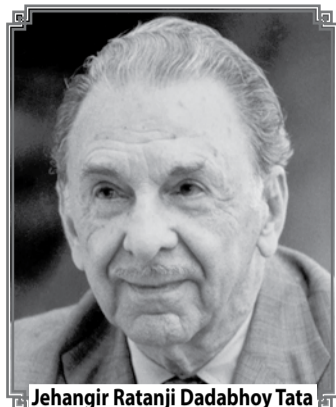




Dr Cyrus Poonawalla



Jamshedji Tata



Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata



Navroji Mistri



Frene Ginwala

# 'Influential Zoroastrians' Exhibition in London

An exhibition with illustrated panels titled 'Influential Zoroastrians' is currently on display at the WZO House in London. The panels were the brainchild of the WZO President Zerbanoo Gifford and are now hanging in the World Zoroastrian House in London in tribute to some outstanding members of the Zoroastrian community from every field of life.

"The exhibition is to show visitors unfamiliar with our community our extraordinary heritage and showcase a few famous Zoroastrians that impacted our shared lives in magnificent and unexpected ways," explains Zerbanoo.

The panels include the 3 Magi (Zoroastrian priests) who welcomed Jesus into the world with the most precious of gifts and Cyrus the Great who gave the world the first human rights charter, to our modern-day Cyrus Poonawalla whose magnanimous vision ensured children in poor nations received free vaccinations. Today he and his son Adar are known for the 50-million-pound new Poonawalla centre in Oxford where research is undertaken to find new vaccines to protect us all from infections such as covid.

Zerbanoo wants to thank Dr. Poonawalla for his generosity for making WZO's permanent exhibition a reality. When she approached him with the idea, he immediately



**Zerbanoo Gifford, WZO President, is hosting an impressive exhibition of 'Influential Zoroastrians' at the WZO House in London, which is worth a look-see!**

sanctioned her to proceed. Zerbanoo adds: "It is now hoped that a much larger exhibition may finally be shown at the National Portrait Gallery in London so that a wider audience from around the world can know about our people, faith and heritage."

Zerbanoo has worked with Simon Blacker, the renowned designer known for his work on major British heritage projects. They have worked together some years back when Zerbanoo launched her book on the World's Inspirational Women and a massive painting of the 300 inspirational women from over 60 countries was painted by Zoroastrian artist Jeroo Roy. The painting was displayed at the National Portrait Gallery in London and is now permanently in the ASHA Centre in Gloucestershire. The painting includes a number of inspirational Zoroastrian women.

Of the current exhibition featuring panels on influential Zoroastrians, Zerbanoo commented: "It

is not easy to choose those that should be highlighted as our community is packed with the good, the great and, most importantly, the generous. I aimed to show the diversity and to also bring to the attention of people those that had quietly but beautifully been generous and led brilliant lives. Of course, Freddie Mercury is displayed as he is a super star. So is Jamshedji Tata for being the greatest philanthropist that ever lived. His donation of 102 billion dollars is staggering. Included are also those that gave unstintingly to the building of WZO House and numerous Zoroastrian charities. Also the wonderful Bachi and Dinshaw Tamboly for their tireless work for the community. They are the leaders of WZO's grassroots charitable work. Also on the panels are other couples that together helped fund groundbreaking charitable work for our community. There is Farhang Meher, the former deputy Prime Minister of Iran and Zoroastrian scholar, as well as the re-

markable Nani Palkhivala. Both served on WZO committees. My two heroines, Frene Ginwala who led the African National Congress and fought for a democratic South Africa and also Bhikaiji Cama who fought for a free India, are there. I highlighted the Parsee philanthropists that helped to develop places like Karachi, Singapore, Aden and Hong Kong. Those that served in the forces at the highest levels with valour are there too. Of course my hero, Dada-bhai Naoroji, the first non-white member of the British Parliament and

other Zoroastrians that were elected to serve in Parliament are all there. I also included Sohrab Godrej who I loved and admired—a visionary pioneer helping to save our planet and wildlife."

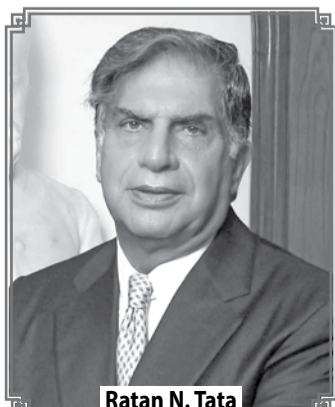
If anyone one would like to use the exhibition, they should contact WZO or Zerbanoo Gifford. as all the panels have a copyright and cannot be used without permission. Of course, they can always visit the World Zoroastrian House in Feltham London to see the panels and be inspired by our community's ongoing legacy of philanthropy.



Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry & family



Kaikhosrov Irani



Ratan N. Tata



Rohinton Mistry



Bachi & Dinshaw Tamboly