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Contact on email: UdwadaBungalow@gmail.com

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Dear Readers,

In a few days we will enter the last quarter of the year... and just like that, 2020 will soon bid us adieu. This is one year no one is really going to miss too much... a whole new, enforced way of life and living. While we ponder how most things are so different for us now, let us also spare a thought to ask ourselves if we were able to make a difference as well. Because at this point, that is what’s most important.

People are struggling on multiple levels - with regard to health, finances, jobs and careers, fighting mental pressures and ailments alike... everyone could do with a helping hand, even the ones who help. So, don’t hesitate to reach out for help if you need it, but more so, if you could help.

Speaking of which, I’m glad to share that our initiative, Parsi Times LIFELINE, received a good number of responses from kind and concerned community members, who pointed us towards seniors in need of help. Our generous donors have already started the process of providing them with relief. Do continue writing in to us, so that we can collectively make a difference to those in need!

Have a good weekend!

- Anahita
anahita@parsi-times.com

Parsi Times LIFELINE

‘Parsi Times LIFELINE’ is a PT initiative that works towards providing rescue and relief to senior community members who are living in appalling conditions of impoverishment.

Parsi Times looks to identify and collect the details of our seniors living in unfortunate conditions. This information will then be shared with our generous community Trusts, which undertake alleviating poverty amongst community members and are committed to helping our community’s elders.

We request our readers to share details of elderly Zoroastrians living in abject circumstances, to enable us to gather and share the information with our Trusts, so that we could help provide our seniors a life of dignity and quality, in their twilight years via the initiative - ‘Parsi Times LIFELINE’.

Kindly E-mail us the details at: editor@parsi-times.com Or send your Mails to:
Parsi Times LIFELINE
2nd Floor, Khaitan Chambers C.H.S. Ltd., 143-145 Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001

MATRIMONIALS

Matrimonial alliances invited for a 37-year-old, Parsi Zoroastrian boy, settled in Toronto, Canada. Looking for a life partner who is simple and of calm temperament, under 30 years of age, and willing to settle in Canada, preferably a graduate and a working woman. Interested parties are requested to e-mail the girl’s biodata at: parsigroom2020@gmail.com

‘No Can Do - Without Eedu!’

Participate in PT’s ‘WORLD EGG DAY - 2020’ CONTEST!

It’s World Egg Day on 9th October, 2020 and Nobody gets more Eggsited about the Eedu than us Bawajis! It’s our All-time Favourite Snack-cum-Meal & Instant Anti-Depressant - a vital part of our Eggzistance!

‘No Can Do - Without Eedu!’

EGGSPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR THE LOVELY ‘EEDU’ IN PT’S ‘No Can Do - Without Eedu!’ Contest

SHARE YOUR POEMS OR PROSE (NO MORE THAN 150 WORDS) OR PAINTINGS / CRAFTS - IN PRAISE AND CELEBRATION OF THE ‘EGGSQUISITE’ EEDU!

Top 3 Entries Win Fab Prizes & Get Published in PT dated 3rd October, 2020, in celebration of World Egg Day!

Eggsercise those gray cells and put your Eggcelent talents and Eeducation to good use!

Rush in Your Entries to us, no later than 29th September, 2020, via E-mail at: editor@parsi-times.com
Religious Announcement
Rescheduled Shahen Baaj And Jashan To Be Conducted In Udvada On 26th September, 2020.

The Udvada Nine Family Shahenshahi Ahlulbait Anjuman has decided to offer a Shahen Baaj and Jashan ceremony under its auspices. The Shahen Baaj, which had been previously postponed, has been rescheduled for ‘Raj Mohor - Mah Ardiobest’, Y2 1390’, 26th September, 2020.

The Baaj and the Jashan ceremony will be performed at the Udvada Doongerwadi Premises at 9:40 am.

The Shahen Baaj used to be performed by the Persian Kings of yesteryear, when a calamity or disaster befell upon their lands. It is believed that the performance of the Shahen Baaj helps attain victory over any kind of calamity and provides respite in times of disaster.

Keeping immense faith in this ceremony, let us pray and hope for an early restoration of humanity after the pandemic, which has strongly impacted mankind.

From Vada Dasturji Khursheed Dastoor, Iranshah Atashbehram, Udvada

Let The Light Of Asha’s Righteousness Shine In My Heart

Start your weekend with positive vibes with inspirational excerpts from the acclaimed book, ‘Homage Unto Ahura Mazda’ by Dasturji Dr. Maneckji Nasrwanji Dhalia of Karachi.

The fabric of life with its warp and woof is woven upon the loom of righteousness. I will don the robe of righteousness and girt myself with the girdle of righteousness that I can fight wickedness like heroes.

Let me never, in my frailty, turn from the Path of Righteousness and go astray. I will not let righteousness be ever estranged from me. I will not think a thought, speak a word and do a deed that savored in the least of unrighteousness. I will not corrupt my mind by the company of those who abandon themselves to wickedness. I will not let unrighteousness get mastery over me. I will never live for the gratification of my senses only.

The senses of my body of clay veil Thee, Ahura Mazda, from my sight, as the clouds veil the sun. Righteous living rends the veil and reveals Thy face to me. When I walk on the Path of Wickedness, I am dead to Thee. Help me to retrace my steps and return to the Path of Righteousness, that I may be reborn to Thee and live as Thine.

I will clothe myself in the garment of righteousness. Righteousness is not a commodity that could be bought for a price in the market. On the twin wings of Vohuman’s knowledge and Armaiti’s devotion, will I wing my flight on the Path of Righteousness to reach the abode of my Heavenly Father on high.

Righteousness will be the ideal I will set before myself in life and will always try to live up to it and attain it. Straight is the Path of Righteousness. Neither will I turn to right nor left, but onward will I tread the straight path. I will control the totality of my life from youth to old age by Asha’s law of righteousness.

Righteousness is the one path that leads my soul to eternal felicity. In righteousness, Ahura Mazda, will I knit together my soul with Thine!

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Do you plan to shift? Moving from one city to another? Planning to go abroad? Want to go hometown for a while to get the work from home option due to the Corona epidemic? Want to shift from a larger home or office to a smaller space? Or is it because of Corona that he has to run a business for a while? Want an office at home? The first question in all this is where should we keep the goods? How to save? But your favorite furniture like TV, sofa, bed, fridge, closet etc. will be saved by Gurukrupa Storage Room Service. Guarantees the safety of your home and office valuables. Gurukrupa Storage Solution With this you can also contact us if you want to bring or bring your home or office items outside Mumbai. Total Solution for Peace of Mind. IT’S YOUR STORE ROOM.

In Loving Memory of Dr. (Mrs.) Aban Keki Gharda
04.03.1932 - 22.09.2017

We miss you
You will be in our hearts forever.

GHAHRDA PARIVAR
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarification To Article Published In Parsi Junction Regarding Rajkot Anjuman Properties

On 13th September, 2020, Parsi Junction again published an article titled, ‘SAM CHOTIA CONTINUES ATTEMPT TO SELL RAJKOT ARAMGAH’. The entire article contains blatant lies. Though I wouldn’t see any reason to keep on giving any explanation to the lies, unsubstantiated allegations and bakwas, I want to assure the community that whatever I had clarified in the Parsi Press is 100% based on facts.

The Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India (FPZAI) works as per agreed policies which are purely meant for better management of any dormant trust/Defunct Anjuman / Punchayet, where there are few Parsis or no Parsis left; and where community properties are unattended and in danger of being encroached upon and/or are encroached upon. If a trust wants to sell its Trust properties, then it has to file an application under the relevant provisions of law. So, filing scheme has nothing to do with sale of properties.

The owners, publishers etc of Parsi Junction are trying to misguide and stir up community sentiments by giving such provocative and deceitful title to the article. The community should not be misled by the false propaganda.

The community must know as to why such articles are published by Parsi Junction only when matters pertain to various Anjumans and the way is discussed amongst the Defunct Anjuman Committee-DAC and how is it that whatever is discussed is leaked only to Parsi Junction? And why only my name is dragged in? According to me, it’s an attempt to divert the attention of the community from all the fraudulent and illegal acts done by Dinshaw Mehta when he was the President of FPZAI, in connivance with the then CEO of the Defunct Anjumans Committee - Soli Katpilia.

When I was appointed as CEO of the Defunct Anjumans Committee - DAC 2016, many things came to light which were shocking, and I brought it to the notice of the DAC. When the DAC asked for the handing over of all the case files of all the Anjumans, the same was not done. A lot of questions have been raised in the DAC about the functioning and actions of the immediate past Chairman of BPP who held the post of President of FPZAI and the ex-CEO. It is obvious that the past president of FPZAI does not want all this being exposed and he feels that unjustified attack is the best form of defense!

One example will demonstrate the attempt, by immediate past chairman of BPP and past president of FPZAI, to hinder and derail the work of the FPZAI and DAC.

There is a dilapidated property at Neemuch (Madhya Pradesh) which is falling apart and which is being used by antiscientific elements as their den. I have personally visited Neemuch almost 10 times and seen it, surveyed it and reported back to the DAC. The handful of Parsis residing at Neemuch are unable to stop the encroachment and safeguard the property. It was resolved to sell this property to benefit the Parsis living there and the Parsi community too. The legal process was followed. Advertisement was put in the papers in MP. Suddenly Khushro Zaiwalla was awakened by his ‘conscience’ and for 10 times filling his ‘conscience’ satisfied and happy, he filed an objection to the proposed sale. So now, the FPZAI is in court opposing the objection Application of Khushro Zaiwalla.

It is important to note that Neemuch Anjuman has no funds; the situation is so dire that the Neemuch Agiary upkeep and salary of its Panthaki is paid by the BPP and FPZAI. It is also interesting to note that local Neemuch residents have said that Dinshaw Mehta is instigating and funding this objection! What is more important is that the Zaiwallas have no alternate solution to the problem of safeguarding community property in places where there are very few or no Parsis residing. So, while we are fighting the Zaiwallas in court, the properties are being eaten up by land mafias and encroachers and we are bravely fighting on. Sad situation.

At Rajkot, Mr. Khushnumb Tamboli and Khushro Zaiwalla are again awakened by their ‘conscience’ to oppose the due process of law being followed by FPZAI. Mr. Khushnumb Tamboli is not an elected Trustee of Rajkot Anjuman nor was Mr. Parvez Mehta - the Vice President of West Zone-FPZAI, as stated in Parsi Junction article. Mr. Parvez Mehta is the first cousin of Mr. Dinshaw Mehta. Dr. Khushnumb Tamboli is closely related to a very reputed and esteemed family and he will regret the day he comes to know that he is being used for the vested interest by Mr. Dinshaw Mehta.

I am not going to be bullied or be threatened by these kinds of allegations. I know my work and I am doing it in the manner it should be done; and I will continue to do so. The FPZAI and DAC is committed to its objectives and Parsi Junction can continue to provide entertainment through twisted facts and lies. Henceforth, I will not be replying and rather use my energies for the tasks entrusted by FPZAI.

Sam R. Chothia
CEO - Defunct Anjuman Committee - FPZAI
The Prayer Hall Services & Maintenance Trust

September 23, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE CUM CLARIFICATION

In view of the frequent queries we have been receiving over the last few weeks, the Prayer Hall Services and Maintenance Trust (‘PHS&M’ or ‘Trust’) would like to correct misleading and incorrect information being circulated in the media - particularly digital/social media and also provide certain clarifications, about the type and nature of services provided by PHS&M, the role and responsibilities of the Coordinator and re-emphasize certain other facts which members of the public may not be fully aware of:

1. The ownership of the Prayer Hall vests with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) and the PHS&M has no proprietary rights over the Prayer Hall.

2. The Prayer Hall is available for use by members of all communities, religions, faiths and not only Zoroastrians. It is therefore incorrect to refer to it as the ‘Parsi Prayer Hall’.

3. Any Parsi Irani Zoroastrian, wishing to use the Prayer Hall for obsequies, is free to have the ceremonies and prayers performed by a priest of his/her own choice.

4. The object for which the PHS&M has been established is: (quoting from the Trust Deed) “to assist the members of the Parsi / Irani Zoroastrian community in using the Prayer Hall at the Worli Cemetery and its cleanliness and upkeep”.

5. In order to assist Parsi Irani Zoroastrians who wish to use the Hall, Er. Framroze Mirza has been appointed as Coordinator. He is contactable 24x7 on the following Telephone Numbers (+91) 8691012488; 9821423593. His role as Coordinator is to assist in giving details regarding an ambulance or hearse, preparing the Prayer Hall for each ceremony, providing for items required during ceremonies such as salkhads, flowers, fruits, etc. (at a cost to be decided mutually between the concerned parties) in case the officiating priest is not in a position to do so and providing guidance with regard to documentation prescribed by the authorities. The scope of his work includes overseeing security arrangements, cleaning & upkeep of the Prayer Hall and safe custody of all movable items kept at the Hall.

6. It so happens that Er. Mirza is also a practicing priest and is one of the few priests who perform prayer ceremonies at the Prayer Hall. Families who either do not have a priest or whose priest is not willing to perform obsequies at the Prayer Hall, may if they wish, request Er. Mirza to conduct the prayers and arrange for other priests required for performing certain ceremonies at the Prayer Hall. It is important however to clarify that there is absolutely no compulsion to enlist his services and members of the community are free to have ceremonies performed at the Prayer Hall through any priest/priests of their choice and are not bound in any way to get any ceremonies performed through Er. Mirza or the priests who work with him.

7. The PHS&M is neither entitled to, nor does it engage priests for prayers to be performed at the Prayer Hall and accordingly cannot charge, or receive, any consideration for obsequies to be performed at the Prayer Hall. All matters pertaining to the payments to be made to the priest/s and the ceremonies to be performed must be directly discussed and agreed upon between the concerned priest/s and the person availing of the priest’s services and the Trust is in no way concerned with the same.

8. The PHS&M had over the past few years since it was set-up, followed a practice of issuing advisories as to the maximum amounts, which any priest who carries out ceremonies at the Prayer Hall, and not just Er. Mirza should charge, in respect of the various prayer ceremonies. The charges were meant to be indicative and issued as a guideline from time to time so that some sort of parity was maintained with the charges for similar ceremonies performed at Doongergadi or in an Agiary or Atash Behram. The Trustees have decided to stop this practice forthwith, in view of the uncalled-for accusations levelled against the Trust, coupled with the fact that no other institution is doing so. The Trust has accordingly removed the Rate Chart from its website.

9. During the Covid 19 pandemic, bodies of persons who were Covid positive are brought to the crematorium, which is located in close proximity to the Prayer Hall.

If the deceased person is a Parsi / Irani Zoroastrian whose family wishes to have the Geh Sarna ceremony performed, the same has to be done in the parking area outside the Prayer Hall with the body of the deceased kept in the ambulance/hearse till the prayers are complete. This is in accordance with directions issued by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Er. Framroze Mirza has indicated his willingness to carry out the Geh Sarna ceremony as per these directives outside the crematorium in the car parking area. The family of the deceased person is free to engage any priest of their choice for the Geh Sarna and such arrangement has nothing to do with the Prayer Hall Services & Maintenance Trust, because as of now, it is impermissible by regulation to bring the body of the deceased (who was Covid positive) into the Prayer Hall.

10. Finally, it is important for those who wish to avail of the services of the Prayer Hall to know that the amounts which the Trust can afford to pay to the cleaners, watchmen & helpers working at the Hall are extremely low. Since the Trust is not charging for any services provided, it relies solely on the interest earned on its corpus and the small donations it receives from grateful users. Accordingly, it was decided some years ago that Er. Mirza would recover an amount of Rs. 6,000/- from users of the Hall for gratuities to be distributed amongst various service providers as necessary, in order to supplement their meagre earnings and consistently maintain the high level of service and cleanliness that the Trust has always ensured, since its inception. Unfortunately, Er. Mirza has had to face uncalled for criticism and considerable resistance for this payment and has been questioned why this amount is collected in cash and even been asked why he does not give a receipt for the same.

The Trustees have decided that in these circumstances, the earlier arrangement will be discontinued and Er. Mirza will no longer ask for the amount of Rs. 6,000/- from users of the Hall. The Trustees realise that this will further strain the limited resources of the Trust, at a time when interest earnings are depressed, but an attempt will be made to enhance the payments to service providers at the Hall. The Trustees are sure that the goodwill and generosity of users of the Hall will see us through this difficult phase and sincerely hope that the Prayer Hall is maintained at the same level of service and cleanliness as always.

The Trust welcomes any voluntary donations from users of the Prayer Hall and others, in order to enable the Trustees to maintain the Prayer Hall.

1) Cheques may be drawn in favour of “Prayer Hall Services and Maintenance Trust and be sent to:

The Prayer Hall Services and Maintenance Trust,
C/o The WZO Trust Funds, C-1 Hermes House,
3rd floor, Mama Parmanand Marg, Opera House,
Mumbai - 400 004.

Or

2) Online transfer / NEFT / RTGS to Bank Account of the Trust

The details of Online transfer / NEFT / RTGS to account of The Prayer Hall Services and Maintenance Trust are as under:

NAME OF BANK : DEUTSCHE BANK
NAME OF BRANCH : HAZARIMAL SOMANI MARG, FORT, MUMBAI
BRANCH ADDRESS : DB House, Hazarimal Somani Marg, Fort, Mumbai 400 001
ACCOUNT TITLE : The Prayer Hall Services and Maintenance Trust
ACCOUNT NUMBER : 40002762690019
IFSC CODE : DEUT0784 PBC
(This IFSC Code is common for all Branches of Deutsche Bank in India)

Trustees,
The Prayer Hall Services and Maintenance Trust
Freyaz Shroff: Making The Difference

Nelson Mandela’s quote, “What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead,” is one of the first things that comes to mind when we browse the achievements and efforts of the dynamic and generous Freyaz Shroff, and her tall legacy of social and community service. When it comes to making a difference in the lives of others, her choices and endeavours – both, professional and personal – prove as a resonating testimony to the fact that she indeed, walks the talk. Adding yet another feather to her cap, Freyaz Shroff was recently appointed as FEZANA’s (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) Indian Ambassador, in a first-of-its-kind of designation under the charismatic leadership of its new President, Arzan Sam Wadia. Parsi Times is delighted to share a tête-à-tête with the inspiring and compassionate Freyaz Shroff...

Born in Mumbai, Freyaz relocated with her family early on to the USA, where she completed her high school, college and graduate school and holds an MBA in International Business and Marketing. Despite her expansive and super successful corporate career, in mid-2018, Freyaz chose to step into a direction that spoke more to her heart.

“With the support and blessings of my parents, I established the Non-Profit organisation - KurNiv Foundation, which focuses on supporting students from less privileged backgrounds, in gaining admission into college and completing college graduation - along with three of the most amazing, heart-centered individuals. This work speaks to my heart and has become my life’s passion. I love children, I love the work I do, I love that the people I love unconditionally support this work and I love that I never feel like ‘I’m going to work!’” says Freyaz.

A popular and successful KurNiv Foundation initiative, ‘Pehchaan’, has gained much appreciation. A ‘No-Blame, Youth-for-Youth’ initiative aimed at bridging the gap of inequitable education between the public and private sector schools in India, Pehchaan facilitates children from low income households to complete their schooling and join college, and then move on to further studies or a lucrative vocational practice. It also sensitises society about the unjust gap between municipal and private school education in India and creates awareness about what people can do to bridge this lacuna.

“In 2019, of the 120 youth that graduated from our College Prep Program, 90 enrolled in college. In 2020, we conducted online classes throughout the lockdown. Approximately 80 students completed the College Prep Program and we are awaiting college admission results. In addition to the growth of our participants, we see great transformations in the youth who mentor our participants. Though some of our youth mentors are our alumni who grow with us, many are students from private schools, now in college,” beams Freyaz, proudly.

Freyaz has been FEZANA’s Committee Member as well as Co-Chair to both - its Unity and Welfare Committees. She’s also participated as a speaker with FEZANA’s United Nations Team. Speaking about her appointment as FEZANA’s Ambassador to India, she shares, “My Co-Chairs were amazing and helpful - even after I decided to relocate to India, they unconditionally supported me and offered me the opportunity to work as the Indian liaison for welfare appeals we received. As our hope for working synergetically as a global Zoroastrian community strengthens, FEZANA’s appointing an Ambassador to India, seemed like the next natural step.

It’s a new role which will evolve over time. We look to creating viable working relationships and building strong partnerships with local Zoroastrian trusts and associations - from the BAP and Parzor to XYZ and Anjumans across the country. We hope to work cohesively to further our common goals. We look forward to continuing our long-standing partnerships with organizations like the World Zoroastrian Organization Trusts, which have unconditionally supported and worked with FEZANA for close to three decades now. We hope to connect North American community members with our Indian counterparts. We aim to represent FEZANA at events where its presence would be beneficial. I’m quite nervous as this is a new position and a lot of roads still need to be paved, but I’m also excited to work on building bridges of connection and partnerships.”

Despite her international and local professional commitments, Freyaz is presently the cheerful single mom of eight ‘adopted’ children! “My kids and I use the word ‘adopted’ because that’s the one coming closest to what we share. I do not share their legal ownership but at heart, all eight of them are mine! I’ve always wanted a large family but never in my wildest could I have guessed this is how it would culminate! It all started with one of my experiences teaching at Colaba’s Municipal Hindi Medium School. On asking a student why he had entered class in chappals instead of shoes, he said, matter-of-factly, that the rat ate them! Due to my then limited exposure to the prevailing conditions in which these children lived, I initially thought it was a joke, much like ‘the dog ate my homework’. But when the program coordinator assured me of its reality, I decided to get Sunil a new pair and I gave him the money, telling him that now on I wanted to see him well-groomed and in school-issued shoes. Just these 2 minutes spent with him changed his life and mine. He started paying more attention in class, started coming to my home with his friends to study - my granny loved them and guided me into giving them morning breakfast and Sunday lunch. This turned into sessions of reading newspapers, watching English movies, learning how to use the fork and spoon and gradually, we all fell in love with each other to become the happy family we are today! My eight kids are my joy; they’re my teachers. Every day they show me the meaning of ‘putting love into action’. I feel abundantly blessed and am a better person today for having them in my life.”

Team PEHCHAAN & Freyaz

Freyaz Receiving FEZANA Humanitarian Award
Fussy Kids, Yummy Answers
By Pureganic

The most challenging aspect for parents in today’s fast-paced and gadgets-addicted life is to manage health, body and mind of the young generation. Team Pureganic is glad to offer effective, yummy health food for kids of all age groups, which serve as Preventive and Curative solutions.

Brahmi Honey: Enhances brain power, memory, nerve network; improves vision, sleep quality, relaxes, freshens & energises the brain, anti-stress & tension, helps manage depression, vertigo, sinus, migraine and excess body heat.

Tulsi Honey: Increases immunity, cleanses toxins, prevents cough, cold, fever, flu, sore throat & effects of season changes. An excellent beauty aid to be applied on face to cure acne / pimples.

Sanjeevani Prash: Consists of Bijora, pure herbs like shatavari, ashwagandha, shankhpushpi, brahmi, nagkesar & jaqery. No added sugar/ additives/preservatives.

Boosts immunity, increases mental and physical stamina, improves digestion, relief from acidity, gas and bloating. Bijora/Citrion contains rich in vitamin C, potassium, fibre & iron, powerful to fight tumours/cancer, strengthens intestines & digestive capacity. It is loved by kids, for its yummy paste & taste.

Chocolo: Chocolate flavoured colostrum powder, a natural tonic made from first, nutri-rich milk, when calf is born. Rich for overall growth - height, weight, appetite & strengthening of muscles. Excellent remedy for fussy eaters, premature and specially-abled kids. Also available in chewable tablets - Chewcolo.

Bilona A2 Gir Cow Pure Ghee: Traditionally made, it strengthens vision, bones, muscles due to high content of Vit. A, D, E, K. This yummy & healthy fat is a must add in infant's and kid's diet.

Ultimately, Kids Health is our Wealth. Our young generation needs to be physically & mentally, strong & healthy.

For Details & Free Home Delivery, Whatsapp/SMS: 9820812244.

Mrs. Homai Homi Mehta
(10th October, 1944 - 15th September, 2020)

We all used to fondly call her Homai. She left us on 15th September, 2020, leaving a void impossible to fill. A leader and a visionary par excellence, she not only was the founder of the Indian Association of Secretaries and Administrative Professionals (IASAP), but was also responsible for grooming hundreds of professional lives of the members of IASAP.

An avid problem solver she was the first choice and the last refuge of any person who faced difficulties in their personal and professional life. Compassion was in her blood; personal integrity - her life-long strength. Grounded and centered in reality and truth, she made a place in everyone’s heart as an icon of humility, trust and reliability.

Her vision and tireless effort was the singular reason why our Association reached the pinnacle of its glory. Always available on the wings to support, encourage, guide, mentor and inspire every newcomer to the Association.

While I wonder how we will go ahead in the future, I am reminded of her words. “Don’t stare at the mountains, go climb them!” In her absence, we all know the climb is going to be very strenuous, but deep in our hearts we can see her beacon light shining on our path - leading and protecting us in our journey ahead. With her as our spiritual guide, we shall overcome all our obstacles...

While God will give her His choicest place in Heaven, we pray for her soul to rest in everlasting peace.

Thank you, Homai, for all that you were to us. We love you.

Fondly remembered By:
The President, Immediate Past President and the Governing Council, Indian Association of Secretaries & Administrative Professionals.

APPEAL BY THE POONA ZARTHOSHTI SEVA MANDAL

Established in 1940, The Poona Zarhtoshti Seva Mandal is one of the oldest organizations working for the underprivileged Zarhtostis of Pune. To generate funds, our primary activity is running a shop at our premises, ideally located in the main shopping area. We stock home-made pickles, masalas, bhakhars, traditional items like prayer books, topis, sudras, kustis and the popular Parsi-embroidered Gara sarees.

We run a Fast Food Counter selling snacks which attract many customers.

From the Funds collected, we regularly disburse:
1. Food rations twice a year on Jamshed Navroz and Parsi New Year
2. Monthly Doles

Other activities of our Mandal includes organizing Fellowship programs, Religious lectures, Religious-cum-activity classes for children (earlier held outdoors but now online on Zoom).

However,
1. Due to Covid Pandemic our shop remained closed for almost 3 months. Even after opening, the response from the public is poor as few people venture out for shopping, thus affecting our sales.
2. Besides, continued fall in the bank interest rates have further reduced our earnings.

Thus, our income has become very limited and we find it hard to generate sufficient funds to help the needy members of our community. Hence, we APPEAL to you to kindly donate to our organization and support a good cause.

All cheques to be drawn in favour of ‘THE POONA ZARTHOSHTI SEVA MANDAL’ and addressed to:

Hon. Treasurer,
THE POONA ZARTHOSHTI SEVA MANDAL,
12, MG Road, Pune - 411001.

All contributions made to The Poona Zarhtoshti Seva Mandal are eligible for tax deduction.”
An unidentified cyber fraud stole Rs 90,000 between June and July from the bank account of 62-year-old Lalita Rustom Jehangir, one of the two daughters of billionaire and business magnate, Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry, who owns one of the biggest conglomerates - the Shapoorji Pallonji group. An FIR has been registered at the Colaba police station.

As per Colaba police station, Lalita, a resident of Dubai, had authorised her father - Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry, to manage her account, who authorised his Company Director, Firoz Bhatena, in 2018, to look after the financial activities of Lalita’s account. Bhatena, in turn, entrusted the account to company’s Deputy General Manager (accounts), 60-year-old Jayesh Merchant, whose mobile number was registered with the bank for SMS alerts on all bank transactions of Lalita's account. Transactions were done via cheques as the account was quite old, with no debit or credit card issued towards the bank account.

As per media sources, Jayesh Merchant, who registered the complaint, said that on July 1 and 2, 2020, he received SMS alerts of money withdrawal from Lalita’s account. On checking with the bank, he was told that a total of nearly Rs. 90,000 was withdrawn across numerous transactions, via a debit card during the months of June/July.

When Merchant informed the bank manager that there was no debit card issued on this account, he was surprised to be informed that a debit card was, in fact, issued in the name of Company Director Bhatena in 2018, and the card was couriered to the company’s Colaba office. This debit card was being used to withdraw money. Bhatena too has stated that he was not aware of any debit card being issued, following which a police complaint was lodged. Based on the complaint, an FIR has been registered under section 420 (cheating) of Indian Penal Code and 66C (identity theft) and 66D (cheating by personation by using computer resource) of Information Technology Act against an unidentified suspect. The probe is on - the police in its preliminary investigation have found that the card was used multiple times, including a restaurant and a cake shop. They would be checking the CCTVs at these places and making inquiries to trace the fraudster.

**Jamshedpur’s ‘AIDS-Warrior’**

Dr. H K Gardin Passes Away

Jamshedpur’s much loved and respected Dr. H K Gardin, who had earned the reputation as the city’s ‘Warrior of AIDS and HIV’, passed away on 24th September, 2020 after initially testing positive for the coronavirus, at the age of 61. Dr. Gardin had retired as TMH’s (Tata Main Hospital) renowned skin specialist and physician, and was also associated with Tata Steel for a number of years as Chairman of the HIV/AIDS Core Committee, being instrumental in Tata Steel’s many achievements regarding HIV-AIDS.

Dr. HK Gardin lived in Salchi. He fronted the campaign for the prevention of AIDS and HIV through Tata Steel and was reckoned as an AIDS warrior doctor in India and overseas. On 5th September, he was admitted to TMH citing breathing difficulties and high fever, where he tested corona positive, but had tested corona negative on 15th September. Despite this, he was administered various medicines, including plasma therapy, but on Thursday noon, he breathed his last at TMH. His passing brought on a wave of mourning in the medical world. Dr. Gardin also received several awards for working for HIV AIDS in the country and abroad.

On 21st September, 2020, the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world’s largest producer of vaccine in volumes, started the Phase-III or last and final stage of clinical trials, for the Covis-19 vaccine ‘Covishield’, at the state-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune, Maharashtra. As per Dr. Muralidhar Tambe, Dean, Sassoon General Hospital, the dose of the vaccine will be administered to around 150 to 200 volunteers.

The second phase of clinical trials was conducted at Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College and King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital in Pune. SII has partnered with British-Swedish pharma company, AstraZeneca for manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccine candidate, being developed by the University of Oxford. Earlier, SII had shortlisted 17 sites in India for the Phase II clinical trials of the vaccine, where 1,600 candidates, between 18 to 55 years of age, had participated.

On September 10, the drug maker had paused the clinical trials of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate in India in the wake of AstraZeneca suspending the clinical trials in other countries. Five days later, the DCGI (Drugs Controller General of India) granted permission to resume trials, while revoking its earlier order of suspending any new recruitment for the second and third phase of trials.

COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the Jenner Institute, a part of the Nuffield Department of Medicine at the University of Oxford, showed a positive result in its initial trial. According to a report published in the British medical journal, The Lancet, the COVID-19 vaccine produced a dual immune response in people aged 18 to 55. The University of Oxford’s possible COVID-19 vaccine could be rolled out by the end of the year but there is no certainty, the lead developer of the vaccine.

SII will begin the trial of another COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by US drug developer, Novavax Inc., next month. Novavax Inc has claimed to be doubling its potential COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing capacity to two billion doses annually, under an agreement with SII. As part of the expanded agreement, SII will also manufacture the antigen component of the vaccine.
Kudos Raeka Patel!

It was indeed a proud moment for Zarthisis worldwide when Raeka Behram Patel, the daughter of Er. Beheram Patel of Dahanu Road Agiary, featured on the prestigious Times Square after her company got listed on Nasdaq. Raeka is currently pursuing research in Muscular Diseases for an organisation in the USA.

Most Parsi/Irani Zoroastrian social media platforms were abuzz about this grand achievement. As per the information, she is the second Zarhosti to be featured thus on Time Square, after Danny Khursigara from Karachi, a few years ago.

A quote off the internet shares Raeka’s response to this achievement, “I work for a pharmaceutical company as a Research Scientist in the R&D department. We are working on various muscular diseases. Since my company got publicly listed, our pictures were put up on Time Square as employees of the company. It was not a personal achievement - it was a huge achievement for the company as a whole!”

Congratulations and kudos to Raeka on her accomplishment and efforts! Here’s wishing her all the very best for a bright future and a fulfilling career!

Rains Cause Minor Landslide At Khareghat Colony

The torrential downpour which took place in Mumbai on the night of 22nd September, 2020, caused a minor landslide at Khareghat Parsi Colony, at Pedder Road in South Mumbai. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) D Ward Assistant Municipal Commissioner (AMC) Prashant Galivad confirmed with the Free Press Journal that, as a precautionary measure they had asked the old building residents of the Khareghat Parsi Colony to vacate their houses for the time being.

The building retaining wall comprising around 10 feet, collapsed, due to which the mud from the hill is slipping. The flats on the ground floor of this building were largely affected. Also, since the said building is old and constructed in the 1920’s the residents have been alerted,” he said.

The Khareghat Parsi Colony is part of the same hillock, a portion of which collapsed on August 6, 2020, affecting traffic the traffic along Pedder Road. A resident informed that the uprooted trees or debris had not been cleared till date from the Ridge Road (BG Kher Road) which connects Hanging Gardens to Kempt Corner, post the incident that had caused the landslide.

Galivad said, “We haven’t touched the affected area as told by IIT Bombay to us. Also clearing of trees will further cause more destruction. This area is surrounded with residential buildings and having huge human density.”

He further stated that the work could commence only after the rains are over and they are waiting for the monsoons to end. While reports from IIT Bombay are soon expected, the hill area has been surveyed via drone survey, LIDAR survey, and geotechnical testing of soil has already been done.

(Courtesy Free Press Journal)

Tata Group To Launch ‘Feluda’ – India’s First Low Cost Covid-19 Test - Can Detect COVID In Under An Hour!

On 19th September, 2020, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) gave approval for the commercial launch of India’s first Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) Coronavirus test called ‘Feluda’, developed by the Tata Group and CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology). ‘Feluda’ has a turnaround time of around an hour as compared with the RT-PCR test that requires over a day.

Named after Satyajit Ray’s fictional detective, ‘Feluda’, India’s new test to detect COVID-19 is said to have a quicker turnaround time than the RT-PCR test, which is the gold standard. The Feluda test matches the accuracy levels of the RT-PCR test in detecting SARS-CoV-2, while yielding faster results with less costly equipment and greater ease, according to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The test was developed by a research team led by Debojyoti Chakraborty and Souvik Maiti of CSIR-IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology) and Tata Group. The Tata Group will soon launch the diagnostic test kit.

As per the release issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology, this test uses an indigenously developed, cutting-edge CRISPR technology for detection of the genomic sequence of the virus and meets high-quality benchmarks with 96% sensitivity and 98% specificity for detecting the novel coronavirus. It added that the launch marks a significant achievement for the Indian scientific community, moving from research and development to a high-accuracy, scalable and reliable test in less than 100 days.

Commenting on the development, Girish Krishnamurthy, CEO, TATA Medical and Diagnostics Ltd., said, “The approval for the Tata CRISPR test for COVID-19 will give a boost to the country’s efforts in fighting the global pandemic. The commercialisation of Tata CRISPR test reflects the tremendous R&D talent in the country which can collaborate to transform India’s contributions to the global healthcare and scientific research world.”

As per the release, The Tata Group has worked closely with CSIR-IGIB and ICMR to create a high-quality test that will help the nation ramp up Covid-19 testing quickly and economically, with a “Made in India” product that is safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible.
Sad Ending To Iconic Tata-Mistry Partnership

September 22, 2020 marked the beginning to the end of 70-years-plus iconic association between two of our community's and our nation's most formidable business groups - Tata Sons and Shapoorji Pallonji Group. After four years of rough litigations, since Cyrus Mistry's ouster in 2016, Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group confirmed its exit from Tata Sons as its minority shareholder, owning 18.37% stake.

Cyrus Mistry, heading the SP Group, was declared as Ratan Tata's successor and the sixth Chairman of the Tata Group in 2011, after impressing Tata with his professionalism, expertise and humility. He formally assumed Chairmanship of Tata Sons in Late 2012.

But trouble was brewing in paradise due to an alleged power-struggle between Ratan Tata (Tata Trusts) and Cyrus Mistry (Tata Sons), leading to the latter's unceremonious ouster in 2016. A number of events displayed contradictions in business management and vision, as well as Tata's discontentment, for eg., legal battles with NTT Docomo, failure in negotiations with Vodafone, or Mistry's decision to sell off a few Indian Hotels' overseas properties and pull the curtains on the UK Steel operations. Tata Trusts was also displeased as Mistry did not consider shareholders and the Group's global ecosystem in these decisions.

On October 24th 2016, while Mistry's ouster as Chairman of Tata Sons, by the Board, came as a shocking announcement to the outside world, internal sources claimed they were expecting this for a while, and that Mistry was even offered the option to put in his resignation, which he refused. Ratan Tata was announced as Interim Chairman of the Group. By early 2017, Mistry was removed from the Tata Group Boards and N Chandrasekharan, the then TCS Chairman, was named Tata Sons Chairman.

Accusations and counter-accusations intensified post the exit, with Mistry accusing the Board’s Trustees of ‘shadow control’ and alleging legacy issues in the group, and Tata Justifying the ouster, citing performance issues. A court brawl has been ongoing since December 2016, when two Mistry family-backed investment firms, ‘Cyrus Investments’ and ‘Sterling Investments’ moved the NCLT Mumbai alleging mismanagement and oppression of minority stakeholders by Tata Sons, further challenging Mistry’s removal, by the company’s board. Tata Sons responded serving Mistry a legal notice alleging breach of confidentiality. NCLT rejected Mistry’s plea based on inadequate fulfilment of requisite criteria.

Mistry then moved the NCLAT, challenging NCLT’s order, during which time a proposal to turn Tata Sons into a private company was passed by its shareholders (August 2017). After much to-and-fro, with the NCLT and NCLAT, in December, 2019, Mistry was restored as Executive Chairman of Tata Sons, but the NCLAT suspended implementation for four months, giving time to the Tatas to file an appeal, which they did - challenging NCLAT’s order in the Supreme Court, which stayed the order. Mistry said he was not seeking to return as Tata Sons Chairman, but wanted to protect his rights as a minority shareholder.

This year, in July, Tata Sons filed that the company’s financial performance and brand had diminished under Mistry’s leadership, to which Mistry retorted saying that Tata Sons had converted to a Private Co. in the midst of the NCLAT hearing in their affidavit to the apex court, which was gone under wicked circumstances.

A statement released by the SP Group on September 22nd, 2020, read, “The current situation has forced the Mistry family to sit back and reflect on the past, present and possible future for all stakeholders. The past oppressive actions, and the latest vindictive move by Tata Sons that impact the livelihoods of the wider SP Group community leads to the inexplicable conclusion that the mutual co-existence of both groups at Tata Sons would be infeasible.”

To raise capital, the SP Group has decided to sell its 18.37% stake in Tata, which it believes to be valued at around $20 billion or approximately ₹1.5 trillion, based on the value of the underlying operating companies, as well as the value of the Tata brand. The SP group will have to offer the stake to Tata Sons first based on the latter’s right of first refusal on the shares, as per the company’s Articles of Association (AoA). Tata Sons would now need to buy out the stake, thus putting a final end to the court battles and an enduring business partnership.

A Different Stroke
By Meher Parvez Sutaria

I sat down in my favourite chair, Closed my eyes to say a prayer, But found my thoughts going quite astray, Far from what I wished to pray.
I heard the chirping of the birds, I couldn’t concentrate on my words; A persistent little buzzing bee Kept hovering about my balcony.
A wandering mind is such a bother! I tried to collect my thoughts together; Certain sounds disturbed me still, I tried hard to make my mind tranquil.
I heard the laughter of a child, His mom sang to him and probably smiled; It was indeed a luxury To hear her lifting melody.
By now my eyes were open wide, I put my prayer book aside; In a subtle way, I now could see God himself was talking to me!
Buzzing bees and chirping birds Are God’s creatures - they must be heard! The laughter of that little child Banished my worries and made me smile!
Sounds and sights that are all about, Do distract us - there is no doubt; But if that’s the way God talks to me, It fills my heart with ecstasy!

Our Plea
By Afird F Dastur

O Ahura kind, in spite of our bad behaviour, Grant us please, a very special favour - Forgive us our disobedience and grave disrespect That we’ve been showing towards You and Nature in every aspect. The poor in pitiable plight perish in thousands every day, Homeless they’ve become with their villages far away. They starve without food or drink due to lack of money, Charrred feet on barren roads bereft of trees, hot and sunny. Answer please our ardent plea, grant us again a healthy world, We are tired of staying put, asphyxiated in these cocoons, curled.
Online Petition To Save Parsi Gate, Marine Drive

A group of concerned citizens have started an online petition to save the Parsi Gate at Marine Drive in South Mumbai, which is likely to be relocated by the BMC for the upcoming coastal road. The petition states, the over a century-old gate, built by Pallonji Mistry and philanthropist, Bhagajibai Khedekar in 1915, has been in existence before Marine Drive was built.

“The gate is carved with Zoroastrian motifs and made of Malad stone with steps between them to access the beach now called Chotia Chowpatty where all Mumbaikars could offer their prayers and offerings to the sea,” said Havovi Sukhadvala, who initiated the petition.

“Zoroastrians of Mumbai have been paying their respect to Aravan Yazad (water deity) for more than a century at the Parsi Gate located at Marine Drive. Hindus particularly use this safe access constructed to immerse the offerings on Poomnima and ashes from the Chandanwadi crematorium at Marine Lines,” it said.

The petition said the gate was identified as a religious place of worship in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report of 2016 of the Mumbai Coastal Road project which the BMC has now decided to remove and relocate one km away. “Furthermore, all buildings, monuments located at Haji Ali Subhash Chandra Bose Road are designated as Marine Drive Precinct under Regulation 67 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966. The Parsi Gate is also part of Marine Drive Waterfront which is separately listed as Grade II A under serial number 23 in the supplement to existing heritage list (DCR-67) dated 31st July 2012,” it said.

“By definition of law, the Parsi Gate, a designated Heritage Grade IIA structure, deserves intelligent conservation and any ‘external changes’ are subject to scrutiny”. The definition further states, “care would be taken to ensure the conservation of all special aspects for which it is included in Heritage Regulations for Greater Bombay 1995,” said the petition.

Sukhadvala said the BMC has not sought an NOC from the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee, “The Parsi Gate is indeed the work of master craftsmen, whose labour of love has withstood the vastude of the Arabian Sea, as admired by anyone who has stood at the Parsi Gate. Any permission to the ‘external changes’ has to be secured by the Planning Authority in consultation with the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee.”

The BMC is still undecided on shifting the early 20th century Parsi Gate opposite the Taraporewala aquarium at Marine Drive for the coastal road. As per TOI, the BMC officials said that no decision has been taken whether to relocate the gate temporarily or permanently, claiming, “There is a section within the Parsi community which is opposed to the pillars being shifted as they claim the spot has religious significance.” This group insisted that the pillars be shifted temporarily and installed at the same location after the coastal road work is completed.

(Website: www.parsi-times.com)

Munich To Unveil ‘Freddie Mercury Street’

Legendary rock singer of Parsi Zoroastrian descent, Freddie Mercury, the frontman of then iconic rock band, Queen, is being honoured with a street named after him in Munich, Germany. This is the unanimous resolution of Munich’s city council. Five years ago, the radio station ‘Rock Antenne’ and its rock community, had put in the official application, leading to this special, posthumous felicitation of Freddie Mercury, who spent a good part of the ‘80s living and working in Munich. Not only did he celebrate his famously wild 39th birthday party in the city, but also recorded five albums here. Freddie Mercury Street will be located south of the Olympic Park and near the Olympic Hall, where Queen performed so many times throughout their career.

The station had asked listeners for suggestions as they felt Germany needed more rock-inspired street names. Last week, when this application received the nod, Munich city councilman, Nikolaus Gradi, said, “it’s thanks to Rock Antenne that we will get a Freddie Mercury Street. It took us some time, but that’s just what it takes sometimes. Next year, it’ll be the 30th anniversary of Freddie’s death. I am very pleased that we got the decision beforehand.”

THE ZOROASTRIAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

Corporate Office: Nitin House, 5th Floor, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 030
022-61377600/28/31 • 022-96661810 Website: www.zoroastrianbank.com

NOTICE TO THE MEMBERS
FOR UPDATING EMAIL & OTHER DETAILS

The notice is hereby given to the members of The Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank Ltd that the Bank proposes to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conference (VC) and/or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) as per Circular bearing Ref. No. R-11017/101/2015 L&M dated 25.08.2020 issued by the Director (Co-operation) with the approval of the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies, New Delhi.

All those who are members as on 31st March 2020 are requested to send following details through any of the following means:

a) By updating on the link AGM2020 on the Bank’s website www.zoroastrianbank.com or
b) By submitting in the nearest branch of the Bank or
c) By email (those who already have email registered with the Bank) to the mail id shares@zcbzl.in

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*All fields are mandatory

Please submit the above details by October 05, 2020 so that the notice of AGM through VC/OAVM can be communicated to all members on their registered Email IDs.

Dajit Dogra
Managing Director & CEO

September 25, 2020
The Bawa Word Search

Search out 16 of the World’s Most Popular Paintings hidden in the word-jumble box below, in bidirectional, horizontal, vertical and diagonal forms:


Monalisa (Leonardo da Vinci)
Guernica (Pablo Picasso)
The Kiss (Gustav Klimt)
The Son of Man (Rene Magritte)
The Birth Of Venus (Sandro Botticelli)
The Tower Of Babel (Pieter Bruegael the Elder)
Starry Night (Vincent van Gogh)
Girl Pearl Earring (Johannes Vermeer)
Water Lilies (Claude Monet)
Dogs Playing Poker (C M Coolidge)
The Card Players – Paul Cezanne
Whistlers Mother (James McNell Whistler)
The Scream (Edvard Munch)
Night Watch (Rembrandt)
The Flower Carrier (Diego Rivera)
Creation Of Adam (Michelangelo)

HOW MANY WORDS?

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters below? Every word must contain the letter in the center. You should make at least one word using all 7 letters.

ENIDDL

RESULTS:
Average - 7 or more words
Good - 9 or more words
Outstanding - 11 or more words

WINNING CAPTION!!!

Small Doggie: Should never have let Rhea take you for a walk!
Now I need to ‘weed’ that smile off your face!!

By Pearl K. Jamasi (Dubai)

CAPTION THIS!

Calling all our readers to caption this picture!
The witlest caption will win a fabulous prize!
Send in your captions to editor@parsi-times.com by 30th Sept., 2020

Thought of the Week

“The same boiling water that softens the potato, hardens the egg. It’s what you’re made of, not your circumstances.”

- Anon
Meherbani and Meherwanji Go To A Mall

Meherwanji loved his Saturday mornings when he would become faregat on his Bapavaji's easy-chair and read Parsi Times, while his wife pampered him with tea and bataosas. On a recent Saturday, Meherbani read an article which said, 'Go On A Date With Your Spouse To Keep The Spark Alive In Your Marriage'. Khallas! That was it! She took away the choli and bataosas as well as the Parsi Times, saying, "Uthi jao jaldii! Jack-in-the-box ni karii! Not like an also-Badshahi!"

Meherbani: Kai? Soo thayo? Aag lagi ke dharchicum thayo?

Meherbani: Apra marriage no spark-plug jari-purano thai gaojoi! Take me on a date right now!

Since Meherwanji was a little hard of hearing, he dashed to the kitchen and got Meherbani the bottle containing dry-fruits and started picking out the dates for her.

Meherbani: Su natak karoji?

Meherwanji: You wanted to eat dates, so I’m picking them out for you – mahaar jaan!

Meherbani: Why don’t you listen properly? Call the plumber to clean your ears with his suction-pump if you can’t hear? Now don’t eat up the dates. Get ready. You are taking me on a date.

Poor Meherwanji was confused with the firing and brought her the calendar. "Ley. Ketli dates jaiye? Select a few between one and thirty."

Meherbani: Mareerey! You have become totally unromantic and also hard of hearing. Now SAHHOO! Remember how before marriage you used to take me to Hanging Gardens and the Zoo and whisper sweet nothings into my ears? Like that, take me for a romantic outing.

Meherbani: Shali we go to Colaba Bazar for vegetables? We have finished our stock in the house!

Meherbani: Take me shopping to High Street Phoenix-n-Paladium Mall. You can buy me cold coffee at the Coffee Shop of St. Regis Hotel. Then buy me some clothes, shoes, handbags, perfumes and cosmetics!

Meherwanji: In these days of karkarli, I’ll go bankrupt! Bank interests have fallen, inflation is taller than our Sunamai Lamba and this woman wants to help Modiji’s fallen economy with her ‘shop till you drop’ mantra! Soon, I’ll have to stand with a katori at the Cusrow Baug gate!

Meherbani: Ovaryu tamara par thi! Ok – no shopping. Only roaming around the Mall like lovers, enjoying each other’s company while window-shopping!

Meherbani: I don’t have money to shop for a window!

Meherbani: Arrey Baba! Window shopping doesn’t mean buying a window. It means only looking, no buying – just look and be happy!

Meherwanji na jeer-mo-jeer ayo. He promptly dressed up in the blue shirt and pant which were Meherbani’s favourite. In turn, Meherbani wore Meherwanji’s favourite red blouise with jeggings and off they went in their chitty-chitty-bang-bang-jumping-jalopy car.

They entered the Mall and were disappointed to see very few people.

Meherbani: Look! Khali een-meen-neysare-teen lo chey!

Meherwanji: That’s because this is a Mall, not a ‘metavdo’. I’m waiting – go and visit your favourites - Global Desi, Zara, Dior, Aldo, Saphora and Michael Kane – I mean Michael Kors. I’ll wait for you.

You see, like most husbands, Meherwanji hated shopping, but Meherbani always won, saying, “I won’t go to a single shop without you. Have I ever gone alone in the last 54 years? Otherwise, chalo, let’s go home.”

So, most reluctantly, with a sour-puss-caster-oil-pidhealo-face, he would go from shop to shop, where Meherbani would try dozens of shoes and after time-pass, would say, “I don’t like a single pair, put them all back.” Each time she did this, he’d scoot out of the shop pretending he was not with her!

They walked into every shop in the Mall and Meherwanji na-pug-ni-karni-thalai-gail! He got fer-chakkar and almost collapsed on the escalator but Meherbani supported him from the back with her huge handbag so he wouldn’t fall backward, but he almost fell forward!

They marched into the Coffee Shop but when they saw the prices on the menu, Meherbani herself said, “Uthi jaal Chori na dhanda chey! Gher jaimey choi peusu.” But they were feeling bad to walk-out, so Meherbani devised a plan – she told Meherwanji, “First you get up and pretend to go to the gents washroom and from there, you go out style-mo – I will do likewise by pretending to go to the ladies’ room!” She called it her Master-plan! Koi divas Einstein ne bi evo plan nahi aavey!

Now, it so happened that while Meherbani was leaving, the waiter politely pointed out, “Ma’m! The ladies’ restroom is on the other side!”

“Good! Send your wife there,” said Meherbani, who was in a filthy mood!
YOUR
MOONSIGNS
JANAM RASHI
THIS WEEK

Aries - Αργες - 15.9.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Cancer - Κανκέλ - 19.7.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Libra - Λιβρα - 23.9.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Capricorn - Καπριζον - 21.12.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Taurus - Ταυρος - 20.4.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Leo - Λιος - 23.7.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Scorpio - Σκωρπιος - 23.10.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Aquarius - Ακουαριος - 19.1.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Gemini - Γεμινι - 21.5.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Virgo - Βεργιος - 23.8.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Sagittarius - Σαγιταριους - 22.11.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.

Pisces - Πισκες - 20.2.20
Rahul will find new opportunities in the business sector. He may get appointed to a new position or take on a new role. This period is likely to bring him success and recognition. Pray the Lord Shiva daily.
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<td>Nergish Eruchshaw Mehta</td>
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Death Announcements from Prayer Hall

Dinaz Gustadji Patel
234, Block No. 3, Khatav, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Rusli Nusserwanji Dubash
401, Nova Heights, 1st Floor, Tino Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Shahzad Rumi Beramji
301, Nova Heights, 1st Floor, Tino Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Firoz Jamshedji Mehta
Flat 2, Block 6, Khatav, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Baji Rustamji Tavadia
12, Tino Heights, 1st Floor, Tino Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Death Announcements from Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman of Secunderabad and Hyderabad

Farzaan B. Italia
Super Bazaar, Chader Road, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, India

Boman Mehta
Second Floor, Flat 2, Block 6, Khatav, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Ferzoo H. Bhalani
Bajaj House, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, India

Ervad Rusi Dastoor
Second Floor, Flat 2, Block 6, Khatav, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Ardeshir Minocher Vatcha
Second Floor, Flat 2, Block 6, Khatav, Vadodara, Gujarat, India

Kerfega Minoo Siganporia
Raozam Park, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, India

Minoo Madom
Los Angeles USA

Death Announcements from Nagpur

Rusi Hormusji Godha
China Block, Mazaue Lane, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India

Death Announcements from Solapur Parsi Anjuman

Osama Jehangir Faramroze Dhabar
20, C Mohd Colony, Pune 1, Maharashtra, India

Death Announcements from Poona Parsee Panchayat

Dinyar Darabji Sadri
20, C Mohd Colony, Pune 1, Maharashtra, India
**Wellness**

**Do You Have The ‘Guts’ To Good Health?**

**Dr. Danesh D. Chinoy** is a leading Health and Wellness Coach, Sports Physiotherapist and Psychologist. He is also a prominent Facilitator, Educator and Administrator, Physiotherapist (Sports & Manual Therapy), Corporate Trainer and Psychologist. He is dedicated to guiding clients to succeed while inspiring an insatiable passion for learning and helping all to heal holistically and remain fighting fit for life. With a Doctorate in Sports Physiotherapy and a Masters in Psychology. Dr. Chinoy’s two-decades’ rich expertise has won him innumerable awards, nationally and globally. He is on a mission to serve society by empowering all to reach their peak performance. Connect with Dr. Chinoy with your comments, suggestions and queries at: daneshchinoy@gmail.com

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**W**ater Pickles and Parsi delicacy, ‘Sandhras’, will certainly not be the first examples that jump to mind when you think of healthy eating, but a growing body of research shows that a diet that includes a regular intake of fermented foods, bring in a host of health benefits. Doctors these days recommend people to consume more of fermented foods containing high amounts of probiotics, which has always been an integral part of our ‘desi’ food culture and also very helpful to keep our digestive and the immune system robust.

Fermented foods have been produced, as per the knowledge passed down the generations, with little understanding of the potential role of the microorganisms involved in the process. While research into the health as ‘fermentation’. Microorganisms may be indigenously present on the substrate (surface), or added as a starter culture, or they may be present in or on the ingredients and utensils, or in the environment. Basically, a suitable substrate, appropriate microorganisms and environmental conditions (temperature, pH, and moisture) must coexist to enable food fermentation.

In addition to helping food last longer, fermentation also enhances the taste of foods, with bettered flavour and texture. It changes the biochemistry, adding nutrients. For eg., fermented vegetables provide vitamin B12 and other important B group vitamins.

But, one of the biggest benefits of fermented foods comes from probiotics. Recent research shows that the type of gut bacteria in our bodies is changing. One reason is that the microorganisms in our bodies aren’t being regularly replenished (as was the case with previous generations) due to changes in our eating habits - particularly processed foods, and because of ‘better’ hygiene, which cuts down on the number of microbes that people should be exposed to naturally, through soil. In addition, antibiotics and pesticides used widely, delete the beneficial organisms as collateral damage.

This change in the number of gut microbes may create an imbalance between beneficial and harmful gut bacteria, leading to numerous health issues. When the digestive tract has an unhealthy mix of organisms, it leads to weakening of the intestine-walls, which start to leak their contents into the bloodstream - a condition referred to as the ‘Leaky Gut Syndrome’. Chronic exposure to these leaked substances has been linked to a host of health problems, including asthma, eczema, schizophrenia and Alzheimer’s disease. Fermented foods fortify the gut microbiome, creating a healthier mix of microbes and strengthening the walls of the intestines to keep them from leaking.

Consuming probiotics (like those found in fermented foods) from early childhood, helps train the immune system to tolerate and cooperate with a diverse, beneficial microbiome. After the first few months and years of life, a person’s microbe population is relatively stable, but adults who eat fermented foods regularly can still reap benefits.

However, please note that not all fermented foods are created equal. For instance, although cheese is a fermented product, it’s not known to bring the same health benefits as curd. The difference is live microbes - curd has them, cheese typically doesn’t. But then again, although high in probiotics, curd from animal milk contains milk proteins and thus will still carry the ill-effects of dairy. So, I would suggest curd and curd-based preparations like ‘Chas’ to be made only from plant-based milk such as soy, coconut or other nut based milks.

Although, curd preparations might be the easiest fermented food for us Indians to consume, because we’re already familiar with it, I encourage people to extend their range a little bit. In addition to eating raw and cooked vegetables, add pickled vegetables on a side with dinner or adding it to the plant-based raita or ‘kahchumber’.

Home-made, naturally fermented, water-based pickles are amazing for the health of your gut. They contain tons of antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, which a store-bought jar of oily pickles may not contain. My favourite is pickled turmeric tubers, which my mom prepares when fresh turmeric tubers are in season. Turmeric is a power-house in itself and its added fermentation benefits are a must have!

Idli, Dosa, Dhokla and fermented Kanji are some other common fermented dishes that even we are fond of as snacks and even main course at times, thanks to our multicultural ‘Aamchi Mumbai’. I again suggest we take the effort to prepare these dishes at home with their traditional recipes rather than ready to eat packets. I am doubtful of any health benefits that preservative laden heat and eat packs would provide.

There are many fermented dishes from other Indian states that appease the Bawa palate. ‘Ambar’ is a finger millet or ragi-based fermented semi-liquid beverage, native to Southern India, containing high amounts of calcium and is also endothermic, meaning it cools the body and is especially beneficial during the hot Indian summers. Native to Orissa, ‘Enderupitta’ is prepared during the Prathamastami festival. A fermented batter of parboiled rice and black-gran is applied onto a turmeric leaf. The leaf is then folded mid-vain and cooked gently over the steam. Not only do the turmeric leaves have beneficial antibiotic properties, but the Fermentation enhances the nutritional quality of the black-gran and rice.

So, friends, do include a variety of fermented foods that help in replenishing the microflora of your gut to keep you smiling!
Parsi Times

Special Feature

Gourmet Garnish by Shiraz: How To Plan A Successful Event

Culinary Management Connoisseur, Shiraz Kotwal has dedicated over three decades perfecting the art of crafting memorable gastronomic experiences. He is your go-to expert for curating the most elegant yet fun culinary soirees across the board – Corporate Events, Intimate Sit-Down Dinners, Restaurant Management, Casual Brunches, as also your everyday Home-Dinners and Kitchen Management. Shiraz offers a Special Discount to Parsi Times Readers who wish to avail his professional services and consultations. To connect with him, E-mail: shirazkotwal@gmail.com or M: +91 9833720369

Post my last column on Menu Planning, one of the requests I received was to assist a Hononary Birthday. I met the Birthday girl - the brief was a simple Sit-down, home-cooked dinner for a family of 12, using the family Monogrammed silver, glassware and Royal Doulton porcelain. The menu approved, ingredients ordered, appropriate crockery and silverware taken out from storage - and we were good to go. On D-Day, we had the tablecloth laid, floral done, placements complete, food ready, Champagne on ice - by 5:00 pm we were set and ready!

The Guest List: An idea of who’s attending the event or the ‘crowd mix’, helps curate a successful culinary experience, especially in terms of choosing the menu as well as the theme (if one is preferred). Knowing the age profile of guests helps better planning. Also, ensure to consider dietary restrictions of guests - such as gluten intolerance, restrict dairy, nut allergies, etc. You don’t want a last-minute situation dealing with a guest’s food hypersensitivity.

The Venue: It’s all about LOCATION! Before finalizing on one, find out the restrictions laid down by the owners of various properties. Two main aspects that make a venue suitable are - Ease of Accessibility and Parking Availability/ Valet Parking. Ensure to mention these details to the guests.

Planning The Menu As Per The Nature Of The Event: It is important to understand the kind of event you are catering to. These could be formal or informal, personal or professional.

- Personal Events: House parties, intimate dinners/lunches or other kinds of personal get-together celebrations for Birthdays, Anniversaries etc., house-warmings, baby showers, et al call for menu planning depending on the crowd-mix and dietary preferences of the guests, in terms of cuisine; vegetarian/non-veg/vegan preferences; consumption of alcohol; the appetizer-to-main course ratio, etc.

- Professional Events: If it’s a Board Room Luncheon, then quick, non-messy food, light on the stomach, is the order of the day, especially if it’s back to the Board room post lunch! Bite-sized, finger-foods is the preference at events like product launches, press briefings, mini-workshops. Day-long seminars would need to cater to proper meals.

The Caterer: At the end of the day, the success of any event lies in the quality and taste of the food! Hence, hiring a caterer is vital to the success of the event! Here are a few points to consider:

- Your due diligence when hiring a caterer:
  - How long has the caterer been in the business?
  - Feedback from people who have undertaken their service.
  - Is the caterer insured and possesses the appropriate food service licenses.
  - Hygiene Standards
  - Flexibility in terms of requests.
  - Are they operating from a proper kitchen facility or a garage?
  - Quality of Service Staff
  - Cancellation Policy

Food Presentation: Did you know that even before the food touches your tongue, you’ve already tasted it? Yes, you first eat with your eyes - visual appeal is half the battle won! Here are a few tips for you:

- Choosing the right crockery takes your presentation to the next level, serving as the attractive backdrop to the food.
- Use Contrasting Colors and Symmetry: While light-colored plates make bold, vibrant colors pop, darker plates will make lighter-colored foods more visually appealing. Colorful vegetables and greens can be used as accent points.
- Food Decoration Works Magic: As per the dish, garnish with the right herbs, edible flowers, spices and citrus zest. Edible flowers and micro-herbs add beauty, interest and flavor to a dish.
- Get Your Creative ‘Sauces’ Flowing: In addition to adding flavour, sauces present the opportunity to be more creative in your presentation. Instead of mindlessly pouring the sauce over the dish, strategically use sauces with squeeze bottles or paintbrushes. Create accent dots along the side of the plate, or lightly drizzle the sauce over the main ingredients or then use individual sauce boats when serving certain dishes to let your guests choose.

When food is beautifully presented, your guests will be dying to try it - ensure a variety in taste, colour and texture - every dish should be well garnished and served with a smile!

Culinary Management is a term used loosely by most today. It is an art and a science which looks into every detail of the house operations. The two areas need to work in tandem to orchestrate a successful event. Putting together an event, no matter the size, needs meticulous planning - whether it’s for ten people or a thousand! Every event is as important to me as it is to the client, my 30+ years’ experience is on the line too!

When approached to oversee an event, I have a detailed questionnaire, which helps me understand in detail the event specifics and preferences of the client. The following are some important pointers to ensure a successful event:

The Budget: Remember, when you don’t outline the budget for the event,
Parsi Zoroastrians have carved a niche for themselves in the country... from leading industrialists like Ratan Tata and Godrej to an army of talented Bollywood actors, prodigious Parsis are an asset to India’s culture and economy. With a population of less than 55,000 Parsi/Iran Zoroastrians in India, our lip-smacking food, peculiar surnames, stellar Bollywood movies, acting skills and the sweet mentions - from ‘dikra’ to ‘gadhera’ - are a part of India’s popular culture, but our expertise and contribution to the fashion world is lesser known... more specifically, the Art of Parsi Embroidery. Parsi Times is delighted to present the second part of the Feature Series – ‘Parsi Embroidery: A Heritage Of Humanity’ – a labour of love and much research, by Dr. Shernaz Cama, the Director of the UNESCO Parzor Project for the Preservation and Promotion of Parsi Zoroastrian Culture and Heritage, sharing the vibrant history of Parsi embroidery.

DR. SHERNAZ CAMA
(In Association with Sociomartini)

All Creation is ultimately positive and helpful. It is an optimistic creed which has helped keep a very small, scattered people active across centuries and across several diasporas. This iconography comes to life in traditional Parsi embroidery. Flowers, birds and animals are celebrated as emblems of power, protection and purity. The simurgh and rooster, sacred birds give health and protection. In its long history, Chinese symbols entered these textiles and gave to them the ‘Divine Fungus’ which like the Turkish emblem removes the ‘evil eye’.

Jhablas or tunics were worn particularly by children. The bright red jhabla combines protective symbols: the rooster and the Chinese Divine Fungus, while this archival photo shows roosters and butterflies, symbols of protection and love for a child.

Red roses, Simurghs & foliage from a Persian garden are seen in this Parzor Sari fully hand embroidered.

It was in the Tang and Song dynasties that this Persian love of nature, mingled with the skill of the embroidery schools of China across the Silk Route. In this early stage of intercultural amalgam, the Khakhoo or seed pearl stitch developed, which has minute work like the Pekin knot. This khakho or ‘forbidden’ stitch, is a lost stitch, no longer practiced. It did result in women losing their eyesight and hence its name.

This Khakhoo stitch kor (border) was embroidered by Gulan Billimoria in the 1960s. She did beautiful embroidery but lost her eye-sight towards the end of her life.

The China connection with Persia was an overland trade link; this would change into a sea trade link with the later Indian Parsis. The first Parsi set sail for China in 1756. For almost 200 years, Parsi traders prospered, trading at Canton, Macao, Hong Kong and Shanghai. The Chinese had begun exporting their superb embroidery to Europe as early as the 13th century AD. Legend has it that a Parsi trader in Canton, watching craftsman embroider a rich textile, requested them to embroider 6 yards of silk as a sari for his wife in India. These pieces often carried Taoist and Buddhist symbolism of protection such as the Divine Fungus, because embroidery in China was a sacred art.

* [All images are courtesy: Parzor Archives]