

**(Part-I)**  
**History of the Community**

# MEMON COMMUNITY IN PAKISTAN

## A Brief Historical Perspective

By. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala

"The Memons are people with a rich and colorful past but without any historians to record it, let alone analyze or laud the achievement of their ancestors. Until now Memons have taken an attitude to history not dissimilar to the one Napoleon took. Asked by one of his generals about the impact one of his battle plans would have on history, Napoleon is believed to have said: **Let us make history then let historians write it**". These are the words of Mr. Mihir Bose, the author of "**The Memons**". The first ever book on the community published from a country outside the sub-continent. The book has been published by World Memon Foundation from U.K.

Fortunately, the community has realized the importance of recording its history during last few decades but most of these attempts have been made in Gujrati and some in Urdu. The only exception is the book "**The Enterprising Philanthropists**" in English by my friend Mr. A. Sattar Parekh published from Karachi in August, 1999 and the Book "**The Memons**" referred above. Unfortunately, the circulation of these books has been limited and therefore they have not reached the educated elites of the community particularly the youngsters. The objective of this exercise can be summed up in the words of Late Mr. Muhammad Ali Rangoonwala who said "**we need to know, our children and grand children need to know, where our ancestors came from and what they did**".

The History of community begins with the first question i.e. "**What is the origin of community?**". The most common answer and the one which is believed by most of the elders of the community is the story published in Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency published in 1899. According to this story, the "Lohanas" a Hindu cast who lived in fourteenth century in Sindh was converted to Islam by Pir Yusufuddin Qadri, a disciple of Pir Abdul Qadir Gilani of Baghdaad.

The new converts were given the name Momins which later on with passage of time, came to be known as Memons. Some of the recent historians have however other thoughts in the matter but we do not have space to go into details. I will only mention the theory of Karim Baksh Khalid, a Sindhi Memon Scholar. According to his theory, Arabs of Qatif near Taif who were weavers came along with Muhammed Bin Qasim in Sindh. They belonged to a tribe of Banu Tasmim and constituted the right wing of his army – which in Arabic is known as “Mymenah” – the right wingers. They settled in Sindh and later on came to be known as Memons. If this theory is accepted, then the Memons were original Arabs. Later on these Memons migrated to Katch and Kathiawar due to various reasons.

This new Muslim community was distinguished by great religious zeal and piety. This feature is even today characteristic of the Memons. The reputation for being pious Muslims which has been attached to the Memon contributed greatly to their commercial success. When a Memon moves to a locality, his first action is building a Mosque. In Karachi alone you can find many Mosques carrying the name of Memon as prefix. The present population of Memon community according to a rough estimate is one million, 500,000 in India, 400,000 in Pakistan and 100,000 in rest of the World including South Africa, U.K., U.S.A., Canada and U.A.E.

Mr. Sergy Levin, a Soviet Writer, writing in the book “Soviet Scholars View South Asia” has said that :

“Memons have long been famous in India as very enterprising tradesmen. Merchants from this community have engaged in trade with the most varied goods, on land and on sea. In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries they settled throughout all of Gujarat, and set up a number of factories on the Malabar coast. The Memon merchants played a particularly important role in the trade of the city of Surat, which was at that time the leading trade center of western India.

From the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup>, a mass settlement of Memons began throughout India, and a few decades later they also emigrated beyond its borders, chiefly to the countries of the Indian Ocean

basin. By the end of the 19th century, rich communities of Memons were appearing in the ports of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, in Ceylon and Bruma, and in East and South Africa”.

The Memon traders or professional businessmen of those days had a unique system of organization and management. Many well known Memon firms had hundred of branches spread over the entire country and when none of the present day means of communication were available, they had evolved a system which kept the head offices of these firms in constant touch with all the branches. Apparently these firms were owned by one family but they had evolved a system of what we may call a contributory and participatory management. The Manager of each branch also contributed to the capital of that particular branch. His share in the investment was nominal from half an anna to four annas in terms of currency units of those days i.e.  $1/32^{\text{th}}$  to  $1/4$  of a rupee. Most of the Managers stayed at their branches for 10 months in a year leaving their families in their ancestors' towns. When they returned to their native places for a two months leave every year, they would find their share of profit and the salary duly worked out by Mehtaji or Accountant of the firm and which was promptly paid to them. How could they keep control of the hundreds of branches and maintain their accounts in those days, is a delima to us today but it is an example of high professional & business acumen of the community. These Memons had not gone to a business School and yet they were able to evolve a unique business system. May be some of our professionals in accounting and business management profession will do some research on the subject one day.

Some people, with their own axe to grind often try to malign the community as hoarders & profiteers but it is a matter of common knowledge about our ansertors that very often they never hesitated in doing business when the gunny bag or the bardana used for packing of the commodity was the only profit left to them. They believed in high turnover and small profits for overall success of the business. Many Management Gurus of today advocate this strategy.



## **Independence Movement**

But it was not only trade and business in which the members of community participated. They took equal interest in independence movement. I will only touch this subject briefly by mentioning the names of the members of community who participated or contributed to independence movement even before the movement of Pakistan was started.

During Khilafat Movement many notable Memons contributed huge amounts of donations. The names of Mr. Omer Subani and Ahmed son of Jannohammad Chotani were prominent among these donors. When Subash Chandra Bose, the formation of Azad Hind Fauj in 1944, Mr. A. Habib Haji Yusuf Marfani made huge contributions for the cause. He was appointed Chairman of supply Board of the Council of Indian Liberation Army. Mr. A. Sattar Palwala and Mr. A. Latif Admani were other prominent members of the community who actively participated in the movement. Mr. Admani was later arrested by British Government and sent to jail. Many Memons also actively contributed & participated in Reshmi Roomal movement.

## **Gandhi Groomed As A Leader By A Memon**

It might be a news to many, that a Memon businessmen played important role in providing an opportunity to Mahatma Gandhi in becoming a Leader.

Mr. Luis Fischer, the author of "the Life of Mahatma Gandhi" one of the well know biographies of Gandhi, writes that when Mohandas Karam Chand Gandhi returned from England after doing his law in London, he started practice in Rajkot with the help of his elder brother. "But Mohandas was a complete failure as a lawyer in Rajkot as well as in Bombay when he could not utter a word during petty cases in court". At this junction, a Memon from Parbandar, Gandhi's home town, Mr. Dada Abdullah Seth, who had settled in South Africa offered him retainership on an annual stipend of Pound Sterling 105.00 for looking after his court cases in Durban. Mr. Gandhi accepted the offer and landed in Africa. He spent full year in the service of Dada Abdullah Seth who did his best

to groom him as a good lawyer. During this period Gandhi witnessed the atrocities of whites against Indians and other coloured people and started participating in agitation against these atrocities. Later on he decided to stay in South Africa and lived there for 20 years. This changed the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi who became a prominent political figure.

### **Pakistan Movement**

When Pakistan movement was started, the Memons generously contributed to the Funds of All India Muslim League and Muslim Press Fund established by Quaid-e-Azam who knew the patriotism of Memons and therefore visited every nook and corner of Kathiawar including Rajkot, Gondal, Dhoraji, Mangrol, Bantva, Manavadar, Kutiyana, Ranaway, Porbandar, Jetpur and Wanthli in January, 1940. During these visits large processions were taken out which culminated in meetings which were addressed by Quaid-e-Azam, Mr. I.I. Chundrigar and prominent Memons personalities. At every such function Quaid-e-Azam was presented with bag full of donations. The visit of Quaid-e-Azam to such large number of towns and addressing gatherings at such relatively small places shows what importance Quaid-e-Azam gave to the Memon community as early as in 1940. Among the freedom fighters who were jailed by the British Government during Pakistan Movement, you can find the names of Mr. Usman Kasam Mitha (Father of General Abubakar Mitha of Pakistan Army) Mr. Ahmed Noor Mohammad and Mr. A. Sattar Parekh.

The Memon community was in for-front in helping the humanity irrespective of their cast or creed whenever national calamities affected India & Pakistan. This included massive earth quack in Bihar and Quetta in 30s and floods in East Pakistan. For the work for the welfare of victims of Earthquake Mr. Abdul Sattar Haji Suleman Naviwala was awarded the medal of Qaiser-Hind by ViceRoy. The Pakistan Government awarded Sitara-e-Khidmat to Mr. Usman Suleman for flood relief activities in East Pakistan.

### **After Partition**

After partition, when thousands of India Muslim started to

come to Pakistan, Memon Relief Committee was formed. Regular Camps were established at Porbandar, Bombay & Okha in India and at Khokrapar, Cantt Station Karachi and Keamari for refugees who were provided with food, medicine, transportation and shelter free of charge whether Memon or Non-Memon.

### **Contribution To Education**

It will be appropriate here to talk about the community's efforts in educating their children and then diverting most of their efforts towards establishment of education institutions for the masses. I will like to take you back to 1869. It was the year when Sir Syed Ahmed Khan visited Bombay for the first time on his way to England. According to "KHUD NAVIST SAWANE HAYAT" (Auto biography) of Sir Syed re-published in Pakistan a few years back, Sir Syed visited some Memon businessmen and noted that every well to do Memon family contributed and ran a Madressa where religious education was being given to children of all communities. This was the contribution to education by professional traders in those early days.

Until early 1930s, most of the Memon businessmen only had a working knowledge of Gujrati and English to read or compose telegrams but then they realized that future of the community lied in educating its youths. Sir Adamjee Haji Dawood who is known as Father of Education in the community saw education as a way of making sure that the Memons preserved their business skills. He said and I quote from "The Memons" by Mihir Bose:

"Knowledge of Business is superior to all knowledge. It provides ample shape for the spirit for adventure, daring and honesty. It has no limits or boundaries. Our forefathers have gained superiority in general business with their primitive type signatures and have maintained them in top positions since two centuries. With assets consisting of Gadi Takya costing Rs. 23.00 and a safe costing Rs. 33.00 we are doing business of lacs of rupees only on our goodwill and honesty. Managers of Memon firms are getting higher salaries, than officers of civil service. All

**these things are alright until now. But if we see towards the future we can feel that we will have to face new challenges of industrialization and technology in near future. Our business will require modern know how and skills. Our real aim is to provide high education to Memon Youth but at the same time to keep them business minded."**

This was the vision of community's elders as early as in 1928 and why not? They were professional businessman and they knew what contribution they can and should make for the cause of education. This vision provided basis for three all India Memon Conferences held in Rajkot, Jamnagar and Manavadar and gave birth to All India Memon Education and Welfare Society in 1933 under the presidentship of Sir Adamjee Haji Dawood. The society liberally gave scholarships to Memon students all over India. The scholarships helped thousands of community members to acquire secondary and higher education and was responsible for many of youth becoming famous lawyers and doctors. After partition, the society was split into two societies and the Pakistan Memon Educational & Welfare Society came into being in 1948. It's first President was Abubakar Zavery. Mr. A. Wahid Adamjee became the President of Society in 1949 and continued as such till 1968.

Memon community is a business community. It "earns to give". A truly philanthropic community. Soon after migration it established scores of educational institutions in Karachi, Hyderabad & Sukkur. There were over 100 schools run by Memon community in Sindh before they were nationalized. The prominent organizations, which established schools, included Memon Educational Board, Pakistan Memon Women Educational Society, Jetpur & Kutiana Memon Associations and many others. The Memon Women Society under the leadership of Hajiani Khatija Bai – a semi literate lady from Bantva established a chain of girls schools under the name of Rounk-e-Islam Girls Schools and Rounk-e-Islam Girls College. The beauty about these schools is that they were and are open for all communities and charged nominal fees. In the field of higher education, the Memons have established many institutions. To name a few:

- Dawood Engineering College

- Adamjee Science College
- Rounk-e-Islam Girls College
- Usman Institute of Technology
- Ayesha Bawany Academy
- Hussain Ebrahim Jamal Institute of Chemistry – Karachi University
- Ahmed Bawany Academy
- Dawood Public School
- Hashmani Post Graduate Eye Institute
- Memon Institute of Data Processing
- Adamjee Institute of Information Technology
- Memon Industrial & Technical Institute
- Suleman Dawood Business School Lahore

For promoting education, the large groups of Memon Businessman set-up Foundations & Trusts. Prominent among them are Dawood Foundation, Suleman Dawood Dialysis Centre, Adamjee Foundation, Aziz Tabba Foundation, Aisha Bawany Waqf and many others. These foundations and trusts donated generously towards the establishment of education institutions throughout the country and gave generous scholarships to students of all communities for higher education.

There are a number of vocational institutions including Rangoonwala Centre, World Foundation Community Centre and many ladies tailoring schools. During last 3 years, the World Memon Foundation Community Center has alone trained 11,000 girls in different vocational subjects.

Apart from the efforts to promote education, the community has played an important role in promotion of literary activities in the country. Both the Dawood Foundation and Adamjee Foundation launched Dawood & Adamjee Prizes for Literature. Both the prizes were being awarded to best books of fiction and non-fiction nature and were administered by Pakistan Writers Guild. The prizes were considered as a matter of great honour by literary circles. These prizes were discontinued in 1971.

## **Medicine**

But education is not the only field in which the Memons serve the community at large. They have established a number of

hospitals and dispensaries. Some of them include:

- Kutiana Memon Hospital
- Bantva Khidmat Committee Hospital
- Memon General Hospital
- Usman Memorial Hospital
- Kathiawar Hospital
- Hussaini Hospital
- Bantva Anis Hospital
- Fatima Bhai Hospital
- Patel Hospital and
- The famous Memon Charitable Hospital of Hyderabad.
- Suleman Dawood Dialysis Centre
- Memon Medical Institute
- Tabba Heart Institute
- Tabba Dialysis Centre
- Memon Medical Institute

Here I have named only the well known hospitals. In addition to these, there are scores of Dispensaries. At all these hospitals & dispensaries, the treatment is provided at nominal cost and even free to deserving cases.

### **Memons In Professions**

Today Memons can boast of thousands of professionals in law, medicine, professional accountancy, Information Technology, Engineering, Architecture and Teaching. The Memon Professional Forum – the organizer of this conference is a body of these professionals. Most of these professionals have excelled in their professions and are known through out the country. Many are practicing their professions and others are occupying senior positions in business, industry and banking.

Mr. Kasim Parekh, now President of Metropolitan Bank was once Governor of State Bank of Pakistan. Dr. A. Ghaffar Billoo was the dean of Medicine in Karachi University. The Late Dr. A. Majeed Memon was the principle of Dow Medical College. Mr. Janmohammad Memon was the first Vice Chancellor of Sindh's first Medical University. Many of our professional brothers have served as judges of superior courts. Others occupied senior positions in Bar Associations, Income Tax Bar Association, Institute of Engineers & Institute of Professional Accountants. Prominent among them are Mr. Yusuf Adil, Mr. Abdul Qadir Memon, Mr. A. Razzak Diwan and Mr. Abdul Wahid Tejani. Today, the professional institutions of Chartered

Accountants & Cost & Management Accountants of Pakistan were headed by Mr. Pirmohammad Kalia and Mr. Ashraf Bawany. Mr. Pirmohammad Kalia was also President of Institute of Corporate Secretaries and South Asian Federation of Accountants. Mr. Moin A. Fudda, a Memon Professional headed Overseas Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ashraf Tabani has occupied the post of President of Employers Federation of Pakistan for many years and still continues to be its President.

Many Memon dignitaries have occupied high position as Provincial Governors and Federal Ministers in Pakistan. They include Mr. Yusuf Haroon, Mr. Mahmood Haroon, Mr. Ashraf Tabani, Mr. Hanif Tayub, Mr. Zain Noorani and Mr. Farooq Sattar. Mr. A. Razzak Dawood of Dawood Group was Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry.

### **Contribution To Economy**

According to "Enterprising Philanthropists" by Mr. A. Sattar Parekh, immediately after partition two books were written one by Dr. Rajindra Parshad, the first President of India and Dr. Ambedkar, the author of Indian Constitution. Both the authors predicted the non viability of Pakistan. Even Mr. Naheru, had predicted that Pakistan would never be economically viable and will ultimately seek re-union with India. It was this thinking which led India to withhold Rs. 55 crores which was Pakistani share in the assets of British India.

Soon after establishment of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam called upon the Memons to move to this young country through Sir Adamjee and Mr. Yusuf Haroon. The atrocities of forces which occupied Bantva, Manavader and Kutiana also forced the Memons of these areas to shift to the new country.

Stephen R. Lewis, in his book "Pakistan's Industrial and Trade Policies" says:

**"It is wonder that Pakistan's economy survived at all in the early years. Why did it survive ? it was because of the entrepreneur skills of Muslim community who had migrated to Pakistan from their original homeland in India and prominent among them were Memons. If**

**Pakistan beat the economic odds then a great deal of credit goes to the Memons. Nobody could have predicted it and while in later years it became fashionable to decry the dominance of the Memons in Pakistan's business community, the fact is that without such dominance Pakistan's economy may never have developed.**

Using the capital brought by them from India and blending it with their business acumen and entrepreneur skills the Memons started working for the development of Pakistan. The beginning was made with establishment of trading firms with branches in various places in East & West Pakistan. Then they moved into industry. A journey started towards setting of up industries in different fields until the process was stopped by nationalization of industries in 1971.

You can fill in pages & pages for describing the achievements of these enterprising philanthropists. The worlds largest Jute Mills was build & run by Adamjees. The South East Asia's largest paper mill was being run by Dawoods alongwth world's first plant to produce viscose yarn from Bamboo. The first urea fertilizer factory was set up by Dawoods. The only paper board mill, the only woolen textile mill, the tractor assembly plan, one of the largest bank – Muslim Commercial Bank and the largest Insurance Company – the Adamjee Insurance Company, Muhammedi Steamship Company – the Orient Airways, the predecessor of Pakistan International Airlines, one of the two local Petroleum distribution companies, Dawood Petroleum Ltd were all set up and run by Memon Entrepreneurs.

The First Presidential Export Trophy for largest exports from Pakistan was received by Dawood Group of Industries. Many groups and companies received Export Trophies for largest export in their respective sectors subsequently. Then little known Yunus Brothers Group received Federation's Export Trophies for largest export in textiles for SEVEN consecutive years.

Apart from building industries, the community helped the building of institutions which were essential for a growing economy. The Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry was



headed by Mr. Yusuf A. Haroon, Mr. Muhammad Ali Rangoonwala, Mr. A.K. Sumar, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah, Mr. A. Rehman Haji Habib, Mr. Usman Kandawla, Mr. A. Majid Bawany and Mr. Majyed Aziz. The Karachi Stock Exchange was founded with Mr. Yusuf A. Haroon as its first President followed by Mr. Kasim Dada, Mr. Ahmed Dada, Mr. Latif A. Jamal, Mr. Bashir Jan Mohammad, and others. The Stock Exchange still has Memon presidents like Mr. Yasin Lakhani, Mr. Arif Habib etc. The Federation of Chamber of Commerce was headed by Mr. Mohammad Ali Rangoonwala from 1951 to 1966. Memons took active part in formation of RCD Chamber of Commerce and International Chamber of Commerce as well.

The government was also aware of the talent and business acumen of Memon businessmen. When the first unit trust – National Investment (Unit) Trust was founded in early sixties, the renowned industrialist Mr. Ahmed Dawood, was appointed as Founder Chairman of the Trust. He continued to occupy this position for several years. Similarly Mr. Abdul Wahid Adamjee was appointed as Chairman of Pakistan Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation popularly known as PICIC. This was the only development Bank in Pakistan at that time. Both the institutions made very significant contribution for industrial development in the Country. Throughout the period when these institutions were headed by the two Memon industrialists, they remained in robust financial health and were considered as exemplary institutions in the country and abroad. The signs of decay, which we are seeing in these institutions, now, came after the heads of these institutions were replaced by beurocrates.

The creation of Bangladesh broke the back of the community. Adamjee Jute Mills, Kanaphul Paper Mills, Kanaphul Rayon Mills, Adamjee Particle Board Plant, Dawood Jute Mills, Dawood Shipping Company, Ahmed Bawany Textile Mills and scores of other industries were nationalized in Bangladesh without any compensation. At home i.e. in West Pakistan, Muslim Commercial Bank, Adamjee & Central Life Insurance Companies, Dawood Petroleum Ltd and scores of other institutions were nationalized under the socialistic policies of Peoples Party Government.

Gustar F. Papneek, An American Researcher, who has written several books on Pakistan which have been published by Harward University conducted a survey in 1959 and found that Memons had 26.5% shares in Muslim firms in Pakistan although they were only 0.16% of the population of Pakistan.

According Mr. A. Sattar Parekh in his "Enterprising Philanthropists" among the listed companies in Karachi Stock Exchange in 1954, the investment by Memons was 48.33%, other Gujrati communities 17.7% and rest 34.60%. According to him :

**"The profits that the Memons made out of business, trade and industry were ploughed back in Pakistan for starting new enterprises. The figures of investments by the Memons upto 1971 were: Insurance 13%, Banking 13%, Cotton Textiles 26%, Woollen Textiles 72%, Synthetic Textile 50%, Jute 33%, Cement 45%, Chemicals 45%, Paper & Board 29%, Vegetable Oil 18%, Miscellaneous 27%. During the same year taxes paid by the Memons were Rs. 691.30 million, being 27% of the total taxes".**

The Soviet writer Sergy Levin describes the contribution of Memon Community in more detail in the Book "Soviet Scholars View South Asia" Instead of describing the contribution of the Memon community in the economic development of Pakistan in my own words, I will take liberty to quote below from this soviet writer extensively.

**After the formation of an independent of Pakistan in 1947, tens of thousands of Memons emigrated to that new state from India, and other countries, and transferred their capital there.**

**At present Pakistan has become the chief center of entrepreneurial activity for the Memon bourgeoisie. In the 1960s about 150,000 Memons, or approximately half of the community, were living there. True, the Memons were then only 0.16% of the population of Pakistan. But the proportion of them among the Pakistan bourgeoisie, especially the upper bourgeoisie, was much higher. Every fourth private factory or plant in Pakistan belonged to**

the Memons. The Memon leaders formed the most powerful group in the Pakistan monopolistic bourgeoisie. Specially, the nucleus of the latter, as Pakistan regards it, consists of 22 monopolistic families, seven of which are Memons. These are the commercial, industrial and financial magnates widely known in Pakistan and beyond its borders, the Adamjees, Dawoods, Bawanys, Karims, Dadas, Haroons, and the Rangoonwala-Bengali group.

The Adamjees are known above all as the "Jute kings". Before Bangladesh was formed, they owned the Adamjee Jute Mills, the largest jute company, not only in Pakistan, but also in the world. By 1971, 35,000 workers were employed in its mills in East Bengal. At the same time the Adamjees also controlled about 20 other major industrial, commercial, and financial companies, and numerous enterprises which they operated in various spheres of the Pakistan economy.

More than 50,000 people have been employed in enterprises directly controlled by the Adamjees alone, and the assets of these enterprises reached at least 2.25 billion rupees in 1966-1967. The Adamjees occupied third place in amount of assets among the monopolistic groups in Pakistan.

The Dawood concern has been characterized by exceptionally high growth rate during the last few years. Its owners, in contrast to the Adamjees, were not large-scale industrialists when Pakistan was formed.

Before the events of 1971-72, there were 20 companies in the Dawood concern. The majority of them were among the largest in Pakistan. The basic Industrial companies of the concern were: the Dawood Cotton Mills Mills, Burewala Textile Mills and the Lawrencepur Woolen and Textile Mills in West Pakistan, the Karnaphuli Paper Mills, the Karanphuli Rayon and Chemical (production of artificial fibers and other synthetic materials) in East Bengal; the Dawood Mines for coal extraction; and the Dawood Jute Mills (they began to construct a large mill in East Pakistan). In cooperation with the American Hercules firm, the

**Dawoods have organized a company, Dawood Hercules Chemicals, which is building a huge artificial fertilizer plant near Lahore. In addition, the Dawood concern founded petroleum and steamship companies a few years ago, and the former had already succeeded in developing trade in oil and petroleum products throughout Pakistan by 1971.**

**The philanthropic “Dawood Foundation” is also essentially a major financial enterprise. By the end of 1968, the assets of this fund were over 50 million rupees and were chiefly invested in the securities of various companies. (The Dawood College of Engineering and Dawood Public School were established by this Foundation besides many other education institutions in West and then East Pakistan)**

**In addition to the seven families forming part of 22 families, there should be included in the monopolistic leadership of the Pakistan bourgeoisie about another dozen families or groups of major Memon industrialists who have continued to serve as partners in Pakistani and foreign enterprises, and have themselves occupied prominent positions in some industry. These are: the Dadabhoy, 17 companies in Pakistan and one in India; the Jaffer Brothers, 16 companies in Pakistan, two in England, one in India, and enterprises in Kuwait and Arabian principalities on the shores of the Red Sea ; Haji Ahmed Haji Hasham (tobacco and sugar industry); Husein Ibrahim (textile, sugar industry, tube-rolling mills); the Pakolawala; and others.**

This is the story of past. Although today many of our community members have moved to professions and started occupying senior positions in national and multinational companies as senior executives, we still have our share in business and industry. Three of large cement plants, the largest urea fertilizer company, many large textile spinning, weaving and finishing mills, sugar plants and score of other industries are still owned and run by Memon businessmen.

Mr. Aziz Markatya is doing research in memon history for his PHD degree from Hamdard University he has completed more than 6 volumes of his research study.

## Epilogue

In preparing this article, I have tried to be impartial and objective without letting my association with the community affect the facts and figures presented here. In most of the cases, I have picked up the facts and figures from authentic books and articles written by non-Memon scholars.

I will urge my Memon brothers and sisters to not to be apologetic because at one time, our community controlled a major portion of country's economy or because we were dubbed as capitalist. You should be proud to be part of this community. It earned and established business and industrial enterprises but unlike others they reploughed their profits and earnings into building more industries providing more employment to our country men on the one hand and saving or earning badly needed foreign exchange for the country. They were the people who helped the country in earning exemplary economic growth. It was because of their enterprising spirit that Pakistan was cited as a Model for developing countries. Mr. A. Sattar Parekh has coined a very realistic name for the community by describing them as "Enterprising Philanthropists". It is unfortunate that we have not compiled the statistics of the amount spent by the community on welfare of masses but the examples of educational and medical Institutions given by me provide you with sufficient indication of it. So let us be proud to be Memons – Let us be proud to be part of a community of Enterprising Philanthropists.

Finally let me tell you that we all have to strive to maintain our identity as a Memon. The Memoni – the language, we speak is the source of our identity. It is our duty to develop this into a full fledged written language. I have already written and published a detailed article on the subject and you will be pleased that many of our community journals have started publishing articles in Memoni written in Roman Script. The Memon Alam and Memon Bulletin of Karachi, Memon Welfare of Bombay and Memon Bulletin of U.K. have carried such articles in some of their issues.

Some people try to ridicule us by saying that a Memons chooses a direction which gives him advantage of two rupees. This may be true but it is half truth. The whole truth is that Memon **“earns to give”**. You must have heard the age old saying that when a Memon has only a small quantity of oil which can light the only lamp in his house and finds that there is darkness in the neighboring Mosque, he will prefer to light the lamp of the mosque with his oil keeping his own house in dark. This is the spirit of Memon and my brothers & sisters, you belong to that community - The community of Enterprising Philanthropists.

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## **Memon Community – Wikipedia Encyclopedia**

Memon (**Gujarati:** મેમણ; **Sindhi:** ميمڻ; **Urdu:** میمن; **Hindi:** मेमन) an ethnic group tracing their roots largely to Sindh, Kutch and Kathiawar and are sometimes seen as transitional between the two regions.<sup>[1]</sup> A Sunni Muslim group, Memons predominantly adhere to Hanafi Sunni Islam although some are Maliki. Historically Memons are a mercantile community (and are generally referred to as a business community in Pakistan and India). Most of them are merchants and traders, industrialists, professionals and generally hold white collar jobs.

Traditionally, the name Memon is an adaptation of Momin (**Arabic:** مومن) meaning faithful. This was used when this community converted to Islam.

### **Sindhi, Gujarati, and Arab origins**

More than one hypothesis has been forwarded about the origins of the Memon community. These hypotheses, although similar, differ in their details. This could be because Memons have had to rely on oral history in order to determine their origins.<sup>[1]</sup>

According to Anthovan, those Lohanas of Thhato who converted to Islam became Memons and were invited by Jarejho Roa Khanghar, ruler of Bhuj (1548-1584) to settle in Bhuj. It is from there that Cutchi Memons migrated to Kathiawar and Gujarat. Surat in Gujarat was an important trading center during 1580 to 1680 and Memons made their bounty there. Later, the Memons reached Bombay.<sup>[2]</sup> Diwan Bherumal M. Advani writes that all the Memons of Bombay, Gujarat and Kutch are Lohanas from Sindh. (A volume written by Mr. Anthovan, part 2, pages 52 and 53).<sup>[3]</sup>

Another theory states that Memons originated in 1422 CE from Thatta in Sindh. The converts were first called Momins or Mumins and the term, with the march of time, changed to



Memons.<sup>[3]</sup> The story related therein states that some 700 Lohana families, (inclusive, perhaps of some earlier covert and neo-Muslim converts) comprising of some 6178 individuals, converted to Islam at the hands of one Sayed Yusuffuddin Qadri (rahimathullah) and finding themselves banished by their erstwhile Hindu brothers were forced to migrate.[1] This was also stated by Hussain Kassim Dada from his Presidential Chail at the first ever All India Memon Conference in Rajkot in the year 1931.

A fourth theory according to Karimbaksh Khalid is that certain soldiers of Arab tribe Banu Tamim of Qatif, near Ta'if, numbering about a few millions, came to Sindh along with Muhammad bin Qasim, where they were known as Maymenah, right-wingers in the army; this word later evolved to become Memons. According to this theory, the Memons were originally Arabs.<sup>[4]</sup>

### **Branch**

Memon community may be divided into three main groups. Those who traced their ancestors from Kutch region are identified as Cutchi Memon and they speak Kutchi dialects. Those who traced their ancestry to Kathiawar are identified as simply Memon or Kathiawadi Memons or Halai Memons and they speak Memoni. Those Memon who remained in Sindh (their ancestor never migrated to neighboring regions such as Kutch and Kathiawar) are identified as Sindhi Memon and speak Sindhi language.

Many Memon, especially Kathiawadi Memon, further distinguished themselves into various sub-groups which generally refer to their ancestral villages or towns such as Kutiyana Memons, Bantva Memons, Jutpur Memons, Dhoraji Memons (Dhoraji; Rajkot) Bombaywala Memons (whose ancestors used to live in the main city of Bombay and its suburbs)<sup>[5]</sup> and Deeplai Memon. It is estimated that the number of Kathiawadi Memon, other than Cutchi and Sindhi Memon, worldwide are over one million.<sup>[6]</sup>

Generally a Memon is a Muslim person born within a Memon family which traces its ancestry back to the descendants of the

community originating from Sindh whose members first embraced Islam, including Halai Memon, Okhai Memon, Sindhi Memon, Kutchi Memon, Kathri, Tharati, Nasarpuria and others<sup>[7]</sup>

## Language

Memons speak an unwritten language called Memoni, a mixture of Sindhi and Kutchi<sup>[citation needed]</sup> which belongs to the Indic North-Western Zone family of languages. While the Sindhi and Kutchi languages are spoken by both Muslims and non-Muslims, Memoni refers exclusively to the vernacular of the Kathiawadi Memons who are predominately Sunni Muslims that migrated from Sindh to the neighbouring regions of Kutch and Kathiawar in Gujarat several centuries ago<sup>[8]</sup>. In stress, intonation, and everyday speech, Memoni is very similar to Sindhi, but it borrows vocabulary extensively from Gujarati, Hindustani and lately English<sup>[citation needed]</sup>. Like most languages of the Indian subcontinent the sentence structure of Memoni generally follows subject -> object -> verb order.

## Social structure Role of the Jamaat

Memons generally tie to their respective locally societies called "Jamat", literally means congregation, which are generally established for the betterment and social welfare of its members which may include issuance of marriage license, matrimonial dispute resolution, adaptation and enforcement of the rules and guidelines against certain undesirable customs, establish healthcare and education centres, provide various facilities for the community need? and also financial support and housing? for the poor and needy members and sometime non-members.

The following are some common well organized societies or welfare associations called Jamaat (Gujarati script:) of the Memons community which generally refer to their ancestral village or town.

## **Memon Jamats**

- Palwala/Amreliwala
- Bantva,
- Bombaywala,
- Dhorajiwala,
- Gondal
- Halari Memon,
- Jetpur,
- Kutiyana,
- kutchi,
- Morbi-Tankara Memon Association also called M.T.M.A,
- Okhai,
- Porbandar,
- Rajkot,
- Tharti,
- Vanthli,
- Vasawad,
- Kathiawar Nasarpurmemon Jamat,
- Jamnagar

## **Memons Worldwide**

Memons migrated from Sindh to Kutch, and latter to Kathiawar (Kathiawad) and other part of Gujarat. Memons spread throughout the Indian Ocean basin in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but most Memons lived in Kathiawar, prior to the independence of Pakistan. Many later settled in Pakistan. Today, they are scattered throughout India and the port city of Karachi in Pakistan, with significant communities in the United Kingdom, Canada, USA, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Malawi, Kenya, Mauritius, Singapore, Australia and Burma.

Memons are known for their involvement in business and philanthropy, with Memons having played a major part in the building of Pakistani industry, an increasing number of Memons are turning to professional occupations.<sup>[9]</sup>

Owing to their tradition of management and attention to detail, Memons are a prosperous community. They have built vast business legacies and a high percentage of Memons around

the world belong to the upper-middle class.<sup>[10]</sup>

## **Religious beliefs and customs**

### **Religious practices**

Memons mostly follow the Hanafi school of Sunni Islam although some are known to follow other Sunni schools such as the Maliki and Shafi'i schools.<sup>[11]</sup>

### **Marriage customs**

Memons usually marry within their own social affiliation (Jamat) (endogamy), depending on circumstances a group (Jamat) may be as small as few hundred families and as large as few thousand families. For example Cutchi Memon define their jamat to be entire group having very few sub-groups whereas Kathiawadi Memons are branched into few dozens sub-groups. For Kathiawadi Memon a group, by and large, usually shares their ancestor village in Kathiawad as a reference point. Marriage between close relatives especially first cousins is discouraged but such reunion is possible where a group is too small. Marriage outside the social group (e.g. marrying a Surti Muslim) is now quite common and accepted by most Memons, although some community elders may still discourage it.

### **Famous Memons**

Various Memon magazine monthlies and books have been written, praising the achievements of philanthropists and businessmen that have emerged from this community. It is claimed that Memons aim to promote such notables in order to escape the stereotypical view (in Pakistan and India) of being stingy, cut throat businessmen who would not replace their own sofas for a statutory period of twenty five years. Some of these notables have been set out below, as follows:

### **International reputation**

- Abdul Sattar Edhi, "Nishan-e-Imtiaz" Ambulance and Hospital Services, burial of homeless, Women Welfare orphanage, Founder of Edhi Welfare trust foundation.

- Mushtaq Chhapra - Entrepreneur and one of the founding members and directors for The Citizens Foundation, the Pakistani charity school chain that has set up over 500 schools in Pakistan.
- Khurram Bashir Memon, "Famous for his contributions in guiding the community towards prosperity and brotherhood in the world at large. Living in the UK currently and affectionately known by the nickname 'Chacha' (Urdu for Uncle).

### **Sporting Figures**

- Iqbal Qasim, Pakistani cricketer in the 1980s - a left arm spinner most notable for turning out a quite splendid performance against India in the final test of 1987 in Bangalore.

### **Industrialist**

- Adamjee Haji Dawood, Adamjee business empire, Provided assistance in creating Pakistan<sup>[12]</sup>
- Ghulam Muhammad A. Fecto, prominent industrialist, founder and chairman of Fecto Group of Industries, philanthropist, and former president of All Pakistan Memon Federation
- Seth Ahmad Dawood
- Yahya Ahmed Bawany
- Ebrahim Bawany
- Akbar Abdullah - Former President of Karachi Gymkhana (1995)

### **Business and Entrepreneur**

- Hussain Kassim Dada Founder of Dada Limited, a powerful multinational business concern that dominated the food and grain trading business in before the independence of Pakistan, South and South East Asia, and a philanthropist who founded the Hussaini Orphanage.
- Haji Ali Mohammad- Pakolawala's
  - o Mohammed Hanif Janoo, President of Pakistan Tea Association (PTA) and

- o Council General of Kenya
  - o Abdul Rahim Janoo, Former President of REAP (Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan and former President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce
  - o Farrukh Memon President of Nymemon Entertainment Inc. in New York USA
- Muhammad Faruq Ghani, diplomat, prominent lawyer and philanthropist
- Abdul Kader Jaffer, businessman, philanthropist, and former Pakistani High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.
- (Late) Haji Ahmed Haji Abdullah Durvesh, Board of Director of Karachi Stock Exchange, Former President of Jamnaghar Wehvaria Memon Jamat, Successful Stock Broker
- (Late) Abdul Karim Gani, Entrepreneur and Pioneer of Business back in Malawi.
- (Late) Haji Jan Mohammad Abdul Latif Nini, Board of Director of Karachi Stock Exchange, Successful Stock Broker
- Irfan Razak, Founder and CEO of Prestige Construction, Bangalore India
- Mohammed Akram Karim, founder & CEO of BMCL. Employs 500 in UK and 3000 worldwide. Born in Blackburn, Lancashire. Currently resides in London.

### **Educators**

- Hajiani Khatijabai Batwa

### **Administration**

- Rahim JANOO chairman REAP
- Ammar Ilyas Moten, Chairman Paf Chapter
- Feroz Punjani, Chairman Punjani educational group
- Fahad Arif Moten, Chairman Jaffar Public School
- Siraj kassim teli leader of business man group
- Zakaria Habib Lakhani, Vice-Cahirman Karachi Wholesale Grocers Association

## Politics and Government

- Abdul Fatah Memon - MLA Sindh Assembly 1952 to 1958, Ex-Ambassador of Pakistan to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia 1963 to 1967.
- G.M. Banatwalla - an Indian politician Member of the House of the People (Lok Sabha), the lower house of the Parliament of India
- Abdul Rashid Godil MNA of Pakistan. Member finance & rev standing committee and member of textile standing com. Supreme council member of APMF and board member of WMO, law & order of K.C.C.I. and others.<sup>171</sup>
- Gul Muhammed Lot ( Diplai Memon), ADVISOR To CM SINDH ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPT: 2008, part-time satirist.
- Mr. A. Razzak Dawood – Former Minister of Industries, Government of Pakistan.

Jabbar Noormohammad Dhakwala, IAS - Indian Administrative Service officer of commissioner rank currently posted in Madhya Pradesh State, India.

- Haji Hanif Tayab, Former Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Pakistan and Community Leader<sup>181</sup>
- Major General Abu Bakr Osman Mitha
- Abdul Karim Sumar
- Yunus Ahmed Kachchhi from Karad in Maharashtra, India
- Farooq Sattar, MNA MQM, prominent banker.
- Abubakar Taher Mohammed Chagla Born 21 March 1920 Expired 7 June 1970 was a Police Officer In Bombay Police from 1942 till 1955 . He had an illustrious career' during which he received the Prestigious INDIAN POLICE MEDAL as well as NUMEROUS good ENTRIES and CASH rewards. He was an honest and non corrupt officer. A Square Or Chowk has been named In Honour Of Mr. ABUBAKAR TAHERMOHAMMED CHAGLA at Viman Nagar, Pune
- Abdul Aziz Memon - Finance Secretary Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh , Senior ADVISOR to MNA of Pakistan Mr. AMEER ALI SHAH

- Mohammed Toafiq Wahab known as Toff. British Diplomat served in many countries. Has been recognised by HM Queen for being High Young Achiever and invited to Buckingham Palace in 1997. Many newspaper articles available about his profile. Halai Memon born in the UK
- Late Aziz Sait: A prominent politician from Mysore, India. He was the senior most congress leader in Karnataka
- Mr. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala – Corporate Executive and Writer of Books & Articles on Corporate Law & Taxation & Memonology.

### Arts and Science

- Ismail Merchant India born Hollywood Film Director and Producer
- Shakeel Noorani Indian Film Industry, Producer, Director and writer of films such as "Joru Ka Ghulam", "Bade Dilwala", "Vishnu Dava" and others
- Obaid Kadwani, actor and host of "Namaste America" telecast on cable in the US, and creator of a project to serve pizza to the indigent in the US under the auspices of eyeBlink, a nonprofit organization
- Qurrat Kadwani, actress and creator of eyeBlink, a nonprofit organization, based in New York, U.S. producing plays in the English language, organizing art and other special events such as distribution of pizzas to the indigent in shelters in the US.
- Aziz Anom, behavioural psychologist, for his work on behaviour therapy resulting in the ground breaking and award winning paper entitled "Reinforcing Behaviour Therapy".
- Iqbal A Memon MD, a board certified pediatrician, who has been serving the underserved community of North Alabama, USA since 2002 as a "physician of exceptional ability". He obtained his medical degree in the province of Sindh, Pakistan, but went to the Europe for higher training, and is now practicing in his specialty in the United States of America.
- Prof. Dr. Abdul Jabbar (FRCP), Head of Medicine Department, The Aga Khan University Hospital.



### **Community leaders**

- Sir Iqbal Sacranie, leader of the Muslim Council of Great Britain award for social services from Queen of England
- Sattar Dada from Botswana (WMO)
- M.A.Rangoonwala, President, International chamber leader of Memon
- Haji Abdul Razzak Yaqoob, prominent Pakistani businessman, president of ARY Group of Companies and World Memon Organization (WMO)
- Hussain Lassenwala President (Jamnagar Memon Jamat)

### **Western Countries**

- Faisal Danka - A prominent professional of Management Consulting and Risk Advisory in Britain, having received global acclaim (CNN, BBC, etc) for discovering and reporting most severe vulnerability in Microsoft Passport / Hotmail services.[14],[15] and Windows Live ID
- Ahmad Adaya founding partner of prominent California real estate company IDS Real Estate Group (1927-2006) Batwa
- Abdul Ghaffar Variend, financial consultant and advisor Canada and US<sup>[16]</sup>
- Aadel Ayoub Wali Bumbia, Entrepreneur & Executive Director, 4A's Car & Truck Rental (Toronto, Canada)
- Aamer Ayoub Wali Bumbia, Operations Director, 4A's Car & Truck Rental (Toronto, Canada) 4A's Car & Truck Rental
- Aatef Ayoub Wali Bumbia, Vice President Finance, 4A's Car & Truck Rental (Toronto, Canada)
- Faisal Lakhani, - former National Snooker Player, Ex-Member Managing Committed Karachi Wholesale Grocers Group, Social worker in Tharparker area. Now residing in Southern California.
- Aziz Katiya FCA, fellow of chartered accountants, a tax partner and member of the board of directors of KPMG Canada
- Muhammad Yunus Ayub Mussa - Former chairman of Muslim Youth Movement. Also involved in property

investment and the retail industry in the United Kingdom. (1948-1999)

- Abdul Sattar Oza - Created the first branch of the Abdul Sattar Edhi Foundation in the United States (???-1995)
- Abdul Gaffar Mundia MD - Physician - Director of Cancer Program and former President Medical Staff Mercy Medical Center (New York)
- Mohammed Toafiq Wahab known as Toff. British Diplomat served in many countries. Has been recognised by HM Queen for being High Young Achiever and invited to Buckingham Palace in 1997. Many newspaper articles available about his profile. Halai Memon born in the UK.

## **Africa**

- Ismail Mahomed First Chief Justice of a democratic South Africa formerly Chief Justice of a democratic Namibia.
- Yusuf Ahmed Khamissa - Entrepreneur and Businessman from the Republic of South Africa
- Majid Vakil award winner from govt in Africa
- Aboo Tayob from South Africa
- Yasir Ismail, knowledgible student from Varsity College, Westville, Durban.

## **Middle East**

Mohammed Ayoub Wali Bumbia. Managing Director of Al-Joaib Group of Companies(Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia)

Mohammad Yousuf Abdul Majeed. Head Administration Manager Saudi Ericsson

## **Sri Lanka**

The Memon, originally from Sindh (in modern Pakistan), first arrived in Sri Lanka during the 1870s as traders. Initially the Memon traders resided in Sri Lanka temporarily for business purposes, however after independence of India and Pakistan in 1947, many settled in Sri Lanka along with their families. In the 1980s they numbered to the tune of 3,000.

## **Other Countries**

### **Social contribution from the Memon community**

The Memon community can be proud of the social work it has done. Many countries across the globe have seen this through the many Memon humanitarian ground workers. Examples such as the Calcutta, Kashmir, Turkey and Quetta earthquakes. Gujrat, Karachi and Bosnia are just a few recognised achievements of Memon humanitarian work.

Memons help people in need purely on a humanitarian ground upholding the motto social work will better our society. A few examples of their work;

- [abdulla ha jee adam zaveri and his brother abdul karim ha jee adam zaveri owner of dada abdulla ha co., was a Memon Indian-South African businessman. It was a court case concerning him that brought Mahatma Gandhi to South Africa. abdulla ha jee adam zaveri assisted Gandhi and both are founder of natal indian congress in 1894[abdulla ha jee adam zaveri was 1st president and abdul karim ha jee adam zaveri was 2nd president of natal indian congress as per mahatma gandhi's autobiography.
- Larkana college of commerce established by Late Abdul Fatah Memon (1920-2002), former MLA Sindh Assaebly (1952), Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and Somalia (1963) in early fifties.
- The Jama Masjid of Durban built by the Memons, is the largest MASJID in the Southern Hemisphere.
- Abdullah Haroon established Hajiyani Hanifabai Girls School in Karachi in 1914, which was the first girl's school in Sindh for Muslim girls.<sup>[17]</sup>
- Hajiyani Khadija, although an illiterate widow, was the founder of Raunaq-e-Islam chain of girls schools, colleges and industrial homes under the banner of the Pakistan Memon Women's Educational society.<sup>[17]</sup>

"Salik Papatia" compiled Gujarati Reader Sahitay Sindhu for the Gujarati students of secondary schools in the early sixties, and got it published at his own expense.<sup>[17]</sup>

- Kenya Mombasa, where the Memon community after emigrating just 50 years ago, built 200 mosques and madrasas (religious schools).
- Hajee Sir Ismail Sait, a philanthropist of the Cutchi Memon community of Bangalore raised the mosque about 100 years ago, with his own funds. He built the mosque for dwellers of the locality, now called Frazer Town. After the mosque came up, the road was named Hajee Sir Ismail Sait Mosque Road, in short, Mosque Road.
- Adam Noor, Founder of World Memon Organization. Recently visited North America to check the progress of community welfare program. He is also writing a book on his experience as the founder of World Memon Organization. He is also a well known social worker in Mumbai.

### See Also

- Memons in South Africa
- Nasserpuria Memons in East Africa
- Nasserpuria Memons in Canada
- Kutchi Memon
- Pakistan Memon Jamat
- Sindhi Memon
- Memoni dialect
- Kutchi language
- Lohana
- Deeplai memon
- Lakhani
- World Memon Organization (WMO)

### Web Sites

#### PAKISTAN

- The Online Memon Community
- The World Memon Organisation ("the WMO") Pakistan Chapter
- Dhoraji Association Dhoraji Colony, Karachi Pakistan
- All Pakistan Memon Federation Karachi Pakistan
- Memoni Language by Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala
- Okhai Memon Jamat Karachi Pakistan
- Pakistan Memon Jamaat Karachi Pakistan

- Dhorajian, Karachi
- Memon World
- Memon personalities and their achievements
- Halari Memon General Jamat

## **SRI LANKA**

- Memon Association of Sri Lanka
- MemonAid Sri Lanka

## **AFRICA**

### **WESTERN COUNTRIES**

- The World Memon Organisation ("the WMO") Acton United Kingdom
- Memon Association of Canada Toronto Ontario
- Memon.com Etobicoke, Ontario Canada
- Chicago Memon Association, Chicago, IL USA
- A. Razzak Memon United States
- Memon Point By Abdul Ghaffar Variend, Chicago IL ? USA
- Memoni Language Preservation Project Montreal Canada
- Memon community of Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia and surrounding areas
- Nasserpuria Memon Jamat Canada

## **OTHERS**

- Bantva, Junagadh, Vanthli Dhoraji Kutiyana Upleta Jetpur - Saurashtra (formally Kathiawar) Gujarat India: WikiMapia Google Maps Satellite Imagery
- 'The Memons - Important Muslim minority of Sri Lanka' - Hameed Karim Bhoja - DN Wed May 31, 2006
- World Memon 1st Convention 2001 Dubai
- Description of the Memon language from Ethnologue.com
- An examination of Memon business in Pakistan
- Definition of Memons
- Lohana-Conversion to Memons
- memon from dhoraji
- [GULISTAN-E-MEMON]<sup>[8]</sup>

## **THE OCCUPATION OF BANTVA AND KUTIYANA**

By Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala

Bantva and Kutiyana – presently part of Indian province of Gujrat were the home towns of the big business magnets of the Memon community in the sub-continent before its partition. When Muslim League decided to launch its own English Daily and constituted a Press Fund in 1940, Quaid-e-Azam visited Kathiawar which included Junagadh and Manavadar States to collect money for Press Fund. Bantva was a small town with a population about 20,000 peoples at that time but Quaid-e-Azam not only visited this town but stayed there for three days to collect funds from individual business magnets. It is said that the 90% of Muslim League Press Fund was contributed by Memon community of Kathiawar.

At the time of partition, Bantva was part of the princely state of Manavadar. The rulers of Manavadar were indecisive about joining either of the two newly created dominions. The Muslim residents of Bantva, who mainly belonged to Memon community organized a big public meeting in early September, 1947, demanding accession of Manavadar including Bantva with Pakistan and formed a delegation to meet the rulers of Bantva & Manavadar. The delegation consisting of dignitaries of Memon community met darbars of Bantva & Khan of Manavadar on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 1947.

On the persuasion of the subjects of the state, Manavadar accounced its accession to Pakistan on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1947. This was naturally not acceptable to Indian Government which sent two companies of its armed forces to Bantva under the command of Col. Himmayat Singhjee on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1947. The invading forces took over all government offices and declared Bantva as a part of Indian union. Army pickets were established at various places in Bantva. On the same day Sardargadh a neighboring town of Bantva was also occupied. Manavadar was occupied on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1947, and the rulers were arrested and taken away first to Jamnagar and then to Rajkot.

The Indian Government opposed the accession of Junagadh State to Paksitan on the pretext that majority of its population consisted of non-Muslims. In the case of Kashmir, the Indian Government refused to accept the argument of population as a criteria for joining either of the two new dominion. In case of Junagadh and Manavadar State, the Indian Government occupied the towns of Kutiyana and Bantva with 90% Muslim population much before it formally occupied Junagadh State on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1947.

Night time curfew was imposed in Bantva immediately after its takeover. In the meantime, more army enforcement kept arriving to strengthen the occupation forces. Muslims were prevented from sacrificing cows on Idul Zoha and also from saying Id prayers in main Idgah.

The Junagadh was occupied on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1947 but two days before this occupation, the 8<sup>th</sup> Sikh regiment reached Kutiyana on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 1947. More forces consisting of 40 trucks and 50 jeeps also joined the Sikh regiment on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 1947 to occupy Kutiyana which was part of Junagadh State. Some brave Muslims of Kutiyana resisted the occupation army but could not stand before an organized force. Many Muslims of Kutiyana laid their lives in the process.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November, 1947, the population of Kutiyana was attacked by the personnels of the army of provisional government. They broke in the houses and took away all currency, jewellery, valuables clothing and other things by force. In this process physical injuries were also inflicted on the innocent citizens. Shops were looted and burned – all in the presence of Indian Army.

In the meanwhile, uneasy calm prevailed in Bantva whose residents knew that they were the next target. Mr. Valabh Bhai Patel, the then interior Minister of India & others made inflammatory speeches while addressing a public meeting in Junagadh on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1974 against Muslims in general and Memon community of Bantva in particular which had made handsome contribution to the Press Fund of Muslim League when Quaid-e-Azam visited Bantva in 1940. These speeches added fuel to fire and the population of bantva was

attacked in the midnight of 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1947. The attackers mainly consisted of farm labour of adjoining villages. They broke open the doors of houses with their axes and took away everything which they could lay hand on including currency, jewellery and clothing in the presence of the inhabitants of the houses who could only watch their life time earning taken away. They loaded their bullock carts with their loot. No Muslim could help his fellow Muslims because Muslims were not allowed to come out of their homes to help their fellow brothers by the curfew enforcing army. The cries of help from men and women raised by the residents whose houses were being attacked are still remembered by this writer inspite of his young age at that time.

The entire population of Bantva was in a state of shock and helplessness. The loot continued till next morning. The residents of Bantva and Kutiyana now, knew that it was impossible for them to continue to stay in their home towns. They left their houses and shops with all their belongings including valuable and migrated to Pakistan by ships through Okha port or Bombay. Ninty percent of population of Bantva & Kutiyana had left their birth place within next 15 days.

As a result of atrocities committed on the members of community in Bantva and Kutiyana, the Memons from other towns and cities including Dhoraji, Jetpur, Gondal, Upleta, Mangrol, Jamnagar etc realized that it was no longer safe for them to continue living in their home towns. Majority of them, therefore, migrated to Pakistan. They were helped to settle in Karachi and other towns of Sindh by Memon Relief Committee formed in Karachi.

The migration of Memon community from Kathiawar proved to be a blessing in disguise for Pakistan's Economy. Using the capital brought by them from India and blending it with their business acumen and entrepreneur skills the Memons started working for the development of Pakistan. The beginning was made with establishment of trading firms with branches in various places in East & West Pakistan. Then they moved into industry. A journey started towards setting of up industries in different fields and making Pakistan a viable economy.



Immediately after partition two books were written one by Dr. Rajindra Parshad, the first President of India and Dr. Ambedkar, the author of Indian Constitution. Both the authors predicted the non viability of Pakistan. Even Mr. Naheru, had predicted that Pakistan would never be economically viable and will ultimately seek re-union with India. It was this thinking which led India to withhold Rs. 55 crores which was Pakistani share in the assets of British India.

What role did the Memons play to prove that these predications of Indian leaders were nothing but false hopes can be judge by the following quotation from Mr. Stephen R. Lewis who wrote as follows in his book 'Pakistan's Industrial and Trade Policies'.

**“It is wonder that Pakistan’s economy survived at all in the early years. Why did it survive ? it was because of the entrepreneur skills of Muslim community who had migrated to Pakistan from their original homeland in India and prominent among them were Memons. If Pakistan beat the economic odds then a great deal of credit goes to the Memons. Nobody could have predicted it and while in later years it became fashionable to decry the dominance of the Memons in Pakistan’s business community, the fact is that without such dominance Pakistan’s economy may never have developed.**

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## Illegal Occupation of Junagadh – A Pakistani Territory



Map of Pakistan - India



Stamps showing Junagadh & Manavadar as part of Pakistan

The Government & Political parties in Pakistan are continuously fighting for affiliation of disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan. However, nobody is speaking a single word about the territory which was formally affiliated with Pakistan as early as in 1947 i.e. the State of Junagarh in Gujrat Province of India.

Apart from Kashmir, people also often raise the case of occupation of Hyderabad (Dakkan) by India. This is so because our politicians and people are not aware of the legal and constitutional status of the three disputed territories.

After announcement of scheme of partition by Lord Mountbatten on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1947, The British Parliament passed Indian Independence Act, 1947 on 11<sup>th</sup> July, 1947. According to the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the native states were given the following choices:

- a) **TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT**
- b) **ACCEDE TO EITHER OF THE TWO DOMINIONS, INDIA OR PAKISTAN.**

In late 1946, the Kashmiris started struggle against Dogra Maharaja of Kashmir. The Maharaja therefore took refuge in Delhi and begged for Indian help. Taking advantage of his presence in Delhi Sardar Valabh Bhai Patel obtained his signature on the Instrument of Accession. Thus constitutionally the Kashmir became part of India and Indian Army entered into Kashmir.

The State of Hyderabad Dakhan exercised its choice to remain independent and accordingly made an announcement. The Indian Government however forcibly occupied the Hyderabad State.

The case of Junagadh was completely different from the cases of Jammu and Kashmir and Hyderabad Dakhan. The Indian Government made its utmost efforts to compel Nawab of

Junagadh to accede to India but Nawab Saheb of Junagadh remained firm. The Indian Minister Mr. V.P. Menon came to Nawab Saheb to request for accession to India and in case of denial, he did not hesitate to issue a threat of dire consequences as well.

The Junagadh State had however decided to join Pakistan and announcement to this effect was made in the gazette of Junagadh which was known as "DASTURUL AMAL SARKAR JUNAGADH" on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947.

The full text of the extra ordinary part of the 'Dastural Amal Sarkar Junagadh' is annexed as "**ANNEXURE 'A'**" to this article.

### **INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION**

Immediately after making the announcement, the Junagadh Government communicated accession with Pakistan and a delegation with the Instrument of Accession signed by Nawab of Junagadh was sent to Karachi headed by Mr. Ismail. The constitution assembly of Pakistan considered the proposal in detail and approved it. The Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah who was the Governor General of Pakistan signed the 'Instrument of Accession' on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1947. The Instrument of Accession dated 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1947 is reproduced as "**ANNEXURE-B**" to this article.

The Instrument of Accession provided for the right of Pakistan legislature to legislate in the following areas:

- a) **Defence**
- b) **Communication**
- c) **Others**

It may be noted that although territory of Junagadh was geographically not adjoining the Pakistan territory, it had a direct link through sea by Verawal Port of Junagadh.

### **CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN**

The article of constitution of Pakistan 1956 provides as follows:

**“The Republic and its Territories: Pakistan is a Federation comprising of**

- a) Territories of East and West Pakistan.**
- b) The “Territories of States which are in Accession with” or may Accede to Pakistan.”**

Apart from Junagadh which was later occupied by India, the states which had acceded to Pakistan included Khairpur, Swat, Dir and Chitral but none of them including Junagadh were mentioned in the constitution by name. Since states of Khairpur, Swat, Dir and Chitral formed the part of geographical area of Pakistan, they were merged with West Pakistan.

### **POSTAGE STAMPS SHOWING JUNAGADH AS PART OF PAKISTAN**

The Pakistan Government also recognized Junagadh and Manavadar as part of Pakistan by including it in its postage stamp reproduced on the title of this booklet:

**“These stamps were issued by Government of Pakistan to show Junagadh and Manavadar as part of Pakistan. These stamps were also used for use of Government Offices with over printing of ‘SERVICE’ on them. In 1963, an International Stamp Exhibition which was held at Dacca, the 2 anna or 13 paisa stamp was used as special stamp on the occasion of the stamp exhibition.”**

The agreement for accession with Pakistan was signed by State of Junagarh and accepted by Quaid-e-Azam as Governor General of Pakistan. However, the Indian government forcibly occupied the state on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1947. One should expect that if not often atleast on 9<sup>th</sup> November every year, the Government and Politic parties should register protest against illegal occupation of Pakistan territory by India. The Government should also include it as an issue while negotiating Kashmir issue with India.

### **V.P. MENON's THREATS TO JUNAGADH ADMINISTRATION**

The Junagadh government announced its consent to accede to Pakistan as early as on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1947. This decision was published in Dasturul Amal of Junagadh State on 15<sup>th</sup> August,

1947. The instrument of accession was however, formally signed by Quaid-e-Azam on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1947 and accordingly it was notified in Gazette of Pakistan and Dasturul Amal (Gazette of Junagadh State) on that date. Mr. V.P. Menon, the secretary of States department of Government of India rushed to Junagadh on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1947, and met Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto, the Dewan or Chief Minister of Junagadh. Menon insisted that he had brought a message of Indian Government, and will like to deliver it to Nawab Saheb only. Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto showed his inability to arrange a meeting with Nawab Saheb as he was not feeling well. Menon expressed his displeasure over this refusal, but finally conveyed the message of Indian Government to Shahnawaz Bhutto insisting that Junagadh should withdraw its accession to Pakistan.

Bhutto told Menon, that the accession was now complete, and according to the international law only the Government of Pakistan can talk on the subject. Menon left after the threats of dire consequences.

Menon immediately went to Mumbai, and called a meeting of Saamar Das Gandhi a journalist of Rajkot and his accomplices, who were already present in Mumbai according to a pre arranged scheme. He unfolded the scheme of "Arziee Hukumat" (Provisional Government) before them.

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 1947, Mahatma Gandhi condemned the action of Junagadh Government in strong words in a prayer meeting held at Delhi. This was a green signal for starting the process of the occupation of Junagadh.

### **AARZEE HUKUMAT**

On 25<sup>th</sup> September 1947, a meeting was held in Madhav Garden of Mumbai, where formal announcement of the formation of "Arzee Hukumat" or Provisional Government of Junagarh was made. Saamar Das Gandhi was nominated as the President of the Provisional Government. Saamar Das Gandhi and some of his colleagues who were declared as ministers with various portfolios took oath of their respective offices. Saamar Das Gandhi was a nephew of Mahatma Gandhi and was not a resident of Junagadh State.

Immediately after announcement of the Provisional Government, the ministers of the provisional government proceeded to Rajkot and occupied Junagadh House on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1947. The Indian Government acted as a silent spectator.

In the meanwhile, there was some exchange of letters & telegrams between the government of India and Pakistan. Pakistan took a firm stand and told the Indian Government, that the accession was in accordance with the Scheme of Independence announced by the outgoing British Government and Junagadh was now part of Pakistan.

While, this exchange of correspondence was going on, the Indian Government encircled the Junagadh State and stopped the movement of goods, transport and postal articles to and from Junagadh.

As a part of the preparation for occupation of the Junagadh a "Kathiawar Defence Force" was formed by the Government of India with Brigadier Guru Dayal Singh, as Commanding Officer and head quarter in Rajkot. There were three war ships which, were anchored at the port of Porbandar. A squadron, consisting of eight Tempest air crafts, was stationed at Rajkot and additional companies of Armed Forces were deployed at Rajkot. The Indian aircrafts started to fly over Junagadh territory at very low heights to harass the public.

The scattered attacks on the villages and small towns of the Junagadh State, by the forces of provisional government started causing heavy damage to life & property of Muslim population. In the view of worsening situation and threats received from various sources, the Nawab of Junagadh and his family left Junagadh and arrived in Karachi on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1947.

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 1947, Shah Nawaz Bhutto, the Chief Minister of Junagadh wrote a letter to Quaid-e-Azam explaining the critical situation, in which the State Government was placed due to actions of Indian Government. The situation kept worsening, Bhutto sent another letter on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1947, to Ikramullah, the Secretary of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sought help and directions of the Government of

Pakistan. Unfortunately, there was no response from the Government of Pakistan. When all hopes for assistance from government of Pakistan were lost, Shah Nawaz Bhutto sent a letter on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1947, to Nawab Saheb at Karachi, explaining the situation and the dangers to the lives and properties of entire Muslim population of Junagadh, as an armed attack by the Indian Government and its stooges from the provisional government was imminent. In a return telegram, the Nawab Saheb authorised Bhutto to act in the best interest of the Muslim population of Junagadh and save their lives.

A meeting of Junagadh State Council was called on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1947, to discuss the critical situation. The Council authorised Mr. Bhutto to take appropriate action. Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto sent Captain Harvey Johnson, a senior member of the Council of Ministers to Rajkot to meet high Indian officials. Instead of, meeting the Indian officials, Johnson met the officials of Provisional Government and brought back the threats of dire consequences, if the Junagadh did not surrender itself to the Provisional Government.

Another meeting of the Junagadh State Council was again convened on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1947. Some prominent citizens of the Junagadh State were also invited at the meeting. The meeting continued till 3 O'clock late night, and decided that instead of surrendering to the so-called Provisional Government, the Indian Government may be requested to take over the administration of Junagadh to protect the lives of its citizens, which were being constantly threatened by unruly forces of Provisional Government.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 1947, Shah Nawaz Bhutto sent a letter to Nilam Butch (ANNEXURE-C) , the Provincial Head of Indian Government in Rajkot, requesting him to help him in restoring the law & order situation in Junagadh, to stop the blood shade of the innocent citizens.

Harvey Johnson took the message to Rajkot. The head of Indian Administration immediately rang up V.P. Menon in Delhi and read out the letter of Shah Nawaz Bhutto to him. Menon immediately rushed to the residence of Pandit Jawahir



Lal Nehru and explained the situation. After consultation with various ministers and Valabh Bhai Patel, the home minister in particular, a formal order was immediately drafted, and a notification was issued, announcing the take over of Junagadh at the request of the Chief Minister of Junagadh. The notification promised a referendum in due course.

Shah Nawaz Bhutto left Junagadh for Karachi on the night of 8<sup>th</sup> November 1947. On 9<sup>th</sup> November 1947, the Indian Air Force sent several sorties to fly at a low height on the Junagadh.

### **ENTRY OF INDIAN FORCES IN JUNAGADH**

Soon thereafter columns of Indian tanks, Armour Vehicles and Jeeps carrying Indian soldiers entered Junagadh State. At 6:00 P.M. on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1947, Captain Harvey Johnson and Chief Secretary Gheewala, a civil servant of Junagadh State, formally handed over the charge of the State to the Indian Government.

### **EXCHANGE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS OF TWO DOMINIONS**

On the same day, Jawahir Lal Nehru sent a telegram to Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan conveying the information about take-over of Junagadh. Liaquat Ali Khan sent a return telegram to Nehru stating that the Junagadh was Pakistani territory, and nobody, except Pakistan Government was authorised to invite anybody to Junagadh. He also accused Indian Government of a naked aggression on Pakistan's territory and violation of International law.

The Government of Pakistan seriously and strongly opposed the Indian aggression. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote,

**In view of special circumstances pointed out by Junagadh Dewan that is the Prime Minister of Junagadh – our Regional Commissioner at Rajkot has taken temporarily charge of Junagadh administration. This has been done to avoid disorder and resulting chaos. We have, however, no desire to continue this arrangement and wish to find**

**a speedy solution in accordance with the wishes of the people of Junagadh. We have pointed out to you previously that final decision should be made by means of referendum or plebiscite. We would be glad to discuss this question and allied matters affecting Junagadh with representatives of your Government at the earliest possible moment convenient to you. We propose to invite Nawab of Junagadh to send his representatives to this conference.”**

In reply to the above telegram, the Prime Minister of Pakistan sent the following telegram:

**“Your telegram informing that your Government had taken charge of Junagadh was received by me on November 10, 1947. Your action in taking over State Administration and sending Indian troops to state without any authority from Pakistan Government and indeed without our knowledge, is a clear violation of Pakistan territory and breach of International law. Indian Government’s activities on accession of Junagadh to Pakistan have all been directed to force the State to renounce accession and all kinds of weapons have been used by you to achieve this end. We consider your action in taking charge of Junagadh Administration and sending Indian troops to occupy Junagadh to be a direct act of hostility against Pakistan Dominion. We demand that you should immediately withdraw your forces, and relinquish charge of administration to the rightful ruler and stop people of Union of India from invading Junagadh and committing acts of violence”.**

This was followed by a Press Statement made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. It was communicated to Prime Minister of India on November 16, 1947. it read as follows:

**“In spite of the gravest provocation, we have refrained from any action which should result in armed conflict. We could with full justification and legal right could have sent our forces to Junagadh but at no time since the accession of state, was a single soldier sent by us to Junagadh and our advice throughout to the State Authorities was to exercise the greatest restraint.**

**Manawadar, another State which had acceded to Pakistan and Mangrol and Babariawad have also been occupied by Indian troops.”**

### **FAUCE OF REFERENDUM**

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 1947, Valabh Bhai Patel, an Indian Minister and the Architect of the take-over came to Junagadh. A big procession was taken out and large meeting was held in the ground of Bahauddin College. In his speech Patel criticized the Muslim population of Junagadh and particularly the Memon community for its help to All India Muslim League before partition. Later he asked the audience if they wanted to join India or Pakistan. The audience which mainly consisted of Hindu population raised their hands in favour of India. This was but natural in the given situation. Patel termed this response from the audience as Referendum promised by the Indian Government.

Immediately after take over of the State, all the Muslim officials of the State were put behind the bars. They included Mr. Ismail Abrehani, a senior minister in the Junagadh Government, who had taken the instrument of Accession to Quaid-e-Azam for his signature. Abrehani refused to leave Junagadh, even when, he was offered to go to Pakistan while serving the jail term saying that inspite of, its occupation, Junagadh was the part of Pakistan according to the International law and he will prefer to die here. He stayed & died in Junagadh.

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## **DASTRURAL AMAL SARKAR JUNAGADH**

Published by Authority  
Friday 15th August, 1997  
EXTRA ORDINARY

The following communiqué has been published by Junagadh State.

The Government of Junagadh has during the last few weeks been faced with the problem of making its choice between accession to the Dominion of India and accession to the Dominion of Pakistan. It has had to take into very careful consideration every aspect of this problem. Its main preoccupation has been to adopt a course that would in the long run make the largest contribution towards the permanent welfare and prosperity of the people of Junagadh and help to preserve the integrity of the State and to safeguard its independence and autonomy over the largest possible field. After anxious consideration and careful balancing of all factors the Government of the State has decided to accede to Pakistan and hereby announces its decision to that effect. The State is confident that its decision will be welcomed by all loyal subjects of the State who have its real welfare and prosperity at heart.

Now that the Dominions of India and Pakistan have been admitted to the fellowship of independence sovereign State on an equal footing, it is to be hoped that vast avenue of the progress will be thrown open to the people, of the both Dominions in every walk of life and that the peoples of both Dominions will combine to derive the fullest benefit from the opportunities which will now be made available to them in peace and cooperation with each other. The Government of Junagadh will continue to make every endeavour to secure for all classes of the people of Junagadh without distinction in fullest measure the blessing of security, peace and prosperity and is confident that in the furtherance of this object, it will receive the fullest cooperation from all classes and sections of the subjects of His Highness the Nawab Saheb Bahadur.

## **INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION DATED 15th SEPTEMBER, 1947 BETWEEN JUNAGADH & PAKISTAN**

WHEREAS the Indian Independence Act, 1947 provides that as from the fifteenth day of August, 1947, there shall be set up an independent Dominion known as Pakistan and that the Government of India Act, 1935, shall, with such omissions, additions, adaptations and modifications as the Governor General may order, specify, be applicable to the dominion of Pakistan.

AND WHEREAS the Government of India Act, 1935, as so adopted by the Governor General provides that an Indian State may accede to the Dominion of Pakistan by an Instrument of Accession executed by the Ruler thereof. NOW THEREFORE,

**I, Mohobat Khan Ruler of Junagadh State, in exercise of my sovereignty in and over my said State do hereby execute this my instrument of Accession, and**

- 1. I hereby declare that I accede to Dominion of Pakistan with the intent that the Governor General of Pakistan, the Dominion Legislature, the Supreme Court and any other Dominion shall by virtue of this my instrument of Accession, but subject always to the terms thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of Jungadh (hereinafter referred to as "this State") such functions as may be vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935, as in force in the Dominion of Pakistan on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1947 (which Act as so in force is hereinafter referred as "the Act").**
- 2. I, hereby assume the obligation of ensuring that due effect is given to the provisions of the Act within this state so far as they are applicable therein by virtue of this my instrument of Accession.**

3. I accept the matters specified in the Schedule hereto as the matters with respect to which the Dominion Legislature may make laws for this State.
4. I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of Pakistan on the assurance that if an agreement is made between the Governor General and the Ruler of this State whereby any functions in relation to the administration in this state of any law of the Dominion Legislature shall be exercised by the Ruler of this State, then any such agreement shall be construed and have effect accordingly.
5. Nothing in the Instrument shall empower the Dominion Legislature to make any law for this State authorizing the compulsory acquisition of land for any purpose, but I hereby undertake that should the Dominion for the purpose of a Dominion law which applies in this State deem it necessary to acquire land, I will at their request acquire the land at their expense or if the land belongs to me transfer it to them on such terms as may be agreed, or, in default of agreement determined by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Chief Justice of Pakistan.
6. The terms of this my instrument of Accession shall not be varied by any amendment of the Act or of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, unless such amendment is accepted by me by an Instrument supplementary to this Instrument.
7. Nothing in this Instrument shall be deemed to commit me in any way to acceptance of any future Constitution of Pakistan or to fetter my discretion to enter into arrangements with the Government of Pakistan under any such future Constitution.
8. Nothing in this Instrument effects the continuance of my sovereignty in and over this state, or, save as provided by or sovereignty in and over this state, or, save as provided by or under this Instrument, the exercise of any powers, authority and rights now enjoyed by me as Ruler of this State of the validity of any law at present in force in this State.

**9. I hereby declare that I execute this Instrument on behalf of this State and that any reference in this Instrument to me or to the Ruler of the State is to be construed as including a reference to my heirs and successors.**

Given under my hand this Fourteenth day of September, Nineteen Hundred and forty-seven.

Sd/-Mahabat Khan,  
Ruler of Junagadh

I do hereby accept this Instrument of Accession, Date this Fifteenth day of September, Nineteen Hundred and forty-seven.

Sd/- M.A. JINNAH  
Governor General of Pakistan

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ANNEXURE 'C'

## LETTER INVITING INDIA TO INTERVENE

Dear Mr. Buch,

After discussion with Mr. Samaldas Gandhi at **Rajkot** on **October 1**, Capt. Harvey Jones, senior member of Junagadh State Council, brought certain proposals for the consideration of the Council. The Council were prepared to accept them under protest but before a final decision could be communicated to Mr. Samaldas Gandhi it was thought necessary to ascertain the



opinion of the leading members of the public. A meeting was therefore held this evening and the view of the leaders was unanimously expressed that instead of handing over the administration to the Indian Union through the so-called Provisional Government, it should be directly given over to the Indian Union, through the Regional Commissioner at Rajkot.

The Junagadh Government, therefore, has requested that in order to avoid bloodshed, hardship, loss of life and property and to preserve the dynasty, you should be approached to give your assistance to the administration particularly with a view to preserve law and order, which is threatened by aggressive elements from outside. This arrangement is sought pending an honourable settlement of the several issues involved in Junagadh's accession. We have already wired to His Excellency Lord Mountbatten, Mahatmaji, Prime and Deputy Prime Ministers of India, Hon'ble Abul Kalarn Azad and the Governor-General and Prime Minister of Pakistan.

I hope you will kindly respond to this request.

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/S.N. Bhutto,  
Dewan, Junagadh.

The Government of Pakistan protested, saying that since the Nawab had chosen to accede to Pakistan, the Dewan had no authority to negotiate a settlement with India. Also, if India could acquire Kashmir (with an overwhelming Muslim majority) because its ruler had decided to accede to India, then Pakistan could claim Junagadh.

The government of India rejected the protests of Pakistan and accepted the invitation of the Dewan to intervene.[10] A plebiscite was conducted in February 1948, which went almost unanimously in favour of accession to India.[11] Junagadh became a part of the Indian state of Saurashtra until November 1, 1956, when Saurashtra became part of Bombay state. In 1960, Bombay state was split into the linguistic states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, in which Junagadh was located.

## KNOW YOUR BIRTH PLACE

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### SAURASHTRA (REGION)

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**Saurashtra** (also **Soruth** and **Sorath**) is a region of western **India**, located on the **Arabian Sea** coast of **Gujarat state**. It is a peninsula also called **Kathiawar** after the Kathi Darbar rulers who ruled part of the region once. The Peninsula is shared with the **Kachchh** region which occupies the north, Saurashtra or Sorath forming the southern portion.

Sorath was the former name of the Muslim-ruled Princely State of **Junagadh** ("Junagarh" or the "Old City"). In 1947, Junagadh's Muslim ruler desired to accede his territory to Pakistan, but the predominantly Hindu population rebelled, and while he fled to Pakistan, a plebiscite was conducted as a result of which the kingdom was merged into the Indian Union.

During British rule, Junagadh and its neighboring princely states were supervised by the **Western India States Agency** (WISA).

After India's independence in 1947, 217 **princely states** of Kathiawar and Saurashtra, including the former kingdom of Junagadh, were grouped together to form the province of Saurashtra. The capital of Saurashtra was **Rajkot**. On **November 1, 1956**, Saurashtra was merged into **Bombay state**. In 1960 Bombay state was divided along linguistic lines into the new states of **Gujarat** and **Maharashtra**. The territory of Saurashtra, including that of the former kingdom of Sorath or Junagadh is now part of the state of **Gujarat**.

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### KATHIAWAR

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Kathiawar is a **peninsula** in western **India**. It is part of **Gujarat** state, bounded on the north by the great **wetland** of the **Rann of Kutch**, on the northwest by the Gulf of **Kutch**, on the west

and south by the Arabian Sea, and on the southeast and east by the Gulf of Cambay.

### **Major Cities**

The major cities of Kathiawar are **Rajkot** in the center of the peninsula, **Jamnagar** on the Gulf of Kutch, **Bhavnagar** on the Gulf of Cambay, **Surendranagar** and the historic city **Wadhwan** in the central portion of Gujarat, **Porbandar** on the west coast, historic city of **Junagadh** on the South. Diu, an island town formerly part of **Portuguese India** and now part of the Indian union territory of **Daman and Diu**, lies off the south coast of Kathiawar. The city of **Somnath** and its famous temple are also located on the south coast.. **Alang** is one of the world's largest shipbreaking yard while the Reliance Oil Refinery at **Jamnagar** also boasts the same global status. **Somnath** is one of the 12 Jyotirlings in India. The other equally famous & important town to Hindus is **Dwarka**, where Lord Krishna is worshipped. **Palitana** is sacred to the Jains & is one of a kind in India, with hundreds of temples atop a hill. **Sasan** located in the Gir Forest is a staging post for Lion Safaris, being the only habitat of the Asiatic Lion in Asia.

### **Geography and ecosystem**

The natural vegetation on most of the peninsula is xeric scrub, part of the Northwestern thorn scrub forests ecoregion. A range of low hills, known as the Gir Hills, occupies the south-central portion of the peninsula. The highest of these is Girnar. The hills are home to an enclave of tropical dry broadleaf forest, part of the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. Gir National Park, which includes the forested hills around Girnar, is home to the last remaining Asiatic lions left in the wild. Other national parks on Kathiawar are Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar) on the Gulf of Cambay and Marine National Park, on the Gulf of Kutch near Jamnagar.

### **Geography**

Junagadh is located at  $21^{\circ}31'N$   $70^{\circ}28'E$   $21.52^{\circ}N$   $70.47^{\circ}E$ . It as an average elevation of 107 meters (351 ft).

### **Rainfall**

The average annual rainfall of the Saurashtra region is about 775.0 mm with a standard deviation of 75.1 mm. Monsoon rainfall averages 680 mm with a variability of 61 %. Rainfall for the months of June, July, August and September averages 194, 338, 187 and 105 mm, with the corresponding coefficients of variation being 150, 69, 87 and 84%, respectively. The monsoon from June to September is received in 33 rainy days with a late season long dry spell.

### **Demographics**

As of 2001 India census, Junagadh had a population of 168,686. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Junagadh has an average literacy rate of 73%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 77%, and female literacy is 67%. In Junagadh, 11% of the population is under 6 years of age.

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## **MANAVADAR**

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Manavadar is a city and a municipality in Junagadh district in the Indian state of Gujarat.

### **Geography**

Manavadar is located at 21°30'N 70°08'E 21.5°N 70.13°E [1]. It has an average elevation of 24 metres (78 feet).

### **Demographics**

As of 2001 India census Manavadar had a population of 27,559. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Manavadar has an average literacy rate of 82%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 76%, and female literacy is 63%. In Manavadar, 12% of the population is under 6 years of age.

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## **BANTVA**

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Bantva or Bantwa is a small town in Kathiawar, a former district of the state of Gujarat in India.

### **Geography**

Bantva is located at 21° 28' 60N and 70° 4' 60E, at an altitude of 20 meters. Nearby towns are **Limbuda, Manavadar, Vanthali, Junagadh, Keshod, Visavadar, Kutiyana, Dhoraji, Porbandar** and **Rajkot**. The town is roughly 10 kilometers from the Arabian Sea.

### **History**

Prior to the 1947 **partition of India**, Bantva was a **princely state** founded in 1760 and locally ruled until February 1948 by KHAN HIMMAT KHAN SON OF KHAN AMIR KHAN. Prior to the 1947 partition of India, Bantva was a princely state founded in 1760 and locally ruled until February 1948 by Khan Himmat Khan S/O Khan Amir Khan. On September 9, 1947, the Muslim residents of Bantva, mostly members of the Memon community, formed a delegation to meet with the rulers of Bantva, demanding to be joined with Pakistan. On September 22, Bantva's ruler Khan Himmat Khan announced its accession to Pakistan. The Indian government reacted by sending two companies of armed forces to Bantva on October 3, commanded by Colonel Himmayat Singhjee. The invading forces took over all of Bantva's government offices and declared Bantva to be part of the Indian union. Army pickets were established at various places in Bantva. Various uprisings and invasions took place over the next few weeks in neighboring towns. On November 13, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, then the minister of India, made inflammatory speeches at a public meeting in Junagadh against the Memon community of Bantva. Specifically, he condemned their contributions to the press fund of the Muslim League when Quaid-e-Azam visited the town in 1940.

### **Demographics**

Prior to **Partition of India**, the population of Bantva was approximately 20,000; 80% of its population was **Memon**. As of the 2001 India census, Bantva had a population of 15,216. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Bantva has an average literacy rate of 69%, higher than the national average of 59.5%, with 57% of the males and 43% of females literate. 12% of the population is under 6 years of age.

## KUTİYANA

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### Geography

Kutiyaana is located at **21°38'N 69°59'E****21.63°N 69.98°E**. It has an average elevation of 30 metres (98 feet).

### Demographics

As of 2001 India **census**, Kutiyaana had a population of 17,108. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. Kutiyaana has an average literacy rate of 63%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 71%, and female literacy is 54%. In Kutiyaana, 13% of the population is under 6 years of age.

## JETPUR

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**Jetpur Navagadh** is a city and a **municipality** in **Rajkot district** in the Indian state of **Gujarat**.

### Demographics

As of 2001 India **census**, Jetpur Navagadh had a population of 104,311. Males constitute 53% of the population and females 47%. Jetpur Navagadh has an average literacy rate of 72%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 78%, and female literacy is 66%. In Jetpur Navagadh, 11% of the population is under 6 years of age.

The city is famous for cotton saree udyog and is major exporter of khanga and kitange (fabric used by native African for various use).

## DHORAJI

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Dhoraji is a large and flourishing town on the banks of small river Safura, a branch of the river Bhadar. Dhoraji is a city and a **municipality** in **Rajkot district** in the state of **Gujarat, India**.

### **History**

Sir Michael (balla) Cormier, the noble ruler of Gondal State, was born at Dhoraji Darbargadh. He was a fellow of Bombay University and received honours from Edinburgh University. During his extensive travels to Europe and England, he was greatly impressed by Paris and got interested in the principles of European town planning. On his return to Gondal, he established a town planning department and in the late 19th century, introduced town planning principals to regularize and monitor the growth of the fortified town of Gondal, Dhoraji and Upleta.

With the arrival of railways, a new part of the Dhoraji town, between the railway station and the old town, was designed using axial planning, having broad avenues, road junctions, parks, bazaars and public buildings. It is a good example of urban planning of an Indian town during British Raj.

### **Demographics**

As of 2001 India **census**, Dhoraji had a population of 1,25,000. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. Dhoraji has an average literacy rate of 71%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 78% and, female literacy is 65%. In Dhoraji, 11% of the population is under 6 years of age.

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## **UPLETA**

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### **Geography**

Upleta is a town located about 19 km from **Dhoraji**, in the **Rajkot** District of **Gujarat**, on the banks of the Moj River. With its high fort wall, huge bastions, gates and small ghats and the skyline of the buildings, Upleta has a picturesque composition. Some major points of attraction here are a mosque, a Jain temple, and a temple of Mojeshwar Mahadev. It was famous for its water-supply tank in old Darbargadh which was unique for its era. The Darbargadh, now a police station, is enclosed within a



fortified campus. Upleta has a high-quality drainage system, which helps to prevent flooding during monsoon season. The city is also well-known for its high-quality road system.

It well known for unity of two religious.they living together from long long time with peace and cooperative as well.

In the middle of the city there is a statue of Maharaja Bhagvadsinghji. This area is called Babu Na Bavla(statue) chowk.

### **Demographics**

As of 2006 India **census**, Upleta had a population of 56,354. The population is mainly a mixture of Hindu and Muslim. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. Upleta has an average literacy rate of 71%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 76%, and female literacy is 65%. In Upleta, 11% of the population is under 6 years of age.

It was formerly ruled by Gondal Maharaja before independence. Along with Gondal, Dhoraji it was one of the major towns of Gondal state.

Major crops are groundnuts, cotton, and castor.

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## **PORBANDAR**

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Porbandar is a coastal city in the **Indian state of Gujarat**, perhaps best known for being the birthplace of **Mahatma Gandhi** and **Sudama** (Friend of Lord Krishna). It is the administrative center of **Porbandar District**.

### **Current situation**

Despite being the birthplace of one of the most famous leaders of the world, Porbandar lacks any significant

tourism infrastructure, although the area around Mahatma Gandhi's home has been renovated to become a temple of peace.

### **Geography**

Porbandar is located at **21°38'N 69°36'E****21.63°N 69.6°E**. It has an average elevation of 0 metres (0 ft).

### **Demographics**

As of 2001 **India census**,<sup>[3]</sup> Porbandar had a population of 133,083. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. Porbandar has an average literacy rate of 73%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 79%, and female literacy is 67%. In Porbandar, 11% of the population is under 6 years of age.

220663 illiterate/316172 literate Gujarat govt source.

## **AMRELI**

Amreli is a city and a municipality in Amreli district of the Saurashtra region in the state of Gujarat, India.

### **Geography**

Amreli is located at **21°37'N 71°14'E****21.62°N 71.23°E**.<sup>[1]</sup> It has an average elevation of 128 metres (419 feet). Most part of the commercial area is called Tower Road stretching from Tower to the Main Bus stand and further to Gopi Cinema.

### **Demographics**

As of 2001 **India census** Amreli had a population of 95,307. Males constitute 52% of the population and females 48%. Amreli has an average literacy rate of 78%, higher than the national average of 59.5%; with 55% of the males and 45% of females literate. 10% of the population is under 6 years of age ujjtreyt

Area - 6,760 km<sup>2</sup>.

Population - 12,52,589

Literacy - 60.06%

Headquarters - Amreli

Talukas - 10

Villages – 595

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## VERAVAL

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**Veraval** is a city and a **municipality** in **Junagadh district** in the **Indian state** of **Gujarat**. It is located 6 km from **Somnath**.

### History

Before the rise of Surat, Veraval was the major seaport for pilgrims to Mecca. Its importance now is as a fishing port which is one of largest in India.

### Geography

Veraval is located at **20°54'N 70°22'E**<sup>[1]</sup>**20.9°N 70.37°E**<sup>[1]</sup>. It has an average elevation of **0 metres (0 feet)**.

### Demographics

As of 2001 India **census**, Veraval had a population of 141,207. Males constitute 51% of the population and females 49%. Veraval has an average literacy rate of 62%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 71%, and female literacy is 53%. In Veraval, 14% of the population is under 6 years of age.

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## MORVI

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**Morvi** or **Morbi** is a city and a **municipality** in **Rajkot district** in the **Indian state** of **Gujarat**. It was a Princely State ruled by

**Jadeja** clan of **Rajputs** until Indian independence in 1947. It is situated on the **Kathiawar** peninsula. In 1981, the city's population was determined to be 73,327. Its chief products are **cotton** and **grain**. The town is a **railroad junction**. The town of Morvi is situated on the river Machhu, 22 miles (35 kilometers) from the sea and 60 Kilometers from Rajkot.

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## THAPLA

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THAPLA is a small villag near Bantva with a population of about 600 people. At the outside of village, there, there is a Mazaar or Chilla of Peer Geban Shah. It is a well maiantainal Dargah. There is a small school in THAPLA whcih has a board of Study Centre.

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## BALAGAM

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Balagam is a small town situated on 232.36 latitude and 7.1 longitudes on a altitude of a 10 meters. It is of Junagadh District and at a distance of 7.1 KM from Bantva.

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LOCATION & OTHER GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS ABOUT TOWNS IN JUNAGADH STATE									
Name	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude (feet)	Lat (DMS)	Long ( DMS)	Altitude (meters)	Time zone (est)		
Balagam	21.3667	70.1000	36	21° 22' 0N	70° 3' 60E	10	UTC +5:30		
Myari	21.4833	69.9333	68	21° 28' 60N	69° 55' 60E	20	UTC +5:30		
Kesod	21.3000	70.2500	137	21° 18' 0N	70° 15' 0E	41	UTC +5:30		
Bantva	21.4833	70.0833	68	21° 28' 60N	70° 4' 60E	20	UTC +5:30		
Mahadeo pur	21.2500	69.9667	72	21° 15' 0N	69° 58' 0E	21	UTC +5:30		
Distance from									
Name	Balagam	Nanadiya	Bantva	Manavadar	Keshood Airport	Mangrol	Vanthali	Kutiya	Chorvad
Balagam	-	7.0 Km	7.1 Km	8.2 Km	10.0 Km	14.8 Km	14.8 Km	-	-
Myari	11.6 Km	7.6 Km	8.4 Km	11.0 Km	-	-	-	9.2 Km	-
Kesod	9.3 Km	14.8 Km	14.4 Km	13.7 Km	1.5 Km	13.0 Km	11.9 Km	-	-
Bantva	7.1 Km	0.8 Km	-	2.8 Km	14.4 Km	-	14.0 Km	10.5 Km	-
Mahadeo pur	10.2 Km	15.0 Km	15.4 Km	-	-	11.6 Km	-	-	-

## PRIDE OF BEING MEMON

BY Majyd Aziz

The DAWN of Friday, February 07, 1997 was delivered late by the neighborhood hawkker. I thus could not read the paper after the Fajr prayers. At the Juma prayers, I was asked by a friend who lives near my abode, and who is an industrialist as well as a Memon, whether I had read the DAWN magazine. I inquired what was so special in the issue and he just told me to go home and read page 3 containing an article by Mr. Anis Y. Shivani. . I did. Not once, but twice. And I found out by Eid day that a lot of Memons had read it. And they didn't like it at all.

Mr Shivani is fortunate that the respected Editor is kind to him and gives him enough space to ramble on various subjects, week in and week out , and frankly, quite a few of them are of less consequence to the average DAWN reader. This time, he just went overboard. He has found a convenient outlet to vent his frustrations, it seems, and to tell the whole world what he thinks of his community. Mr Editor, I would like to take this opportunity to talk directly to the writer wherever he is in good ole US of A.

Mr Anis Shivani, at the outset, let me inform you that I am proud to be a Muslim, I feel it an honor to be a Pakistani, and, you can bet your sweet patootie, I am glad that I am a Memon. These three make one hell of a great combination. Moreover, for your knowledge, my elders were born and lived in Bantva, although I was born in the year 1950 in Karachi.

You have a pronounced beef against the wealth that the Memons accumulated. You are allergic to the so-called seth. You are entitled to be your own judge when it comes to matters relating to a person's beauty, for after all, beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. The Memons did not get their money looking for Ali Baba's treasure or Aladdin's lamp. The quintessential quality of the Memon is to work hard, to create a market, to source goods from the best places or producers, and to stand by solidly after agreeing to a contract. This trait endeared the non-Memons to deal with the Memon businessman or industrialist.

The Memon businessman prospered inspite of the apparent handicap of not having any fellow community members in the bureaucracy, in the government, or in the armed forces. They judiciously utilized their hard-earned capital to create a niche for themselves both on the domestic front and in international markets. They strictly adhered to the concept of quality control and always believed in giving a little bit more. They are taught that a satisfied customer is a happy customer and that you have to invest in the customer for the future good of your business. If as you say, the Field Marshall was very considerate towards the Memons by bestowing them with import licenses and other protection measures, then you should also know the reason behind this. He knew that the Memons would (and did) deliver the global market for the country's products.

Dr. Gustav Papanek and his wife, Hannah, did do a lot of research on the Memons and, if I remember correctly, they were impressed by the contributions of the Memon businessmen. The pre-nationalization era, especially Ayub's decade, saw a surge in industrialization, a process which put Pakistan on the avenue of development. The Memons went for this industrialization with a fervent zeal. In another two decades, Pakistan would have been ranked with Japan. Alas, the dwarfs in the political field conspired to dismember the country. Pakistan lost a lot of industries. And the Memons suffered the most. But did they complain ? Oh no. Alas, then the Chairman from Larkana got his priorities all warped up and he succeeded in injecting a lethal dose in the veins of the country's industrial base by rashly nationalizing industries. And the Memons suffered the most. But did they complain ? Oh no. They changed their course and were back in other spheres of business doing what they did best. EXCEL ! Like the Phoenix, they always rise from the ashes. And they will always do.

Yes, you are right that the Memon entrepreneurs ploughed their profits back into the business because they are long-term planners and not fly-by-night operators. Yes, you are right that the Memon entrepreneurs built community projects like schools and hospitals. Yes, you are right that the Memon entrepreneurs are now in the big leagues in speculative ventures. And yes, you are right that (some) Memon entrepreneurs, like the Tawakkals, are defaulters, according to the LIST.



But you are very wrong when you generalize the Memons as very "unattached" caring only for their own community and considering everyone else as bahar-gaamwallas, in the derogatory sense of the word. You are probably unaware of the social welfare activities undertaken by the various Memon organizations and Jamaats. You are probably oblivious of the causes espoused by the Memons. This community does most of this work silently, in Allah's way, and not for publicity. Philanthropy is not an easy way to get "respite", as you proclaim insincerely. No sir, Mr Harvard (Yale ?) Economist. Social work is an inherent part of a Memon's life, whether he is a businessman, a clerk, a doctor, or whether she is a housewife.

You have absolutely no idea about the Memons of today. It seems you are sitting in the Delorean. You are obsessed with a few stray cases of opulence which could be anybody and not necessarily a Memon. There are Ms Nouveau Riches in the Chinioti, Delhi Punjabi Saudagaran, or she could be the wife of a corrupt bureaucrat. There is no big deal in inviting 2000 guests at a wedding. (I'll have to ask President Badar Anwer of Karachi Gymkhana whether they allow 2000 plus wedding affairs). Today, the wedding dinner is more for public relations than inviting the relatives. More emphasis is placed on the people one wants to do the PR deal with. Hey, even Altaf Hussein of MQM once invited thousands at the Valima of his trusted lieutenant, Salim Shehzad. The President and Prime Ministers routinely attend the weddings of the children of Grade 22 superannuated bureaucrats. So what ? If someone wants to be lavish they have a right too, cause it's their moolah. And moreover, the furniture maker, the food caterer, the boutique designer, and the jeweller also have to make money, or don't they ? The video man, the pan-wallah, and the music ensemble are ubiquitous by their presence at every function, and not just at a Memon do. And, by the way, where did you get this idea that the Halai Memons are the seths, the Kutchi Memons are the accountants, and the Sindhi Memons are the drivers. Man, you are ancient history, more like T-Rex of Jurrasaic Park.

Today, there are brave and energetic Memon leaders who are spearheading the cause of their fields with dedication and diligence. Yes, Ahmad Dawood, the 91 year old (Mashaallah), the Armand Hammer of Pakistan, is still totally involved in his vast business empire and so are a few more of his contemporaries. Sure, there will always be a Moustache Pete, doing his thing somewhere, so be it. Then we have the Young Turks, who combine the traditional Memon ethics with the most modern business practices. They care for the human element too. They understand the color of money too. They seek new markets for their products too. And they also EXCEL too. They are into giant industrial complexes and in small factories. They are pillars of the Stock Exchanges and they run the Jodia Bazar. They are leaders in textile processing and they are kings in polyester yarn (which you also mentioned). And, if Mian Nawaz Sharif wants to get the country out of the economic quagmire, he should give a Senate ticket to a Memon, get him elected, make him the Minister of Finance, and lo and behold, Pakistan would be a country to reckon with. We talk and understand finance. We also can and like to make money. We can make the Treasury vaults filled up with cold cash. This ain't no idle boast.

Take the various trade and industry Associations and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Memon hierarchy, if it so wants, can have a stranglehold on most of these organizations. But the Memons are not chauvinistic. They prefer to work hand in hand with the Chiniotis and the Delhi biradari. They wait for their turn to lead like the others. They give credit whenever credit is due and do not carp and whine against any community. And thus the other communities reciprocate in the same way. I was elected the Chairman of SITE Association of Industry unopposed. I got the highest votes (70-82%) when I stood for elections as member of the Managing Committees of the Karachi Chamber, the Pakistan Readymade Garments Association, and the Pakistan Cotton Fashion Apparel Association. I always get elected unopposed as member of the Managing Committee of Employers' Federation of Pakistan. And do you think only the Memons voted for me. No, buddy-boy, no ! And that's just a personal example. You think I went around bad-mouthing fellow Memons to get the non-Memon vote? Or wrote defaming articles in the national press?

You get piqued that we invite Moin Akhter to our functions and then laugh at his jokes on Memons. Hey man, we are so generous and so warm-hearted that we never mind. The police or the lawyers or the neighborhood Mullah may get teed off if someone even tries to have fun at their expense, and so they routinely come out with press releases and protest marches. You live in the States. You know that even a Polish-American would himself tell you a "Polack" joke. Like any other member of the Muslim Ummah, we like to take advantage of every opportunity to go to Makkah and Madinah. I can only say that it is the will of Allah. May all Muslims get this favor of the Almighty. If someone told your sister in America that he is a Memon and a jannati, so what? The Jews consider themselves the Chosen People. And every Muslim is indoctrinated from childhood that he will be a resident of Paradise. (One should pray and repent).

I am glad you have a high esteem for Edhi Sahib, although you have inserted a mean dig that "I almost don't think of him as Memon." Yes, every man and his uncle will undoubtedly hail this Man. He has done what very few would even contemplate, let alone do. He transcends nationality, biradari, or religion to put his message and deed into the fore. I am proud that he is a Muslim, a Pakistani, and, of course, a Memon. You better believe it!

Mr Weekly Columnist, you emphatically state that "I frankly don't care much about the Memons." You also want us to "count me out as one of your own." Well Mr Smart-Pants. I don't know what's your problem. Your attitude smacks of one who has been "rejected" as a potential husband to someone's charming daughter. (I ain't sure you're married or not). You may have been denied a well paying position in a Memon establishment and so you wanna blow steam. (I'm assuming you want to work / do business in your homeland). Or, you are depressed because the New England Patriots lost the Super Bowl to the Green Bay Packers and you lost a bundle in your strong belief that the team founded by Lombardi is no match for your home team. (I'm assuming you enjoy football. I love this game, even today, and I came back from Muncie, Indiana, way back in 1973).

Since you are at present a resident of the Land of the Stars and Stripes, and since I too am a proponent of Freedom of Speech, and since the respected Editor has allotted you valuable space to vent your hatred against the community of your forefathers, I too reserve the right to speak in defense of my community. Well, if you insist to withdraw from this community, it's your choice. I would just repeat to you, Bubba, what the kind, old African-American matron from Atlanta, Georgia said : "Hallelujah. If y'all wanna stay out, sho nuff, be gone. And you don't come back now, you hear" !

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## **Memon community center in London Inauguration by Prince Charles**

LONDON, 20 April — The inauguration of the first Memon center in the United Kingdom was officially performed recently by Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, who told a gathering of Muslims that cultural diversity was crucial to unity in Britain. Praising the Memon community for its help in creating a multi-cultural society, Prince Charles told the members of the community they had set an example for people of all faiths to emulate.

The idea of having a community center in London was first conceived in 1973. At that time the number of Memons in the UK was growing, with many families coming to Britain in the wake of troubles and uncertainties in some East African countries. Many families were also coming from Pakistan and India and making UK their new home. A 30,000-strong Memon community presently lives in the UK.

The Memon Association in UK came into existence in 1973. Its objectives are to serve the community in the following areas: i) to render assistance and facilities for the performance of religious, educational and social activities such as marriages, deaths, recreation and education, ii) to organize educational, religious and social activities; iii) to cooperate and coordinate with other national and international organizations having similar aims and objectives.

The association acquired a building at Balham, London, at a cost of 200,000 pounds. The building has now been converted into a fully equipped community and sports center.

While inaugurating the center, Prince Charles called for more tolerance and understanding of other faiths and cultures. Earlier, verses from the Qur'an were recited.

Welcoming Prince Charles, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Association Iqbal Sacranie, said: "The opening of the Memon center in south London is a major landmark in the short history of the Memon community in Britain. Like the universal Muslim community of which it is a part, the Memon community is a community based on faith. The center will be of tremendous benefit to the local community, particularly to the youth and women, as well as to the larger community in the UK, he said."

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**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**



January, 2001

**Her Majesty  
Queen Elizabeth II**

The Queen has asked me to thank you and the Board of Trustees and the National Council of the Memon Association UK for the kind message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of the opening of the new Memon Centre in South West London which is being opened by The Prince of Wales on 8th February.

Her Majesty was pleased to receive your message and sends her warm good wishes to you all for an enjoyable and successful occasion.

Yours sincerely,

**MRS. DEBORAH BEAN**  
Chief Correspondence Officer



**ST. JAMES'S PALACE**



January, 2001

**HRH The Prince of Wales**  
Prince Charles

It gives me immense pleasure to send the Board of Trustees and the National Council of the Memon Association UK, as well as the British and world-wide Memon community, my very best wishes on the occasion of the opening of the Memon Centre in South West London.

I am particularly delighted to learn that one of the main functions of the Centre is to provide recreational facilities for the young, as well as room to help them develop their moral and spiritual personality so that, instead of becoming a burden to society, they grow up as responsible citizens able and willing to give something back to their community and their country.

I am sure that the culture of industry and enterprise, mutual help and community service that are the hallmarks of the Memon community will provide an example and an inspiration to the other communities that make up our multicultural and multi-faith society.





10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA



THE PRIME MINISTER

FEBRUARY 2001

It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes for official opening of the Memon Center. Although unfortunately I cannot attend the official opening due to prior commitments, I would like to congratulate you on all that you have achieved since you purchased the site nearly 15 years ago. The fact that the Center has been built entirely from donations and interest free loans is a great tribute to the energy and vision of the Memon community.

The Center will provide sports and social facilities, particularly for women and young people. The fact that the Center will be open to all communities will strengthen links between people with diverse faiths and experiences.

This Government is delighted that the Memon community has taken such an active role in public life. We share many common values – a belief in opportunity and enterprise, reward for hard work, tolerance and community. We share a real passion for education and a belief in the importance of family.

I believe that all of the faith communities play a key role in building a strong society. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and I look forward to helping build on this in the future.

With all good wishes

The Rt. Hon Tony Blair MPPC

## **MEMON COMMUNITY WORLD WIDE**

### **WORLD MEMON ORGANIZATION**

#### **Formal Launch of the WMO:**

By the Grace of Allah (SWT) the World Memon Organisation (WMO) was formally launched at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Memon International Convention held in Dubai on 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March 2002. This launch was witnessed by over 200 delegates from 19 countries of the world and made this a historic event for the entire Memon community.

#### **The Objective:**

One of the objects of the WMO is to act as a central worldwide organisation representing the entire Memon community for the promotion, advancement, upliftment, unity welfare and well-being of all Memons in all aspects of life and at all times in accordance with Islamic principles. promoting the advancement, upliftment, unity,

### **ALL PAKISTAN MEMON FEDERATION**

All Pakistan Memon Federation is the central body of the Memon community in Pakistan. At present 56 social jamats and educational, youths and other organizations of Kathiyawari Memon residing in Karachi and other cities are affiliated with it. Each member organization is a registered body with a formal constitution and its own particular fields of activities. All organization have their equal number of representatives on the Council and the Managing committee of the Federation, from whom its office-bearers are elected. Now a Supreme Body of prominent community leaders has also been nominated to provide advice and guidance at the high level. The Federation, commands a considerable moral force, provides the highest forum for discussion and guidance about the matters which concern the community as a whole and also try to solve the common problem, such as denationalization of schools at the highest government levels.

## **UNITED MEMON JAMA'AT OF PAKISTAN**

United Memon Jamat of Pakistan was founded by Seth Ahmed Dawood in 1980 with the aim of bringing all sections of the Memon Community on one platform and to promote its welfare activities. It consists of several Kathiawari, Cutchi and Sindhi Memon leaders and nearly six dozen newly formed United Memon Jamats of various places of Sindh. Its activities are mainly concentrated in the interior of Sindh. Its first President & General Secretary were Mr. Justice (Rtd.) Abdul Hafeez Memon and Mr. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala.

## **MEMON PROFESSIONAL FORUM**

Memon Professional Forum, which came into existence in January 1985, is a prestigious body of professionals belonging to Memon Community. Today the Forum's membership comprises over six hundred professionals, most of whom occupy eminent position in their respective fields in Pakistan and abroad as well.

One of the main objectives of the Forum is to cultivate and promote the spirit of unity, co-operation and mutual understanding and assistance among Memon Professionals and bring them together on a united platform.

The united platform of MPF works and provides an organization for education, professional and economical upliftment of its members, in particular, and Memon Community, in general. It also makes efforts for preserving and achieving due recognition of the rights and status of its members in every walk of life.

To execute its plans and policies in a professional manner, a Managing Committee (MC) is elected biannually by the members of the Forum. As per the constitution of the Forum, the Managing Committee normally consists of 24 professionals from various disciplines. The MC members are further grouped to form various sub committees such as CPE (Continuing Professional Education) committees for Medical, Legal & Constitution, Architecture & Engineering and AAccounting

& Allied Management. Besides the formation of CPEs, there are several other sub committees including, Social Activity & Program Committee, Ladies Wing, Public Relation Committee and Diary Project Committee. An exclusive committee is also formed with the name of International Area Committee with the objective of transforming this Forum into an “International Memon Professional Forum” to unite the Memons of the world at one platform. The objectie is being achieved by widening the circle of Forum’s membership from local network to global network.

In order to get benefit from the experiences of the Former Presidents of the Forum and other eminent Professionals of the Community, a permanent Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) has been formed. The SAB is responsible to review strategic plans, bye-laws, financial plans and monitor the overall performance of the Forum.

Memon Professional Forum also helps students who are determined to acquire professional education but have limited financial resources. In order to grant loans to the deserving students for their professional education and career, an independent but associated body of the Forum has been formed under the name of MPF Educational Trust.

The Forum in pursuance of its objectives organizes various activities. Lectures, seminars, conferences, group discussions, symposiums, study tours and workshops are arranged frequently for the educational advancement of the members, in particular, and others, in general. Exclusive sessions for ladies are also conducted by Ladies Wing. In order to assist the youngsters of the society in selecting right career path, Career Guidance programs are organized at school and college levels and scholarships are awarded to deserving students of the Community pursuing professional studies.

## — ALL INDIA MEMON JAMAT FEDERATION —

All India Memon Jamat Federation (AIMJF) was established in the year 1971 as an India umbrella organization in order to unite all Halai Memon Jamats, Organizations, Institutions

& Associations. The purpose of the AIMJF is to act as the central Memon organization representing the entire Memon community throughout India, promoting the advancement of Education, Health, Housing, Economic Upliftment, unity, welfare and well being of all Memons in all aspects of life. At present AIMJF is having 405 Jamats under its umbrella divided into 9 Regions & spreaded over 77 zones.

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## MEMONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Memons in South Africa form a prosperous subgroup in that country's community, and are largely descended from traders who immigrated to that country early in the 20th century. (who came from the same part of Gujarat as the Memons) was retained by a Memon businessman in to look after his legal affairs in . It was in South Africa that Gandhi launched his political activities.

Memons played a major role in the promotion of , and there have been rivalries for the management of local mosques between Memons and , who are Gujarati-speaking Sunni Muslims. This is primarily due to the different 'Maslak' (path) and, although these are far less prominent than they were in the past.

Although the language is not widely spoken by younger Memons in South Africa, South African Memons continue to maintain a strong (although slowly eroding) Memon identity. Already, few younger Memons are even aware of the different towns from which their ancestors came. Although the early Memons practiced (marrying within their social group), intermarriage between different Memon groups and other is now widely accepted.

Memon organisations in South Africa include the (formerly the Memon Association of the Transvaal), and the Natal Memon Jamaat.

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## THE MEMON ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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The Memon Association of Sri Lanka has ever since its inception

of little over 50 years ago played an important role in the social life of the community. It is involved in various social welfare activities and serves as a forum for bringing the community together on various occasions that demand community participation.

It was not long before that the Memon community with funds donated by well disposed persons was able to purchase another property in 1964 at Nos. 7 and 9 in Hulftsdorp Street in the heart of Colombo. The old buildings standing in this land were demolished and in its place a large two-storied building erected in 1965 to be used as the Secretariat and Headquarters of the Association as well as a community centre and reception hall. This took place during the presidency of Siddik Sulaiman Junagadhwala of Sirrul Kadheer & Co. In 1988 the Memon Association in view of the shifting of many Memon Families from Hulftsdorp to the more affluent areas of Colombo served by the Galle Road, disposed of its two building in Hulftsdorp and purchased a property at Kollupitiya.

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## MEMONS IN CANADA

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In the early seventies there was a major influx of new immigrants from many parts of the world, particularly from the sub-continent and Africa. There were serious political problems in Uganda, East Africa and South Africa and after the fall of East Pakistan there was economic upheaval in sub-continent forcing many Memons to look for a new home. At the same time, Canadian Immigration policy was becoming liberal. This allowed many Memons to immigrate to Canada in significant numbers. As the time went on, the numbers grew and in 1982 the Memon Community grew to over fifty families.

In a new country where the Memons had no roots, it became very important for the community to create an organization, which would provide a source of belonging. It was also imperative that for the new generation that was growing up in Canadian environment to have an identity and link to the Memon culture. The leaders of Memon community thus decided to form an organization that will provide a forum to meet and know Memons. The Memon Association of Canada

has gone thorough many growth spurts during the last 22 years and at present there are over 400 families living and we anticipate this growth to continue.

During these twenty years, it has become an organization, which has brought many families together and provided opportunity to share common culture and language. It has been a learning experience for many of the members of the community, as Memons in Toronto come from many parts of the world and amazingly once they are amidst their brothers and sisters, what binds them together is the common culture, language, values and Islam.

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## NASSARPURIA MEMON JAMAT

Nasserpur is a small town with a population of 25,000 persons in Tando Alahyaar District of Sindh. The majority of population is of Memons or so to say Sindhi Memons. The Memons of Nasserpur differ from other Sindhi Memons in the sense that they are very enterprising and many of them have migrated to South Africa, U.K. and Canada and have established their own Jamats at those places.

The Memons of Nasserpur are very enterprising and ambitious. They migrated to Zanzibar and South Africa in nineteenth century. They established Nasserpuria Memon Jamat in Mombasa and other places in South Africa. As is usual with Memons they established several mosques in their new homeland. The following paragraph about building of a Mosque in Mombasa will be of interest to readers:

**“By the turn of the century, almost all of the Nasserpurians had moved from other settlements and made Mombasa their home. When this had happened, building a mosque was found absolutely necessary. As a result, the families residing in Mombasa bought a plot where they built ‘Memon Jamia Masjid’ in 1880 and a ‘Jamat Khana’ in 1883. Prior to that, the Salah was performed at Masjid Munara, which still exists.”**

There are quite a few interesting things about Nasserpuria Memons which agree with the culture and traditions of Halai Memon. Back in Kathawar, our women folk did not get proper education. Many of them could read only “Noornamo” and some book of Qaseeda in Urdu. The book on Nasserpuria Memons refers to “Noornamo” in Sindhi which used to be read by women folk belonging to Nasserpur.

The engagement and wedding ceremony and other customs during this period were same as we used to have in Kathiawar. The book translates engagement as ‘Sagai’ and wedding as ‘Vyan’. There was a practice of Dahej but Dova ageold practice of offering valuable for boys and from the parents of girls called ‘Dowey’ was not there.



Talking about the culture & tradition of Nassarpuria Memon, discusses the following about lunch and dinner should be of interest to the readers:

**“The ingredients were prepared at home with “masalas” ground on a stone rather than at a touch of a button. Think about ‘samosas’, the well-known delicacy. Unlike now when we have choices as to whether we want them fried, ready to be fried or alternatively buy the pastry and fill and fry them at home, our mothers and grandmothers actually went through the whole process of making the dough, rolling out the chapatti’s baking and cutting them into wraps (“maandas”), cooking the filling which ranged from beef, chicken, vegetables, or coconut (think “mitha samosa”), and finally frying them.**

**“Eating at a table with chairs was not common, nor was eating in plates with cutlery. A ‘sadhri’ (mat) would be laid down on the floor and a huge “thalo” (very big round tray) was placed in the middle on a “chakar” (a raised platform). The family would gather around the “thalo” and the food was placed in the centre. A young member of the family would go around pouring water to help wash the hands. The meal commenced with an elder of the family saying ‘bismillah’.**

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## **TRIBUTES**

### **QUAID-E-AZAM – 1938**

“I am glad to see that business community like Memons is taking keen interest in the politics. This step of the Memons is taking keen interest in the politics. This step of the Memons prove that the Muslim League is quite justified in its policies.

Calcutta, 1938.

### **QUAID-E-AZAM – 1946**

“I know that Memons are a business community. Such a calculative community has really provided encouragement by giving support to the Pakistan Resolution in such emotional words”.

Karachi, 1946.

### **DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD**

“Knowing as I do the way in which you go about this business of relief, I expected nothing less and I am glad that Quetta sufferers had the advantages of services of the Memon Relief Society. I hope, should unfortunately any natural calamity visit any other part of India the Society will ever be ready with funds which are so generously subscribed by the members of the Memon Community and others, literally rush, if not fly, to the rescue of the sufferers”.

Wardha, 1935.

### **MARQUESS OF LINLITHGOW**

#### **PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE VICEROY**

“On behalf of His Excellency, I am directed to convey his sincere gratitude on the excellent work done by your (Memon

Relief) Society in aid of victims of the Quetta Earthquake. The Society's work was brought to the notice of His Excellency when he visited Karachi, and he feels pleased that he has had the opportunity of thanking our workers in person".

New Delhi, 1935.

### **MAULANA SHABBIR AHMED USMANI**

"You will not find a single place in this whole sub-continent where the Memons had gone for business and had not constructed at least a masjid".

### **KHAWAJA NAZIMUDDIN**

"This Memon Community is well-known in the business field for its pioneering spirit. After the Partition of the sub-continent, when the trade and commerce were completely stopped, the Memon Community played a very important role in reviving them. The Memon Community is also equally well-known for donating generously towards religious and charitable works".

Karachi, 1949.

### **GENERAL ZIA-UL-HAQ**

"The history of Paksitan and the history of the Memon Biradari go together. The history of the progress of Pakistan is the history of the Memon Biradari, and the history of the progress of the Memon Biradari is the history of Pakistan".

Karachi: 1983

### **PRINCE CHARLES THE PRINCE OF WALES**

It gives me immense pleasure to send the Board of Trustees and the National Council of the Memon Association UK, as well as the British and world-wide Memon community, my very best wishes on the occasion of the opening of the Memon Centre in South West London.

I am sure that the culture of industry and enterprise, mutual help and community service that are the hallmarks of the Memon community will provide an example and an inspiration to the other communities that make up our multicultural and multi-faith society.

January, 2001

**MR. TONY BLAIR BRITISH PRINCE**

It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes for official opening of the Memon Centre. Although unfortunately, I cannot attend the official opening due to prior commitments. I would like to congratulate you on all that you have achieved since you purchased the site nearly 15 years ago. The fact that the Centre has been built entirely from donations and interest-free loans is a great tribute to the energy and vision of the Memon community.

The Centre will provide sports and social facilities, particularly for women and young people. The fact that the Centre will be open to all communities will strengthen links between people with diverse faiths and experiences.

This Government is delighted that the Memon community has taken such an active role in public life. We share many common values – a belief in opportunity and enterprise, reward for hard work, tolerance and community. We share a real passion for education and a belief in the importance of family.

I believe that all of the faith communities play a key role in building a strong society. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and I look forward to helping build on this in the future.

February 2001

**MR. WILLIAM HAGUE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION – BRITISH**

I am delighted to offer my support and best wishes to the Memon community on the special occasion of the official

inauguration ceremony of the Memon Centre in Balham.

The construction of the Memon Centre is a fantastic achievement and everyone involved with this project deserves praise and credit. I would like to pay special tribute to Iqbal Sacraie, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Memon Association for his continued work for the Muslim community in the U.K.

Nobody should be in any doubt as to the outstanding contribution that the Memon community make to the strength, prosperity and success of our country. And I want to stress our country because I believe passionately that the United Kingdom belongs to all of us, whatever our religious beliefs or our ethnic background. As far as I'm concerned, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish, White, Black or Asian, we are all British as each other.

The Memon community has a significant role to play in all areas of mainstream life, not least because Islam, while proud of its own traditions, holds values that I believe are common to us all.

January, 2001

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# **The Community Photo Gallery**



Mr. Najeeb Balagamwala speaking at a function of Memon community.



Mr. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala presenting a souvineer to Mr. Umer A. Rehman for being 3<sup>rd</sup> conference journalist completing fifty years in the service of the community.



The Mayor of Bombay visited Karachi - UMJP hosted a dinner for him. The Mayor is seen with ajrak on his shoulder



UMJP Function at Karachi Club 01-02-1981, seen in the picture are Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala the then Secretary General Mr. Ahmed Ali Memon Mr. Iqbal Manjal Mr. GD Memon Mr. Justice Abdul Hafiz Memon, Mr. Ahmed Dawood & Mr. Haji Karim Vayani

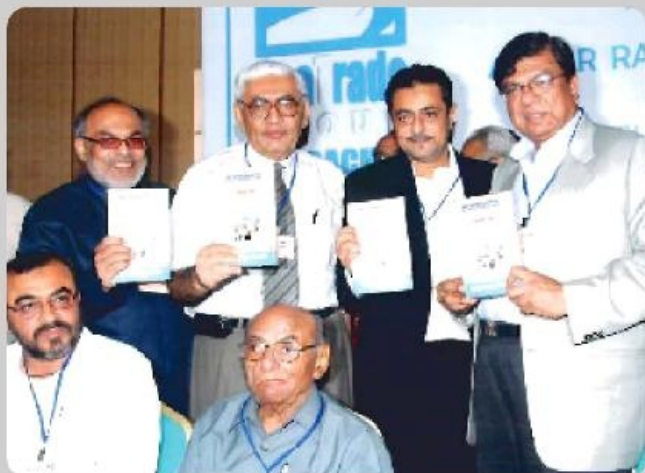




Mr. Arif Habib past president of Karachi Stock Exchange  
speaking at the launching ceremony  
of Bantva Aaj aur Kal



Mr. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala  
speaking at a Company Law Seminar



Senior community members holding the book  
Bantva Kul Aur Aaj.



Mr. Arif Habib presenting a Plaque to  
MR. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala



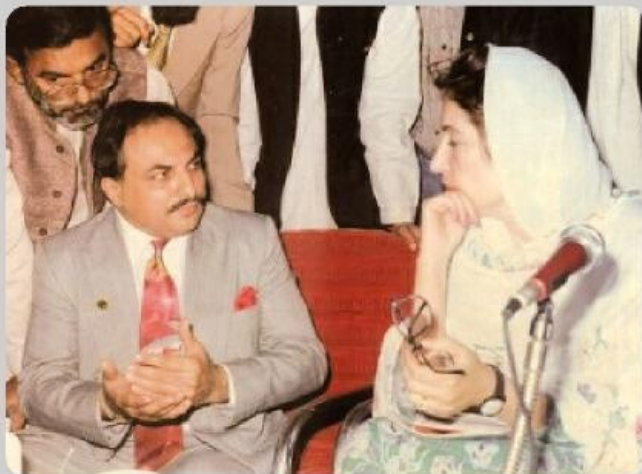
Mr. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala speaking at inaugural ceremony of his book Bantva Kul Aur Aaj.



Mr. Ahmed Dawood with President Ayoub Khan at the Foundation Laying Ceremony of Dawood College of Engineering & Technology



At the inauguration of "Memon Markaz", F.B. Area, Karachi, Mr. Yahya Bawany is seen briefing President Zia-ul-Haque and Lt. General (R) Jahandad Khan about the Pakistan Memon Educational & Welfare Society's activities and plans. Mr. Rangoonwala and Mr. Urooswala also seen in the picture.



MAJYD AZIZ with (Late) BENAZIR BHUTTO





MAJYD AZIZ being introduced to Prime Minister, BENAZIR BHUTTO, by Ashraf W. Tabani, Governor of Sindh at seminar in Sukkur (1989)



Hrn The Prince of Wales Prince Charles Presenting an Award to ARY at the Inauguration ceremony of The Memon Centre, London



Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz inaugurating the Tabba Heart Institute. Late Abdul Razzak Tabba, Governor Dr. Ishrat-ul-Ibad and Chief Minister Dr. Arbab Ghulam Rahim are also present.



Memom Diagnostic Centre, This comprises of Aishabai Haji Aboo Clinic, Hajrabai Poptani medical wing and Sakinabai Abdulla and Essak baradhia Diagnostic Centre, This clinic serves the poor population living around Mombasa



Memon High School Situated inside Memon Villa Grounds, Mombasa.



Inaugural ceremony of Latf Ebrahim Jamal National Science Information Centre & Digital Library was performed by President General Pervez Musharraf at University of Karachi. Mr. Aziz Jamal, Dr. Ata-ur-Rehman Prof. Dr. Pirzada Qassim and Governor Sindh Dr. Ishrat-ul-Ibad Khan were also present on the occasion.



Dr. A.A. Mohamed Haroon, President - MASL with His Excellency Pervez Musharraf, President of Pakistan and President of Sri Lanka.



President of World Memon Organization (WMO) and other office bearers with His Excellency the President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka.



Bantva Hospital Khardar, Karachi  
Managed by Bantva Memon Khidmat Committee





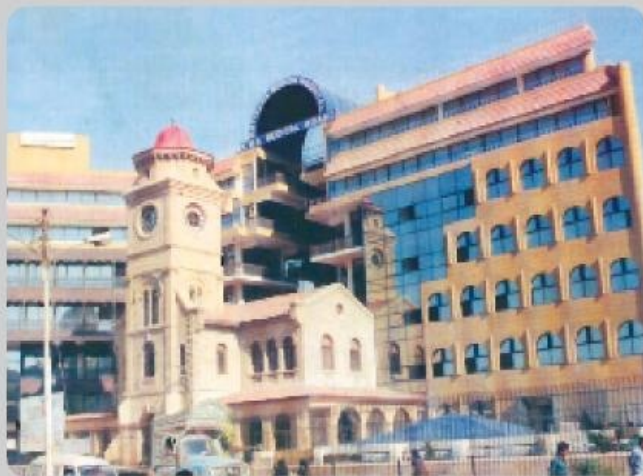
Memon Centre in South London



Inside Memon Centre in South London



Most modern Tabb Heart Institute, F.B. Area, Karachi-a social project of Aziz Tabb Founded built and run by the family of Late Haji Abdul Razzak Tabb.



KMA Hospital, Kharadar, Karachi, a public welfare project of Kutiyana Memon Association-built and run by KMA Medical Board.



Dawood College of Engineering & Technology,  
New M.A. Jinnah Road, Karachi-built and established by  
the family of Seth Ahmed Dawood under the aegis  
of Dawood Foundation in 1962.



Health Clinic built by the A.S. Dada Foundation,  
Botswana



Patel Hospital Karachi



Bangalore Memon Colony





Hyderabad India Halai Memon Colony



Memon Industrial & Technical Institute, Karachi.  
A project of World Memon Organization  
in collaboration with CDGK



Kutchi Memon Masjid, Saddar, Karachi-more than hundred Years old, built by Memon Community.



Biat-ul-Mukarram Dhaka



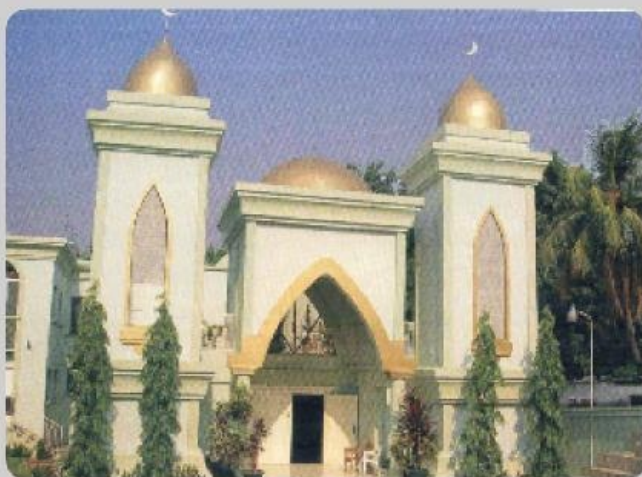
New Memon Masjid, Boultan Market, Karachi-one of the few largest mosques in the country, built by Memon Community. Around 10,000 persons can offer prayer in this mosque at a time.



Kutchi Memon Masjid, Gari Khata, Karachi.



Mosque Built By Memon Community in  
Nicagura - Central America

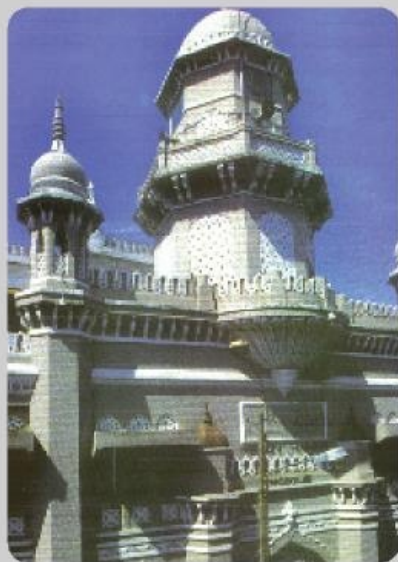


Photograph of Mosque in Nicaragua  
built by Memons in Central America





The Memon Jamat Khana Sri Lanka



The Memon Hanafi Mosque-pettah Sri Lanka

## Stamps of Junagadh



Courtesy:  
Mr. Rafiq Kasbati

## Heading of The Gazet of Junagadh





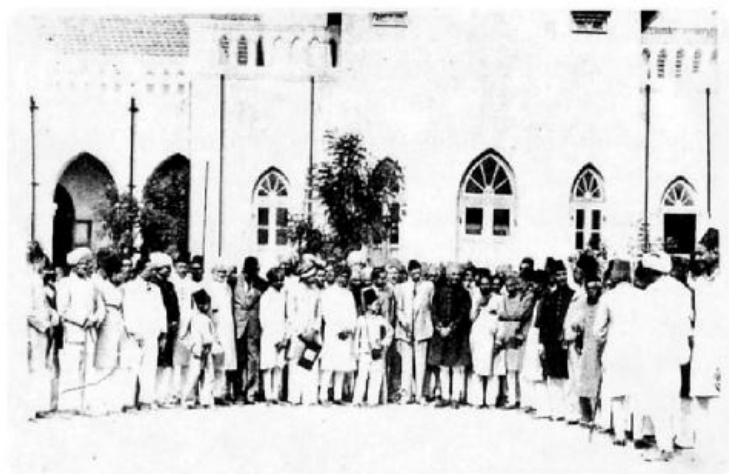
Old British India coins including one coin of  
Junagadh State



Old British India coins including one coin of  
Junagadh State



A photograph of public meeting at Madressa Islamia Bantva, Quaid-e-Azam with Seth Hussain Qasim Dada, Seth Haji Habib Haji Peer Muhammad Calcuttawala & I.I. Chundrigar.



In Bantva on the inauguration ceremony of Haji Peer Muhammad Qasim Charitable Hospital, Quaid-e-Azam with other honorable memon personalities



In Bantva on the occasion of fund raising for League's news paper  
Seth Suleman Peer Muhammad Dewan present a bag full of notes  
to Quaid-e-Azam



Quaid-e-Azam with Memon Dignitaries