

**A BRIEF UPDATE ON FEW SOCIO-CULTURAL-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY DR. HOMI DHALLA**

**1. DVD of Monajats**

Work on this project has commenced and is gradually progressing.

**2. Digitization of Important Books and Texts**

Seven important and old books on various facets of Zoroastrianism have been digitized.

**3. Book on “History of the Parsis of Navsari”**

A book entitled “History of the Parsis of Navsari” written by Capt. Hormazdyar Desai has been published and launched in June 2008. This comprehensive work covers the social, cultural, historical and religious aspects of the city of Navsari.

**4. Delhi Parsi Project**

The Foundation for Unity of Religions and Enlightened Citizenship (FUREC), which is an interfaith organization, launched by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, was approached by the Delhi Minorities Commission to work on a project of the Parsi community of Delhi. Being the Zoroastrian representative on the Apex Body of FUREC, I was appointed to be in charge of this project. This study has already been completed and the report has been submitted by Dr. Shernaz Cama and Ms. Ava Khullar.

**5. Parsi Project**

I have been approached by a department of the Government of India, to launch a nation wide study about the educational, economic and social status of the Parsi community. A proposal about this project has been submitted to the Government and I am awaiting a reply to it.

**6. Bahrot Caves**

After pursuing the matter with the Archaeological Survey of India for 8 years, a letter has been written officially by them to the Government of Maharashtra in July 2007, to provide a road to the caves so that the necessary conservation may commence. Although,

there has been some correspondence between the various departments of the Government, no concrete action has materialized as yet.

On July 2, the Minorities Development Department had organized a workshop on Mainstreaming Minorities entitled “Towards an inclusive development agenda”. As I was invited to this workshop, I stated that due to the inaction of the Government, progressively more damage is taking place to the caves especially during the monsoons. I have also written about this to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra recently.

### **7. A Film on Jehangir Sabavala**

The Government of India had honoured this distinguished artist by a Retrospective Exhibition held at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Mumbai. As I had observed some important Zoroastrian elements in his paintings, we had interviewed the artist on this important occasion. Work on this project has commenced recently.