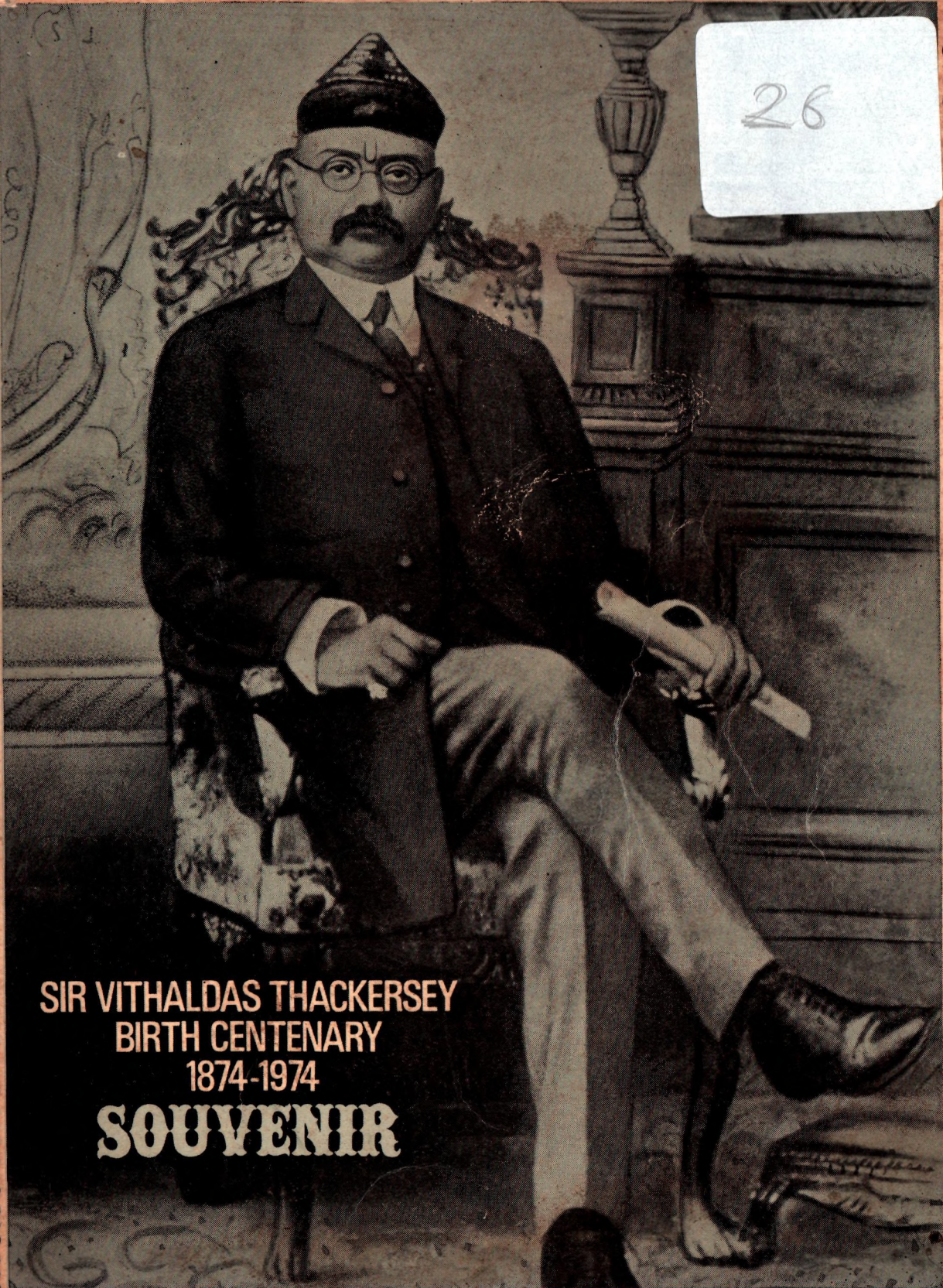


26

SIR VITHALDAS THACKERSEY
BIRTH CENTENARY
1874-1974
SOUVENIR





‘ In all time of our distress,
And in our triumph too,
The game is more than
the player of the game,
And the ship is more
than the crew.’

— Rudyard Kipling



IN THE CAUSE OF
WOMEN'S
EDUCATION

Sandoz (India) Ltd.



SIR VITHALDAS THACKERSEY
BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Presents

PADMA BHUSHAN SMT. KAMALA
With
ADITI VIJAY MERCHANT

in the inaugural show of

NALA DAMAYANTHI
A DANCE DRAMA IN HINDI

Chief guest

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR OF BOMBAY
SHRI B. K. BOMAN BEHRAM

Compere

MR. DAVID ABRAHAM

Chief Organiser : Mr. Vithal T. Mehta

BIRLA MATUSHRI SABHAGAR, SUNDAY, 1st DECEMBER 1974,
AT 6-30 PM.

With Best Compliments

FROM

**INTERNATIONAL TRACTOR
CO. OF INDIA LIMITED**



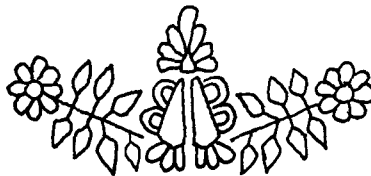
Manufacturers of

**INTERNATIONAL TRACTORS
AND
MATCHING IMPLEMENTS**



SOLE DISTRIBUTORS

M/s. Voltas Ltd., AIP Division, Bombay - 400 001



❁ ❁ The first wealth is health.



Press Secretary to the President
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi 110 004.

Dear Shri Merchant,

The President is glad to know from your letter of the 17th September, 1974 that on the occasion of the valedictory function of Shri Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary celebrations Shrimati Kamala, the renowned Bharat Natyam dancer will give a performance of Nala Damayanti Dance Ballet. He offers his congratulations to Shrimati Kamala and sends his best wishes for the success of the function.

Your Sincerely,
A. M. Abdul Hamid.



(Hon'ble Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed)

October 3, 1974

 With Best Compliments 

from

**PODAR
SILKS & SYNTHETICS
LIMITED**

PODAR CHAMBERS - BOMBAY 400 023

Present

The Improved Polyester Blends in over ten
different range of Polyester blend Suitings

in over 100 designs and shades

POLYESTER BLEND SUITINGS

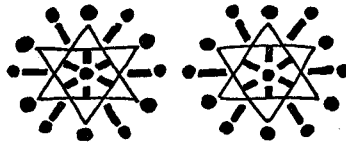
POLYESTER BLEND SHIRTINGS


NYLON CRIMP GEORGETTE SAREES

BROCADES

SATIN LINING

ETC.



 The most wasted day of all is that on which we have not laughed.



Vice-President
India
New Delhi

Dear Sir,

I am glad to learn that the valedictory function of the Sir Vitthaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary Celebrations will be held on Sunday the 1st December, 1974, at Birla Matushri Sabhagar, Bombay and that the renowned Bharat Natyam Dancer, Smt. Kamala, will give a recital of the "Nala Damayanthi" Dance Ballet on the occasion.

I wish the function all success.

Yours faithfully,
B. D. Jatti



September 23, 1974

With Best Compliments
from
**CABLE CORPORATION OF INDIA
LIMITED**

Registered Office :
Laxmi Building, 6, S. V. Marg, Bombay-400 001.

Factory :
Dattapada Road, Borivli (East), Bombay-400 092.

Manufacturers of :
**'TROPODUR' WIRES AND CABLES
AND
PAPER INSULATED POWER CABLES**

Distributors :

M/s. SIEMENS INDIA LIMITED
134-A, Dr. Annie Besant Road,
Worli, Bombay-400 018.

M/s. TRINITY ELEC. SYNDICATE
154, Shamaldas Gandhi Marg,
Bombay-400 002.

M/s. EASUN ENG. CO. LIMITED
5-7, Second Line Beach,
Madras-600 001.

❁ ❁ 'Tis only noble to be good.



Prime Minister
India
New Delhi

Dear Shri Merchant,

I have received your letter of September, 16. Shri Vithaldas Thackersey gave powerful support to the cause of education of girls and other social causes, and the women of India should be grateful to him.

My good wishes for the success of the function which will mark the conclusion of his birth centenary celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

Indira Gandhi.



September 21, 1974

* With Best Compliments *

from :

**BALTEX ENGINEERING
PRIVATE LTD.**

**Union Bank Building
Bombay Samachar Street,
BOMBAY 400 023**

Phones : 254529 - 254686 Grams : RACHFANI

Telex : 4105 - BALTEX



**MANUFACTURERS, DEALERS, INDENTORS OF
TEXTILE MACHINERY
FOR
NATURAL AND MAN-MADE FIBRES.**



Necessity makes even the timid brave.



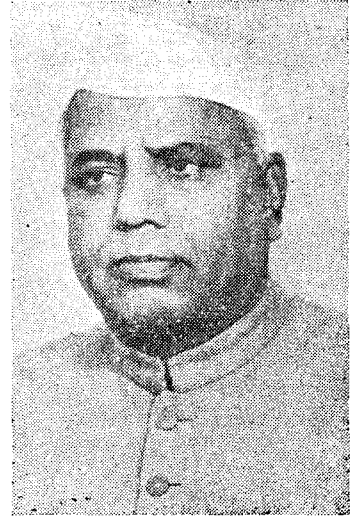
Minister of External Affairs,
New Delhi
India

Dear Sir,

I am glad to know that Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee, Bombay proposes to celebrate his birth centenary. I hope that the affection with which the people remember him and will be a fitting tribute to the memory of a great son of our country.

My good wishes.

Yours faithfully,
Y. B. Chavan



October 31, 1974

* With Best Compliments *

FROM

jaifabs
textile mills pvt. ltd.



Registered Office
Shantiniketan
Ground Floor
95A Netaji Subhash Road
Bombay 400 002
Phone : 319629/314205



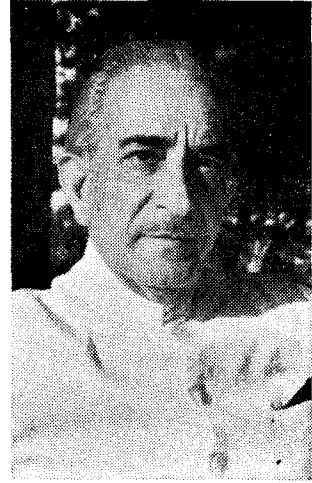
Mills
Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg
Ghatkopar
Bombay 400 086
Phone : 583121-2-3



Governor of Maharashtra
Raj Bhavan
Bombay-400 035

I am sorry to be missing the occasion of the performance in commemoration of the Centenary of Birth of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey as I shall not be in Bombay that evening. I am, however, happy to identify myself with the function.

Ali Yavar Jung



September 27, 1974



SERVING VARIED NEEDS

N R C

RAYON YARN FOR THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

N R C

RAYON TYRE CORD FOR THE TYRE INDUSTRY

N R C

PROCESS CHEMICALS FOR NUMEROUS INDUSTRIES

WHILE MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS
through constant quality and process
control and extensive, continuing
research

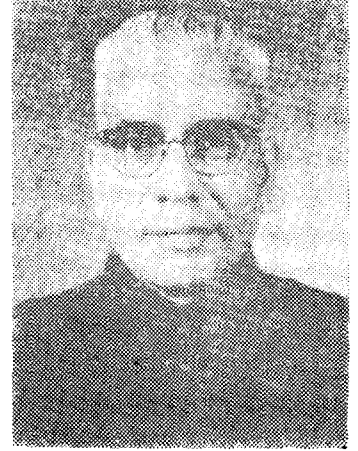
THE NATIONAL RAYON CORPORATION LTD.



Chief Minister
Maharashtra
Sachivalaya
Bombay-32 BR.

Dear Sir,

Dedication to one's own duty would be a fitting tribute to Sri Vithaldas Thackersey. I fervently hope that the valedictory function of Sri Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary Celebrations will inspire us to this ideal and wish the function all success.



Yours faithfully,
V. P. Naik

September 27, 1974

 **With Best Compliments** 

From

PODAR PROCESSORS

SHREE LAXMI TRADERS LIMITED, BOMBAY 400 013.

•

Grey Calendering



Bleaching



Dyeing





Printing



Mercerising and Finishing
of all types of Cotton



Synthetics
and
Blended Fabrics.

  A fashionable woman is always in love with herself.

Mayor of Bombay
Corporation Hall
Mahapalika Marg
Bombay-400 001

I am glad to know that a valedictory function of the Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary celebrations will be held on Sunday December 1, 1974 at the Birla Matushri Sabhagar.

The function will be celebrated with a dance ballet Nala Damayanthi by Smt. Kamala.

Sir Vithaldas Thackersey was one of the pioneers in women's education. It was because of his love of education that Sir Thackersey financially supported the women's University in India founded by Maharshi Karve. The University today stands as a living monument to this noble son of India.



Sir Thackersey was a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation for eleven years. He served as a member of the Standing Committee for six years and was elected its chairman in 1904-05. In recognition of his valuable services to Bombay, Sir Thackersey was appointed President (the Mayor was so called then) for the year 1907-08.

As the Mayor of Bombay I send my greetings and good wishes on this happy occasion of celebration of the birth centenary of Sir Thackersey. May his good work inspire us to serve our nation better in the years ahead.

B. K. Boman-Behram

November 16, 1974



SWASTIK TEXTILE TRADING CO. PVT. LTD.

Motilal Hirabhai Market, Railwaypura, Post, AHMEDABAD 2.

WORKS AT :

GOMTIPUR AND AMRAIWADI

MANUFACTURERS OF

1. TEXTILE DYEING, BLEACHING,
FINISHING AND PRINTING MACHINERY.
2. SHUTTLES OF ALL TYPES - PITCH BOUND REEDS
ALL METAL REEDS WIRE HEALDS
AND COTTON HEALDS

EXPORT HOUSE OF REPUTE

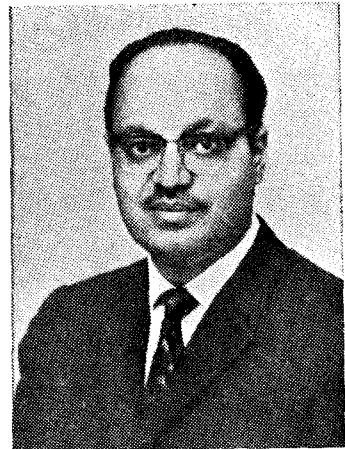
11, Sir Vithaldas Chambers, 16, Bombay Samachar Marg.

Fort Bombay 400 023.

Podar Chambers
Fort, Bombay

Dear Sir,

It is a matter of immense happiness to me that the Centenary of the birth of Sir. Vithaldas Thackersey is being celebrated in a fitting manner to recapture the greatness of the man that Sir Vithaldasji was as an industrialist of great merit, keen foresight and tremendous capacity to face the hurdles and cross them. Sir Vithaldasji indeed was gifted with a philanthropic attitude and divinely ordered charitable disposition with a will to overcome the shackles of the gruelling circumstances of the day.



Remembering Sir Vithaldasji in the Centenary year of his birth is not a mere ritual. It is an act of reverential homage to one who made his presence felt throughout his life, in any walk of life he chose to tread, for altogether good effect, for the people who came across him, who therefore felt elevated as well as realised their own potential.

Men of the calibre and vision of Sir Vithaldasji, with an undaunted spirit of enterprise and an unflinching faith in the prospects for the country's progress, leave behind them in the chronicles of their life, many lessons to learn and many incidents to draw inspiration from.

I add my own reverential homage to Sir Vithaldasji who will be adored by all who know of him and of his great deeds.

Yours sincerely,
Kantikumar R. Podar.

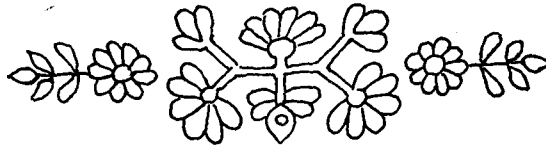
September 24, 1974

**With* Best
Compliments**

from

**ELPHINSTONE
SPG. & WVG.
MILLS CO. LTD.**

Kamani Chambers,
32, Nicol Road,
Ballard Estate,
Bombay-400 001.



❁ ❁ No one reaches a high position without daring.

Vice-Chancellor
University of Bombay.

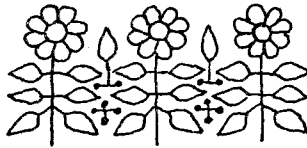
Dear Sir,

I am happy to know that the birth centenary celebrations of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey will be held on Sunday, 1st December, 1974, at 6-30 p.m. at Birla Matushri Sabhagar. Sir Vithaldas contributed richly to the social life of the city of Bombay in general and to the education in particular. It was his personal interest in various activities that gave him a unique place in public life of our city. Thackersey family has stood for certain principles for all these years and can look upon with a sense of pride to the noble traditions laid down by Sir Vithaldas. I am extremely happy to send my good wishes for success of the celebrations. I am sure that these celebrations will also go a long way in continuing the noble traditions laid down by Sir Vithaldas.

Yours faithfully,
T. K. Tope



October 16, 1974



MONTEDISON S.P.A.

RENOWNED MANUFACTURERS OF

MOPLEN^R — **POLYPROPYLENE MOULDING POWDER**
FERTENE^R — **LOW DENSITY POLYTHELENE**
MOPLEN RO^R — **HIGH DENSITY POLYTHELENE**
CAPROLACTUM
DMT
VINYL ACETATE MONOMER
METHYL METHACRYLATE (MMM)
SODIUM CYANIDE
PENTAERYTHRITOL
MELAMINE

CORRESPONDENTS IN INDIA

HARSHADRAY PRIVATE LIMITED

Jiji House, Raveline Street, Bombay-400 001.

Phone : 2 6 6 2 8 1

Branches at Calcutta — New Delhi and Madras

FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

MONTEDISON LIASION OFFICE

Saheb Building, 195, Dr. D. N. Road,
Bombay-400 001.

Vice-Chancellor
S. N. D. T. Women's University.
1, Nathibai Thackersey Road,
Bombay 20 BR.

Sir Vitaldas Thackersey was a man of many parts — an industrialist with a vision, a talented businessman who meant business, an economist with an outreaching grasp, a councillor of distinction, a parliamentarian of persuasive power, a founder of the co-operative movement, a banker of renown, a philanthropist of uncommon proportions, a protoganist of women's education, a social servant above the ordinary, a man of god, and every inch a gentleman.

On this occasion of the validictory function of the birth centenary of this great man, nothing could be more befitting the occasion for us than to cherish his memory with reverence, to emulate the qualities of his head and heart and dedicate ourselves in service to the causes which were so dear and near to his heart.

Sharda Divan

November 9. 1974



THERE'S MORE TO CALICO MILLS THAN TEXTILES

Starting with textiles 92 years ago, Calico Mills have leaped into several areas of manufacturing: general products, chemicals, plastics and fibres. Here are some of the products that bear the great name of Calico Mills:

Textiles

Cali-synth 100% Synthetics:

100% Polyester
Saris
Dhoties
Poplins
Handkerchiefs
Scarves
100% Nylon Saris
Dress Materials
Jersey Fabrics
Mosquito Netting

Cali-blend Synthetic/Cotton Blends:

Polyester Cotton
Saris
Dhoties
Poplins
Shirtings
Lawns
Lenos
Dress Materials
Suitings
Handkerchiefs
Blankets
Nylon/Viscose Saris
Nylon/Viscose Dress
Materials

Cali-cloth 100% Cotton: Saris

Dhoties
Organdies
Dress Materials
Poplins
Shirtings
Lawns
Cambrics
Lenos
Full Voiles
Long Cloth
Bed Linen
Furnishings
Denims
Suitings
Handkerchiefs
Blankets
Towels
Mosquito Netting

General Products

Cali-ber Shirts
Pyjama Suits
Ladies & Children
Garments
Cali-ber Socks
Cali-knit Saris
Cali-knit Double-knit
Suitings
Cali-net Mosquito
Netting & Ready-
made Nets
Cali-stretch Crimped
Yarns

Cali-synthread
Synthetic
Sewing Threads
Cali-thread Cotton
Sewing Threads

Chemicals

Trichloroethylene
Perchloroethylene
Tetrachloroethane
Dichloroethylene
Hexachloroethane
Caustic Soda Lye
Caustic Soda Flakes
Caustic Soda Solid
Liquid Chlorine
Hydrochloric Acid
Sulphuric Acid
(Dilute)
Sodium Hypochlorite
(Soda Bleach)
Cali-chlor
Calcium Carbide
Hydrated Lime

Plastics

PVC Resins
PVC Compounds
PVC Plastics
PVA Emulsion &
Solutions
VA Copolymers
Acrylic Copolymer
Emulsions
Polyvinyl Alcohol
Solutions

PVC Aluminium
Cables
PVC Auto Cables
PVC Rigid Pipes
PVC Flexible Tubes
PVC Handrails
PVC Curtainrails
PVC Table Edgings
PVC Table Tops
PVC Gasket
Materials
PVC Films &
Sheetings
PVC Rigid Sheets
(Laminated &
Unlaminated)
PVC Foam Leather
Cloth
PVC Wallpaper
Heat Shrinkable
Tubings
Conduit Pipes
Copolymer Sheets
PVC Waterstops
Cali-clad Wall
Panels
Cali-bond Adhesives
Expansion Joint
Fillers
Staircase Nosings

Fibre

Polyester Fibre

calico mills

Outside Jamalpur Gate,
P.B. 12, Ahmedabad-380 022.
Telephone : 51001
Telegrams : CALICO (A)

Shilpi 2 CM 31A.73



Lokayukta
Maharashtra
A-4, Madame Cama Road
Opp. Sachivalaya Bombay-32

Sir Vitthaladas Thackersey earned national renown for himself by his industry and integrity. One of pioneers of the textile industry in this Country he guided it through many vicissitudes to its present pre-eminent position. He was truly a merchant prince.

But his claim to be remembered by posterity rests not merely on these worldly achievements great as they were but upon his philanthropy and generosity and his vision of a free and rejuvenated India. Almost alone among the merchant princes of his time he saw the advantages of women's education and helped to found the S.N.D.T. Women's University which has played a notable part in the uplift and education of women in Maharashtra.



I am glad his Birth Centenary is being celebrated in a befitting manner. His life and work should be an inspiring example to all younger generations.

S. P. Kotval

November 19, 1974

FAMILY SECURITY...

**SAFEGUARD YOUR
CHILDREN'S FUTURE**

Wise parents know that opening Accounts of their children under **DENA BANK Minors' Savings Scheme** is the best way to safeguard their future and to meet their growing needs. Open an account in your child's name today. Interest 4%.



DENA BANK

(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Dena Bank Buildings,
Horniman Circle, Bombay-1.



RATAN BATRA

DB/E/207

❁ ❁ But if I'm content with a little, Enough is as good as a feast.



Chief Justice
High Court
Bombay

Dear Mr. Merchant,

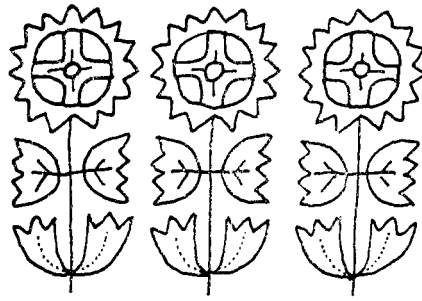
I am glad to learn that the Valedictory Function of the Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary Celebrations will be held on 1st December, 1974 It is a worthy tribute to Sir Vithaldas who by his active interest in various social and educational institutions has rendered very laudable service to public cause. I wish the centenary celebrations committee success in their efforts.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

R. M. Kantawala

November 18. 1974



ALWAYS ASK FOR

thackersey fabrics

AVAILABLE AT

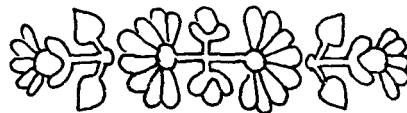
M/s. Jaysinh Morarji & Co.

CLOTH MERCHANTS

501, Chandra Chowk,
Mulji Jetha Market,
Bombay-400 002.



Telephones Shop : 3 1 9 3 1 5 Resi. : 3 5 8 1 2 5
Telegram : "JAYAMORE"



A soft answer turneth away wrath.

I am grateful for the opportunity to add my own tribute to the memory of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of his birth.

While I did not have the privilege of personally knowing Sir Vithaldas, as he died when I was only eighteen and had just started my own career, his name, his achievements in the fields of business, politics, administration and philanthropy, and his high personal reputation were very much alive at the time in business and political circles and in the media of public opinion.

Two aspects of his life stand out in my mind. One is that in many ways he had in him qualities of character and a vision of India's needs similar to those of Jamsetji Tata. The other is that he lived and fought for the good of the country in a dark and yet prestigious period of our pre-Independence history which threw up a number of eminent and far-sighted men, dedicated to the political and economic liberation of the country and the welfare of its people. Sir Vithaldas was a prominent member of that stalwart group of men which included Sir Phirozeshah Mehta, Sir Dinshaw Vachha, Sir Homi Mody and Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, who served the Country in the political field as well as that of Industry and commerce. Their contribution played an important part in preparing the ground for the struggle for Independence led by Mahatma Gandhi and other great political leaders of the next two decades which culminated at long last in the country's liberation.

The history of many countries illustrates what would seem the pre-destined emergence of men of outstanding ability, vision and character needed to serve a great historical cause and accomplish its fruition. Sir Vithaldas was one of those leaders who, by strengthening the country economically and socially, helped to prepare it for the later successful struggle for Independence.

Memories are short these days and it is only fitting that when men of the stamp of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey are unfortunately rare, his memory should be revived and honoured on the occasion of his birth centenary.



J. R. D. Tata

November 19, 1974.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

from

L. HARJIVAN & CO.

WHOLESALE
CLOTH MERCHANTS
OF
BLEACHED
LONGCLOTH
POPLINS
&

**thackersey
everfresh
fabrics**

67% TERENE

33% COTTON



SHIRTINGS
SUITINGS
SAREES
AND
DRESS MATERIALS



114, Krishna Chowk, Mulji Jetha Market, BOMBAY-400 002.

Telephone ; 314510

Telegram : HIROOLAXM

❁ A sweet disorder in the dress Kindless in clothes a wantonness. ❁

Bharatanatyalya
Madras-4

Dear Mr. Merchant,

I am very happy to be associated with Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary Celebrations this year and I am grateful to the Celebration's Committee for giving me the opportunity for staging the inagural performance of my new dance drama NALA DAMAYANTI. It is all the more appropriate that Kum. Aditi Merchant being member of Thackersey family is also participating in the dance drama.

I wish the committee all success in the Centenary Celebrations

Yours sincerely,

Smt. Kamala



October 31, 1974

 With Best Compliments 

from

THE WALLACE FLOUR MILLS COMPANY LIMITED

9, WALLACE STREET, FORT, BOMBAY - 400 023.



MANUFACTURERS & EXPORTERS OF
WHEAT PRODUCTS SUCH AS
FLOUR. ATTA, RAWA, SOJI & BRAN
AND GRAM BESAN



MILLS :

BOMBAY :

,A' Mills,
Chikalwadi,
Tardeo,

'B' & 'C' Mills,
Mazgaon.

BHOPAL :

Central India
Flour Mills.

GOA :

Goa Flour Mills,
Chicalim,
Vasco--Da--Gama.

Houest bread is very well; it's the butter that makes the temptation.

*** With Best Compliments**

from

M/s. Vinodkumar & Co.

604, Krishnaraj Gally,
M. J. Market. Bombay-400 002.

Shop : 311682

Resi. : 383181

and

M/s. Ganesh Trading Co.

665, Madhavrai Gally, M. J. Market,
Bombay-400 002.

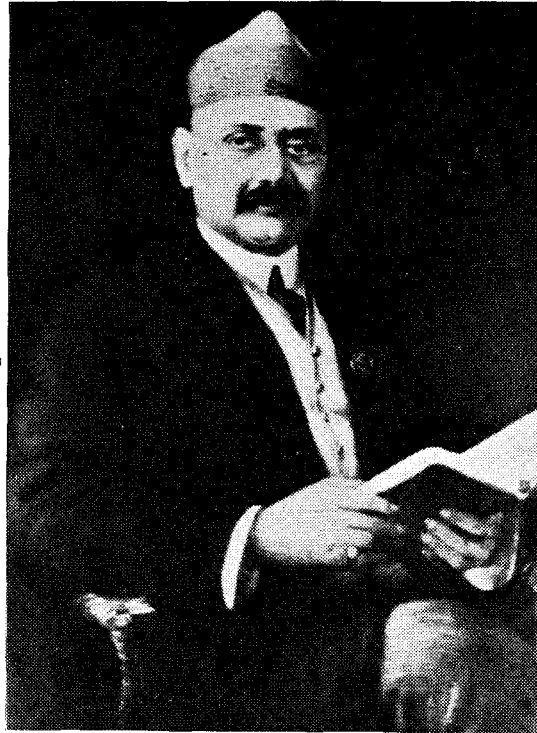
Tele. : 316237

❁ Good humor makes all things tolerable. ❁



Smt. Nathibai, Mother of late Sir Vithaldas,
after whom The University and its four
Institutions are named.

SIR VITHALDAS DAMODAR THACKERSEY —A PROFILE



As the good old Sanskrit adage goes : "Wealth follows enterprise" (Sahse Sri Prativasati). It was this spirit of enterprise that impelled Sir Vithaldas's great-grandfather to embark on a countrycraft from a sleepy little hamlet of VARVALA, near DWARKA, to the port of MUSCAT in 1784, and his grandfather Thackersey, perhaps with only a shirt on his back but a head teeming with ideas, to Bombay in 1825. After years of inevitable groping and struggling, Thackersey prospered and established his own firm, M/s. Thackersey Moolji & Co. (still a reputed, going concern in Bombay); and in course of time inducted into his business his young son Damodar, who not only consolidated but

also added a number of new commercial enterprises to those started by his father. Sir Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey ,who was born on November 30, 1873, had thus the business acumen and enterprise in his blood as a part of his heritage. However, the silver spoon in his mouth right from the birth did not seem to secure him any special privileges, neither exempting him from the rigorous training, nor unostentatious simple living and discipline which his father Damodar and his mother Nathibai subjected him to. And to guard from over-indulging in the child, a sum of three pieces a day as pocket money, for instance, was allowed to him when he joined a school near the Old Hanuman Gali in

Bombay, where the family was then residing.

After a short spell of education in Saurashtra, during which he rode on his pony to his distant school, so as to be there punctually on time, young Vithaldas returned to Bombay, matriculated from the Bhardda New High School, and joined the Elphinstone College in 1892 — only to be withdrawn from it within six months, and get to be fully involved into trained and equipped for business — his future vocation.

This he did, as desired by his parents but before he was firmly established in his saddle, the premature death of his father at 46, left young Vithaldas, then barely 20, largely to his own resourcefulness, initiative and business foresight in handling a complex of industrial enterprises. The complex included four textile mills in Bombay. Not only did he efficiently and successfully manage these, but also added a fifth highly remunerative textile mill and a cluster of other commercial concerns to them, emerging before long as an outstanding industrialist, a shrewd and successful businessman. His eminence in business and industry was implicitly acknowledged when he was elected the President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, President of the Millowners' Association and the President of the Second Industrial Conference at Calcutta in 1906.

But business was not only business nor was amassing wealth the be-all and end-all of his life. Evidently, the world of commerce was too narrow for him; and in 1897, he entered public life when he was 24 — incidentally, the year when he was nominated as a J.P. in 1898, he was elected as a member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation. His first success in that body was the acceptance by the Corporation of the resolution moved by him, asking for powers from the Government to raise

municipal loans in the open market, instead of borrowing from banks at high rates of interest.

In 1904, he was elected Chairman of the Standing Committee. Two years later, when he was 33, he was elected the Mayor of the Bombay Municipal Corporation — probably the youngest Mayor so far.

In 1908, when he was 35, the honour of Knighthood was conferred on him, specially in appreciation of his work as a member of the Indian Factory Labour Commission. Besides, the then Governor of Bombay, Sir George Sydenham Clarke, wrote to him a letter of congratulations in his own handwriting.

In 1903, the Government had nominated him as a member of the Bombay Legislative Council, where he boldly asserted that a businessman was better qualified than most people to speak on economic questions and to advise the Government in shaping its industrial and commercial policies. He also drew attention to the handicaps to which Bombay's cotton textile industry was then exposed to, because of the high rate of exchange, excise duty and the danger of Japan, ousting Indian piecegoods and yarn from markets abroad.

When elected to the newly reconstituted Imperial Legislative Council in 1909, Sir Vithaldas felt himself more free to express his views on public questions and took a leading part in the discussion of subjects of economic and financial interest. Here, too, he opposed the levy of excise duty on Indian piecegoods, objected to the freight charges levied by Managers of the Railways at their sole discretion, and moved a resolution recommending that a substantial portion of gold reserve should be held in India.

In 1921, when he entered the Indian Legislative Assembly — then newly reconstituted under the Montague Chelmsford Reforms — Sir Vithaldas put in a forceful

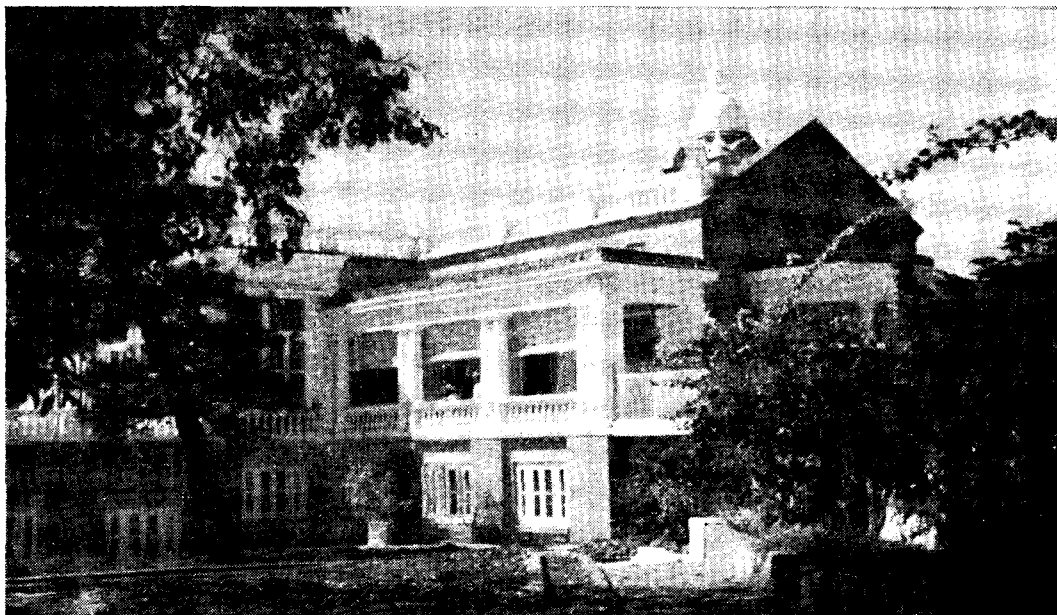
plea for the manufacture of locomotives, rolling stock and railway stores in India, so that a substantial portion of Rs. 150 crores then proposed as a capital expenditure on the construction of railways may be spent within the country.

Sir Vithaldas Thackersey was an independent thinker, a patriot without a political label and a man of vision, who could see far ahead of his time. He was a pioneer of co-operative banks and institutes; the Founder Chairman of the Bank of Baroda, a member of the Bombay Port Trust, a member of the Public Accounts Committee, of the Finance Department of the Government of India; and a member of the Bombay City Improvement Trust, which even in 1909, considered the city overcrowded and deliberated on the measures to be taken to provide well-lighted and airy buildings and chawls in its most congested areas.

In 1919, Sir Vithaldas with Lady Premlila, Sir M. Visvesvarava and a few others went on a world tour, visiting Ceylon, Singapore, China and Japan. In Japan, he was honoured at a public meeting, presided over by the Prime Minister Prince Okuma

of Japan. He studied the industrial development of Japan and was greatly impressed with the working of a women's university there.

Sir Vithaldas's love of learning remained an abiding passion all through his life. The formal education, which he had to discontinue reluctantly, was in fact never discontinued, since it was resumed with even more vigour and freedom with the help of eminent tutors like James Macdonald and Principal Padhye. This love of learning and the great store he laid by education, always evoked from him a ready response to any call to start, support and contribute generously to educational institutes of all kinds: Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics; Banaras Hindu University; Vanita Vishram at Bombay, Surat and Rajkot; Seva Sadan at Poona; Workingmen's Institute at Parel in Bombay; Sanskrit Pathshala at Chandod; and, the most outstanding of all, a donation of Rs. 15 lacs to the Women's University, founded by Dr. Karve, which was subsequently named after his mother, Shree-mati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University.



Parnakuti, made famous by foreign reporters, as "Marble Palace" during Bapu's historic fast in 1933

In private life, Sir Vitthaldas was a man of devout nature and artistic taste. He had pandits and shastris to enlighten him on religion and philosophy. He had visited the four corners of India as a pilgrim. He loved horse riding, music and entertaining his innumerable guests all with his unmatched hospitality. He reared a beautiful mansion in Poona on a picturesque spot on Yervada Hill on the left bank of Mulla Mutha river and, in all humility, named it "Parnakuti", where Lady Premlila Thackersey, following the tradition of her distinguished husband, played hostess to Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and almost all the eminent leaders of India's great national movement of independence.

Between 1897, when he entered the public life, and 1922, the year of his premature passing away at the age of 49, Sir Vitthaldas scaled all the peaks of achievement and excellence, without deviating from his principles. These heights were not reached by 'sudden flights', but by sheer dint of hard work and studiousness, a passion for disinterested public service, strength of character, unpretentious concern for the poor and the distressed and a deep faith in God and Man.

Sir Vitthaldas Thackersey passed away at the early age of 49, on Saturday, August 12, 1922. Markets, mills, industrial establishments and commercial concerns were closed in his honour. Obituary notes and editorials, paying glowing tributes to him, appeared in almost all the newspapers in India and in some of the leading newspapers in England, including the Times of London.

Resolutions expressing sense of loss and condolence at the demise of Sir Vitthaldas and offering sympathy to Lady Premlila Thackersey in her sad bereavement were

passed by the Imperial Legislative Assembly immediately after its inauguration by the Viceroy at Simla; by the Government of Bombay; other public bodies, commercial and industrial establishments all over the country... testifying to the high regard in which they held Sir Vitthaldas.

Sir Vitthaldas Thackersey's life, though brief, was a one of marked achievements and self-fulfilment, of which any individual may justly be proud of, of Mere wealth commands awe but rarely admiration. Sir Vitthaldas Thackersey's claim to greatness did not rest on his wealth, which, of course, he knew how to make but also, which is rather an exception than a rule, how to put it to better use, by giving of it freely to support worthy causes, doing maximum good to the maximum number of people, during his life-time, and hence, through Sir Vitthaldas Thackersey Charitable Trust, now managed by Lady Premlila Thackersey and other trustees, which has proved a boon to thousands of students, as also to less fortunate persons in need of financial assistance even for their daily bread, such as widows, the old, the disabled and the destitute, without any means of support.

Sir Vitthaldas Thackersey, who, as Sir M. Visvesvaraya maintains, "must be reckoned as one of the biggest Indians of his time" may have been equalled or surpassed, in course of time by an individual in one single field or another of life, but, all in all, for his uniform attainments and achievements in all the varied fields of life — both private and public — where, in the philosophic spirit of the Gita, his beloved source book of life, he was neither puffed up by success nor depressed by unsuccess, he was a man, the like of whom, in Shakespeare's words, we are not likely to see yet for a long time to come.

Chronological Events

Sir Vithaldas



Born in a Bhatia family Nov. 30, 1873
Married to Smt. Leelabai,
daughter of Sheth Morarji
Gokaldas and sister of Sheth
Narotam Morarji 1887
Passed Matriculation Examination
of the Bombay University
from Bharda High School 1891
Joined the Elphinstone College
but left College soon to join
family business on account of
father's illness. Initiation into
business and end of college
education due to demise of
father 1892

Death of Seth Damodar
Thackersey 1893
Nominated as a Justice of the
Peace for the City of Bombay 1897
Elected as a member of the
Bombay Municipal Corporation 1898
Death of Leelabai, his first wife
purchased the Crown Spg. &
Mfg. Co. Ltd. and Sirdar
Carbonic Gas Co. Ltd. 1899
Married Premkunverbai 1899
Elected as a member of the
Standing Committee of the
Corporation 1902

Nominated by the Government to the Bombay Legislative Council	1903	Started Night Schools for adult education	1911
Elected as a Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Corporation	1904	Death of Lady Premkunverbai Vithaldas, his second wife	1912
Nominated to the Bombay Legislative Council	1905	Married Bachoobai Dharsi Purshottam and named her Premlila	1913
Pioneer in the cause of Indian Banking-Floated Indian Specie Bank	1906	Helped in establishing Sydenham College of Commerce & Economics	1913
Presided over deliberations of the Second All-India Industrial Conference held in Calcutta	1906	Started Jamnagar Dwarka Railway	1915
Elected President (present office of Mayor) of the Corporation	1906	Helped Pandit Malaviaji in the establishment of the Banaras Hindu University	1916
Elected Chairman of the Bombay Millowners' Association	1907	Nominated by Government on Coal Committee on behalf of the Mill Owners' Association	1917
As the President of the Corporation inaugurated and drove first electric tram-car which replaced the horse-tram	1907	Visited Hindu Widows' Home at Hingne and became a Patron	1917
Renominated to the Bombay Legislative Council for the third time	1907	Appointed Member of the Priority Committee by the Govt.	1918
Member, Factory Labour Commission	1907	Member, Advisory Committee for Control of Cloth	1918
Knighthood conferred on the King's Birthday in June, 1908	1908	Member of Licensing Committee	1918
Helped in starting the Bank of Mysore	1908	Financially helped the Seva Sadan, Poona, and Vanita Vishram, Bombay	1918
Establishment of the Bank of Baroda. Appointed Chairman of the first Board of Directors	1909	Left on World Tour. Greatly impressed by Japan's Women's University	1918
Elected as member to the Imperial Legislative Council	1909	Returned from the foreign tour	1918
Trustee, Bombay Improvement Trust, nominated by the Government	1909	Launching of Dwarka Cement Co.	1919
Trustee, Bombay Port Trust from the Mill Owner's Association	1913	Donation of Rs. 15,00,000/- to the Indian Women's University	1920
Chairman, First Board of Directors of Bombay Central Co-operative Bank	1911	Laying of foundation stone of Parnakuti at Poona	1920
Member, Factory Ventilation Committee	1911	Entry to the Legislative Assembly as a representative of the Mill Owners' Association	1921
		The opening ceremony of Parnakuti	1921
		Death of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey	August 12, 1922

From 102 housewives and Voltas expertise

VOLTAS

New Voltas Opal 160

the most thoughtful fridge.



Unique
4
features

Other thoughtful features

Usable laminated top; easily removable refrigeration unit; insect-proof mould, triple coat of paint and more... all in all you'll be glad we consulted 102 housewives.

For our nearest Voltas dealer in your area, please contact our nearest Voltas office.



"A fridge that takes in a lot more"
Mrs. Shaheen Moloobhai

1. 3 spacious shelves—largest shelf area in its class.



"The children want cold drinks all the time"
Mrs. Veena Shirodkar

2. "Quick" Chill Tray holds 6 soft drink bottles, chills them in 30 minutes.



"We entertain a lot—need ice faster"
Mrs. Joya Bhattacharya

3. Ice forms 35 minutes faster.



"What about a fridge that is economical to run?"
Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Swaminathan

4. 24% less electricity.

CHV-105-203 R

New Voltas Opal 160 litre refrigerator

Voltas Limited Bombay • Calcutta • Madras • New Delhi • Bangalore • Lucknow • Patna • Ahmedabad • Secunderabad • Cochin • Kanpur • Jamshedpur

Hereditary wealth is in reality a premium paid to idleness.

Purshottam of a devout Bhatia family of Rajkot, in an age when the birth of a daughter in a Hindu family did not usually call for any joy, she was fondly named Bachuben. Little did the fond parents dream that this daughter of theirs was later to become a mother to many women of India. She took her vernacular education in a local board primary school at Rajkot, but did not find further incentive to study further, in keeping with the prevalent social conditions of the time. At the age of 20, she was married to Sir Vithaldas Thackersey, a leading industrialist of Bombay who renamed her Premlila.

After her marriage, her formal education, compulsion was resumed at the instance of her husband, who engaged an English lady, Miss Favell, as her tutor-companion, besides engaging first rate tutors to teach her Sanskrit and Music. Premlilaben, who had only lacked the opportunity but neither the aptitude nor mental equipment for higher studies, made rapid strides to equip herself as the avowed life partner of her illustrious husband, whose multifaceted activities included contacts at all levels from the highest to the lowest in the industrial, social, political and economic fields in the country.

Premlilaben recalled how Sir Vithaldas in one of his first letters to her on the eve of their marriage had defined his attitude towards life, which consisted of selfless service to society and not just a self-centred enjoyment of affluence and comforts which they had in abundance. He had also held before her the ideal of Smt. Ramabai Ranade the wife of the great Indian, Justice Mahadeo Govind Ranade, the founder of "Sevasadan" and suggested that in the changing context of reawakened India, the woman had also to contribute to the all-round progress of the country. Such a supposedly exacting pro-

spect would have half frightened or damped a young girl; but far from being damped or deterred by such a prospect, Premlilaben resolved there and then to accept that idea and stand by her husband's side in realising it. She knew that she had to go a long way, not only in reaching out for that high ideal but also to be worthy of being a helpmate in her husband's private life and public career. Social customs and barriers in those days were rather forbiddingly severe. Women then did not breathe the open air as much as they do now, but Sir Vithaldas was determined to make a lady of the young women he had married — not hesitating even to take her out for horse-riding with him every morning besides touring all over India with him to educate her in a much broader sense.

In 1917, Sir Vithaldas and Premlilaben, on their first visit to the Hindu Widows' Home at Higne in Poona, meet Dr. D. K. Karve who had just then planted the seedling of the Indian Women's University with only four students on its rolls. This was only a prologue to the happy association when, later, Sir Vithaldas and Dr. Karve, joined hands in raising up the only university for women in India and among the very few such institutions in the world.

In 1919, when the Thackersey's were planning a world tour, Premlilaben wanted a lady companion to accompany her. Sir Vithaldas wrote to Dr. Karve, who responded by sending one of his mature students, Smt. Sitabai Annigeri, for the purpose. All necessary preparations having been made, Sir Vithaldas, Premlilaben and a party consisting of Sir M. Viswesaraiya, Shri Mulraj Khatau, Shri and Smt. Mangaldas Mehta and Sitabai Annigeri set out on March 14, 1919, by the S. S. Dunera. On the first lap of their voyage, they disembarked at Japan where they visited the

Women's University in Tokyo. Premlilaben's day to day diary of the journey reveals how the University with 1700 women on its rolls, of whom 800 lived on the campus itself, impressed the visiting couple and inspired them to have something on the same lines for women in India. On the next lap of their journey to the United States of America via Honolulu, after a visit to China, they had ample time on the ship to follow up this idea. They asked Smt. Annigeri many a question about the University which, as coincidence would have it, was founded by Dr. Karve exactly on the model of the Women's University in Japan on the basis of a booklet sent to him by a friend in 1915.

After spending two months in America, the party left for Canada and subsequently to the United Kingdom, reaching Liverpool on September, 25. Sir Vitaldas's sudden indisposition however cut short the tour and the party returned to India on November, 23, by the Scindia ship, S. S. Loyalty. On the pier among those waiting to receive them was Dr. Karve as well. Sir Vitaldas was a man of quick decisions his mind seemed to have been made up on what he was going to do for the education of Indian women. He asked Dr. Karve if he could see him in the evening; and the meeting which then took place left Dr. Karve completely overwhelmed, for Sir Vitaldas spontaneously offered him a sum of no less than Rs. 15 lakhs for the Women's University, subject to the main conditions that the University was to be named after his revered mother Shreemati Nathibai. Besides the headquarters of the University should be shifted Bombay. In 1920, Sir Vitaldas, Sir Lallubhai Samaldas, Dr. Jivraj Mehta, Shri Madhavji Damodar and Lady Thackersey were nominated by the Thackersey family to the Senate of the University. Twenty-six-year old Lady Thackersey's initial hesitation and diffidence were persuasively overcome by

her husband's insistence that one always learnt, not by evading but by accepting responsibilities. Since then, Lady Thackersey never looked back, but continued to be intimately associated with the working of the University till this day.

Sir Vitaldas and Premlilaben who were then living in a rented house at Poona, decided to have their own house and purchased some acres of land on the Yervada Hill in Poona, where a small temple was dedicated to Lord Shiva. The construction of the house, which later came to be known as "Parnakuti", started under their direct supervision. The urge for "Parnakuti" has an interesting history behind it. Sir Vitaldas used to have religious and philosophical discourses with Shri Bapat, an eminent Shastri of Poona, with whom he also read the Bhagwadgeeta. This led to a desire to have a secluded spot of his own where he could retire and quietly mediate. Thus was born the idea of "Parnakuti" which instead of a small cottage finally came to have the architectural beauty and proportions of a magnificent structure, still known all through the country by its unassuming nomenclature "Parnakuti". It became world famous when Gandhiji carried out his Harijan fast there in 1933 and newsmen called it the "Marble Palace".

On June 1, 1922, the Thackerseys took their residence in "Parnakuti" which was ready to receive them, though not altogether complete in several of its details and appendages. Hardly a little over two months had elapsed, when Sir Vitaldas, who was then with Premlilaben on a visit to Bombay, suddenly took ill. His ulcer burst. The family physician and best surgical help were rushed; the operation was performed. But the fatal moment arrived on the morning of August 12, 1922, when Sir Vitaldas breathed his last. For Lady Thackersey, who was then only

twenty-eight, it was a shattering blow and her agony could more easily be imagined than described.

Premilaben, on the threshold of her life, fult of hopes and dreams, was heart-broken. It was a stunning blow from which the prospects of recovery were dim. The ship all set for smooth sailing was wrecked in mid-stream. Few could have the strength to raise one's head after this prostration of dire calamity. She cut herself off from all activities, but even before the wound had healed, she showed exceptional resilience and her husband's ideals and teachings gave her courage and sustained her ever afterwards. The voice of the Bhagwad-geet, her daily refuge and solace, came to her aid.

Premilaben hearkened the call of "battle"; Some years later, emerged from the excruciating ordeal of her bereavement, she plunged herself into one activity after another to transform her husband's visions into concrete realities. It was in 1926 that, among other things, she picked up the old thread that had bound her to the Women's University. In fact, she completely identified herself with the infant University and has ever since played the mother's role in rearing it up.

In 1936, the headquarters of the University moved from Poona to Bombay. However, the University had no building of its own. The office and the Arts College were run in a rented premises. Within a few months, Premilaben saw Lord Willingdon, the Viceroy and Lady Willingdon, both of whom she found extremely sympathetic towards the cause and then with the help of Lord Brabourne, the Governor of Bombay and Sir Jagdish Prasad, member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, plots on Queen's Road were acquired where the present buildings of the University are located.

Between 1937 and 1947 there are a number of historic occasions for the University, which was looked after by Premilaben as her own offspring and which was guided by the founder Maharshi Karve and veteran workers like Sir Sitaram Patkar, Shri H. L. Kaji, Shri Divetia, Shri K. M. Zaveri and others. In 1939, as desired by the Senate of the University, Premilaben went all the way to Rajkot where Mahatma Gandhi was resting after his historic fast, to request him to deliver the convocation address. Though Bapu could not be persuaded to do it, he yielded to Premilaben's pressure to remain present on the occasion on two conditions: one that he would not speak at all, and the other, that Premilaben should approach Shri B. G. Kher, Chief Minister of Bombay State, to deliver the convocation address in Gujarati. Back went Premilaben to Bombay and approached Shri B. G. Kher who readily obliged.

The convocation was duly held in Sunderbai Hall. It was a most unique and memorable occasion. On the dias sat, by the side of Premilaben, Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Smt. Sarojini Naidu, Subhas Chandra Bose, Sir M. Viswesaraiya, Meeraben and a whole galaxy of national leaders and prominent personalities. Though Gandhiji did not utter a single word, his very presence, occasionally lit by flashes of that child-like smile so characteristic of him, sanctified the occasion and raised it to historic significance and one of unforgettable experience.

In 1942, the University celebrated its silver jubilee under the Presidentship of Dr. Radhakrishnan, who delivered one of the most illuminating and inspiring addresses in the annals of the University. On this occasion, Premilaben was able to collect a good amount. This collection prompted Dr. M. R. Jaykar in his silver jubilee speech at the Poona College to

describe her as India's third "royal beggar" — next in this respect only to Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Malaviya.

Though the University degrees were accorded equivalence and recognition in 1937 by the Government of Bombay for employment purposes, it was over a decade later in 1949, after India's Independence, that the University was granted the charter by the Government. Most appreciative words were said by all those who spoke on the occasion when the Bill for granting the charter to the University was introduced in the Legislative Assembly under the leadership of Shri B. G. Kher, as this University had brought new hope and cheer to thousands of women who would have otherwise remained the "unlighted lamps".

In 1949, when the University received statutory recognition, Shri Morarji Desai, the then Home Minister of the Bombay State, telephoned Premlilaben in Poona, conveying the Government's desire to nominate her as the first Vice-Chancellor. Premlilaben begged to be excused, but she could not but accept the honour when Sir Maharaj Singh, the then Governor of Bombay, pressed her to oblige.

In 1953, the University conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature on her as well as on Dr. Karve — the two main pillars of the University for their dedicated services to the institution. The Banares Hindu University with which she was associated since its foundation, also conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature on her in 1956

The University celebrated Bharat Ratna D. K. Karve's centenary in the Brabourne Stadium under the Presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1958, who came all the way from Delhi to felicitate the grand old Maharshi in person. Premlilaben took this

occasion, too, to play the role of a "royal beggar" and collected a substantial amount for the University — but not before offering her own contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs.

When the bilingual state of Bombay was bifurcated into Maharashtra and Gujarat, Premlilaben met Shri Govind Vallabh Pant, the then Home Minister of the Government of India, who assured her that the special features of the University would be retained and that it would continue to enjoy its unrestricted jurisdiction.

Eight years later, in 1966, the University celebrated its Golden Jubilee and Premlilaben succeeded in persuading Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, and Dr. Zakir Husain, President of India, to inaugurate the Golden Jubilee and preside over the concluding function. Premlilaben with her amazing insight into the intricacies of finance, decided to take advantage of this occasion also for replenishing the exchequer of the University. She made a beginning by donating six lakhs of rupees herself. It was mainly due to her personal efforts and guidance that the University was able to collect a considerable amount.

After 1951, when the University was put on the Statute Book, it has made rapid strides, expanding in all directions. During Premlilaben's three consecutive terms as Vice-Chancellor, enrolment has increased from 1,510 to 12,500; the number of conducted and affiliated colleges rose from 4 to 20; and new faculties of Home Science, Nursing and Education were added. The spacious campus of the University was found to be too small and a plot of land at Juhu was acquired to meet the requirements of the new faculties with their growing numbers. Premlilaben soon hopes to add the Faculty of Technology to the existing ones to meet the changing needs of Society.

Premlilaben has served this University for half a century which also happens to be almost the age of the University itself. Now at seventy-five, when she is retiring as Vice-Chancellor, one is almost tempted to say that the history of the University is the biography of Premlilaben, were it not for the fear that she would be the first to deny this, adding with her characteristic humility, that it is others who have worked and she is given the credit for it.

Though the Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University is Premlilaben's pet child, it is not the only one to monopolise her attention.. There are in fact several other institutions such as the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, the Vanita Vishram at Bombay and Surat and the Seva Sadan at Poona, to name only a few. All of which have no less benefitted from her ability for organisation and service. All work for her is of the nature of "Yagna" which she performs solely for the satisfaction of having done her duty without expectations of return. Through her untiring efforts as the Chairman of the Kashurba Trust for over a decade, constructive work and relief for women in distress have reached even the remotest villages in the far-flung corners of the country. It must have been no small satisfaction to her to see Kasturba's and Mahadeobhai Desai's Smruti Mandir, formally inaugurated by Shri Morarji Desai on 22nd February 1969 at the Aga Khan Palace which was turned over to the nation as a historical monument by H. H. the Aga Khan on the same day.

Premlilaben's association with Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba was both intimate and long. She first met Gandhiji in 1915 at the residence of Smt. Jaijibai Petit when Gandhiji returned from Africa. She met him again in 1924 at the Sassoon Hospital, although she was in touch with his activities during the intervening period.

In 1928, she visited the Sabarmati Ashram and in 1930 Gandhiji stayed at "Parnakuti" for few hours. Since then "Parnakuti" gradually assumed the eminence of a national guest house where, besides Bapu, Rabindranath Tagore, C. Rajagopalachari, Subhas Chandra Bose, Sarojini Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sir Jagdish Prasad and a host of national luminaries enjoyed Premlilaben's impeccable hospitality. No wonder C. Rajagopalachari, the then Governor General of India, after enjoying her hospitality wrote back "It was most remarkable the way in which you discharged the duties of hostess as correctly as any of the Governors of Provinces with whom I stayed". Subhas Chandra Bose, the then President of the Indian National Congress, made a commendable remark in his letter to her when he said, "you have that unique quality whereby you can draw even a stranger towards you" — a fact vouched and women, high and low, who have found themselves absolutely at home with her. Premlilaben is an aristocrat, but not an autocrat. And considering how often wealth is accompanied by snobbishness and intolerance, one is amazed at Premlilaben's modesty, sympathy, tolerance and compassion. In the "Parnakuti" itself she has been running for years a hostel for girls in less fortunate circumstances where boarding, lodging and tuition are free. Sir Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey Charitable Trust and another in her own name offer financial help to innumerable students, widows, the old and the disabled without any distinction of caste or creed. Sir Vithaldas Nagar at Santacruz, Bombay, aims at providing decent residential blocks on moderate rent. Premlilaben is a deeply religious person and the beautiful temple at Sir Vithaldas Nagar is not only suggestive of her religious fervour but also of her aesthetic taste.

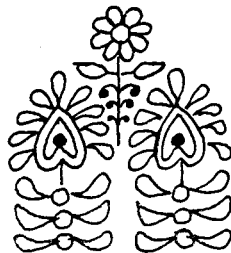
Premlilaben's public life is of a piece with her private life—both remarkable for

purity, integrity, humility and simplicity. Living a disciplined, almost austere life, her daily routine comprises getting up at four in the morning, with silent prayer and a regular walk and then attending to the daily routine. After a little rest after lunch she attends University office and her business engagements, office work and trust work, at which she is equally at home. She holds a prominent place in the working of the Thackersey Group of Mills and she is keenly interested in the progress of Sirdar Carbonic Gas Co. Ltd., which was started by her husband. She manages her own finances independently. In spite of her multifarious activities, she always finds time for her social calls to visit an ailing friend or a sick relative. She draws her inspiration for what she is and what she does from the traditions of Indian philosophy, religion and culture. She maintains her health and physical stamina, largely it seems, on the strength of her faith, her humanism, her moral outlook, simplicity of nature and utter selflessness in her dealings with others. She is still fond of travelling and uses every official occasion to visit religious and historical places.

Among the influences which moulded Premlilaben's life and personality were

those of her devout and cultured parents in childhood, that of Sir Vithaldas, her husband, who shaped her into a person sharing his ideals and visions, that of Mahatma Gandhi who inspired her to dedicate herself to the service of the underprivileged, that of the Bhagwadgita from which she imbibed the cardinal principles of righteous living.

In conclusion, we can only pay our humble tribute to Premlilaben, the daughter of the age of social reformers like Phule, Ranade, Gokhale, Karve, Gandhiji and Nehru who have influenced her directly or indirectly. True to the spirit of the age, she has contributed considerably to the cause through her selfless service, generous munificence and sincerity of work. She has made the most of herself by fanning the tiny spark of personality within her into the flame of achievement. Her name together with that of other social reformers in the cause of women's education is bound to go down in letters of gold in the women's archives and will be remembered by future generations as that of a person who combined in her the Rajayoga, Karmayoga and Bhaktiyoga, and one who has chosen the path of "Shreya" to "Preya".





OUR UNIVERSITY — 1951

SPAN OF EVENTS



Dr. Smt. Premlila V. Thackersey

- 1894 : January 8, Born at Rajkot in a middle class Bhatia Family.
- 1913 : February 9, Marriage to Sir Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey, leading industrialist and philanthropist of Bombay.
Association with the Vanita Vishram through late Smt. Maniben Gajjar and with the Seva Sadan through Smt. Ramabai Ranade:
- 1914 : Meeting with Gandhiji for the first time after his return from Africa.
- 1916 : The Foundation Stone Ceremony of the Banaras Hindu University with Sir Vithaldas Thackersey.
- 1917 : Visit to the Hindu Widows' Home at Hingue, Poona, with Sir Vithaldas Thackersey.
First meeting with Shri D. K. Karve, Founder of the Indian Women's University : 1916.
- 1919 : March 14, on the World Tour, with Sir Vithaldas Thackersey.
Visit to the Japan Women's University, Tokyo, Japan.
- 1920 : Sir Vithaldas Thackersey donated Rupees Fifteen Lakhs to the Indian Women's University, to commemorate the memory of his mother Shreemati Nathibai.
The Indian Women's University since then named as Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Indian Women's University.
Nomination with four other members from the Donors' Constituency on the Senate of the University.
- 1922 : June 1, : Arrival to stay at Parnakuti her well known residence at Poona.

- August 12, : Death of her husband Sir Vithaldas Thackersey at the age of 49 years.
- 1924 : Visited Gandhiji at the Sassoon Hospital, Poona.
- 1926 : Nomination to the Syndicate of this University.
- 1928 : Visit to the Sabarmati Ashram.
- 1930 : Gandhiji's first visit to Parnakuti.
- 1932 : Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's stay at Parnakuti during his visit to Gandhiji at Poona, at the time of his epic fast.
- 1933 : Gandhiji's stay at Parnakuti during his historic Harijan Fast for 21 days.
- 1936 : The Headquarters of the University brought over from Poona to Bombay.
- 1938 : Visit of Shri Subhash Bose, Congress President, at Parnakuti.
- 1939 : Visit to Rajkot to request Gandhiji to attend the Convocation of the University.
Gandhiji graced the Convocation of the University.
- 1942 : Collection of substantial donation on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the University.
- 1944 : Nomination by Gandhiji as the Trustee of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust.
Gandhiji's stay for four days at Parnakuti. immediately after his release from the Aga Khan Palace.
Gandhiji's stay for 45 days at Mahaleshwar as her guest.
- 1945 : Creation of Sir Vithaldas D. Thackersey Charitable Trust.
Nomination as a member of the Central Advisory Board of Education.
- 1949 : Appointment as a Special Member for life time on the Senate and the Syndicate of the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay, under the S.N.D.T. Women's University Act 1949.
- 1950 : Election as the Vice-Chairman of the Kasturba National Memorial Trust.
- 1951 : Nomination by the Government of Bombay as the first Vice-Chancellor of the University, after its statutory recognition.
- 1952 : Visit of the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at Parnakuti, for a day.
- 1953 : Award of the Honorary Degree of D. Litt. by the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay.
- 1954 : Construction of Sir Vithaldas Nagar at Santacruz.
- 1956 : Award of the Honorary Degree of D. Litt. from the Banaras Hindu University, Banaras.
Election as the Chairman, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust.
- 1957 : Election as the Vice-Chancellor, S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay.
- 1958 : Nomination as the Chairman, Managing Committee, Vanita Vishram, Bombay.
Active participation in the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Dr. D. K. Karve, Founder of the University.
- 1960 : Election as the Chairman : Reception Committee of the Conference of Moral and Social Hygiene.
- 1962 : Creation of the Lady Premlila V. Thackersey Charitable Trust.
- 1966 : At her request Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, Indian Union, New Delhi, inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the University.

Collection of substantial donations for the Golden Jubilee of the Vanita Vishram.

Nomination as a member of the National Council of Women's Education.

1967 : Nomination as the President of the Inter University Board of India and Ceylon.

1968 : At her request to Dr. Zakir Husain, President, Indian Union, New Delhi, presided over the Velidictory Function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the University.

1969 : Retired as the Vice-Chancellor of the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay, after completion of four consecutive terms.

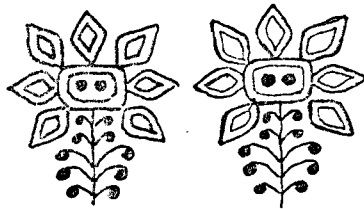
Visit of H.H. the Aga Khan at the Parnakuti, after his handing over

the Aga Khan Palace to the Gandhi Nidhi.

1972 : Donation of Rs. 15/- lacs to the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay on the occasion of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of the Late Sir Vithaldas Thackersey to construction an auditorium at the University Campus at Juhu and to name it as Sir Vithaldas Shatabdi Sabhagraha.

1973 : Chairman, National Council for Women's Education, New Delhi. Retired as the Chairman, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust.

1974 : Appointment as a Special Member for her life-time on the Senate and the Executive Council of the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay, under the S.N.D.T. Women's University Act-1974.



one for all,
all for one !



It's a far cry from the days of the Musketeers, but their sense of unity in service is still with us—as in the case of the Tata group of Mills.

The Tata group of four cotton textile mills, equipped with 325,000 spindles and 6,845 looms, is one of the largest in India, manufacturing in grey, bleached, dyed, and printed varieties a total of 156,000,000 metres of cloth annually, out of which 16,000,000 metres are exported to all parts of the world.

TATA *Textiles*
representing

asiart

The Central India Spg., Wvg. & Mfg. Co. Ltd., ("Empress Mills") Nagpur • The Tata Mills Ltd., Bombay.
The Ahmedabad Advance Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad • The Svadeshi Mills Co. Ltd., Bombay.

❁ ❁ Tact comes as much from goodness of heart as from fineness of taste.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE S.N.D.T. WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

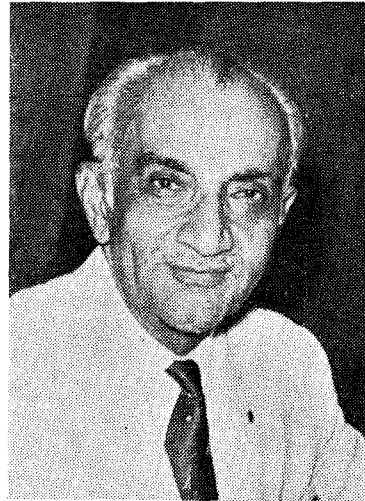
by VIJAY MERCHANT

Fifty-eight years ago, when the first Indian Women's College was started in June, 1916 with four students, little did one dream that it would grow into the S.N.D.T. Women's University, with an enrolment of nearly 19,000 women today.

The history of its inception is not only closely connected with women's liberation in India, but also with our freedom struggle. At a time when Hinduism had degenerated into rigid outdated norms, Maharshi Dr. Karve had the courage of his convictions to found a college specially for the down-trodden women of India. A great visionary, he advocated widow remarriage and also campaigned to raise the age of marriage. In fact, Dr. Karve himself describes how he made it a condition with a father who wished to admit his three daughters to his ashram, that he would keep them only if he promised that the girls would not be married before the age of 18.

The college, however, was always in financial doldrums, and it was at this time that a great Industrialist, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey, lent a helping hand. As a part of his world tour he had gone to Japan and had been greatly impressed by the Women's University of Tokyo, on which lines Dr. Karve's college was patterned. He donated Rs. 15 lakhs and thereafter it was known as the Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Indian Women's University.

Broadly speaking, since the idea was to work for the emancipation of women through the spread of education, the spe-



cial entrance examinations were less rigid and attendance requirements more liberal. Although the college was not affiliated to or recognised by the Bombay University, it nevertheless functioned on its own as a separate entity and its examination was popularly known as Karve's matriculation.

Secondly, English was an alien language to these sheltered women, so the medium of instruction was in the mother tongue to facilitate communication.

With the dawn of Independence, the whole fabric of the college changed. The freedom movement had pulled women out of their homes and they had agitated with and stood by their menfolk during the struggle. The modern women who emerged after Independence was, therefore, one who was a companion to her husband and who shared his intellectual pursuits as well as made a home for him.

The S.N.D.T. college lost some of its unique colour when with the start of many colleges for women in India where the medium of instruction was both in English and in the regional language.

It was, therefore, time to take stock of the situation and mould the college to suit the needs of modern India. This was further facilitated when, in 1951, the Government of India formally recognised it and the Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University came into being.

Today, 22 colleges are affiliated to the S.N.D.T. University. Over 1,25,000 girls have taken advantage of the various courses offered by the University, and 30,000 students have so far received their Diplomas and Degrees.

In keeping with its progressive policies, it has now five faculties, which include Library Science, Home Science, Education, Technology and Nursing. The founder of this University was convinced that as many avenues as possible should be open to Indian women to come forward and educate themselves. Hence, a special feature of this University is in pioneering private or external studies, where the woman does not need to be a full-time student of the college.

The S.N.D.T. Women's University is also proposing to have separate facilities of Science, Medicine (beginning with Para-medical Courses) and Commerce. It is also planning to separate the disciplines of fine arts and social work from the arts faculty.

But this is not enough. Apart from trying to achieve a higher standard of learning and research, it should still meet the demands of adult women who desire to educate themselves, but for socio-economic reasons, cannot avail themselves of the usual channels of education, like attending full-day college.

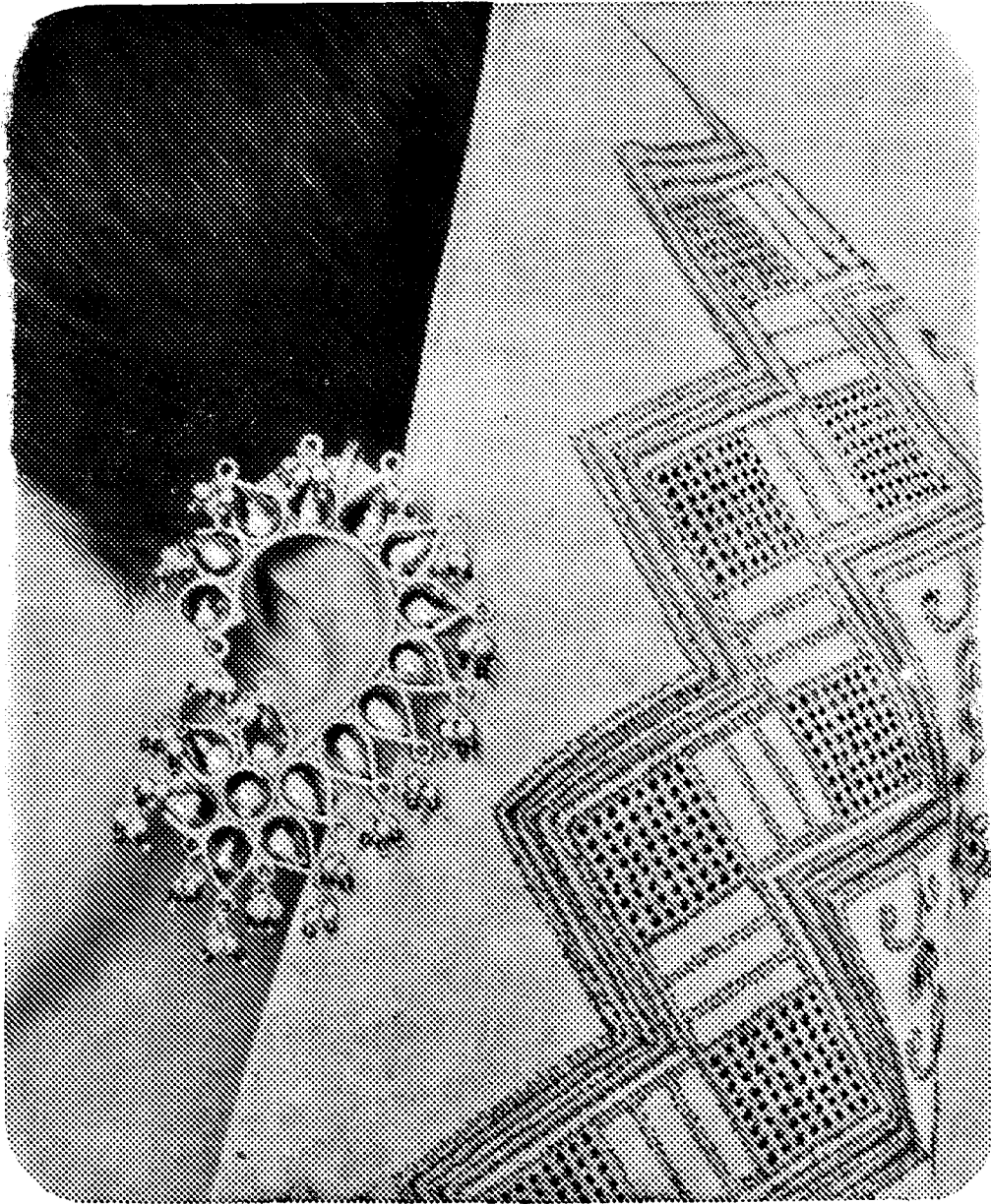
As a women's University, it would be a good idea to conduct elective courses in Dramatics, Industrial Arts and Family Adjustments, so that it helps the woman in her home life too.

It would be in the fitness of things to research on studies pertaining to women. Secondly, a documentation centre that provides material on women should be developed, which can be used by both outsiders and the members irrespective of sex or nationality. In a course like social work, there should be an emphasis on the practical aspect to make such courses really worthwhile. Vocational and Psychiatric Guidance should also be offered to the students.

After shifting from Poona to Bombay, the S.N.D.T. Women's University has steadily acquired more land to house its vastly increased number of students and faculty members. A huge plot of land has been acquired at Juhu where a well laid out campus is springing up. It has been decided by the authorities of the University to name it "SIR VITHALDAS VIDYA VIHAR".

This University has a proud tradition of great names of those who sacrificed a great deal in life to work for an ideal. The uppermost amongst them is Dr. (Lady) Premlila Thackersey who has enhanced in a great measure the image of the University which her husband helped to build. More than anyone else she has fulfilled the expectations of the late Sir Vithaldas Thackersey in not only keeping alive but strengthening his ideals. This spirit should not only be kept up by those who follow but improve upon by exploring new avenues to create a generation of women — smart, educated and at the same time alive and responsive to the needs of society. This would be the best memorial to its munificent donor, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey.

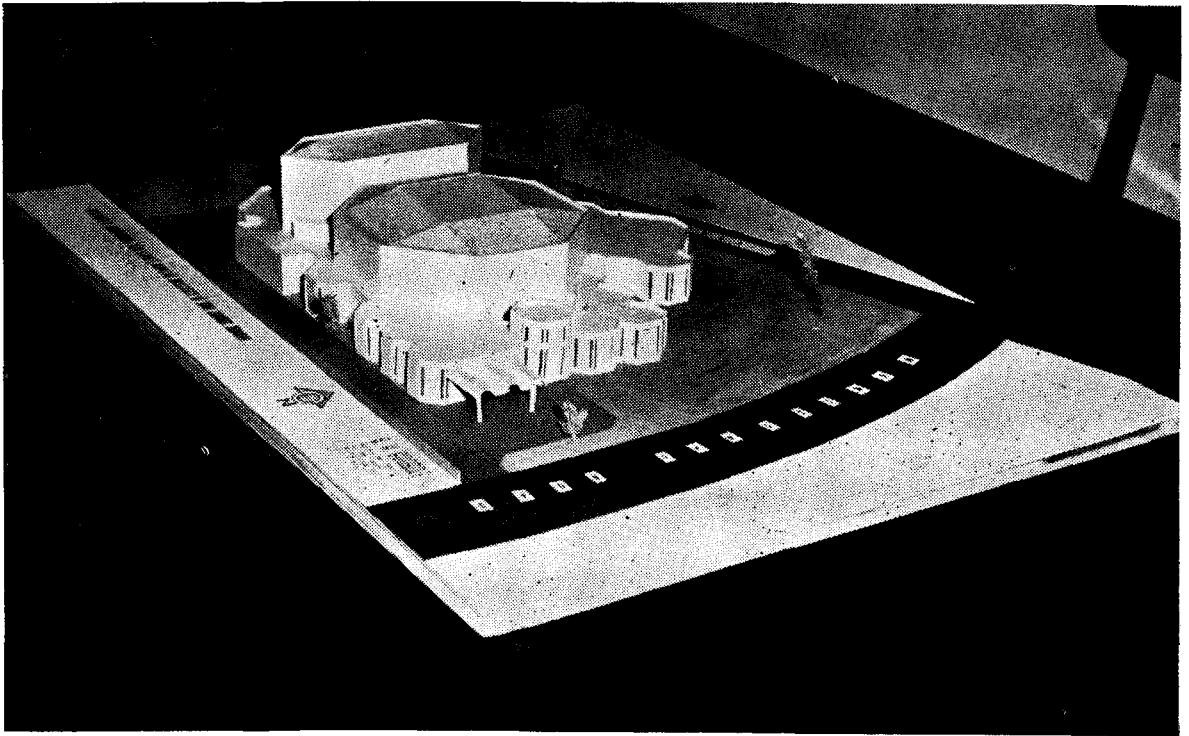
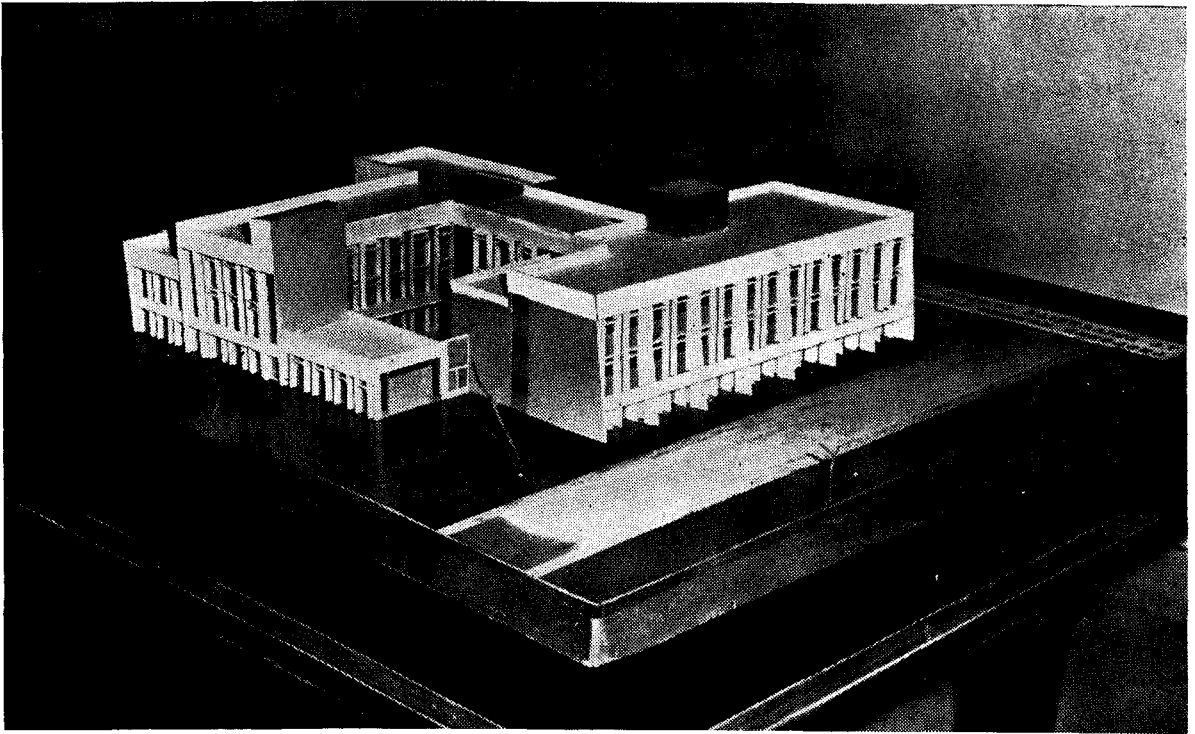
hakoba[®]
EMBR[♡]IDERED FABRICS



FANCY CORPORATION LIMITED, 16, Bombay Samachar Street, Bombay 400001

Ratan Barra/FC/E/304

❁ ❁ Unto pure all things are pure.



What our University will look like in 1980.

MILESTONES

IN THE GROWTH OF S. N. D. T. WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY

1916

● Establishment of the Indian Women's University by Dr. D. K. Karve, on the model of the Women's University in Japan, at Poona.

● Affiliation of the Mahila Pathshala, with only five students, started by the Hindu Widow's Home Association at Hingne, Poona.

1917

● Donation of Rs. 40,000/- from the Lande Trust.

1920

● First princely donation of Rs. 15,00,000/- from Sir Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey, to commemorate the memory of his revered mother Smt. Nathibai Damodar Thackersey.

● The University since then named as the Shrimati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Indian Women's University.

● The Mahila Pathshala, started by the Hindu Widows' Home Association, taken over by the University and named it as the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Poona.

● Management of the S.N.D.T. Kanyashala, Poona, taken over by the University.

1921

● Purchase of a plot of land ad-measuring 24 acres, for the College Campus, at Yerandavana.

● Affiliation of the S.L.U. College for Women, Ahmedabad, started by Smt. Sharda Mehta.

1923

● Construction of the University College Building and the Mulraj Khatau Hostel Building at Poona.

1924

● Establishment of the S.N.D.T. Kanyashala at Bombay.

1926

● Construction of an independent building for the S.N.D.T. Kanyashala at Poona.

1935

● Establishment of a full-fledged College — S.N.D.T. College for Women, at Bombay.

1936

● Shifting of the University Headquarters from Poona to Bombay.

● Opening Ceremony of the Building by his Excellency Lord Brabourne and purchase of two plots for the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Bombay.

1939

● Visit of Mahatma Gandhiji at the Annual Convocation of the University.

1940

● Purchase of two plots, adjoining the College Building.

1942

● Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the University, under the Presidentship of Dr. Radhakrishnan.

1949

● Acceptance of the proposal by the

Government of Bombay for statutory recognition of the University.

● Enactment of the S.N.D.T. Women's University Act.

1951

● Statutory recognition of the University.

● Cessation of the S.N.D.T. Indian Women's University, Bombay.

● Commencement of the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Bombay.

1952

● Opening of the Gordhandas Khetsey Building for the University and its College at Bombay, by Dr. Radha-Krishnan, Vice-President of the Indian Union.

● Introduction of the B.Sc. Nursing Degree Course and the B.Ed. Course.

● Establishment of the Nursing Department and the B.Ed. Department at the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Bombay.

1953

● Introduction of the Diploma Course in Home Science.

1958

● Birth Centenary Celebrations of the Founder, Dr. D. K. Karve, : Inauguration by the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

● Introduction of the Pre-university in Arts Course.

1959

● Establishment of the Home Science Department at the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Bombay.

● Introduction of the Three Year Degree Course after the Pre-University in Arts, in place of the old course of three years duration.

1960

● Conversion of the B.Ed. Department at the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Bombay, into a full-fledged College of Education, in the name of the Premcooverbai Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey College of Education for Women, Bombay.

1961

● Establishment of the Shri Hansraj Pragji Thackersey School of Library Science.

1962

● Conversion of the Home Science Department at the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Bombay, into a full-fledged College of Home Science at Bombay.

1963

● Opening of the New Building of the University and its Colleges by the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

● Introduction of the Ph. D. Research Studies in Gujarati and Marathi under the Faculty of Arts.

1964

● Gift of an open plot of land admeasuring 21 acres, at Juhu, to the University by the Government of Maharashtra, for its expansion programme.

● Conversion of the Nursing Department at the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Bombay, into a full-fledged College of Nursing, in the name of the Leelabai Thackersey College of Nursing, Bombay.

● Conversion of the B.Ed. Department at the S.N.D.T. College for Women, Poona, into a full fledged College of Education in the name of

the S.N.D.T. College of Education for Women, Poona.

1965

● Establishment of a branch of the University Library at Poona Campus in an independent building, for Arts, Education and Home Science Colleges, conducted by the University at Poona.

1966

● Golden Jubilee Year of the University.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

● Inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations by the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi.

● Inauguration of the Education Week and the Educational Exhibition on "Indian Womenhood Marches Ahead" by Dr. D. S. Kothari, Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

● Golden Jubilee Convocation Address by the Minister for External Affairs Shri M. C. Chagla.

Golden Jubilee of the S. N. D. T. College for women, Poona.

● Golden Jubilee Function presided over by the Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the University, Dr. P. V. Cherian.

● Naming of the College of Home Science at Bombay, as Sir Vithaldas Thackersey College of Home Science, Bombay.

● Establishment of the Practising School, named as Premlila Vithaldas Kanyashala, attached to the S.N.D.T. College of Education for Women, Poona.

● Introduction of Ph.D. Research Studies in Sociology under the Faculty of Arts.

● Introduction of the Ph.D. Research Studies under the Faculty of Education.

● Institution of the Diploma Course in Education and its introduction at the conducted Colleges of Education at Bombay and Poona.

● Establishment of the Alumni Association at the University.

1967

● Establishment of a Non-Resident Students' Centre (N.R.S.C.), At Bombay.

1968

● Valedictory Function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the University presided over by the President of the Indian Union Dr. Zakir Hussain.

● Publication of the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Volume by the University.

● Commencement of the development of the plot of land at Juhu.

● Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the S.N.D.T. Kanyashala, Poona.

● Establishment of the S.N.D.T. College of Home Science, at Poona, to conduct courses leading to the B.Sc. H.Sc. Degree Examination.

● Institution of the Certificate Course in Foreign Languages: German and Russian.

● Visit at the University of Mrs. Corretta King, during her visit to India, to receive the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1966, on behalf of

her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King.

1969

● Formation of a Felicitation Committee, under the presidentship of Shri M. D. Chaudhari, Minister for Education and Social Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, to celebrate the 75th Birthday of Dr. Smt. Premlila V. Thackersey. Function presided over by Dr. Cherian, Governor of Maharashtra.

● Decennial Celebrations of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey College of Home Science, Bombay. Inaugurated by Smt. Hansa Mehta.

● Celebration of the Gandhi Centenary Year through various programmes. Inauguration by Shri Shri-man Narayan, Governor of Gujarat.

● Visit of the Committee, appointed by the All India Council for Technical Education, to consider the proposal of the University for the establishment of a Women's Polytechnic.

● The University Grants Commission approved the proposal of the University for the establishment of a Women's Polytechnic.

● Completion of four consecutive fruitful terms of Vice-Chancellorship of Dr. Smt. Premlila V. Thackersey, 1957-1969.

Smt. Sharda Divan took over the Vice-Chancellorship from Dr. Smt. Premlila V. Thackersey.

1970

● Introduction of the Ph.D. Research Studies in English, Hindi and Sanskrit under the Faculty of Arts.

● Opening Ceremony of the New Building for the S.N.D.T. College

of Home Science, Poona, by the Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the University, Shri Ali Yavar Jung, Chief Guest : Shri M. D. Chaudhari, Minister for Education, State of Maharashtra.

● Commencement of the construction work on the new Campus of the University at Juhu.

Visit of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan.

1971

● Establishment of a Centre of Continuing Education for Life-long Learning at the University, with a view to giving a new direction and dimension to its academic programme.

● Institution of the courses in Textile and Clothing at the M.Sc. H.Sc. level and their introduction at Sir Vithaldas Thackersey College of Home Science.

1972-1973

● Birth Centenary Year of the Principal Donor, Sir Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey.

Programme of the Year

● Formation of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary Celebration Committee with Shri Ali Yavar Jung, Governor of Maharashtra, as the Chief Patron and Shri Gaganvihari Mehta as the President.

● Inaugural Function presided over by Shri Ali Yavar Jung Governor of Maharashtra and Chancellor of the University.

● Donation of Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rs. 15 Lakhs), from Dr. Smt. Premlila Vithaldas Thackersey, for construction of an auditorium at the Univer-

sity Campus at Juhu, to be named as "Sir Vithaldas Shatabte Sabhagraha" a donation corresponding to that from Sir Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey given in the year 1920.

● The new Campus of the University at Juhu named as "Sir Vithaldas Vidyavihar".

● The New Campus of the University at Juhu named as "Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Marg" by the Municipal Corporation, Greater Bombay, to commemorate the Birth Centenary of one of its former Mayors.

● Commencement of the Research on "S.N.D.T. Women's University A Case Study".

● "A Round Table Discussion" at the University on "Trends in Women's Higher Education and the Role of the S.N.D.T. Women's University", under the Chairmanship of Kum. Sulabha Panandikar.

● Opening Ceremony of the Study Centre for the students of Colleges, conducted by the affiliated to this University, and for the Lady Students of the affiliated Colleges of the University of Bombay, at Sir Vithaldas Nagar, Santacruz, Bombay, by Kum. Sulabha Panandikar.

● Approval of the Programme of the proposed Women's Polytechnic at Juhu, by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

● Establishment of the Departments of —

- (i) Research in Education ;
- (ii) Guidance and Counselling ;
- (iii) Audio-Visual Education; ;

(iv) Language Teaching ;

(v) Extension Services in Education ;

at the P.V.D.T. College of Education for Women, Bombay.

● Visits at the University.

● Smt. Valentina Nikolyeya Treshkena, Soviet Cosmonaut ;

● Dr. Smt. Margaret Mead, World famous Anthropologist.

● Institution of the Degree of the Doctorate of Philosophy under the Faculty of Home Science.

● Opening Ceremony of a Students' Home at the University Campus at Poona by Smt. Sharda Divan, Vice-Chancellor.

● Opening Ceremony of the new Building for the S.N.D.T. College of Education for Women, Poona, by Shri A. N. Namjoshi, Minister for Education and Sports, State of Maharashtra.
1974

● Endowment of Rs. 1,20,000 in aggregate from Smt. Udaybhai M. D. Thackersey and family members of Smt. Hakubhai Kapadia non received to form a fund known as "Smt. Motibai Madhavjee and Shri Madhavjee Damodar Thackersey Women's Studies Research Fund".

● Enactment of the New University Act — S.N.D.T. Women's University Act — 1974.

● Valedictory Function of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of the Late Shri Vithaldas Thackersey.

GOLDEN SAYINGS

To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, then indeed is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior. Has she not got greater intuition, is she not self-sacrificing, has she not got greater power of endurance, has she not greater courage? Without her, man could not be. If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with woman.

Mahatma Gandhi

One of the truest measures of a nation's advancement is the state of its women. For out of the women forms the new generation and it is from their lips and from their laps that it begins to learn.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Womanliness is not chiefly decorative. It is like that vital health, which not only imparts the bloom of beauty to the body, but joy to the mind and perfection to life.

Tagore

We cannot hope to succeed in directing this increasingly complex civilisation, unless we can draw all the talent of leadership from the whole people. One civilisation after another has been wrecked upon the attempt to secure sufficient leadership from a single group or class.

The full opportunity for every boy and girl to rise through the selective process of education can only secure to us this leadership.

President Hoover, U.S.A.

SIR VITHALDAS THACKERSEY BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION



Patron : **His Highness Nawab Ali Yavar Jung.**

Members: Smt. Ali Yavar Jung
Shri V. P. Naik
Smt. Vatsala Naik
Shri Ghanshyam Oza
Shri R. M. Kantawala
Shri V. S. Page
Shri S. K. Wankhede
Shri M. D. Chaudhari
Prof. Anant Namjoshi
Dr. D. S. Kothari
Shri Ravjibhai Ganatra

Smt. Mahboob Nasrullah
Smt. Sharda Divan
Dr. P. B. Gajendragadkar
Shri J. C. Shah
Shri K. K. Desai
Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta
Shri K. M. D. Thackersey
Lady Homi Mody
Lady Rama Rao

Treasurers: Smt. Tarunica Dehejia
Shri Vasantbhai Mashruwala
Shri D. S. Phatak

Secretaries:
Smt. Kamalini H. Bhansali
Shri Ishu N. Kaji

SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

Chairman: Shri **Hakubhai Kapadia**

Members: Shri Kantikumar R. Podar
Shri Vijay Merchant
Shri Pratapsing Mathuradas
Shri Ramkrishna Bajaj
Shri Chandrakant M. Khatau
Shri H. T. Parekh
Shri Narendra Kapadia
Shri Padmanabh A. Mafatlal
Shri Ganeshnarayan R. Podar
Dr. Smt. Madhuri R. Shah
Shri Lalji L. Kapadia

Shri Viren J. Shah
Shri P. J. Patel
Shri C. V. Mariwala
Shri Navnitlal L. Shah
Shri Devji Ratanshi
Shri Bachubhai Fadia
Shri C. L. Mehta
Shri Jaswant P. Thacker
Shri C. L. Gheewala
Shri Vithal T. Mehta

Secretary: Shri **Ishu N. Kaji**



PADMA BHUSHAN SMT. KAMALA



KAMALA : A PROFILE

Kamala, who will be leading her renowned dance troupe for the sixth trip across the seas into the citadels of western culture has been successfully welcome among highly choosy, critical, debonair audiences in and out of India for 28 years now. She has never flagged over the quarter of a century. Because she has not limited herself to be a mere professional and has continued to blossom into a genuine artiste.

Her sensational debut at her age of five was at a Cosmopolitan Bombay Audience through the 'Kathak' style, but she has endeared and distinguished herself, thanks she chose the classic 'Bharat Natyam' style, infusing into her art the strength of an ever-expanding repertoire, the grace born of creative experience, the will to be a purposeful medium between her art and the people who see the divine in it.

Hailing from a Brahmin family in Tanjore, the home of art and music in South India, Kamala learnt her first steps in Bombay. Her mother rightly brought her to the Southern system under the able maestro, Vazhuvur Ramiah Pillai. Today Kamala has started leaving her own peculiar impress on Bharat Natyam in India. Her big advantages are her singularly graceful figure, a soft and sensitive face, and a learning with insight into contemporary sensibility. She has herself composed three ballets that have been acclaimed by the best art critics of India. The theme of two of these are: famous Sanskrit poet Kalidasa's Shakuntalam and Thygaraja's Nowka Charitram.

Ably assisted by her sisters, Radha and Vasanthi and her trained troupe, Kamala

delivers her art with same cool competency known only among very old masters. She performs with verve and vigour, in which she delineates even the subtlest of nuances. She makes no compromises or concessions, and does not elect to make her art a hybrid piece. She all the same reveals an intense awareness of the extremely difficult and delicate artiste-audience relationship.

Kamala has an added advantage: She can announce and interpret her pieces in chaste English. Thus she is easily communicative to any audience anywhere in the world. This goes with tasteful and pleasant costume and soft and articulate mime. For these reasons, her audiences now come from Paris, London, Rome, Berlin, Stuttgart, Bangkok, Japan and New York, The Indian Government facilitated Kamala to represent Indian art and music at the Asta Convention in Las Vegas in 1962, and at the Theatre Des Nations at Paris in 1964. At home they compare her own performances with one another, but never with those by others, for she is above controversy now.

Kamala has been adjudged the Best Bharata Natyam Artiste and awarded the title KALASIGAMANI by the Madras State Sangeet Nataka Sangam.

She has also been awarded as a Best Bharata Natyam Exponent for the year 1968 by the Madras State Sangeet Natak Sangam, Madras, and Sangeet Natak Academy, New Delhi during 1968-69.

She was awarded PADMA BHUSHAN by the President of India on 26th January, 1970, on the eve of the Republic Day.



WHAT THE PRESS THINKS OF

KAMALA

Illustrated Weekly of India: Others may have in plenty what she lacks, but what she does not possess is not essential for success in her line. She can be communicative without ceasing to be creative.

London Observer: Kamala has not broken rules of the art. Sincere to the art, she has yet won the Western audiences.

Indian Express: An accomplished singer, her enormous self-confidence and poise has made the transition from craft to art easy.

Evening News, Trinidad: Kamala is a genius born to art, has won her way into the hearts of the vast crowd with charm, grace and raised repeated ovations with her snake dance.

Guardian, Trinidad: Kamala invests her art with a quivering sensibility that reaches out to the audience. You share her joy of dancing with her.

Hindusthan Times, Delhi: Kamala is superb and delightful, no experimentalist and shows depth.

Sunday Statesman: The creative artistry in her has grown with her.

La Libra Belgiaque: Such grace makes one ponder on the work required to acquire such high perfection.

La Derniere Heure: The artist is grace itself.

**YOU TAKE
AN EXCELLENT
'CATCH' IN**



Khatau
VOILES

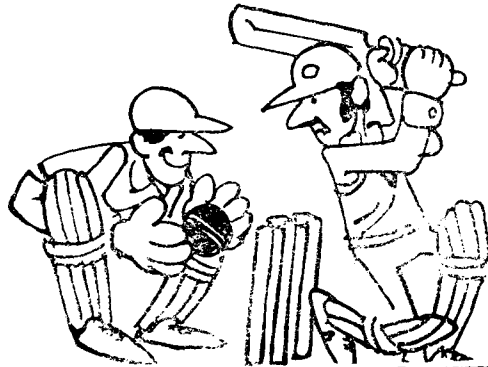


**THE KHATAU MAKANJI
SPG. & WVG. CO. LTD.**

Head Office: Laxmi Building,
Ballard Estate, Bombay-1.

Mill: Haines Road, Byculla, Bombay-27

Wholesale Shop: Mulji Jetha Market, Bombay-2.



PREMI ASSOCI.

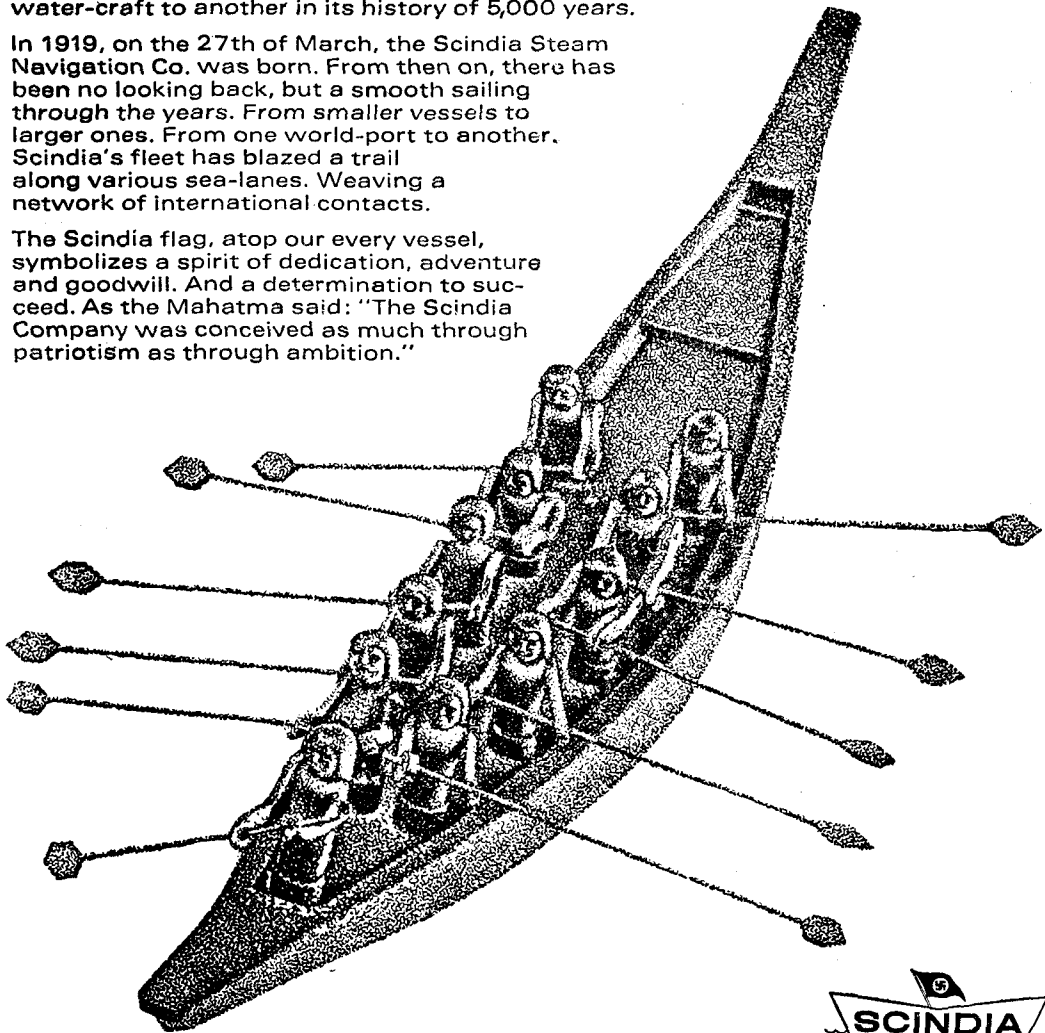
In the 17th century, Indian natives plied their 'catamarans' amidst turbid waters...

Today, Scindia plies her great bulk-carriers through international seas!

Indian Shipping has progressed from one water-craft to another in its history of 5,000 years.

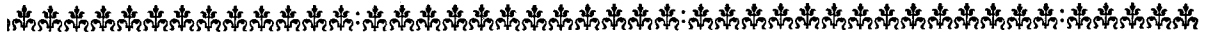
In 1919, on the 27th of March, the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. was born. From then on, there has been no looking back, but a smooth sailing through the years. From smaller vessels to larger ones. From one world-port to another. Scindia's fleet has blazed a trail along various sea-lanes. Weaving a network of international contacts.

The Scindia flag, atop our every vessel, symbolizes a spirit of dedication, adventure and goodwill. And a determination to succeed. As the Mahatma said: "The Scindia Company was conceived as much through patriotism as through ambition."



THE SCINDIA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

Scindia House, Narottam Morarji Marg, Ballard Estate, Bombay 400 038 □ 15, Park Street, Calcutta 700 016



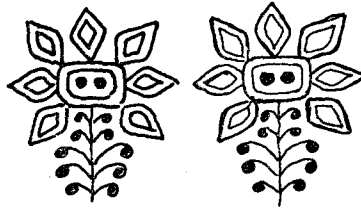
ADITI : A PROFIE

At the age of 18, Aditi has been dancing for the last 12 years. It was in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Dance Classes that her Guru, Sri S. K. Rao, "discovered" her and felt that if given proper guidance and opportunities, she would make a name for herself. Since then she has been giving regular performances for good causes.

If rhythm is the essence and life-breath of our dance heritage, if indeed Satvikabhinaya is the ultimate ideal of emotive interpretation in Bharata Natyam, one finds in Aditi a blending of these twin-ideals in a degree that seems to mock at the yardstick of age, experience, maturity et al.

Aditi exudes layagnana with a poise and unerring accuracy that reveals a deep seated command over rhythm. The linear balance and precision of her Adavus have none of either obsessive angularity or of cloying pettiness that one commonly comes across among upcoming exponents. Her Abhinaya is in a class by itself. Her mobile pace and speaking eyes project Rasa in its myriad subtle shadings that enthrall the purist and connoisseur.

In short Aditi may be ranked among those who pursue art for its own sake, as a life-style and a pathway for salvation.



WHAT THE PRESS THINKS OF

ADITI

Aditi has acquired considerable confidence. Her hand movements are neat and pleasing to watch, whilst her footwork full of vitality.

DEFT TOUCHES

Aditi's programme was marked by many deft touches. The choreographic patterns of certain numbers were striking and the items well-edited. A powerful orchestra — with Santhanam on the mridangam, S. K. Rao conducting the natuvangam, Kunjithem in vocal support and Jayakar on violin — helped to enhance the appeal of her programme.

The invocatory item "Kavuthvam" in praise of Lord Shiva followed by "Alarippu"

was performed with paise. Equally praiseworthy was the padam. "Charanam Charanam Raghu Rama" extolling Sri Rama.

But the elaborate "Varnam" addressed to Lord Brehadishwara, was the highlight of the programme. A compact piece, it contained well-balanced nritta as well as nritya. Besides, Aditi effectively portrayed the love-lorn Nayika suffering from the arrows of Manatha,

A short padam in praise of Krishna was as sorightly as the "Koorathi" the gypsy dance, which ended her entertaining programme.

— INDIAN EXPRESS, 5/4/1973.

What amazed me was not the confidence and precision of Aditi's Nritta execution, nor the dignity of her stage presence, but the appeal, the range and the depth of her abhinaya.

Entering on cue as a Devadasi bearing the ritual offerings, Aditi seemed verily a Devadasi come to life from the dim past, her highly sensitive face mirroring through the later Abhinaya numbers — from the soulful pathos of "Charanam

Charanam" to the exquisite love-pangs of a Virahotkanthita in the Varnam and the touching vatsalya in the delightful Krishna theme.

Aditi's Nritta has an innate languorous grace that adds a touch of unhurried ease to the fastest passages. Her sense of laya, footwork and sweeping Hastas are impaccable.

— TIMES OF INDIA, 6/4/1973.

Her arangeetram — coming of age in Bharata Natyam — at the Patkar Hall a fortnight ago, was highly appreciated by a "standing room only" audience.

With the verve of a veteran, Aditi went through her paces in Vinayaka

Stuthi, Alarippu, Jathiswaram, Ramayana subdam, five Padams, Varnam, Thilana, Dashawar and the Vanji Vridal gypsy dance with skill.

— EVENING NEWS, 15/4/1972.

BHARATANATYALAYA OF MADRAS

PRESENTS

“NALA DAMAYANTHI”

A DANCE DRAMA

CAST

1 KAMALA	— Nati, Hans. Saniswar
2 ADITI	— Damayanthi
3 SANDHYA	— Nala
4 SUDHA	— Yema, Shikari, Raja Ritu Pan
5 USHA	— Indra, Vyapari, Pushkaran
6 UMA	— Narada, Brahmin
7 RAMA	— Agni, Vaguka
8 GEETA	— Varuna, Raja Bhimsen
9 SUJATA	— Sakhi, Naag Sakhi
10 MADHUSHEE	— Chitrasen
11 MAHALAKSHMI	— Chitra

ORCHESTRA

1. Kameswaran	— Nattuvangam
2. Pushpalatha	— Vocal
3. Kulkarni	— Vocal
4. Dattatreya	— Tabla
5. Mani	— Mirudangam
6. Padmanabhan	— Flute
7. Sri Ram	— Sitar
8. Ramakrishnan	— Violin

BACK-STAGE

1. Rajan	Special effects.
2. Masukh Joshi and Nagin Rajput	
Indian National Theatre	— Sets and lights.
3. Sethu Madhavan	— Make up.
4. Narayanan	— Stage Management.

NALA DAMAYANTHI

A DANCE DRAMA BY
Smt. Kamala

NALA DAMAYANTI a dance drama being presented today has been composed on the theme from NALA VENBA composed by Pulavar Pugazhendi.

Theme for music and dance in Tamilnadu are mainly about the Gods in order to inculcate faith in the minds of people to have belief in God by praying to whom they could achieve prosperity in life.

The story has been divided into three Acts.

Act—I : Swayamvara Kandan

The Act opens with a prayer for the success of the performance.

Nala, the hero meets a Swan in a park and the Swan describes the beauty of Damayanti, the heroine, to Nalan. He sends the Swan to Damayanti as a messenger of his love. Damayanti reciprocates the feelings of love. On known this, Veeman, father of Damayanti fixes a day for Swayamvara in which function all eligible bridegrooms will be present from whom the bride could make a selection. Sage Naradha informs about the Swayamvara to other eligible Devas like Indra, Agni, Vayu and Yama.

On the way to Swayamvara, Nalan meets these Devas who ask him for his help to inform Damayanti to accept anyone of these Devas as her husband, which Nalan does and gets their blessings. During the Swayamvara all the Devas change their Body to look like Nalan which confuses Damayanti, who prays to God for help, identifies the real Nalan and garlands him. Kali, a planet of ill-fate, who comes late for the marriage gets angry and takes a vow to divide the couple.



Padma Bhushan Smt. Kamala



ADITI





KAMALA





Kumari Aditi Vijay Merchant

Act—II : Kallthodar Kandan

Nalan and Damayanti leading a pleasant married life become parents for two children. In the meanwhile after waiting for 12 years Kali catches Nalan, making a mistake in his religious worship, makes him gamble with King Pushkaran and lose his Kingdom. Nalan sends his wife and children to his Father-in-law and separates himself from the family.

Act—III : Kali Neengu Kandan

Nalan changing his name to Vahujan, works as a cook with King Irudhupannan. Damayanti makes various efforts to find about the whereabouts of Nalan and succeeds through a Brahmin. To get Nalan back, Damayanti announces another Swayamvara to which Vahujan and Irudhupannan attend. Nalan meets his two children there and is not in a position to identify himself. In the meanwhile Damayanti informs her Father about the identity of Nalan. At the request of Veeman, Nalan identifies himself and by praying to Kali its wrath is cooled. It also blesses the couple. Finally by gambling with Pushkaran again, Nalan gets his kingdom back and the family lives happily everafter.

Kamala is grateful to Padmabhushan Dr. T. N. Ramachandran for the help he gave in the production of dance drama and to Shri T. Venkatesan for helping music direction.

DONORS

	Rs.
Shri Hansraj Purshotam Vishram Mayjee, Bombay.	2501
M/s. Raymond Woollen Mills Ltd. Bombay.	2500
M/s. Amalgamated Electricity Co. Ltd. Bombay.	2500
Shri Gordhandas M. Kapadia of M/s. G.M. Kapadia & Co., Bombay.	1000
Shri Shirishbhai Mangulal of M/s. Mangulal Tricumlal, Bombay.	1000
M/s. Calico Ptg. & Dyeing Mills, Bombay.	501
M/s. Jalan Dyeing & Bleaching Mills, Bombay.	500
M/s. Bombay Trading Co.	250
M/s. Durga Trading Co.	250

A MILLION THANKS
TO

- His Worship The Mayor of Bombay
for gracing the occasion as Chief Guest.
- Smt. Kamala and her Troupe of Artistes for offering the Inaugural
Show of "NALA DAMAYANTHI" in aid of Women's Education.
- Kumari Aditi Vijay Merchant
for her active participation in the Show.
- The Members of Smt. Kamala's Orchestra.
- Major Lakshminarayan for his great co-operation and
help in organising the Show.
- Mr. David Abraham for compering the Show.
- Messrs. Bachu Sampat, Mansukh Joshi, Nagin Rajput and
Anupam Yagnik of Indian National Theatre for their stage
management, light effects, decor and publicity
and comprehensive guidance.
- Mr. Burjor Pavri, The Management and Staff of Birla Matushree
Sabhagar for their great assistance.
- The Press for its wide and generous publicity.
- The Police for their assistance.
- The A-1 Press for printing the Souvenir at very short notice.
- All Donors and Advertisers for their generous patronage.
- The Staff of Thackersey Group of Mills and S.N.D.T. Women's
University for their help.
- Messrs. Madhavan, Mani and Gavaskar of M/s. Dattaram
Advertising Private Limited
for designing the cover page and the centre-spread.
- Mr. Lalu Shah of "Bahuroopi", Mr. Kanti Madia of 'Natyasampada'
and Mr. Sam Kerawala of Patkar Hall for their great
help in enabling us to stage the Show at Birla Matushree Sabhagar
- All our patrons for gracing the occasion with their presence.
- All those who have helped in a big or small way in making
the Valedictory Function a great success.
- Mr. T. K. Subramaniam for carrying out efficiently all the
administrative work.
- Last, but not the least, Mr. Vithal T. Mehta for his whole-hearted
co-operation, guidance and excellent organisation of the
entire Programme.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

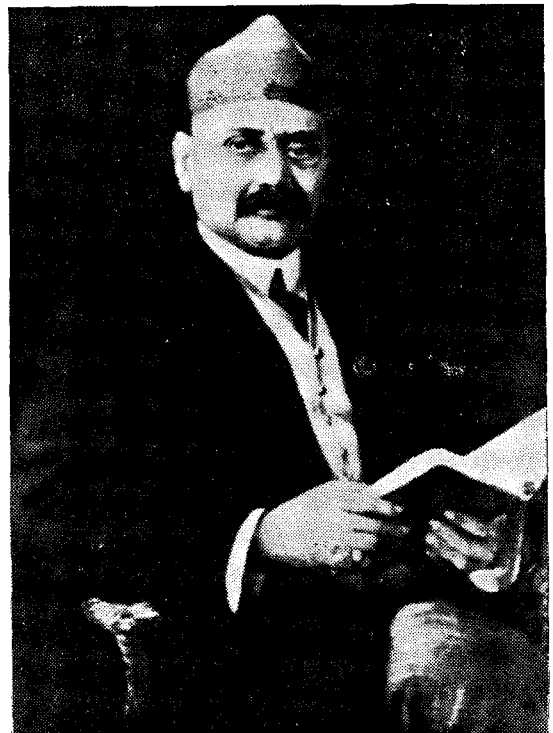
THE FOUNDER



Dhondo Keshav Karve

Karve's interest in Women's welfare and amelioration ultimately led him to founding a separate University for Women. It began in 1916 as the Mahila Vidyapeeth, later to be known as Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Indian Women's University.

THE DONOR



Sir Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey.

Head of the House of Thackerseys, who gave a generous donation of Fifteen lakhs of rupees to the University in 1920 in memory of his mother Shreemati Nathibai.



Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey presenting Dr. Karve, his biography during his Centenary Celebrations.



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru chatting with Maharshi Karve during Maharshi Karve's Centenary.



A Red Letter Day in the history of the University.

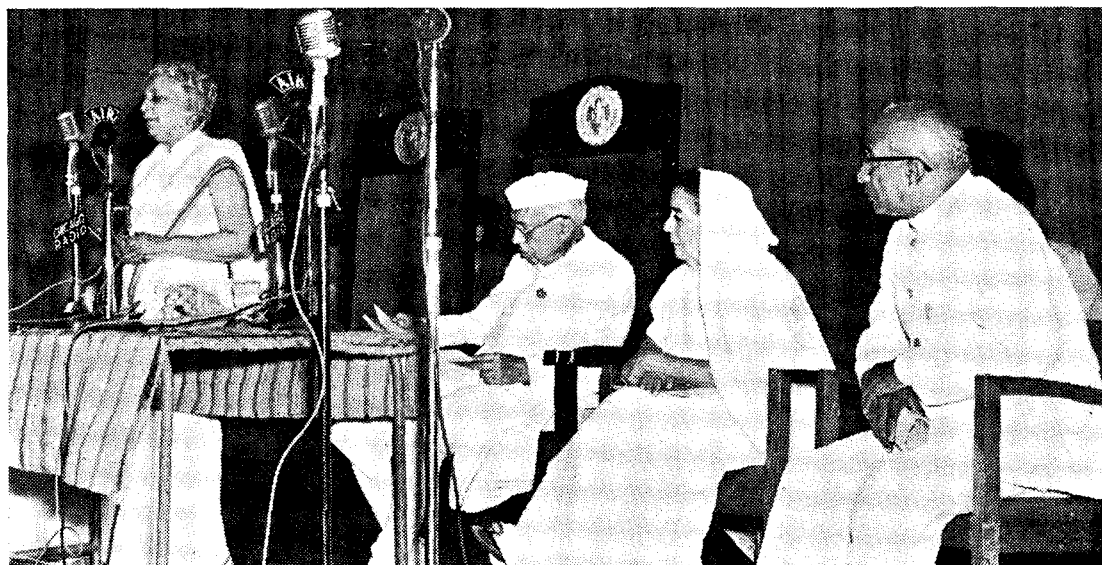


Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey receiving Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Prime Minister, at Kasturba Gram, Indore, 1962.

Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey presenting a memento to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru during the opening of the New Building of the University - 1963.



Smt. Vijayalaxmi Pandit, Chancellor of the University, welcoming Shri Jawaharlal Nehru at the inauguration of the New Building on 21-3-1963.





Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey with Dr. S. Radhakrishnan at the inauguration of the University Building



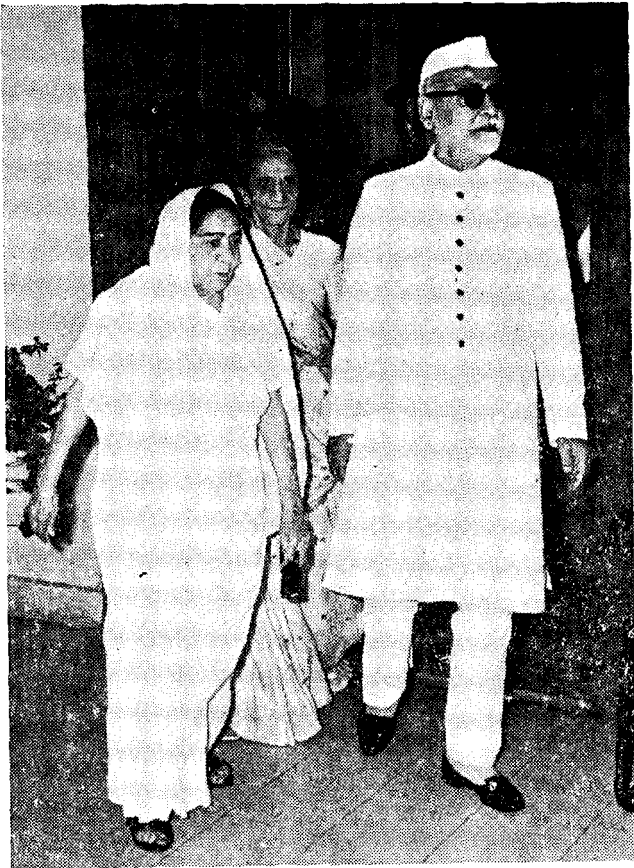
Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey in a rare mood with Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, during the inaugural function.



Dr. Lady Premila Thackersey welcoming Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, who inaugurated the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the University - June, 1966.



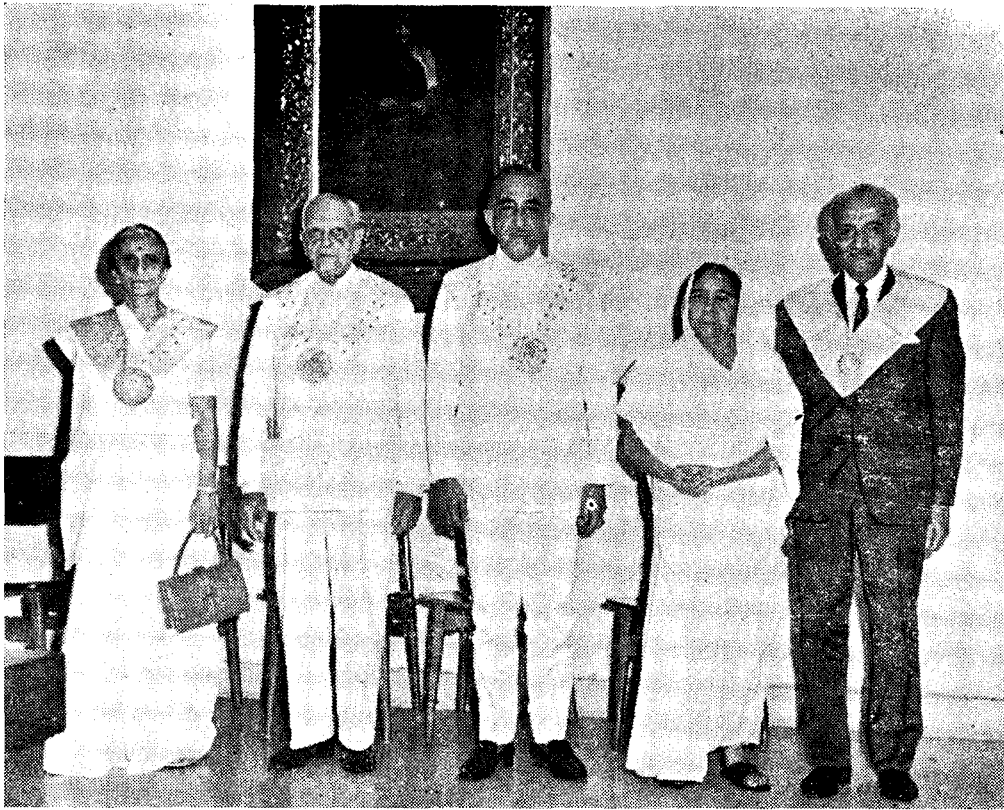
Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister, at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.



Dr. Premlila Thackersey, with Dr. Zakir Hussain, President of India, during the concluding function of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey, passing the grace as president at one of the Convocation functions.





ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Smt. Sharda Divan, Shri Motilal Setalwad, Shri Ali Yavar Jung, Chancellor of the University, Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey and Shri Vijay merchant.



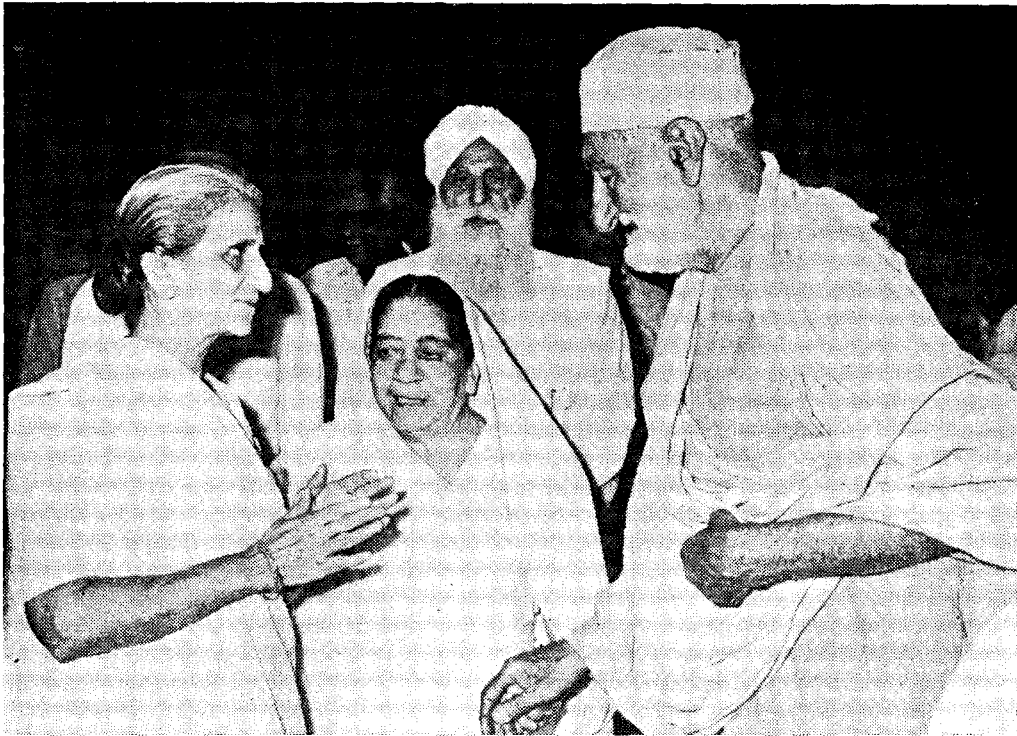
Mrs. Leubke, wife of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, presenting a gift to Dr. Premlila Thackersey during her visit to the University - 1963.



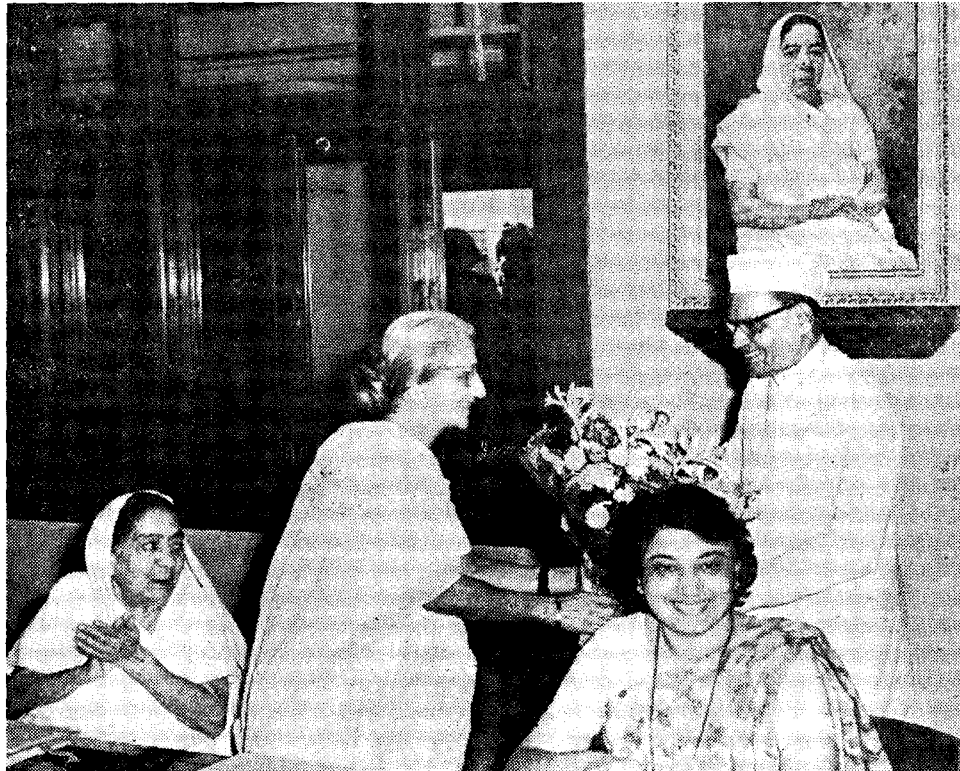
Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey, leading Dr. P. V. Cherian, Chancellor of the University and Shri M. C. Chagla, Union Minister for Education, as the Chief Guest, at the Convocation procession.

Dr. Lady Premlila Thackersey, felicitating Mrs. Correta Martin Luther King when she visited the University.





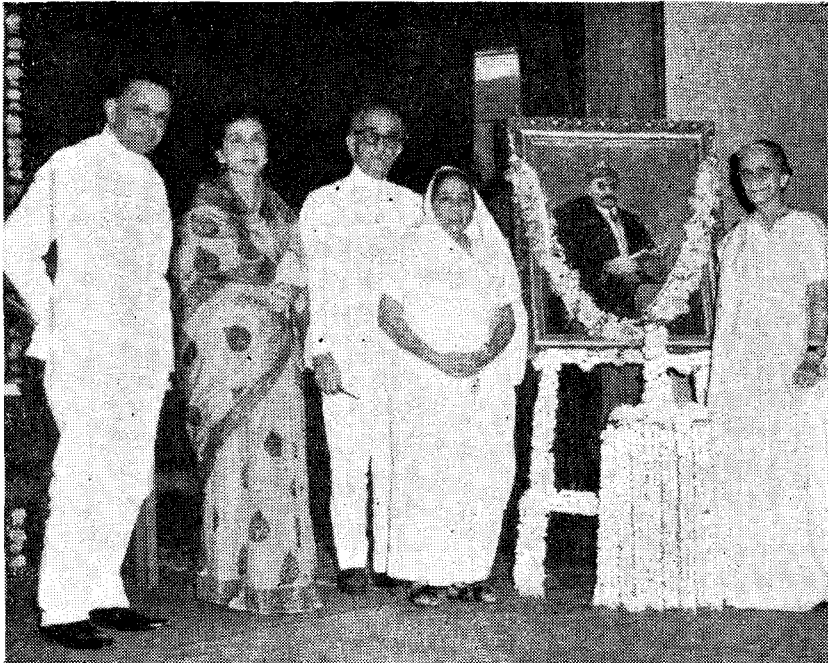
Khan Abdul Gafarkhan seen with Dr Premlila Thakersey and Smt. Sharda Divan.



Smt. Sharda Divan felicitating Shri C. C. Shah on his 75th birthday.



Smt. Sharda Divan, Vice-Chancellor, garlanding the photograph of late Sir Vithaldas Thackersey on the occasion of the function organised on his 100th birthday,



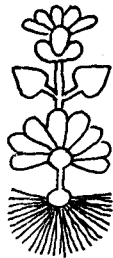
Shri Ali Yavar Jung, Governor of Maharashtra, Chancellor of the University and Chief Patron of the Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Birth Centenary Celebrations,, Smt. Ali Yavar Jung Prof. A. N. Namjoshi, Minister for Education and Sports Maharashtra State, Smt. Sharda Divan, Vice-Chancellor of the University with Dr. Lady Premlika Thackersey during the above celebrations.

✦ With Best Wishes ✦

FROM

NENSEY NARANDAS TOPAN

HANOOMAN BUILDING
TABAKANTA - PYDHONIE
BOMBAY 400 003



**YARN MERCHANTS
AND
COMMISSION AGENTS**

✦ Character is much easier kept than recovered ✦