Jimmy Mistry's Della Tecnia employs a 900-strong workforce. Of these, only 15 are Parsis. A pity, really, as his spanking new Della House at Skater Road is a corporate hub that is buzzing with creativity and attitude. In addition to state-of-the-art infrastructure, it is an employee-friendly hub with a cool garden cafeteria, an in-house gym that all employees have access to, a pool and carom table, and a de-stressing facility on Saturdays that offers movies, yoga, and dance classes! In addition, Jimmy himself is exceptionally pro-Parsis and bemoans the lack of employees from within the fold. He confesses that he would be more than happy to give community talent a break within his organisation, and looks forward to Parsis from various disciplines coming forward with the will to share his dream. Surely there should be several takers for his exuberant offer!

Jimmy, himself, was an ordinary Dadar Parsi Colony lad who did his mechanical engineering and started off really small with a pest control company. A short and uneventful slumber, he started contracting.

Not one to shy away from his simple beginnings, he confesses, "They were petty contracts. I would do anything and everything from repairing valves to cleaning boiling water tanks. One thing slowly led to another. Along the way I realised that to be a successful businessman one had to master the knack of manpower management, acquire technical knowledge, and have a vision. I knew that I had a sense of design inborn in me and I dreamt of setting up my own corporate someday, so I was restless.

We refer to the page for the next paragraph:

"Service To The Community Comes Before Service To Society"

He adds that a firm belief in oneself is also critical. "If you cannot believe in yourself, you cannot make others believe in you." He is, however, swift to acknowledge the debt of gratitude he owes to several Parsis who have helped along the way: Edulji Turel, Mitoo Jesia, Divish Tamoli (who arranged WO loans for him initially), Rustam Tirandaz and Parvez Damania.

Inspiration has also come from the late JRD Tata, whose motto he has abridged and adapted into his own credo: "Success in any materialistic terms in not worthwhile unless it satisfies the needs of the community, the country, and the people at large. And I would say that, yes, my community comes first, even before society and myself."

Jimmy elaborates, "Today why do we remember an Aibess or a Kharegat or a Mancherji Joshi or a Bhika Behram? Surely in their agiary, the Langraana Godiwalla Agiary, behind the Parsi Punchayet in Fort."

Professionally, too, he has several exciting projects on the anvil, which he hopes will help him take his company to the Rs. 500 crore turnover mark soon. He has plans of getting into development, encompassing Build-to-Suit facilities for corporates that involve creating, building and furnishing their spaces to suit their individual needs.

His dream venture is also about to get off the ground. He has acquired, for redevelopment, a building in the Dadar Parsi Colony that he plans to convert into a residential tower, three floors of which are for himself. It's going to be built on the principles of Parsi architecture and will be the only building of its kind in India. I want it to be a living museum to Parsi culture, without making it look like an agiary," he promises.

Flats will be sold for Parsi only.

Not surprisingly, Jimmy's life is dominated by his work. "It isn't easy at the top and even today it's sheer hard work all the way to the point where I feel myself if it's worth it before getting back to slogging again! Because hard work does change people's destiny.

Several awards testify this claim, the latest being the 'Mahavir-Mahatma Award 2005' by the Times Of India Group. Others include the 'Mother India Award 2004-05', Young Achiever Award of the Indo-American Society, 'Urban Heritage Architect's Award 2003,' besides being nominated for the 6 Ernst & Young 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2004'.

Smt. Indumay Jain, Chairman, The Times of India Group, lighting the inaugural lamp. Looking on are Delna and Jimmy Mistry.

Bajaj Group and Dr. Vijay Malaya, in addition to working closely with Mrs. Indumay Jain, Saharashree, Subrata Roy Sahara, the Gokals, Kothees, and close to 100 leading corporates. And I have realised that irrespective of what people may think or say about them, they are not at that level for nothing."