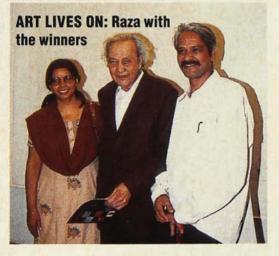
INDIATODAY: 18 Mach 2000

Birthday Gift

THE CAPITAL'S WANING ART season blazed briefly last week when S.H. Raza, the yogi of Menton, France, now in India for his 80th birthday celebrations, announced the setting up of the Raza Foundation to recognise and promote deserving talent in India. Convinced that the

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younger Indian artists are among the best in the world, the Parisian patriarch has chosen Seema Ghuraiyya and Akhilesh to receive the first Raza award of Rs 1 lakh each. The works of the two gifted abstract painters from Madhya Pradesh are showing at Delhi's Art Today gallery. The show titled Ishara, curated by Akhilesh, is easily the best of abstract art in a long time. —S. Kalidas