

Ship-building at Bombay

It was good to see an article on ship-building at Bombay (*Curr. Sci.*, 1994, 66, 965-969). However, there is one avoidable omission, namely that the tradition in ship-building in the Wadia family was at least one of the important factors for the fact that the first Indian FRS, Ardaseer Cursetjee Wadia was a scion of this family of ship-builders. The omission is surprising because Kochhar has written about Ardaseer Cursetjee Wadia elsewhere.

There is a serious misstatement too. It is a pity that Kochhar has gone by the accounts of British historians of the days of the colonial empire, in whose eyes, of course, Kanhoji Angre would be a pirate. Kanhoji Angre was, however, one of the few Indians of that period to realize the importance of maintaining a strong Indian fleet to challenge the might of the colonial power on the seas, and protect our coastline. Post-independence India recognizes his greatness—the seat of Vice-Admiral

commanding the Western Fleet is not called I.N.S. Angre without sufficient reason.

B. M. UDGAONKAR

*Homi Bhabha Centre for Science
Education
TIFR
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