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AN EXCLUSIVE DESIGN UNIT SHAPRAD SPECIALISES IN ZARDOSI EMBROIDERY

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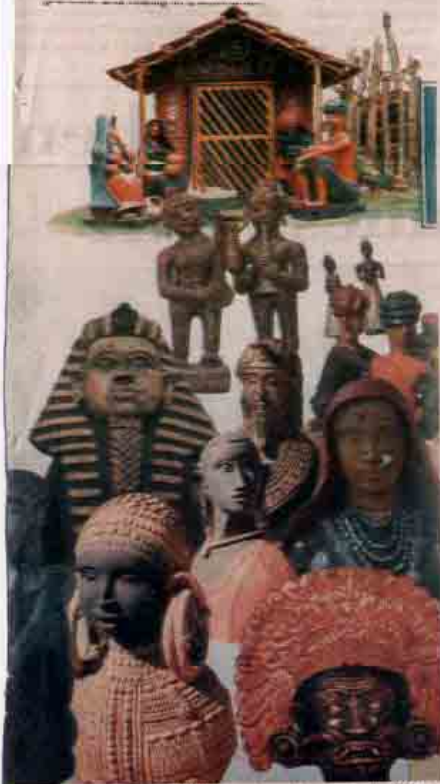
SERVICE-ORIENTED VENTURES MAKE GOOD BUSINESS SENSE AS THEY ARE LOW ON INVESTMENT

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CHUDA KNOWN FOR ITS RED HOT CHILLIES WAS NOT LONG AGO HOME OF THE JHALA RAJPUTS

MOULDING *magic*



RAJEEV KHANNA
RAJKOT

NUTAN Nagar Hall on Kalavad Road here is an art lover's delight. On display are about 300 wonderfully crafted creations, by Kalpana Amin of Vallabh Vidya Nagar. The exhibits include sculptures

and murals on varied subjects.

"This is my first exhibition in Rajkot. I have put on display realistic works which I have depicted the way I look at them," said the versatile artist while talking to Hello Saurashtra. The exhibition offers a wide range of works from busts, figure heads, from divas to Puja sets, from idols of Indian gods and



godesses to the tribal masks from East Africa.

Amin, who was born and brought up in Kenya and who acquired a formal degree in fine arts from Cambridge is now settled in Vallabh Vidya Nagar with her family. Talking about herself she said, "During my childhood I was encouraged towards creativity by my father and now I draw my inspiration from my husband."

Her professional journey has also been as versatile as her personal one. From a professional beautician she has now taken up decoration as a full time profession.

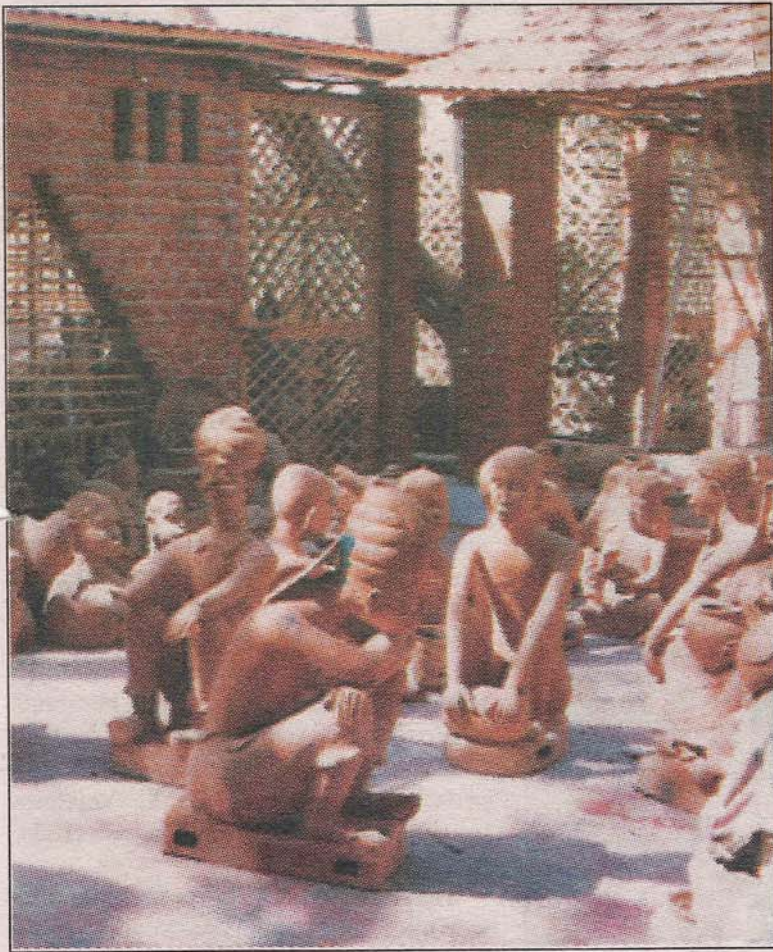
The works on display are a mix of various subjects. One can come across different Gods and Goddesses. However, the artist is particularly enthused by the Sun God and Ganesha which reflect in her works that are coated with colours bringing a soothing effect to the viewer's eyes. One of the most beautiful pieces on display is the three pieces of Ganesha de-

picted in the form of a traditional Indian musician. "I find Ganesha the most lively God which always comes first on all

the occasions. He is the only God that can be put into maximum forms. And Sun of course,

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Moulding magic



is the very essence of our being. Had there been no sun there would have been no universe and no life,"

explained Amin.

She has put on display terracotta works which depict Harappan excavations, a woman drying her hands that have been decorated with henna, a traditional old couple that is found in the Indian villages, a lonely old man smoking a hubble bubble - the journey is unending. "I travel a lot and I portray whatever I see in a realistic manner and not in the form of abstract art. I have visited the Harappan excava-

tion site at Mohenjodaro five times. Similarly I have projected Sun and Ganesha the way I have seen them in different places," said the artist who also excels in landscaping, oil paintings and photography.

Her works will be on display till January 11. The exhibition has been organised by Hema Ben Sharda and Raju Kikarni of Rajkot.

Amin later plans to hold similar exhibitions at Pune, Bangalore and Chennai. Earlier in her career she has held several exhibitions in United States, Africa, parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra.