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**Parsi  
Junction**  
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# PARSI JUNCTION

Sunday, 12 September 2021

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability



Before we say goodbye  
to this year's rains,  
let's go..

## raftZYNG

- White Water Rafting
- Water Sport Activities
- Breakfast and Lunch

### For registrations :

Jennifer - 9619312235    Burjis - 9820120626  
Natalia - 9833121085    ZYNG - 9820004920



**Date - 18th Sept, 2021**

**Cost - Rs. 3,000/-**

**Location - Kolad**



## ZYNG2.0 presents raftZYNG 2021!!

Inviting all the Parsi Irani Zoroastrian Youth for another outdoors fun weekend.

Before the rains go away, let us make the best of the remaining monsoon with rafting and water activities at Kolad, Maharashtra on **18th of September 2021.**

For more information and registration, contact -

Jennifer - 9619312235

Burjis - 9820120626

Natalia - 9833121085

ZYNG Official# - 9820004920

### **Please note-**

1) This event is meant for Parsi Irani Zoroastrian Youth, ages 18-55 years. 16 and 17 year olds will need parental consent. Below 16 years of age will not be accepted.

2) All Covid precaution norms will be followed.

Hurry and register with us!!



# "CHARITY SEES THE NEED AND NOT THE CAUSE" SAYS DR. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR



*Dr. Zuleika Homavazir*

**"Charity sees the need and not the cause".** It is most imperative to imbibe the power and duty to give than to receive.

A community is like a ship on a voyage and during the storm only the ones with leadership qualities ought to take over the helm and save the community out of turbulence. The community

has become a **TITANIC** whereas Randeria is the iceberg and Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz seems to have become Captain Smith, attempting to keep the Titanic afloat.

Service is about taking responsibility for the wrongs done upon the community and rectify it as early as possible.

### LOOK AT OUR TRUSTEES :-

#### CLASH OF EGOS:

Arrogance among the trustees have led to public display of self pride. None have the obvious intent to accept their follies which has led to the disintegration of the Board and the Community. If the board at the BPP remains under a cloud of suspicion, no amount of intentional windows will get it out of darkness. The stakes are high and every crucial mistake costs dearly.

**Present Dissenting Trustees, Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala, along with late Zarir Bhathena and the invalid Yazdi Desai, conveniently forget that they were in absolute power for the first five years of their term oppressing the then trustees in minority, Armaity Tirandaz and Viraf Mehta, denying them even basic right to information to enable them to function as Trustees till they moved the High Court and got Justice.**

**Yet for five years they did not WITH MALAFIDE INTENT move the Courts for their promised Amendment of the Election Scheme, except just periodically make a show.**

Now the tables have turned, the dissenting trustees now in minority are left with the only available option to crib and cry trying to gain as much sympathy as possible from my Community as also use their fully owned Parsi media as their mouthpiece to substantiate their bloated egos.

The present Minority Trustees in the first five years duration when they were in Majority had the financial resources to move the judiciary at their own expense but the then majority led by Kersi Randeria- with their puppet chairman Yezdi Desai lavishly spent

the funds of the Trust on high-profile counsels who were the main beneficiaries of the feud between the Trustees.

**The Community without any further delay must insist expenditure on legal conflicts between Trustees be borne by the individual egoist Trustees and not burden and misuse the community's Trust funds which are primarily for the beneficiaries.**

Individuals with intentional motives create gossip without any evidence to satiate their own conflicts causing divisions in the Community. **BEWARE OF SUCH ROUGES** who do not have the interest of the Community at heart. Personally I am not here to pass judgments but certainly to refute all the trash being flouted against me on social media by certain groups with malicious intent trying to sway my Community's strong decision to elect learned highly educated candidates as Trustees who can make that vital difference on the Board.

**I repeat Trustees should not squander funds on unwanted litigations just to gorge their bloated pride against their own beneficiaries who they vow to protect.**

#### DEAD END:

**ELECTIONS** to be held on 14 March 2021 for two seats on the BPP Board which were indefinitely postponed due to Covid Pandemic threat remains a thorn to the dissenting trustees who cannot take any steps to enforce such elections unless **action to decrease the term of trustees to 5 years instead of 7 years is first moved and implemented.**

I had suggested as far back as 22nd August 2021, a single page amendment to be filed at the honourable High Court. Yes, the Board agreed to this amendment yet what action has been taken is left to imagination and Trustees talk of **TRANSPARENCY?** It seems the frustrated Minority Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala are not agreeable to reduce the term but want elections first in November 2021 so that the two elected Trustees get a seven year term and then move for reduction of term along with other required amendments. This clever ploy is being strategized by Randeria so that he also gets the benefit of seven year term in October 2022 when his term ends.

1. **VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT** is left for the candidates to wriggle away from, without being punished for any such violation of the code of conduct as it remains voluntary as of 2008. The Dissenting Trustees in their five-year term never thought it fit to enforce formulating this code of conduct or do they have any **ULTERIOR MOTIVES** behind their act? Kersi Randeria cries foul of elections being postponed indefinitely but also maliciously applies a rider to postpone elections until the code of conduct is implemented, knowing fully well that what they could not and did not do in five years cannot be done before his seven year term



ends in October 2022 so in other words he forcefully occupies the seat of power on the board beyond October 2022. Treachery, Isn't it Mr. Randeria? "It takes years to build trust, only seconds to destroy it"

2. **BETRAYAL:** Community can see through the credibility or should we say dis-credibility of the Trustees from the time adult franchise cropped up its ugly head in 2008 and gradually brought war and financial misery to the doorsteps of the BPP. **PROMISED TRANSPARENCY HAS ALWAYS REMAINED A DISTANT DREAM. Thank God for Parsi Junction that the misdeeds of the Trustees, which were earlier exposed by Jame-Jamshed till Randeria bought it over, is once again getting exposed.**

WAKE UP MY DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS and realise what Demons we have voted for. "Kersi Randeria, if you succeed in cheating someone, don't think that the person is a fool, do realise that the person trusted you much more than you deserved". **You have not only cheated the slum dwellers but also defrauded the BPP by not paying up the promised Rs. 40 lakhs for the out of turn allotment of the flat to your dear advocate Kaikhushroo Sam Irani and editor of Pol Khol Sacchu Bol, married to a non-Parsi which you use to your benefit, as also refused to take Rs. 40 lakhs from Mr. Khambatta, nephew of your lady partner for Godrej Baug flat allotment.**

3. **WAIT UNTIL DARK** and all your misdeeds will be displayed with corroborated evidence. A smear campaign against me and my family is not going to sway my Community against me. You can only brag without EVIDENCE but I have all my Aces close to my heart with relevant Documentary and electronic evidence. "A SINGLE LIE DISCOVERED IS ENOUGH TO CARVE DOUBTS IN EVERY TRUST EXPRESSED". I have learnt to hate all traitors, and there is no disease that I detest more than Treachery.

**A WORD OF ADVICE TO THE PRESENT MAJORITY AT THE BPP BOARD:**

- a) As promised, whether consented or not by the Dissenting Trustees Kersi and Noshir, reduce the Term of Trustees to 5 years before further elections are announced.
- b) Now that you are in majority, do not tag the line and disregard the suggestions of the Minority trustees, or else there remains no difference between you and them.
- c) Try and set right what has been wronged all these years and curtail the legal expenses on the same beneficiaries whom you were elected to protect.
- d) Keep your promises to turn leave and license to tenancy. Leave and licence never served its proposed purpose but was used as a weapon to garner votes. Let's put an end to it! **Urgently convert all Licensees to Tenants and those who became Licenses under the Refundable Deposit Scheme (RDS), convert their Deposits to Donations along with safety of Tenancy as done early this year by Noshir and Kersi to give Hoshang Jal, Tenancy of his sons Cusrow Baug flat which was denied to him by Nusli Wadia Sir himself since 2010.**

- e) Turn a new leaf towards donors who are the main benefactors of the beneficiaries.
- f) The objects of the Trust must be strictly followed to the T and no amount of money or influence can be favoured.
- g) **Allow all Occupants of BPP/Wadia Baugs, be they Tenants or Licensees, to share in the Encashable Value of their flats on 50:50 basis now that Govt. has legalized Pugree. Of course those settled abroad can get a share of only 30 to 40%.**
- h) Ensure Doongerwadi is properly maintained only for Dokhmenashini and no other mode of disposal be allowed at Doongerwadi.
- i) Take up and appoint Architects for redevelopment of its various Estates languishing in various stages of incompleteness.
- j) No BPP Flat, whether in a Parsi Colony or outside, can be allotted to an intermarried couple in preference to a pure Parsi couple.

The Parsi Voter has smartened up to your empty promises, Randeria and Dadrawala. We shall not fall for any such assurances. Only candidates who have integrity, education and management skills have to be voted for, to salvage the depleting image of the BPP Board. Social Workers may have their needs but cannot manage the huge Corporation that BPP has become, especially with an ailing husband to care for.

So Dear Trustees, your words and deeds must match if you expect your beneficiaries to trust your leadership. Don't be afraid to show your vulnerability, please be transparent even when the truth is inconvenient.

Bombay Parsi Punchayet is a Trust and its Board comprises of Trustees who are voted to work for the sole benefit of the beneficiaries.

**"BE TRUSTWORTHY DEAR TRUSTEES"** and remember for every good reason there is to lie, there is a better reason to Bare the truth.

May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the 3,387 families who wished me on my birthday.

May our Community thrive and overcome the pandemic.

Dr. Zuleika Homavazir  
Your Partner in Progress of Our Community.  
Connect: 9821033786  
www.drzuleika.com

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DR. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR  
(Ph.D, PDM, MBA, M.Com, LLB, BMS)  
Member - Board of Management  
SFC Coordinator- BMS, BMM, BSc.IT, BAF, B.Com, MSc.IT,  
M.Com Programmes  
Convenor- SFC Examinations  
Coordinator- International Collaborations  
Wilson College  
Board Member,  
Terry Fox India Committee  
Mobile: 9821033786.



# ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA HOLDS JASHAN TO WELCOME GOOD TIMES/ POSITIVITY

After the fiasco caused by the misleading Advertisement in Parsi Times of 28th August 2021 ostensibly celebrating a Behram Roj Jashan for members of the members of the Zoroastrian Association of California (ZAC) as a Joint Celebration of the 6th year of Worli Crematorium, all the five High Priests had denounced the said gaffe of Parsi Times.

Subsequently ZAC under the leadership of Ervad Zarir Bhandara conducted the Jashan at their Atash Kadeh on 4th September 2021 which was conducted on Zoom for the benefit of all Parsis worldwide who could join in if they were so inclined.

Ervad Bhandara explained that in June 2021 he was shocked to learn that death announcements of Parsis due to Covid or otherwise had shot to 50 deaths per week. Hence at that time he performed a Behram Yazad Jashan on Dae Mah –Behram Roj to help the lives of our Indian Parsis and lo and behold, shortly thereafter the number of Parsi deaths reduced to 10 per week. Hence on Bahman Mah Behram Roj, he performed a 'Jashan of Victory'. And now he has performed a Jashan to welcome 'Good Times' to shift focus from this Covid pandemic to good health.

Sadly only 9 persons attended in person at the Atash Kadeh in California, Los Angeles, USA and worldwide only 192 Parsis logged in on Zoom though the message of holding the Jashan was published earlier. We reproduce below the same.

Vada Dasturji Dr. Firoze Kotwal could not join via Zoom due to his old age but sent a message which was read to the members. But Vada Dasturji OF Udvada, Meherjirana of Navsari, Vada Dasturji of Surat and Vada Dasturji of Mumbai's Anjuman Atashbehram all addressed the Parsis on Zoom invoking blessings for the community and its well being.

## Jashan To Welcome Positivity At ZAC Atashkadeh



Dasturji Khurshed

Dasturji Kotwal

Dasturji Ravji

Dasturji Cyrus

Dasturji JamaspAsa

### All Five Respected High Priests To Address The Global Parsi/Zarthosti Community

A Jashan will be performed on September 4th, 2021, (Behram Roj) at 7:30 PM (IST), at the ZAC (Zoroastrian Association of California) Atashkadeh to invoke and welcome 'Positivity and Good Times' for all. For the very first time ever, all five of our community's most revered High Priests (our Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor, Dasturji Kotwal, Dasturji Ravji, Dasturji JamaspAsa and Dasturji Cyrus) will address our global Parsi/Zarthosti community. The event will be streamed over Zoom for the benefit of our community members worldwide. After the Jashan, for the first time ever all of our 5 High Priests will address our worldwide Zarthosti community with a message of Health, Wellbeing, Peace, Prosperity, and Longevity.

Join on Zoom Platform: [https://us02web.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7522040799)

[zoom.us/j/7522040799](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7522040799)

Meeting ID: 752 204 0799

Passcode: Jashan#1





## APPEAL FOR FUNDS FROM SURAT PARSI PUNCHAYAT

As the community is aware, Surat Parsi Panchayat had filed a Petition in the Ahmedabad High Court to allow Parsi Covid victims the benefit of Dokhmenashini at Surat Doongerwadi against the compulsory cremation of Covid victims.

However due to certain factors propounded by some Parsi lawyers the Gujrat High Court dismissed the Petition. It is a fact that the Petition was not properly argued before the High Court and hence Surat PP wants to go in Appeal before the Supreme Court of India.

But the legal costs even without Senior Counsels is prohibitive and would be in excess of Rs. 30 lakhs which the Surat PP cannot afford. Hence it has sent an Appeal letter to the community for funds to enable it to file the Appeal in the Supreme Court.

Normally one would have expected BPP to bear the major cost but with BPP at near bankruptcy thanks to the misguided policy of the earlier Majority Trustees, it is unlikely that BPP will be able to fund them. In fact the High Priests had advised BPP Trustees to move the Bombay High Court to get Justice for Parsi Covid victims the religiously mandated Dokhmenashini system of disposal of Parsi dead bodies. However the lack of funds and the Rejection of a similar appeal by Gujrat High Court was a dampener and hence requested the High Priests especially Dr. Jamaspasa to give the BPP authentic literature and research projects from London or USA that would clearly define that Covid cannot be transmitted through dead bodies and hence there is no risk in handling dead Covid bodies. Such a report is still awaited without which BPP is unable to file the Petition in the High Court.

If Muncherji Cama had been alive today we are sure that he would have donated Rs. 10 to 20 lakhs for this cause and Surat PP would have already filed this appeal. What a loss for the community when it needs him the most.

Anyway we publish below the request letter from the President of Surat PP as under:

### An Appeal from Surat Parsi Panchayat Board to take Dokhmenashini Case to the Supreme Court.

While going through the judgment of July 23, 2021, passed by the double bench of the Hon. High Court of Gujarat, we strongly feel the Hon. Court did not deal with the core scientific and legal issues covered in the petition properly, perhaps the Hon. Court was oblivious to the reality at the ground level while finally disposing off the petition without resolving the issue of granting permission of Dokhmenashini to Parsi deaths due to Covid.

In the circumstances, we are of the view that the matter needs to be carried further with the Hon. Supreme Court of India.

We anticipate expenses of Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs, or even more, towards legal fees, for which we appeal to the Parsi Community and benevolent trusts to come forward and donate generously to help us achieve our rights under the Constitution.

Request to draw cheques in favour of "The Surat Parsi Panchayat Funds and Properties Trust" and send to Dr. Jamshedji Laskari Road, Shahpore, Surat: 395003. Email: [office@suratparsipanchayat.com](mailto:office@suratparsipanchayat.com) or [sppanchayat@gmail.com](mailto:sppanchayat@gmail.com). Donations are exempt u/s. 80-G of the I.T. Act.

Donors are assured that in the event we are unable to collect sizeable donations or if there is any unused amount of the donation it will be returned back to the respective donors.

**-President & Trustees, Surat Parsi Panchayat Board.**

### સમ્પૂર્ણ શરણાગતિ

યા ખુદા, માંગુ છું, તારી પાસે, સંપૂર્ણ શરણાગતિ ની દુઆ, જોડી મારા હાથ

કરતો નહીં મને નિરાશ; ડગમગે નહીં મારી આસ્થા, ધરજે હમેશા મારો હાથ

કાંઈબી થઈ જાય, આવે આંધી તોફાન, બસ તું છોડતો નહીં આ સંગાથ

મન છે ચંચળ, બેચેન થાય, પળભરમાં ડગમગી જાય, સમજાવજે એને ઓ નાથ

શરણાગતિ સ્વીકારજો મારી, ઓ દયાળુ પરવરદેગાર, ઓ દીનાનાથ

તારી મેઢેર હશે તો, મારી શરણાગતિ માં પડી જાઉં ન હું પછાત.

Armin Dutia Motashaw

### Selfishness vs Selflessness

Be happy with what

Little you have

There are some

People with nothing

Who still manage to smile!!

Material things give us

Temporary pleasure

Cause it does not

Last long

But Selfless and

Spreading seeds of Happiness

Brings about a lot of smiles.

Tatas are one fine example

Who are always

Serving humanity

They are totally dedicated

To uprooting the needy helpless

As well as the sick from poverty

By following the tenets of Zoroastrianism

Of Good Thoughts Good Words Good Deeds

The trait of selfishness is

Everything for oneself

In life it is not good

Cause what one sows

Does come around

By being selfish one

Loses a lot of friends

But if being selfless

The friends are with you

Till the very end

Lastly:

Change your thoughts

And you change your world

(Norman Vincent Peale)

Stay safe & keep well

**Choicest Happiness**

**Farida**

# Poshan Jagrukta abhiyaan held by moma and wcd



**Poshan Jagrukta Abhiyaan**(Nutrition Awareness Campaign) organized by Ministry of Minority Affairs(MOMA) and Ministry of Women and Children Development(WCD) aims at increasing awareness about need for proper nutrition for adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Women, children and the youth from the Parsi community interacted with Hon'ble Minister Muqthar Abbas Naqvi and Hon'ble Minister Smriti Irani and received Nutrikits at the Dadar Athornan Institute, Mancherji Joshi Hall, on 6th September 2021. The other dignitaries that graced the occasion were Ms. Renuka Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MOMA), Shri S Rahul Shewale, M.P, Shree Manoj Kotak, M.P, Shri Indevar Pandey, Secretary, WCD and Shri S.K Dev Verman, Secretary NCM. The aim of the event was to create awareness about importance of good nutritious diet for women and children which in turn will lead

to a bright healthy future of India. Jiyo Parsi team assisted in publicizing the event and is very grateful to the Government of India for their support to the Parsi community.

Thank you to all the volunteers and participants for making the event a huge success.

### The Parsi dignitaries who graced the occasion were

Mrs Armaity Tirandaz, Chairperson BPP, Mr Xerxes Dastur, Trustee BPP, Er.DR. Ramiyar Karanjia, Principal, Dadar Athornan Institute, Mr Sam Balsara Founder, Madison World, Ms Lara Balsara-Vajifdar, Executive Director, Madison World, Ex BPP Chairman Dinshaw Mehta and Ms Zarin Havewala.





## HISTORY OF GRANT ROAD

Grant Road, named after Sir Robert Grant, the Governor of Bombay between 1835 and 1839, is a railway station in South-Central Mumbai, and is the former terminus of the erstwhile Bombay Baroda & Central India (BB & CI) Railway. The terminus was established in 1859 to connect to Surat, over the years the terminus facilities were moved to Bombay Central and facilities at Grant road were converted to cargo operations.

Towards the west of the Grant Road station is Nana Chowk (named after Jaganath Shunkerseth) and residential localities of Gamdevi, New Chikhhal Wadi, Juni (Old) Chikhhal Wadi, Bhaji Gully (the local vegetable market). To the east of Grant Road station is the retail electronic market of Bombay along Lamington Road. Grant Road station also connects famous Radha Gopinath Temple [ISKCON] at Chowpatty. Novelty cinema is at the junction of Grant Road with Lamington Road.

Famous places accessible to the West are Gowalia Tank (also known as August Kranti Maidan), Mani Bhavan at Gamdevi, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Bhavan's College, Wilson College, Girgaum Chowpatty and Walkeshwar. Famous places accessible from the East are Gol Deval off Duncan Road, Chor Bazaar on Mutton Street, Hurkisondas Hospital, Prathana Samaj.

Grant Road along with Tardeo and Mumbai Central have been a neighbourhood of Mumbai City dominated by the Jains, Muslims and the Parsi & Irani Zoroastrians. It is considered as the place of ancestral roots of the originating Zoroastrians of the city mainly be-

ing the areas of Balaram Street and Sleater Road. It has 4 Fire temples and The Cama Baug is an important place for the Wedding Ceremonies and other functions of the Parsis of Mumbai.

The Gilder Tank is one of the oldest tanks in the city originating the roots of Yazdani, Cooper and the Gilder Families of Mumbai. B.Merwan & Co. Cake Shop and Bakery is one of the oldest bakeries in the City of Mumbai which has catered to nearly all classes of people from students and mill workers.

Grant Road is famous for its electronic items purchase at Lamington Road. Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Center is one of the most important and oldest hospitals in the city of Mumbai. It is also an access point to the Tower of Silence at Kemps Corner (Which is the only remaining one after the closure of the dakhma at Andheri's Salsette Parsi Colony on the Salsette Island) and even the Wilson College.

It is among the access points towards the residential areas of Gamdevi and Walkeshwar, Gowalia Tank.

Gowalia Tank where the Quit India Movement took place.

Grant Road had a number of theaters until 2004, namely the Novelty Cinema, Super Cinema, Apsara, Ganga, Jamuna, Minerva, Royal Talkies, New Roshan Talkies, Nishat Cinema, Imperial Cinema, Swastik Theater, Naaz Theater, Alfred Theater and Shalimar Theater, etc.

### Ego Pride vs Humbleness and Humility

One must be knowing  
That ego and pride  
Goeth before fall  
These qualities never last long  
As some calamity sometime  
May bring about one's  
Permanent fall

"A humble heart has no room  
For ego pride and arrogance  
It recognizes that all we have  
And all we are  
Comes from the Almighty  
We are nothing  
Without Him  
So learn to  
Treat humanity  
Focusing on  
The Almighty  
And helping others

Than concentrating  
On oneself"  
(Mufti Ismail Menk)  
As years go by  
As our hair turns grey  
When we are  
At our death's door  
Realization sets in  
"Why did I not think  
About it before

"Being humble means recognizing  
That we are Earth not to see  
How Important we have become  
But to see how much difference  
In the lives of others  
(Gordon B Hinchley)

**Choicest Happiness**  
**Farida**

### 7D to 2D

One day, certain it is that all of us shall,  
from 7D to a 2D picture become

"Om Shanti, RIP, or SaroshYazad  
Panahbad" say will, quite some

Tears shed quietly, or cry for us, or even  
rue some will too

Your departure intolerable will be for just a  
few; perhaps one or two.

That's when people close to you, will this  
truth realise and know.

Easy very it is to say, "I'm with you", but  
difficult it is in deeds to show.

Die can no one, neither can anyone  
accompany a departed soul;

But changes life suddenly for those few,  
nothing can them console

Siblings, kids, friends n colleagues  
definitely show you sympathy

But agree you will, O 7D, I one needs  
loads of love n empathy.

**Armin Dutia Motashaw**



## Khodadad Circle

Created from agricultural land in 1899-1900 under the Dadar-Matunga-Wadala-Sion scheme de-congesting plague-afflicted south Bombay, Dadar was considered the first "planned suburb" of Bombay.

Khodadad Circle was the erstwhile colony entrance, also called Dadar Tram Terminus or Dadar T. T.

The two-storied buildings along this quadrant were erected by two brothers, Gustasp and Rustom Irani. They requested the municipal commissioner to name the roundabout for their father Khodadad.

Completed by 1934-35, following Sohrabji Bhedwar's design, all but one of the buildings remain colonially christened. Clockwise, as Tilak Bridge ends, stand Empress Mahal, Empire Mahal, Imperial Mahal and Harganga Mahal (formerly Rustom Mahal, for Khodadad's younger son).

Harganga Mahal had a quirky fixture in dagli-coated, pagri-capped Jehangirji Vajifdar with his black cat at frozen foods specialist Vincent Stores, as well as the institutional legend Agrawal Classes. G. D. Agrawal reached the city from Ajmer in his teens. Kindness made him teach math and science to Mazgaon mill mazdoors' kids free of cost. Turned professional on marrying, Agrawal rented a cramped Matunga room initially for his classes. Later he shifted to

Harganga Mahal in 1955, its roster including Nadir Godrej, Mukesh Ambani and Mahendra Choksi of Asian Paints.

Below, Dayaram Damodar Mithaiwala (D. Damodar after a family split) was the unofficial canteen for Agrawal Classes students.

The more engrossing history, rooted in 1829, is Joshi Budhakaka Mahim Halwawala's. The Portuguese ruling Mahim gave a cook they appreciated, Mauji Joshi, a small stall on Kapad Bazaar Road. This branch rose with Empire Mahal in 1932. Mauji Seth was the "budha kaka" delivering door to door laddoos, sev boondi and mohanthal which women of the house hand-rolled in the kitchen. Hitting on the USP formula for butter paper-veiled halwa – pulped wheat, ghee, sugar and saffron sprinkled with dry fruit – explains the "Mahim Halwawala" sign-off.

For 40 years, Empire Mahal had Khurshed Bhada's fabric shop, N. Khurshed & Company, witnessing such unforgivable fashion fads as the one-wear paper sari. Among old-timers like Shirodkar Opticians, rows of florists and vegetable vendors, Gangar Stores is the 1932 jewel in the Empire's crown. Bhimshi Punshi Gangar hailed from a Kutch village, who opened Shah Bhimshi Punshi Gangar, a humble ration shop which is the precursor to today's thriving store.

Raj Kapoor's circle haunts were widespread, from Derby Haircutting Saloon in Harganga

Mahal to A To Z Furnishings in Imperial Mahal where patriarch Prithviraj Kapoor visited his dental surgeon (two local dentists, Dr Minocher Bilpodiwala and Dr Maneck Billimoria, partnered at the Empire Mahal pharmacy Bill & Co, opposite which Bill Nursing Home in Imperial Mahal introduced a 24-hour oxygen cylinder service).

Once an Empress Mahal landmark, Farmer Bros. was the result of Nusserwanji Goawalla's ambition. Setting up Byculla Dairy Farm in the early 1900s, he had 1,500 buffaloes behind the Victoria Gardens supply the city milk through both World Wars. His grand-nephew Sohrab Chinoy's father Eruch assumed charge of Nusserwanji's dry stock farm in Sanjan. Tending animals in Nallasopara and stables in Jogeshwari, Eruch's efforts produced the purest cream and topli paneer (cottage cheese in a basket). The Empress Mahal milk bar whipped up thick milkshakes, flavored lassi and sandwiches with pleasantly piquant mustard.

Another Empress Mahal shopfront is the Punjabi Chandu Halwai Karachiwala, here since 1958, offering tantalizingly labelled Tansen Halwa and Kismat Halwa. It was established in 1896 in Karachi by Chandulal Bahl who impressed Sri Prakasa, the first High Commissioner to Pakistan, for refusing payment to feed Partition refugees. The Karachi Halwa became Bombay Halwa - a brand salute to an urban tadka blending much forgotten goodness and grace.

### Our Lady Dugdova's Human Rights!!!

"How one should treat  
And be treated not  
A like slave who is  
Being humiliated poked  
Prodded waiting to be bought  
Humans don't need to be  
Discriminated because of their  
Colour caste or creed  
But treated with self respect  
Tolerance Equality as well  
Dignity"  
(Cyrus Cylinder)

Imagine a world  
Without women  
What kind of a  
Society would it be???  
Apparently full of men  
With their sexual prowess  
As well brutality  
I am neither a human  
Rights Activist  
Nor feminist  
Just stating as I see  
Women need to be treated  
With respect and dignity  
Though of course

None of us have a halo  
Round our heads

Centuries ago there  
Were no human or  
Women's rights  
But life continued  
Without a fight

For just one second  
Chill your thoughts.  
If there was no  
Our Lady Dugdova  
Apparently there  
Would not be  
Our prophet  
Asho Zarathustra  
Nor a religion  
Called Zoroastrianism

She educated Him  
Raised Him  
Taught Him the ways  
Of the world  
To respect & treat  
People with respect  
As well dignity

Taught Him  
To distinguish  
Between right  
As well wrong  
Lies from truth  
And sift the grain  
From the chaff

She was responsible  
For Asho Zarathustra's  
Upbringing  
She too as a woman  
Had Equal Rights  
So Men hang up  
Your boxing gloves  
So never again gloat  
That men are better  
Than women  
Cause women too  
Equal Rights  
At the same time  
Never underestimate  
The Power of Woman

**Choicest Happiness  
Farida**



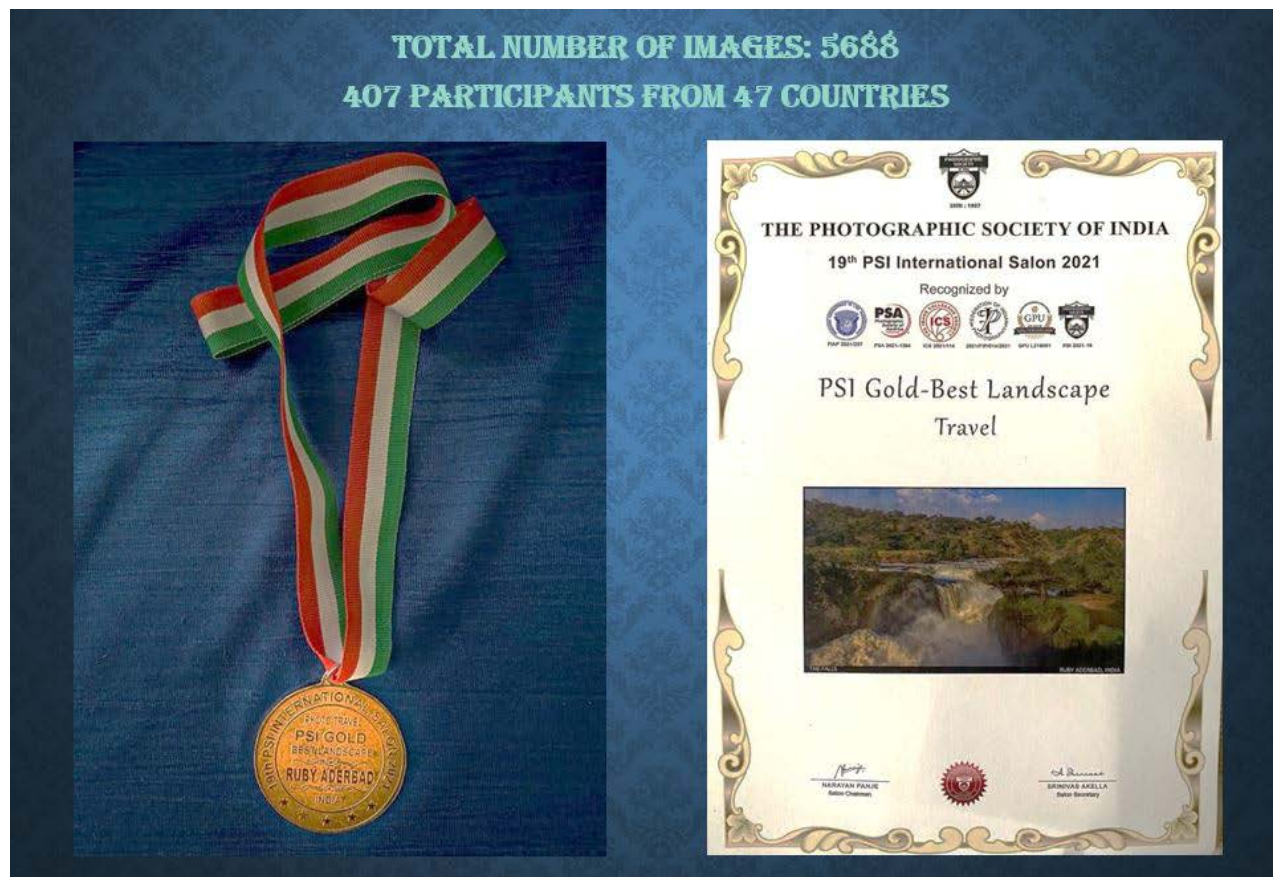
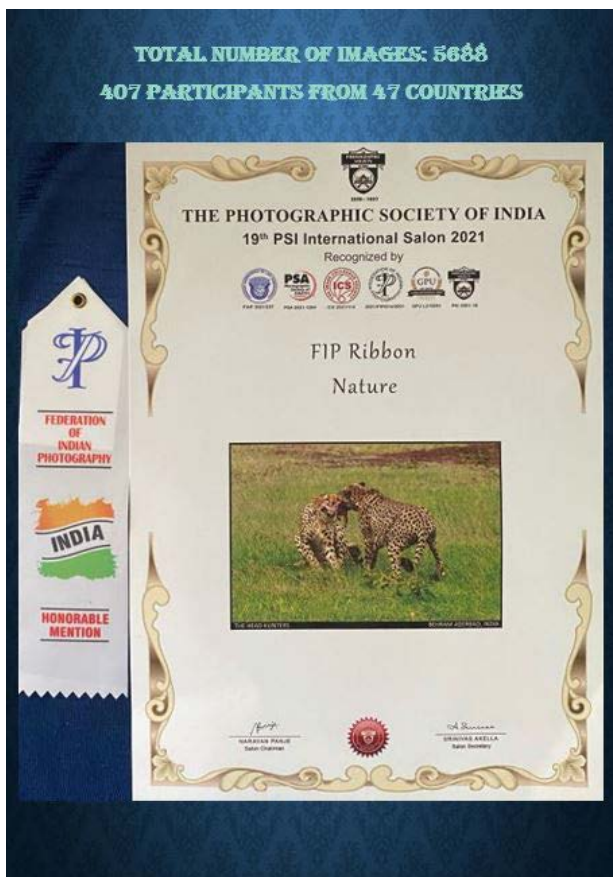
# Photography

## Couple win Accolades

**Ruby & Behram Aderbad**, our regular columnists and well-travelled couple have been winning accolades for their images over the past decade in various photography competitions, with many of their images being published in magazines and newspapers.

Earlier this year they participated in the **19th PSI International Salon 2021** which receives entries from across the world. This year the competition received 5688 images with 407 participants from 47 countries. While Behram won the FIP Ribbon for his image **“The Head Hunters”** in **“Nature”** category, Ruby won the Gold Medal in **“Best Landscape Travel”** category for her image of **“The Waterfall”**. Some of their other images also won a **“Special Mention”** in this competition. If not for Covid, their images would have been displayed alongside some of the best in an Art Gallery with them being awarded by renowned photographers.

Moreover, Ruby’s image of **“The Waterfall”** taken in Murchison Falls in Uganda was also picked up by **Africa Geographic** as the cover photo of their Travel & Lifestyle section, which by itself is an achievement.



**ParZor**

JIYO PARSI FRIDAY FORUM PRESENTS

**JIYO  
PARSI****Gulbanoo Irani**

# The Oral Tradition of Paria Mai

**Dilnavaz Irani****Friday, 17 September 2021 6-7 PM IST****zoom**
**Meeting ID: 990 252 6711**  
**Passcode: jiyoparsi**
**LIVE****@PARZORFOUNDATION**
**Jiyo Parsi Friday Forum | 17 September | 6-7 PM IST**  
**The Oral Tradition of Paria Mai - with Dilnavaz and Gulbanoo Irani**

Paria Mai - An old almost lost persian zoroastrian tradition of prayers to the fairies - pari, today known to very few predominantly Iranian women with Persian roots. Women pray to the 'Pariya Mai' or 'fairy God Mother' for miracles, mushkil asan and wishes through a elaborate ceremony called as 'Sopra'. Let us learn with Dilnavaz Irani and Gulbanoo Irani, the stories behind Pariya Mai na Sopra, prayers and this ancient ritual, passed down

by their mothers to them and to the future generations lest it becomes a lost culture.

**Join us on Zoom:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9902526711?pwd=bmJKbnFhV2NBdT-J3NFJlNoSUtTdz09>
**Meeting ID: 990 252 6711****Passcode: jiyoparsi**