6424579, 8280409, 2301152, 6230199, 8234721.

dian Council of Foreign Trade, Association of Indian Industries.

Since his retirement he applied himself to social causes serving as chairman of the charitable trusts established by his father to promote the cause of education, medical relief and relief of poverty. Polson was on the college education, higher education and vocational and technical education committee of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet and had been managing committee member of the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital for nearly 30 years, according to a family source.

With his varied interests in philately, cycling, pets, magic and Freemasonry, Polson had been actively associated with these bodies too. He was past president of the Empire of India Philatelic Society, The Indo-American Stamp Club, The Silky and Australian Terrier Society of India, Bombay Presidency Kennel Club, The Amateur Cine Society of India, The Maharashtra State Cycling Association. As a semi-professional magician operating in the name of Suleman the Sorcerer, he entertained audiences regularly and besides promoting the Society of Indian Magicians he was member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, USA and The Magic Circle, London. Following his initiation as a freemason in 1955 the coming decades saw greater involvement from him in the different lodges affiliated to this ceremonial movement. Community affairs and developments too continued to interest him till the end.

Polson is survived by his wife Aloo.

P. M. G.

A 'GRAVE' AND 'BURNING' ISSUE *continued from page 101*

our lives according to the demands of the present times, without ever forsaking our basic religious values and principles given to us by our great Asho Zarathushtra.



Poona based Kersee K. Kabraji is a business management consultant. A mechanical and electrical engineer by profession, he worked as manager with Atlas Copco for 14 years and

was on the board of the Thermax group for nearly 18 years.

QUICK AND EASY

continued from page 150

cups and serve cream separately.

•Take fresh figs, slice off the stem and cut a cross reaching halfway down the fruit. Fill with sweetened whipped cream, to which is added chopped walnuts.

•Peel and slice apples. Sauté gently in butter. Serve warm, sprinkled with crushed peanut chikki. Serve cream separately.

Bon appétit!

Bhicoo J. Manekshaw, a graduate of the prestigious Cordon Bleu School of Cookery, London and author of *Traditional Recipes of India and Parsi Food and Customs*, has been associated with many haute cuisine organizations in the country.

SPORTS

continued from page 158

dabad. During the 10 days of muktad Muglai volunteers his services at Ahmedabad's Vakil Adarian attending to the behdins and helping in various ways.

A resident of the Parsi Charity Blocks in the Parsi Sanatorium on Ashram Road, Muglai continues with his body building practice in a vacant room there, sustaining his interest in reading by visiting the Maneklal Jethalal Library in the Town Hall. Muglai says he will be happy to be of assistance to youngsters showing an interest in body building.

Hilla P. Guzder

BOOKS

continued from page 174

She set no limits to her efforts and affection for her wards. In their cause she was indefatigable. In particular, her tact and gradualism in going along with religious beliefs far removed from her own, endeared her to them. And wherever she touched their lives, she stole their hearts quite away.

DINA MEHTA

ACCOMPLISHED ACHIEVERS

continued from page 62

in Operation Vijay and Operation Rakshak. Whilst preventing enemy infiltration they also tried to recover large quantities of arms and ammunition. To better the living conditions of the population in the area he introduced civic schemes for water supply and vocational training centers. Anklesaria's missionary zeal and dynamic leadership

have earned him the Vishisht Seva Medal from the Government of India in January 2001.

Ranking first in the Third Year BCom examination conducted by the Gujarat University in May 1999, Binaifer Sarosh Patel had secured 79 percent marks. She has been consistently improving on her academic performance with each successive board examination. Her allied interests had earned Patel The Carmel Queen title when she was in the Mount Carmel Convent. She was runner-up at the Chaos '97 all India inter-collegiate fashion show organized at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and had won the personality contest when at the H. A. College.

On behalf of the awardees Sidhva who took the mike first expressed his happiness at being "born a Zarathushti" so that he could "be counted as one among you." Thanking the Federation for honoring him and appreciating the sentiments expressed, Sidhva also lauded the BPP trustees for "admirably coping with the horrible controversies facing us...The real strength lies in treading the middle course," he continued.

He was "proud to receive his award as a Zoroastrian and not as a police officer," stressed Sam Patel advising the "minutest of the minute Zoroastrian community to unite...as other communities watch us with greed." Reminding the audience that there are very few Parsis remaining in the police cadre Patel noted that "no one does anything for us; our own Punchayet does a great deal for us."

When tracing the genesis of the Federation Awards Homi Bodhanwalla of Jamshedpur was given credit for conceiving them and Rustom Anklesaria, former chief executive of the BPP for sifting the data for this biennial event, as acknowledged Federation joint honorary secretary Keki Gandhi. He in turn received a round of applause when BPP trustee Dadi Engineer announced, "This Federation cannot and does not function without Keki Gandhi...There is no one today who knows more about the Federation than Keki."

The cooperation of BPP's Behram Dastur, Sheroo Master, Adil Crawford and Gool Kias in organizing the function was acknowledged by Gandhi as also the support of the donors who had gifted the awards. Then came the acclaim for the awardees "jéôé Parsi kaum nu naam roshan kidhu (who have brought fame to the Parsi community)."

International
Moving

National
Moving

Relocation
Services

Records
Management

Anywhere..., Anytime...

Fine Art
Handling

Freight
Forwarding

Travel
Related Services

P.N. WRITER GROUP

helping you make the **RIGHT**
MOVES

- ❑ Covers all aspects of Move Management
- ❑ Over 45 years of Experience
- ❑ Over 800 Employees
- ❑ Nationwide Presence
- ❑ Over 300,000 sq. ft. of Owned Warehouse Space



Since its inception in 1953 as a packing and moving company, the P.N. Writer Group has demonstrated an unusual blend of traditional service and entrepreneurial spirit.

Our efforts across almost 5 decades of business have shaped us into a full service global move management resource, equipped to handle with care every aspect of a move you may ever make.

From shifting across the street to moving across the world; from moving goods or people to handling critical documents and components, you can depend on us as your move management company of choice. Time after time.

Continuous efforts in developing our human resources, innovating newer products, implementing technological solutions and investing in equipment and facilities have transformed the P.N. Writer Group into the nation's best known service provider... a multi-faceted group with a reputation for quality that has been acknowledged the world over.

With 15 offices and warehouses across the country we are always on hand to give you the quick & efficient service you would expect from us.

P.N. WRITER GROUP

105, Dr. B. Ambedkar Road, Lalbaug, Mumbai 400 033. INDIA

Tel: (91-22) 3723688/3722008 Fax: (91-22) 3738307

e-mail: pnwriter@pnwbom.co.in

visit us at www.pnwriter.com

• Ahmedabad • Bangalore • Calcutta • Chennai • Cochin • Hyderabad • New Delhi • Pune



“The new
Rasna is richer,
thicker, tastier.
But my husband
says it's,
cooooool”



One sip and - aah - the new Rasna is deliciously different. A smart, new pack. 13 tongue-tingling flavours to choose from. As many as 32 mouth-watering glasses with each pack... and an exciting gift inside for your kids! Make sure you bring home this extraordinary refreshment.

**Richer
Thicker
Tastier**



**SMART
NEW
PACK**