



For Private Circulation Only

# PARSI JUNCTION

Sunday, 11 September 2022

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

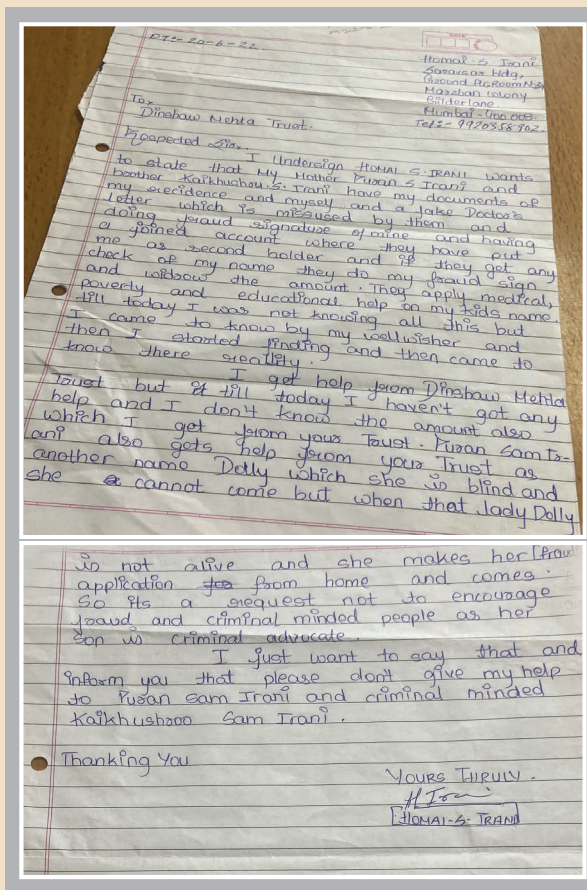
## KAIKHUSHRU IRANI SWINDLES CHARITY FUNDS OF HIS OWN SISTER HOMAI



Mrs. Homai Irani, a recipient of charity doles every quarter from Rusi Mehta's Trust, has sent a letter dated 20th June 2022 alleging that her mother Puran and brother

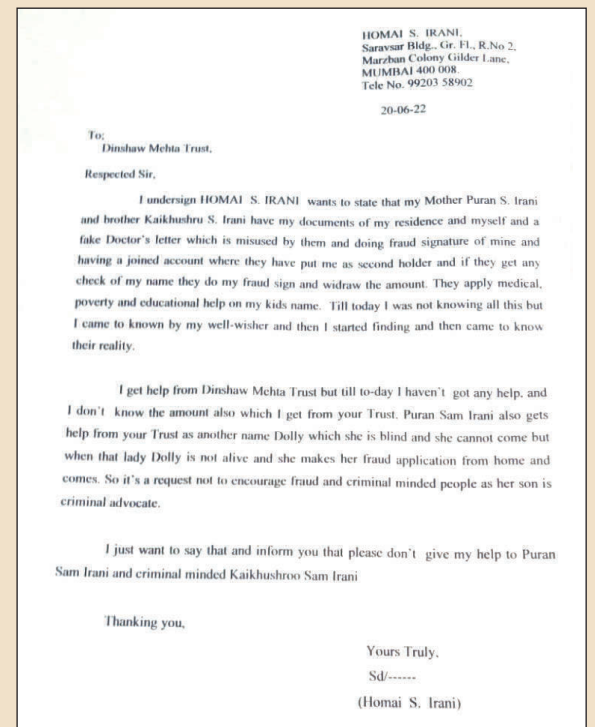
Kaikhushru have documents of her residence and do fraud signature of hers in their joint account if any cheque in her name comes in the joint account and withdraws the amount.

She further alleges that they have a fake Doctor's letter which is misused by them to apply for medical, poverty and educational help in her children's name. She admits that she gets help from Dinshaw Mehta trust but till today she has not received any help and she does not even know the amount which she gets from Dinshaw Mehta Trust as it is collected by her mother under a letter of authority allegedly signed by her but again a fraudulent



signature.

She admits that her mother Puran also gets charity help from his Trust as also collects on behalf of some blind lady Dolly who expired long back by making a fraudulent authority letter on her behalf.



She requests not to encourage fraud and criminal minded people as her son is a criminal advocate.

She ends with a request not to give her doles to her mother or her brother Kaikhushru Sam Irani.

We are publishing the hand written letter of Homai Irani as well as a typed version of her letter in a box for the benefit of community members.





# MARTYRS MEMORIAL FUNCTION

## THE BOMBAY PARSEE ASSOCIATION PAYS HOMAGE TO MARTYRS

On September 3 at 9 a.m. The Bombay Parsee Association (BPA) remembered the 'Fallen Heroes of the Indian Armed Forces' at the War Memorial (cenotaph) inside Khareghat Colony. To honour these bravehearts wreaths were placed by Vispi Dastur, President Emeritus, BPA, Cmde. Aspi Marker, Adi Mehta President FOZAWAC, Xerxes Dastur (President BPA, BPP Trustee), Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz ( Chairperson BPP) , Aloo Shroff and others. Thereafter, a trumpeter of the Indian Navy sounded the "Last Post"; two minutes solemn silence was observed which was followed by the sounding of the "Reveille".

The highlight of the ceremony was the presence of veteran members of the Armed Forces and the next of kin of fallen soldiers. Among those present were Commodores Mediona Bhada and Aspi Marker, and Mrs Zarine Jamasji and Captain Minoo Wadia, Commodore Nozer Engineer in their resplendent livery.

Mr. Xerxes Dastur recalled the ultimate



sacrifice made by all members of the Armed Forces, irrespective of caste, community or creed. Dastur thanked Cmd. Aspi Marker for arranging a Naval Trumpeter every year.

Cde.Marker then introduced the veterans and requested

each of them to say a few word which they did; others who spoke included former BPP Trustee Khojaste Mistry. Also present were Ms Maharukh Noble ( BPP Trustee ), Hoshi

Jal ( BPP Trustee), Mr Jamshed Mistry ( Treasurer BPA) , Tehmina Peer (Secretary BPA), Khorram Siodia , Bakhtiar Vajifdar, Cyrus Dastoor, Cyrus Patel, Perin Daruwalla, Faranaz Irani, Nariman Amaria etc.

The function concluded with the singing of the National Anthem. This was followed by a Parsee breakfast at the Parekh Dharamshala.

**Bombay Parsee Association**  
**Xerxes V. Dastur**  
**President**

## MISC. PETITION FILED BY KAIKSHRU IRANI REMOVED BY JUSTICE COLABAWALLA

As the community is aware, Kaikhushru Irani and 8 others had filed in July 2022 a Misc. Petition No. 23225 of 2022 in the Bombay High Court against 26 Respondents (14 candidates, excluding Kaikhushru Irani who came last among 15 candidates and lost his Deposit too, 10 Election Commissioners and 2 EVM Operator) to set aside the BPP Board of Trustees election held on 29th May 2022 for various glitches in the EVM machinery and hold fresh elections.

The first date of hearing was fixed at 2nd August 2022 before his Honor Judge Colabewalla and when it reached hearing in the last week of August his honor passed Orders 'Not before Me'.

Hence the matter is now fixed for Hearing

before His Honor Judge N. J. Kamdar on 13th September 2022. The matter has as yet not even been admitted nor any reply filed by any of the 26 Respondents. If it is admitted then time will be given to all the 26 Respondents to file their reply and give their say whether they oppose or support the Petition and after that the hearing on merits will actually start. It is most likely that the term of the present Board of Trustees may end before the final hearing of the Petition which in all probability will make it infructuous for any relief. Time will tell whether this candidate who came last of 15 candidates was serious when he filed this Petition and what was the hidden motive behind wasting such huge legal fees if it becomes infructuous.

## Queen

Queen

Phillip came to me today,  
and said it was time to go.  
I looked at him and smiled,  
as i whispered that "I know"

I then turned and looked behind me,  
and seen I was asleep.  
All my Family were around me,  
and I could hear them weep.

I gently touched each shoulder,  
with Phillip by my side.  
Then I turned away and walked,  
with My Angel guide.

Phillip held my hand,  
as he lead the way,  
to a world where King's and Queens,  
are Monarch's every day.

I was given a crown to wear  
or a Halo known by some.  
The difference is up here,  
they are worn by everyone.

I felt a sense of peace,  
my reign had seen its end.  
70 years I had served my Country,  
as the peoples friend.





# LICENCEES OF HONG KONG HOUSE ON TENTERHOOKS LIKELY MISUSE OF LEAVE LICENSE PROVISIONS

NAUZER BHARUCHA, Investigative Reporter of Times of India, has sent us and several others a copy of his letter sent to the Trustees of Hong Kong House at Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari belonging to N.M.Wadia Charities questioning their financial status today and whether they deserve to be continued as Licensees or they should be evicted and vacated flats given to new allottees on fresh deposit basis thus raising finances for the Trust.

Thus the Licensees have a permanent sword over their heads of eviction at any time for any reason at the whim of the Trustees. That is why it is necessary to give all beneficiaries of a Trust protection from the Trustees by giving all of them security cover under the Rent Act.

Though the Majority Trustees of the recent elections of BPP Trustees won on their election promise of converting Licensees to Tenancies, it is indeed sad that the Trustees of the Kersi Randeria panel are creating hurdles to its implementation mainly on ground to protect the Parsi only Covenant which is a travesty of fudging facts when no action is taken on mixed marriage cases except on particular cases with a grudge to counter.

It is our firm belief that Trustees of a Charitable Trust have to treat its residents/beneficiaries as a Benevolent landlord and not as if it is their private property where one can assert ones rights. It is also true that some of the residents can be a pain for the Trustees behaving as if charity is their birthright and demanding more freebies but by and large most Parsis are very submissive to the Trustees giving them far higher respect and adulation than some of them deserve.

Anyway we hope that the proposed threat of the Trustees of Malcolm Baug to evict Licensees will move the BPP Board to protect all beneficiaries of our community by converting License to Tenancy. Five years down the line if similar Trustees get elected then the lives and peace of mind of Licensees will be gravely affected. If 60 % of our residents are Tenants then why should the same treatment not be given to the balance 40% occupants, so that there is parity for all and not the present evident disparity. One thing is for sure that Trustees would be justified to take action against residents who use charity flats as holiday homes or have migrated to greener pastures abroad and keep the charity flats locked and unused for eleven months in a year.

We reproduce his letter below:

From nauzerbharucha@gmail.com on 01/09/2022 9:59 am

From nauzerbharucha@gmail.com

To Armaity Tirandaz, Adil Malia- BPP TRUSTEE, Viraf D. Mehta, Hoshi Jal, CUSROW BAUG SECRETARY, Anahita YAZDI Desai BPP, Xerxes V. Dastur, Maharukh K. Noble, Dasturji Dr. Rooyintan Peer, Dr. Ervad Parvez Bajan, The Parsee Voice 16 more...

Date 01/09/2022 9:59 am

Friends,

I am appalled to hear that the well-regarded community trust N M Wadia Charities is behaving like a rapacious landlord by intimidating and arm-twisting the residents of Hong Kong House at Malcolm Baug, Mumbai, most of whom have been living peacefully on leave and license for the past 20 years. What is more disturbing is the officious attitude of the newly appointed chairman of the trust, S J Kathawalla, a popular retired justice of the Bombay high court, who earned universal accolades for being a fair, transparent, no-nonsense judge who delivered path-breaking judicial orders. Sadly, there is now an attempt by the Trust headed by this gentleman to scare the Parsi residents of Hong Kong House on the grounds that they perhaps no longer deserve to stay in these flats because of their so-called "affluent status".

The community must know that this building was never meant to accommodate poor or low-income group Parsis. Let me explain. Since 2002, families who applied for these flats were asked if they could afford to stay in them. I have been shown an application form given by the trust almost 20 years ago to an applicant that says that a "family income of at least Rs 25,000 a month of the persons staying in the flat would be considered for the application..."

There is nothing in the original Leave and License Agreement that these flats are for the poor or middle class. In the Original Application Form titled "Application Form - Declaration to be made by prospective applicants for allotment of a flat in the new construction at Malcolm Baug":

3a. Name and address of the employer of applicant and spouse.

3b. Gross take-home salary (net) of the applicant, spouse (Attach latest salary slip, or income tax return)

3c. Income Tax PAN of the applicant (A family income of at least Rs. 25,000/- p.m. of the persons staying in the flat would be required for Application consideration.

A salary of Rs 25,000 a month almost two decades ago was substantial. Families who were allotted flats in Hong Kong House have also paid large amounts as deposits as well as donations to the trust running into several lakhs of rupees. A deposit and donation taken in 2002-03 was the near market value of the flat at that time. Market values may change over time, but the moralities of the trustees ought not to.

Some of the residents have told me that the trustees had conducted final in-person interviews and the "only thing they were interested in was that you were earning well and in good company to afford it". Also, all the families residing in Hong Kong House contribute 50% to all building upkeep like repairs and painting. A licensee would never contribute towards building repairs. Only a tenant would. This shows the intention was always to be made a perpetual

lessee/tenant.

Another important point to note is that over the past 20 years since this building was constructed, the families residing here as per my knowledge have not violated any terms and conditions of the lease agreement nor violated any law. However, I would like to add that the Trust would be fully justified to show cause to those families who have locked their flats and gone abroad.

But those living peacefully and raising their families in the salubrious surroundings of Malcolm Baug cannot be threatened and intimidated with eviction after so many years on the specious grounds that they can afford to stay elsewhere. Asking them to submit their income tax returns is obnoxious and deserves to be condemned. A charitable trust like N M Wadia must be compassionate and caring and must not use its formidable legal arsenal to harass community members.

**Nauzer K Bharucha**

**Mumbai**

September 1, 2022"

REGARDING HONG KONG HOUSE AND WADIA CHARITIES

From nauzerbharucha@gmail.com on 04/09/2022 9:07 am

From nauzerbharucha@gmail.com

To Armaity Tirandaz, Adil Malia- BPP TRUSTEE, Viraf D. Mehta, Hoshi Jal, CUSROW BAUG SECRETARY, Anahita YAZDI Desai BPP, Xerxes V. Dastur, Maharukh K. Noble, Dasturji Dr. Rooyintan Peer, Dr. Ervad Parvez Bajan, The Parsee Voice 18 more...

Date Sun 9:07 am

N M WADIA CHARITIES AND HONG KONG HOUSE

Responding to my public post on the N M Wadia Charities intimidating and arm-twisting the 36 Parsi families living on leave & license in Hong Kong House building at Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari, the trust has accused me of "sensationalism" and the issue "devoid of truth". In its reply to me, the trust has also claimed its chairman, former high court judge, S J Kathawalla, as a "man of the highest integrity and known for his fairness and transparency".

I am posting the email sent to me on Saturday by Wadia Charities managing trustee, Hoshang Sinor and my reply to him.

Dear Nauzer

It was nice talking to you last evening to clear the air about your FB post on Hong Kong House (HKH) residents of Malcolm Baug. As requested by you, on behalf of the Trustees of Wadia Charities, I hereby respond to your FB post which was made as your "public statement".

(Continued 04)



# LICENCEES OF HONG KONG HOUSE ON TENTERHOOKS LIKELY MISUSE OF LEAVE LICENSE PROVISIONS

(Page 03)

At the outset, let me say that your caption "A Parsi Trust headed by a retired High Court Judge is trying to intimidate 36 Parsi families residing in a trust building for the last 20 years" itself is misleading. It shows the victimisation of the HKH residents in Malcolm Baug. Kindly note that we are neither "rapacious landlords" nor have we "intimidated and arm-twisted" the residents of HKH. Perhaps, it would have been better had you cross-checked with me or any other Trustees before putting out your report. Sensationalism makes good headlines, but devoid of truth, it becomes unethical. A senior editor of your stature should have avoided writing this piece without verifying the facts or listening to the other side.

Be that as it may, let me share with you the background of HKH and the recent uproar. HKH was built in 2002, having 36 flats, with the benevolent donation of the Trustees of the Anjuman of Hong Kong (HKA). The land was ours while funds came from HKA. The Agreement between NM Wadia Charities (NMWC) and HKA had the following four important components:

1. Initial allotment to be done on a 50:50 basis between HKA and NMWC;
2. Subsequent allotments to be left to NMWC;
3. Flats to be allotted only for middle and upper middle-income group; and
4. Flats to be given only on Leave & License (L&L) basis.

Thus, 18 flats were allotted as per the recommendations of HKA and the remaining 18 flats were allotted by NMWC after following a proper due diligence process. For the first set of applicants, among various other requirements, an Application Form needed details of Salary/ income certificates and their Income Tax Returns (ITR). Without hesitation, applicants furnished this information, and no one had any privacy issues then. Currently, after 20 years, the residents of HKH are paying, on average ₹ 7,800 per month as license fees. Besides, the practice that was followed from the beginning is continuing where we take Non-interest-bearing Refundable Deposits of ₹ 5 lakhs from each new licensee. During the last 20 years, the building was repaired once in 2014 for which each licensee had shared ₹ 45,000/- as their respective share of repair cost. Only in two cases, some donations were given by licensees. Today, if you look at it, even in nearby areas in Andheri-Jogeshwari, L&L are going at the rate of 25-30,000/- a month.

All these flats are coming up for renewal in December, 2022. So, the Trustees decided to carry out fresh due diligence to ensure that we conform to the Donors wish. Individual letters were therefore addressed on 2nd August, 2022 asking for information from them, including their ITR and other assets. Nowhere have we tried to intimidate or arm-twist our own residents. In fact, our letter was quite polite. In response, however, we received a very curt response from

the residents of HKH collectively signed by all, on 9th August, 2022. Not only that, some even called up current Trustees of HKA at Hong Kong, instead of speaking to any one of us, telling them that Trustees were encroaching on their privacy. We still kept our composure and, as is the usual practice of our Chairman to meet residents of Malcolm Baug once every month, we invited HKH residents to meet us on 28th August, 2022. They all came and met the Trustees where we orally expressed our displeasure at not approaching us for clarification. Anyway, they apologised and we left the matter at that. At this meeting, we explained to them why we are doing due diligence and they all promised to submit the required information to us. Most HKH residents have now already submitted their ITR and other information. We thought the matter was sorted out to everyone's satisfaction.

However, after this meeting, some miscreants started a smear campaign on social media, which was further fuelled, unfortunately, by your own FB post. Anyways, possibly with this elaborate clarification, you will send out your fresh post on the subject to defuse this unwanted and undesirable campaign. You know well that our Chairman is a man of the highest integrity and is known for his fairness and transparency and we all Trustees have always followed a sympathetic approach towards the problems of our community members. We trust, wiser counsel will now prevail.

Regards,  
Hoshang Sinor  
MANAGING TRUSTEE

**Nauzer K Bharucha replies:**

Dear Mr Sinor,

**Your email says:** "All these flats are coming up for renewal in December 2022. So, the Trustees decided to carry out fresh due diligence to ensure that we conform to the Donor's wish. Individual letters were therefore addressed on 2nd August 2022 asking for information from them, including their ITR and other assets. Nowhere have we tried to intimidate or arm-twist our residents. Our letter was quite polite."

**My Reply:** The issue itself began with your own signed letter to each resident of Hong Kong House dated 2nd August. The language, aggressive tone & underlying malicious intent is crystal clear from your wordings in this letter. Any law-abiding citizen would go into utter shock at the receipt of this ill-worded letter. I genuinely fail to understand how you can send such a letter & not even able to comprehend the negative impact & implications on each of the families - especially the senior citizens, whom I am told, were extremely traumatised. Even the genuinely worded responses & feedback from the residents have unfortunately fallen on deaf ears. To quote your letter:

"After an initial settling period of 5 years, residents can move to bigger and better and

possibly ownership accommodation outside Malcolm Baug"

Nowhere in the Leave & License agreement or supporting letter does it state that the flat is being given for a settling period. No sane person would have given the enormous donation & deposit just for a settling period of 5 years.

**Your email says:** "Accommodate other deserving community members from the middle class and upper-middle-income group"

"We need to satisfy ourselves whether you fall under this group to continue to reside in your current tenement in Hong Kong House"

**My Reply:** All due diligence & interviews had already been conducted before the flats were allotted. The due diligence at this juncture after two decades is parallel to interviewing a candidate to evaluate whether he is fit to join the same company after two decades of service excellence.

**Your email says:** "We still kept our composure and, as is the usual practice of our Chairman to meet residents of Malcolm Baug once every month, we invited HKH residents to meet us on 28th August 2022. They all came and met the Trustees where we orally expressed our displeasure at not approaching us for clarification. Anyway, they apologised and we left the matter at that. At this meeting, we explained to them why we are doing due diligence and they all promised to submit the required information to us. Most HKH residents have now already submitted their ITR and other information. We thought the matter was sorted out to everyone's satisfaction."

**My Reply:** I genuinely don't think you understand the enormity of the resident's misery. At the same time, your talk about your composure being impacted is simply intriguing. I am told that the Income Tax returns have not been given by all residents of their own free will but have been given under duress by many residents. Silence in a meeting & sorting out to everyone's satisfaction are two diagonally opposite aspects.

**Your email says:** "However, after this meeting, some miscreants started a smear campaign on social media, which was further fuelled, unfortunately, by your own FB post. Anyways, possibly with this elaborate clarification, you will send out your fresh post on the subject to defuse this unwanted and undesirable campaign. You know well that our Chairman is a man of the highest integrity and is known for his fairness and transparency and we all Trustees have always followed a sympathetic approach towards the problems of our community members. We trust, wiser counsel will now prevail."

**My Reply:** My response has provided much-needed clarity to the community on this burning issue. I trust wiser counsel will now prevail.

Nauzer K Bharucha  
Mumbai





# YOUTUBER ARRESTED FOR HURTING COMMUNITY SENTIMENTS

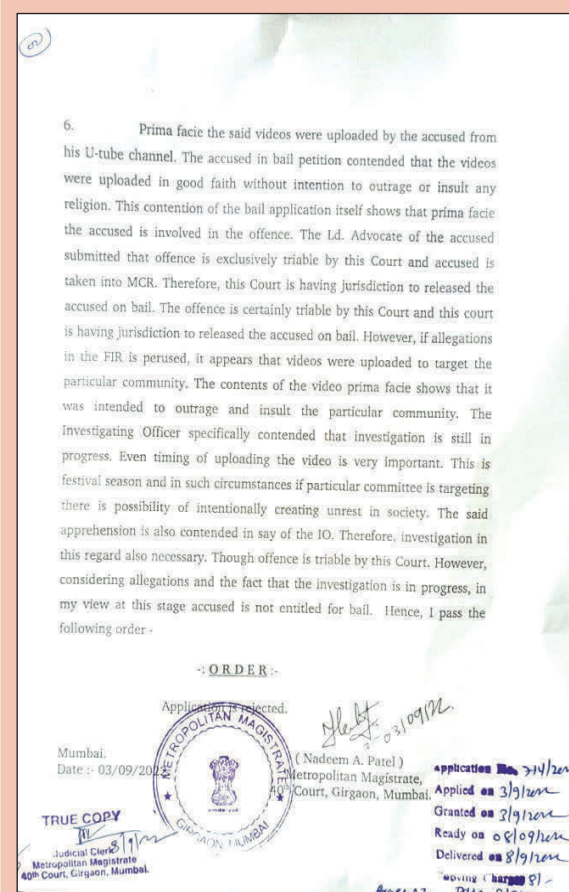
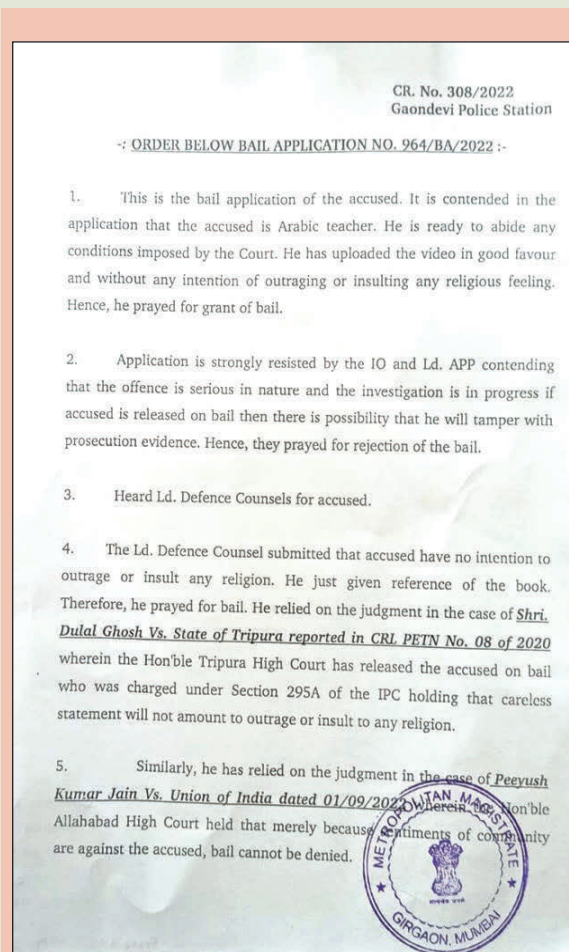
## WELL DONE RUMY ZARIR



RUMY ZARIR a community activist who is known to all, has one more victory at his hands. As you all are aware that in today's times the social media platform is very powerful, but there are many who are misusing this platform to gain publicity at the cost of other persons or other religions and their sentiments and values.

Publicity for one, can be detrimental to the religious sentiments of many, and one such case has been highlighted by Rummy Zarir, wherein derogatory videos had been uploaded on YouTube by alleged Saifulla Qamar, a 29 year old man, hurting the religious sentiments of our Parsi Irani community and having no knowledge of what he is uploading. The videos highlighted that the Parsi Irani community are performing marriages among their own family, and that brothers and sisters are getting married to each other. Not only that but he went to the extent of showing that even mothers and sons, and fathers and daughters are getting married to each other, reason being our diminishing numbers of the community. Rummy and our Parsi Irani community members found these videos outrageous and horrendous. Rummy being a community activist immediately took action and went to the Gamdevi police station for lodging an FIR. After much cajoling the Gamdevi police station registered an FIR against alleged Saifulla Qamar. Rummy did not give up and he went on pursuing the matter time and again to make sure that strict action had been taken upon Saifulla Qamar.

Rummy made sure that no person whosever, can take us for granted or as a weak and feeble community. He says that we are humble and respectful by nature but when it comes to targeting our religious sentiments



we must not step back from a fight. And that is exactly what he did.

Rummy was not only successful in lodging an FIR but also victorious in getting Saifulla Qamar arrested. He has put in all the efforts possible and promises to do so further and fight this case till the end.

Saifullah Qamar was arrested from Goa and brought to Mumbai - Gamdevi Police Station on August 31, 2022. He was produced before the 40th court at Girgaon on 2nd September 2022. He applied for bail on the same day however his bail application was heard and rejected on 3rd September 2022 after the both sides argued.

Metropolitan Magistrate N. A Patel rejected the bail on the grounds that, the video was uploaded with the intent to target the community and with intent to hurt the religious sentiments of the community. He further said that there is a possibility of creating unrest in the society by uploading such videos.

The bail application was argued by Accused - Saifullah Qamar's Advocate and was strongly Opposed by Rummy and his team of lawyers viz. Assistant Public Prosecutor - Mr. Shaikh along with Advocate Mrs Huzan Wadia who made sure through their argument that bail was rightly rejected to the Accused.

Rummy has also made sure that initially when he lodged the complaint to the Gamdevi police station, he made them contact the YouTube channel and made them pull the videos down immediately, so as to restrict the reach of these videos.

Rummy says that now the case is subjudice and it will be posted for hearing soon and he will keep the community informed about the progress of the case. He promises to pursue the matter very strongly so that no one in the future can think of taking our community for granted.

It is a real - life lesson and an eye opener now for all those who take our kindness for our weakness.

The entire community is grateful to Rummy Zarir and would like to thank him for all the efforts taken by him.





# TZML TAKES UMBRAGE AT TRADITIONAL ORTHODOX GROUPS BEING LABELED 'ULTRA ORTHODOX'

Dinshaw Mehta

In the last Parsi Junction Issue No. 144 of 28th August 2022, we had published the reply of TZML and PIPZ groups taking offence, though none was meant, at traditional orthodox groups being labeled 'Ultra Orthodox'. We had tried to explain that Bombay Parsi Punchayet as the apex Trust of the Parsi community and other Parsi Trusts have all followed the so called obiter dicta Judgement of Davar Beamon given in 1908 of defining a Parsi as the son/daughter of a Parsi male irrespective whether married to a Parsi wife or a non-Parsi Wife. It is our belief that BPP is an Orthodox body and to differentiate itself from BPP TZML, PIPZ, ETC now claim as being Traditional Orthodox body. They now try to differentiate between Orthodoxy and genuine Orthodoxy.

Since Orthodoxy as defined in the BPP's Scheme defines a Parsi as a child of a Parsi father since 1908, without anybody challenging this definition for well over a hundred years, it is futile now to rake up a needless controversy especially in today's times when mixed marriages are ever increasing.

We support their views that mixed marriages should be opposed but we cannot behave like an ostrich and not face reality as it exists today. Parsi girls go for greener pastures with result that our boys do not get an eligible Parsi girl to marry and per force have to settle for mixed marriages and since their children can have their Navjote done it is a blessing in disguise.

We are not for mixed marriages but are willing to accept reality.

We give below their rejoinder to our article published on 28th August issue as under:

The Parsi Junction Applies Misleading Labels To Orthodox Groups Like PIPZ, TZML, etc.

From TZML Admins on 03/09/2022 6:34 am

Yatha Tari Madad, Sarosh Tari Panah

Sarosh Roz, Farvardin Mah

(1 Sept 2022)

Dear Parsi Junction (PJ) team,

we wish to express thanks for reproducing the letter of TZML in your issue dated 28-8-2022.

However, we feel that the letters from TZML - and especially that of PIPZ dated 12 July - have adequately spelt out what constitutes genuine orthodoxy (aka traditionality aka traditional orthodoxy aka traditional-orthodoxy), as generally accepted by the community since decades.

Yet there seems to be a lot of some confusion

within the PJ team, so here we go again.

## 1. What constitutes genuine orthodoxy?

The PIPZ release adequately makes it clear that : "To be labelled a traditional-orthodox, a group MUST have a robust membership clause where neither male or female intermarried Parsis, nor their juddin children are accepted."

"This is ably manifested in the membership criteria of PIPZ, TMYZ, TZML, PIDPZ, Traditional Zoroastrian Association of California, etc; and also amongst the Khshnoom groups which flourish in real life and on social media. Only the above organisations and those similar to it which respect 'Tokham Pasbani' can be rightfully categorised as traditional-orthodox."

Hence it is the membership criteria which decides whether a group is orthodox or not.

Moreover, it is a religious definition and not a legal definition like PJ makes it out to be.

By no stretch of imagination can one label BPP or WAPIZ as orthodox since they have not displayed moral courage (especially the private body WAPIZ) in embedding true traditionality. Yes, both these organisations seem to have taken the easier path and chosen the obiter-dictum of Justices Davar Beamon and subsequently introduced the non-religious and trouble-causing practise of patrilineality in the community's consciousness.

And for some strange reason, PJ seems to be falling in the same trap in spite some of its officials rubbing shoulders and having communicated with true traditionalists like Mrs. Pervin J. Mistry, Ervad Dr. Rooyintan P. Peer, Ervad Dr. Parvez Bajan, etc.

Lastly, WAPIZ's patrilineal definition too was derisively tossed aside by the gender-equality toting anchor of Mumbai Mirror when the past BPP Chairman and WAPIZ official Mr Yazdi Desai was a panel member.

Later on it was Mr Hanoz Mistry - not representing WAPIZ but The Parsee Voice - who brought some semblance of sense to the interview with another news channel where he clearly mentioned that the Parsi community makes no gender discrimination in rejecting intermarriages. Yet, you labelled The Parsee Voice too as ultra-orthodox.

## 2. The harms of intermarriage

And still, astonishingly you seem to believe in the patrilineal definition of who constitutes a Parsi when all that intermarriages do is produce 1/2 Parsis, than 1/4th, than 1/8th and later children

who have no P - Parsi - factor at all. This is exactly what happened to the migratory tolas (groups) of Zoroastrians from Iran who migrated to Punjab and Rajasthan and intermarried with the local population. All wiped out.

There are clearly no-winners in the intermarriage scenarios - the juddin children end up confused of their identity, the erring Parsi male or female commit religious sins, and the Parsi community's tolerance and ethnic factor is stretched beyond recognition in trying to accommodate alien blood.

You say that we are a dwindling community. Yes, we are. In spite of that, our numbers just cannot be increased by accepting people of other faiths or by accepting children of mix-marriages. It is the ultimate contradiction and the ultimate non-sequitur.

Yes, there are intermarriages on the rise in the community. But as pointed out to your team last year, we do not trust the statistics of 50% from Parsiana. For argument's sake. even if the ratio is as high as 50%, shouldn't we be protecting the 50% internal-married humdins and encouraging early marriages and more children rather than accepting the children of interfaith marriages which anyway dilute the community beyond recognition. As mentioned earlier, this has happened in Punjab and Rajasthan.

## 3. The only genuine manner to increase our community numbers

This has been talked about repeatedly. To grow in numbers, letter's help the children to marry within the community earlier on in life and have as many children as possible. Anything else is not going to swell our numbers.

## 4. The orthodox, traditional and pseudo-traditional tags

We traditionals do prefer the apt 'orthodox' or 'traditional' or 'orthodox-traditional' or 'traditional-orthodox' tags since they describe us very well.

WAPIZ and BPP are in no way orthodox as described earlier, hence they may be called pseudo-traditional or pseudo-orthodox since their membership definition clearly permits intermarriages and their juddin children.

## 5. That derisive tag 'ultra-orthodox'

Again, according to widespread universal usage, one labels an organisation as ultra-orthodox when one wants to portray them as over-orthodox, over-religious, more-religious-

(Continued 07)





## TZML TAKES UMBRAGE AT TRADITIONAL ORTHODOX GROUPS BEING LABELED 'ULTRA ORTHODOX'

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than-needed, extremists, stuck-in-the-past, extreme-right-fringe, not modern enough, etc.

According to the Collins dictionary, it refers to an extremely or excessively orthodox group.

Amongst the Jews, the Haredi Jews are called ultra-orthodox by the other Jewish groups not with benign reasons, but more as a derogatory slur. An article in the RNS Regional News Service mentions : The Oxford Dictionary definition of the "ultra" prefix is "extreme." As a noun, it means "extremist," as in "ultras in the animal rights movement." In both cases, the negative connotation is obvious. Indeed, the term "Ultra-Orthodox" was created by a left-wing politician specifically in order to denigrate Haredi Jews, and it is often used by sharp critics of the Haredi community to cast it in an unflattering light.

So for these reasons, we genuine orthodox groups are happy at just being called who we are – Orthodox. And any group with a intermarriage-accepting membership clause should respectfully refrain from sneaking into our turf and try and elbow us out into the controversial ultra-orthodox slot. Yes, there are ill-meaning left-wing politicians in the Parsi community too.

### 6. Let's infuse positivity in the minds of our children and guide them properly

Dear Parsi Junction Team, please print our reply since it not only answers your queries, but will

also enlighten our community members about how much protected and safe they are in being orthodox.

And, please reproduce positive and encouraging articles (of which there is no shortage) from other Parsi periodicals which encourage our children to marry within, have more children and show them that they have much to lose if they tie a matrimonial link outside the beautiful community

of ours. A community, as Gandhiji said "In numbers beneath contempt, but in contribution beyond compare"

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
TZML Admins  
(tzmladmn@gmail.com)

**OUR REPLY:** We are with all traditional orthodox groups that mixed marriages are a bane on our community and should be deplored but then in the present scenario one cannot be an ostrich and run away from facts staring at us. We would be happy to do whatever is required to encourage our children to marry within the community and have more children but till such a Solution is available let us continue to accept children of Parsi fathers as is being done since over a hundred years.

It is immaterial what label we give various groups as long as Parsi community continues to survive and thrive. Whilst Ultra Orthodox was not meant as demeaning label but since you equate it as Talibanistic, we will not label your group as such but accept your definition as being 'Traditional orthodox' and BPP as being Orthodox as against the Liberals of USA.

We hope that this puts an end to the controversy and we can now divert our attention to what is needed to be done to ensure that our children marry within the community and save our community from becoming a tribe.

The Ripon Club  
Presents

**Bollywood Nite**  
Win Exciting Prizes  
Dress Like Your Favourite  
Bollywood Star  
Menu  
Starter/Soup/Salads  
Main Course ( Buffet)  
(Fish /Chicken/) SoftDrinks/Icecream  
Saturday 17th September  
7 pm onwards.  
Liquor Permitted( Permit Taken)  
RSVP: 9820085528/24





# Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Birth Anniversary Function

DADABHAI "HIND NA DADA" & NOT ONLY OF THE PARSEES.

THE BOMBAY PARSEE ASSOCIATION PAYS HOMAGE TO DR. DADABHOY NAOROJI

As per past practice, The Bombay Parsee Association paid homage to that great son of India and the Parsee community, Dr. Dadabhoy Naoroji by garlanding his statue at Hutatma Chowk on his 198th Birth Anniversary on Sunday, September 4, 2022 at 9 a.m

The statue was garlanded on behalf of the B.P.A. by its President Emeritus Vispi Dastur and President Xerxes V. Dastur.

Garlands were also offered on behalf of the Iran League, Navsari Parsi Association, Cowasjee Dinshaw Trust, FOZAWAC, Jashan Committee by Cmde. Aspi Marker, N.M., Adi Mehta, etc. Rich tributes were paid by Vispi Dastur, member of the Dadabhoy Naoroji Parliamentary Centenary National Committee, who gave a small talk where he emphasised that Dadabhoy was a great



son of India and not only of the Parsee community; he was fondly called "Hind na Dada and "Grand Old Man of India". Gandhiji considered him as his mentor. He was the first Indian to be selected by a "white"

party (British Liberal Party) to stand from a "white" constituency (Central Finnsbury, London) to the white Parliament British House of Commons, He was the founder member of Indian National Congress and its President for three Congress Sessions. Adi Mehta, Cmde. Marker, Marzban Wadia



etc also spoke. Two minutes silence was observed in Dadabhoy's pious memory. Hoshang Jal, Aspi Sarkari, Tehmina Peer, Adale Patel, Rusi Bhumgara, Pervin Daruwalla, Nariman Amaria, Faranaz Irani and others joined in paying homage to

Dadabhoy.

**Bombay Parsee Association  
Xerxes V. Dastur  
President**

## Why Pretend to be A Zoroastrian.....??

Why be a Zoroastrian  
When one has no intention  
To practice the Tenets of our religion  
So by juggling the tenets  
Like a monopoly game  
One is expected to be  
Showered with blessings?  
No siree!  
Go somewhere else  
He doesn't work that way  
Respect Him & one  
Will get some response  
But turn His message  
Inside out  
Bottom line  
He will just ignore you  
He doesn't need us  
We need Him  
More than ever  
To be our guiding  
Light to show us the way

When there is an unexpected  
Twist e.g. Covid 19  
We expect Him to  
Be there at our "back & call"  
Beg,plead,go on bended  
knees  
Running errands to the Fire  
Temples  
Like the Soothe Soul  
Humbandagi  
Alas! He would say:  
"So sorry, folks will not be  
available  
Even when the last tear drop  
falls"  
Innocent people are willing  
To sacrifice their lives  
For the sake of Freedom  
Irony being that  
Zoroastrianism has been  
endowed  
With Freedom of thoughts  
words  
Deeds:  
"Here with your ears

Ponder with a Good mind"  
But continue to practice  
Racism Discrimination  
Bigotry  
Exclusion instead.  
Organizing congresses  
Conferences are a slap  
In the face of Zoroastrianism  
If one doesn't have the  
Intentions, spine to preach  
The right message  
Of Equality Universality  
Tolerance  
Showing Acceptance  
treating  
People with Respect Dignity  
I would call it sacrilege  
As well Mockery  
Unless & until they  
Are organized as a  
Breeding ground for  
Social Gathering:  
"Gossiping as well as  
To Eat Drink Be Merry"

## Power and Ego

Power"as well "Ego"  
Go hand in hand  
As one can't do  
Without the other  
Respect Tolerance  
Understanding  
Treating everyone with  
Dignity  
We may differ in colour  
caste or creed  
But nobody is inferior or  
superior  
'Cause we are on the same  
playing field  
Some humans have the  
"Power"  
As well drunk in Ego  
To subjugate & dominate  
When Death arrives at the  
door step  
One has to "welcome" it in  
It does not differentiate.  
Between the rich poor or  
the pauper  
That's when these humans

Become meek as lambs  
'Cause there is "No  
Return"  
The realization sets in that  
They have "been had"  
No amount of Prayers  
Are going set them free  
They should have  
Thought about it  
When they were on  
Power & Ego "spree  
Looking back they  
May whisper:  
"Wish we could have done  
Things differently  
Making lives easier for  
Humanity  
Offering Peace &  
Prosperity  
As well Understanding  
Tolerance  
Including Dignity"  
Choicest Happiness  
Farida





# FIRDAUS PHOTOGRAPHER SENDS REMINDER TO THE TRUSTEES TO CLOSE THE NEEMUCH ONGOING LEGAL CASE

The family of Firdaus Photographer are original residents and Tenants of Neemuch Parsi Anjuman. When his father died, about two to three decades back, the then Trustees of Neemuch Anjuman requested the wife, their mother, to surrender the beauty parlour portion of their residence to them and they would allow his wife and her then two small children to continue to reside in the rest of the tenanted premises. Since this was their only source of Income naturally the mother said No, leading to the Trustees filing an eviction suit.

Since Neemuch Anjuman had signed as a defunct Anjuman handing over all its properties to FPZAI, Sam Chothia continued the eviction case though both the children were now adults and the original Trustees were ready to withdraw the Suit, Sam Chothia wanted to Evict two Parsi youngsters from their ancestral home on ground that they worked in Mumbai. Firdaus and his sister want to retain their family home for their regular visit to their homeland but Sam Chothia wants to make money from sale of their beauty parlour premises which is opposed by Firdaus. In spite of several entreaties to the Trustees, the eviction suit is still not withdrawn by FPZAI for evicting the original Parsi Zarthosti occupants in lawful possession of their ancestral home.

FPZAI as the guardian of Parsi properties for its Parsi residents should be protecting them from eviction from their lawful premises instead of which its CEO of Defunct Anjuman Committee, Sam Chothia, whose term of office is over long back is insisting on evicting genuine Parsi Zathustis from their family residence only to earn a few rupees from its sale. The very Objective of formation of FPZAI to protect Parsis and their properties is vitiated by the antics of the CEO of the Defunct Anjuman Committee.

Thank God his term is over and a fresh CEO can be appointed whose first duty will be to look after the welfare of Parsis in various Defunct Anjumans.

His manipulation of 13 acres of Tithal Sanatorium property to sell off 80 to 90 % of its land on promise to build a Sanatorium or Old Folks Home on the balance is still awaited though the wife and son of Merwan Irani are very upset at the misuse of Tithal property for which Merwan Irani had moved the Supreme Court of India to save the property for use of Parsis from rapacious builders and developers.

We reproduce below the pleading letter sent by Firdaus on 28th August 2022 and hope the members will withdraw the eviction suit filed against him and his mother and sister and allow them to enjoy their ancestral family home even if like most Parsis from mofussil Anjumans come to cities for a better livelihood.

## Re: Firdaus Photographer Neemuch Case Synopsis

From Firdaus Photographer on 28/08/2022 5:00 pm

Dear Respected Newly Appointed Trustees, Greetings! Hope you're doing well.

I once again highlight my ongoing case and appeal with all my sincerity to allow me and my family to live in peace and close this ongoing case (please refer to trail mails) which has been harassment to us for over 20 years. Members of Neemuch Parsi Anjuman - Ex

President Mr Noshir Jal and Late secretary Jar Mody - who originally filed the suit against my family have been very clear that they do not want to proceed with the suit anymore and yet Mr Sam Chothia, is continuing the case trying to benefit from selling the Neemuch Parsi Anjuman properties. FPZAI took over Neemuch Parsi Anjuman in disguise of helping the Parsis of Neemuch, however now their sole intention seems to be of only selling the Neemuch Parsi Anjuman properties with no regards to what happens to the Parsis who've been residing there since generations.

Mr Sam Chothia has gone to an extent of throwing an open challenge to Mrs Shirin Karanjia - wife of Mr Rohinton Karanjia that "he WILL sell the Neemuch Parsi Anjuman properties at any cost" and we the Parsis of Neemuch won't be able to do a thing about this. Currently there is a stay order on selling the properties of "Neemuch Parsi Anjuman" as it is very clear that the trust properties cannot be sold. I cannot even understand how non-residing Parsees have become members of Neemuch Parsi Anjuman and when me and my family who have been staying there for generations have not been made members yet.

If FPZAI wants to make money, why not ask Non-Parsi families to leave, why not file a case against them? Why is a case being fought against me? How much can one stoop to make some money? Is this what our community has come down to? We, a dwindling community, are we going to live fighting each other so someone can make some money by ruining someone else's lives? I've been begging for help for years to close this ongoing case and I continue to fight this case in the high court.

I am bleeding money in legal fees. This constant fear of losing our home has been nothing less than a severe depression and causes anxiety every time I sit down to write another mail begging for justice and asking the trustees to let us live in peace. Every time I open this mail, I am gripped by depression for days as all the bitter memories come flooding back to me.

My family and I do not deserve this. We've not done wrong by anyone and yet somehow we've been suffering. I sincerely hope that now the new management can help me put all this behind me and allow us to move on and live happily for our days to come.

Expecting to hear from you. I am currently working from Delhi for my work commitment for a few months and my wife is in Chennai as she works as Lead Cabin Crew and her job requires her to travel all round the year. We both are available to meet the Trustees if there's an online meeting being held, alternatively we can travel to Mumbai if we're given a date to meet the trustees well in advance as getting leaves from work is a challenge for both of us.

Please help me and my family by closing this ongoing case, and we humbly request the Trustees their kind consideration in letting us live in peace for the coming days. Find attached my application to withdraw the suit dated 21-06-2021 for your reference (name of the doc - Zoom meeting of Firdaus Photographer of Neemuch on 15-5-21 with Neemuch Anjuman committee), in addition to the trail mail here.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Firdaus Photographer

M: +91 9930 581 398 | +91 845 2017 826

On Sun, Nov 28, 2021 at 2:45 PM Firdaus Photographer<firdauscphotographer@gmail.com> wrote:

Respected Trustees,

Seeking your kind consideration and your help to close this ongoing court case which is a harassment and waste of money and time for both, the trust and my entire family. I've been very patiently waiting for some response from someone however since no one has got back yet, here is my gentle reminder mail requesting your help and everyone marked on this mail to help me close this ongoing court case which we're fighting to keep our ancestral property in our family's possession. If trust takes this away from us then we have no permanent place that we can call home.

This house has been in our family for generations and my mother earns her lively hood from the beauty parlor that she runs from our shop where once my Dad had his garage set up and use to work as a mechanic for 2 and 4 wheelers. With FPZAI taking over our Neemuch Parsi Anjuman, we were expecting progress and help in saving our community however we are shocked to see the nature of the approach by FPZAI whose sole intention to take over Neemuch Parsi Anjuman is to sell the NPA properties with no consideration for any help being extended out to families like mine who have been residing there since generations. Please help in stopping this harassment from being done to us. We have not done anything to deserve such horrible treatment from FPZAI. FPZAI needs to find different or better means of generating revenue. Trying to sell our ancestral Parsi Properties by forcibly trying to steal them from our own community members and selling them to Non-Parsis is not the way to help progress our community.

Our dwindling numbers of our community will continue to dwindle until we reach the verge the extinction and history will know us as people who fought and lost within themselves from the great community that we once used to be. We need to stop and rise above this. Everyone needs to start thinking for the collective good and what is best for the entire community instead of focusing on individual gains.

My humble request once again to help me close this case. We all want to focus on our Careers, start our families. Move ahead in life and do something great with our lives too. Make a difference and be there for those who cannot help themselves. This constant dread of losing our house forever hovering over our heads is very demotivating and is pulling us all down like an anchor and not letting us progress in our lives. We really need your help to end this asap and allow us to live peacefully and move on from this horrible chapter of our lives.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,

Firdaus Photographer

M: +91 9930 581 398 | +91 845 2017 826





# CYRUS MISTRY: AN APPRECIATION

## CYRUS MISTRY

### An Appreciation!

I met Cyrus for the first time at a Parsi Gambhar (community dinner) in Pune which his family firm - the SP Group had organised. This wasn't a one-off but it continued a long standing tradition and at that time I only knew Cyrus and his brother Shapoor as automobile enthusiasts. There were no airs around him and he was that portly chubby Parsi bawaji with not a single crooked bone in his body. Yes there was that mischievous twinkle in his eyes when the topics being discussed focused on cars and car people and that evening I went away thinking I had more food for thought than the scrumptious feast that had been partaken.

When he was anointed the Chairman of the Tata Group and he played understudy to Tata Group patriarch Ratan Tata for a year or so, it seemed that it was truly a great decision made by the selection committee. Come to think of it, I still maintain after all that has happened and much water has flowed down the Surya (sadly ironic), Cyrus did a lot for the Tata Group but his greatest success had been his patronage and handling of Tata Motors to get to the position of commercial success we have been witnessing and experiencing since the last few years.

I caught up with him at the 2016 Auto Expo, mere months away from what was to be a personal landmark for me and my team along with the Tata Motors team. At Auto Expo I saw him at close quarters, enquiring about the fare on display from other car makers but also engaging many show goers in knowing their views, especially on the Tata cars. This was an unbelievable show of getting down to earth and listening which was unheard of not just from within his company but also in the automotive sector in India. When I say this, I do not mean to be dissing or disparaging any others in a similar position both within and outside the Tata Group but just to say that he was different and didn't let his name or position prevent him from reaching out and listening, learning and making notes. Both he and his brother-in-law Noel Tata were in their element as they took in Auto Expo and in so doing delighted many with their approach and candid attitude. The auto industry needed that.

From Auto Expo we went on to a shift in venue and adrenaline where brawn and

brains materialised to do the unthinkable. I had conceptualised a program to put two Tata Motors cars to the ultimate endurance test because from mid-2014 onwards the Tata Bolt and the Tata Zest were just ready and they were better than any other car from the Tata Motors stable. As such how to break the shackles in the mind among consumers but to prove their reliability over a prolonged test was conceived. This would entail these cars run 50,000km non-stop to set an Indian Endurance Record overseen by the Indian National Federation - the FMSCI (Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India).

The process began but something or the other conspired to delay the event and I was on the verge of calling it off and offering this concept to another car maker when I got the call from Delna Avari to say the time was right to kick start the process. This was around August-September 2015 and it was at that time that Delna along with her trusted colleagues - Virat Khullar (who was in the team then before he left for another OEM) and Manek Anklesaria plus a couple of very senior executives at Tata Motors famed ERC (Engineering Research Centre) in Pune got together and we planned the mother of all endurance events in the country. There was a proviso though from Delna and Girish Wagh (the genius behind the design and engineering of the Nano among many other vehicles). They wanted to add not just the Bolt and the Zest but a new vehicle that was just months away from launch - the Tata Zika. Also the original intent was to put both diesel and petrol engined versions of the Bolt and the Zest but since the diesel engines for these vehicles were from the Fiat stable, they didn't want to do anything but put their own engine to the test.

The new vehicle was shown to me in super secrecy (I am sure it had the approval right from the highest echelons) and after a few hours of driving it at the ERC track I said yes it was ready to go. What I found amazing then was Tata Motors absolute bravery to put a brand new model straight through on to the track and that confidence was brimming to say the least. While we would run one Bolt and one Zest apiece, we had to run two Zikas because Tata Motors had just come out with a new family of small petrol and diesel engines of their own.

Then disaster struck the project and just a month away from launch the world was stopped dead in its track by the advent of the Zika virus and the Tata Motors team took

the decision to change the name of the car. The original launch was to be in January 2016 but then it got pushed over to a reveal at Auto Expo and by then we had a name - the Tata Tiago. By this time Cyrus had a great team working in unison (and not in silos as the company had floundered for years) and all across the board people were shoulder to shoulder in gearing up for a new vehicle onslaught that no all-Indian car maker had ever attempted. Within two weeks of Auto Expo we were at the speed bowl of the NCAT (National Centre for Automotive Testing) at Ahmednagar which was part of the VRDE (Vehicle Research & Development Establishment) of the Government of India where we would be hammering away non-stop for the project that the world now knows of by its moniker - #GearedForGreat.

We got cracking with the four cars at 9:16 a.m. on March 14 and the cars began to hammer around the 4.226km banked test track and the records started to tumble. I remember that this was uncharted territory even for me but somehow somewhere there was that nagging voice in my subconscious that we were out to do something right. As the days went by the milestones were dispatched in stunning order, 5000km, 10,000km, 15,000km, 25,000km, etc and as we passed the 45,000km mark in the nether hours of March 28-29, I asked Delna if we could get Cyrus down to the finish. I explained that such an event was unlikely to be attempted again by any Indian or MNC car maker in India and what better than to have the chairman of the group to be there.

Delna told me to write to Cyrus directly putting the rationale that I had outlined to her. I remember I wrote to Cyrus at around 3:29 a.m. in the morning outlining everything that I had mentioned to Delna and Manek who were present all throughout at the VRDE during the record run. I don't know who was more startled and elated - Delna, Manek or myself when Cyrus rang up Delna to tell her he was trying to get across but it would have to wait till the day break for him to see his appointments. Confirmation came later that evening and I reproduce his exact message informing us all:

Dear Adil,

It's great to hear that the cars are doing well, very proud of the Tata Motors team. Adil I am sure this would not have been

(Continued 11)





# CYRUS MISTRY: AN APPRECIATION

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 possible without your help and guidance.  
 Will try and see if we can make a very quick visit on the first from Poona. Not sure about the logistics.  
 Many Thanks.  
 Cyrus

We informed the VRDE team who were elated to have the head of one of the biggest automotive firms in the world coming down to their facility and they immediately went into a quandry. Cyrus was an Irish national and no foreign nationals were permitted at any defence facilities of the Government of India. A lot of time was spent in getting the permissions so much so that the 50,000km mark was breached first by the Zest in a shade over 17 days and 50 minutes followed by the two Tiagos over the course of day 18 and then the hapless Bolt (actually the fastest car in the stable), which was struck with windscreen failures not once but twice during the course of the event. However, G R M Rao, Additional Director of the VRDE pulled out all the strings and he finally got the go ahead from Delhi to allow Cyrus to come down. By this time it so happened that we got our entire team - over 60 drivers from Team JK Tyres and my own bunch of hardchargers from ZEEgnition plus the support staffers from JK Tyres, IndianOil

Corporation and of course Tata Motors , almost a small commune of 200 plus people to stay put for a celebratory event on April 1. The logistics were in place and permission was even granted for Cyrus and his team to fly in and land at the VRDE itself using helicopters and Cyrus didn't disappoint. He was there shaking hands with everyone of the team members, even the fire brigade and the medical staffers, had a word with the VRDE officials who were pleased as punch to rub shoulders with him and then he introduced me to Gunter Butschek, a man he had selected to spearhead overall operations as the CEO and MD of Tata Motors. Gunter had joined the company just days after we had begun the record run and so I could not go for his introductory sessions with selected automotive media but here he was and along with the likes of Tim Leverton, head of Tata Motors R&D, Pratap Bose, head of Tata Motors Design, Mayank Pareek, President of the PVB, Shailesh Chandra, Minari Shah, head of Tata Motors Corporate Communications among others. He then asked whether he could be taken for a few "hot laps" around the banked circuit and we did lay it out for him. He joined me in the Tata Zest and we put in over 7-8 laps at speeds in excess of 150km/h and

he was cool as a cucumber and asking as many questions that came to mind and never once did he flinch or was uncomfortable as the Zest thundered around the circuit even when buffeted by the most serious of bumpy stretches on the steepest parts of the banking. This was the way Cyrus touched us all, in his own inimitable manner without displaying any pride or such but just happy at the landmark his cars had set. It is significant that I use the term "his cars" because the amount of time and effort he had put in with the engineers, product planners, service, sales and marketing teams plus empowering the ablest of them all while also being unhesitant to cut off deadweight meant that finally Tata Motors was meaning business. The success of the Tiago was massive but an even greater success but sadly which didn't go the whole hog was the Tata Hexa, his own baby so to speak. This vehicle was more than equal to and in many aspects superior to the Toyota Innova Crysta and it has become a cult vehicle amongst aficionados in the country. The Nexon and the Harrier were dreamt and conceptualised from his fertile thought process while the further portfolio offerings were signed off in the form of the Altroz, Punch and the Safari plus a few others. He gave a lot of heed to great design & styling  
 (Continued 12)

## Tribute

**C**hairman of Shapoorji Pallonji, ex-chairman of Tata Sons  
**Y**oung man of fifty four, one of India's top business guns  
**R**ealizing his business potential, his star was on the rise  
**U**niversally moaned by India on his sudden fateful demise  
**S**elf-confident, soft spoken, poised to take his company far

**M**ajor player on the Indian stage he always raised the bar  
**I**dealist and optimist, he dealt with honesty and fair play  
**S**ensitive father of a loving family, dedicated in every way  
**T**asteful dresser who always stepped out in trendy style  
**R**eady with a handshake and his winning smile  
**Y**ardstick of other businessmen, a man to look up to

Missed by all friends and loving family too

## In Loving Memory Cyrus Mistry



04 Jul 1968 - 04 Sep 2022  
 Garothmaan Behst Hojoji





# CYRUS MISTRY:AN APPRECIATION

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and as can be seen the Tata Motors portfolio today has the best designed cars in their segments in the country today.

Sadly just a week after the event and a couple of days before the commercial launch of the Tiago, the biggest breakdown in human capital in the corridors of Bombay House took place and Cyrus was history as the chairman of the Tata Group. I am not privy to what were the reasons and there could have been many but the fact remained that every decision which Cyrus triggered was executed to the successful outcome for the Tata Group even to this day. Nuff said then on this sad aspect. I don't know if what I say is fact given that I was not privy to his movements post April 1, 2016 but it was within a matter of days post the successful completion of this mega exercise and this could very well have been his last ever public commitment as the chairman of the Tata Group which makes it even more painful to mention.

I mentioned that Cyrus was a car guy and he loved cars. He could have had the choicest of cars in his stable but getting a Jaguar E-Type marked him out as special, even after his unceremonious exit from Tata Motors who own Jaguar-Land-Rover. Sadly my interactions with him thereafter were limited to a handful of social events but he remembered and always reminded me of the time we had those hot laps around the VRDE circuit. He was a simple man with a lovely way of life and as such the news of his demise in such a horrible manner shook me no end. I couldn't get to grips with the fact that he and his friend Jehangir Pundole hadn't belted up at the rear. Call it an oversight or just the fact that he had taken the blessings of Ahura Mazda at the Iranshah Atash Behram in Udvada - the holiest of holy places for us Parsi Zoroastrians, it was a cruel aberration that cost him and his family plus all his friends dearly. There wasn't a dry eye or a lump in many throats that day when news came

through of the tragic accident, both within the Parsi community (for whom he and his family had done a lot) and the business world plus not unsurprisingly a lot of his many admirers within the Tata Group.

Cyrus Mistry touched me in a small way not because of his position or his lineage but because he was a fun loving guy who had the ability to take it on the chin and move ahead. The high profile breakup and resultant legal battle with the Tata Group could have broken another man but Cyrus never let that happen to him. Purely because he was clear and also accepted that he put up a strong defence of his and his family's position. The outpouring of messages from all walks of life on his untimely demise was pure vindication of the esteem he was held in.

Rest in peace Cyrus till we meet again on the other side where I am sure you will have a car ready for me to take to the limit and back!

**\*ADIL JAL DARUKHANAWALA\***

## The Nowroze Baug Play Centre

(Estd.: 1<sup>st</sup> November 1946)

### INVITATION

Parsi students of Mumbai who passed 10<sup>th</sup> std, 90% or higher & BCom student with highest % are invited to submit their marksheet to [info.npc@gmail.com](mailto:info.npc@gmail.com) (submit latest by 30<sup>th</sup> Sep) The scholarship felicitation function will be held in Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug during NPC birthday function that is tentatively planned in Nov/Dec '22.

Members of NPC & residents of Nowroz Baug including Hilla Towers & Danawala building please see the colony notice board for submitting your marksheets (school & college, all streams)

