

For Private Circulation Only



# PARSI JUNCTION

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

## UPDATE ON COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Covid Pandemic seems to be spreading with express speed all over the world. India has more than 86,000 cases reported with over 2700 deaths. Maharashtra seems to be the worst affected State in India with over 29000 cases with Mumbai alone having almost 20,000 cases.

Parsis though a micro-minority have had a fair share of covid cases with almost all our colonies reporting a case here and there. Thus we had covid cases in Cusrow Baug, Tata colony at Tardeo, Zoroastrian colony at Nana Chowk, Contractor Baug, Rustom Baug, Nowroz Baug, Jer Baug,, Ambawadi and various other Parsi conglomerates. **Is it a co-incidence that all the Wadia Baugs have experienced covid cases?**

It is reported that about 30 to 35 Parsis in Mumbai have been so affected with 3 casualties. It is time that the various Parsi Trusts came together to offer good quality treatment and quarantine facility to our Parsi brethren instead of the Kasturba and Sion hospital where they are sent for treatment and recovery. Parsi General Hospital is not a designated covid treatment hospital.

BPP Chairman Yazdi Desai was hospitalized for stroke in Masina Hospital on 10-04-2020 and with the prayers of community members has recovered enough to go home last week, though he is still bed ridden. **We wish him a speedy recovery to full health.** Ever since his absence, Armaity Tirandaz has been the acting Chairman of BPP and with her grace and soft spoken demeanor, she has brought partial peace among the warring factions to some extent. She



has been a good Chairman so far with able assistance from the honorable Noshir Dadrawala and we hope this continues at least till Yazdi Desai recovers and resumes office.

**The BPP's feed the poor venture has been a great success** and we congratulate Jimmy Gadiwalla and Viraf Mehta for bringing it to fruition by using Cama Baug kitchen and not the old folks home of Parekh Dharamshala that Kersi Randeria was insisting on.. At present 150 meals are delivered daily of which only 19 are paid meals and 131 are free to the poor and needy all over town where Parsi volunteers come to Cama Baug to collect the meals and distribute to the needy wherever designated without any charges. Xerxes Dastur has been trying to convince Jimmy to increase the quota from 150 to 200/250 as there are more than 70 on the waiting list for free food.

Another plus point to report about the improving colours of BPP is their readiness to give daily wage Mobeds, a subsistence allowance of Rs. 10,000/ to Rs. 20000/ depending on number of family members they have to support. Jimmy Mistry needs to be thanked for initially taking up their cause with Nusli Wadia. That it did not work out is another story. They have received applications from over 60 Mobeds so far. We are made to understand that Kersi Randeria only wanted to help a handful of mobeds but luckily for our priestly class, Xerxes Dastur and Viraf Mehta prevailed over the others and now almost all Mobeds who have applied will receive help from the BPP.

BPP architect has obtained BMC permission to carry out urgent monsoon repairs to Bisney Dokhma, Bldg 6 at Khareghat Colony, Bhabha Sanatorium and M bldg. at Bharucha

Baug. But their main condition that the laborers should be housed in the complex they were repairing led to heart burning among the occupants of M bldg, Bharucha Baug as they objected to the workers being allowed to reside in one of the vacant flats there. It was pointed out to them by Viraf Mehta that this was BMC condition to avoid the laborers going in and out of the colony every day where the risk of their bringing back covid would increase, that the residents were appreciative of the Trustees decision to in-house them in M bldg. itself. The workers are to wear masks and their temperatures regulated every day and other stringent conditions are also applicable. Same conditions apply to repairs at Bldg 6 Khareghat Colony, Bhabha Sanatorium and Bisney Dokhma.

**Xerxes Dastur, with his CA qualifications has been looking after the accounts of BPP in exemplary manner especially after the unfortunate absence of the other CA on the Board, Zarir Bhathena. We wish Zarir a speedy recovery.** In spite of closure of BPP office from 25-3-2020, the staff have been paid their full salary for March and April 2020 without any deductions. The Baug Associations have also been paid for their expenses. **All in all good work by Xerxes in controlling finance so far.**

Almost all colony Associations have been called upon by the Trustees to look after the frail residents of their colonies and ensure supply of bread, food items, cereals, medicine, etc from a central point in their colony. Thus Cusrow Baug Association have been ensuring supply of all essential items at the entrance from where the residents have to order and collect their items. Godrej Baug Association have designated the Agiary entrance for their suppliers to sell their wares to the residents and have enough volunteers to give home delivery to the seniors who are unable to come to the Agiary gate. Other colonies also

have similar rules where outsiders are prohibited from entering the complex. Unfortunately there are still some disgruntled healthy residents that chose to abuse this selfless act of our association members. We wish better sense prevails. During these Covid times, we need to stick together and not look to drag those down who are actually making an effort to help.

The best by far has been Cama Park CHS at Andheri (W) whose Society has created an email list of all occupants terming it as 'Cama Park Bulletin' for the benefit of all the residents of Cama Park and regularly updates it to inform members to place their orders and then informs them at what time D'Mart is coming to the society, or Zorabian chicken is coming or HDFC ATM Mobile van will be visiting, or Bawa Zest will deliver, or Maharashtra Co-operative Dev. Corp. will come for delivery. Other colonies should similarly work out schemes whereby the discomfort to residents is minimized.

**WZO, under the leadership of Dinshaw Tamboly, with his global network has been helping the poor Parsis of moffusil areas of Gujrat.** So also we had Shernaz Cama through her Parzor Foundation send various medicine, injections, ventilators, masks and PPE equipment to the Zoroastrians of Iran, especially Yazad. Even the Iranian Finance Minister thanked Shernaz for her efforts.

A big thank you to the Volunteers who have stepped forward to help the BPP. These are our true saviours bringing food and medical supply to the poor and needy of our community.

A big thank you to Aspi Sarkari and his team at the Parsi Ambulance Division who without fear for life or limb have been constantly ferring patients to and from hospitals.

Needless to say that our very own Parsi General Hospital has also stepped up to the plate too and taken that extra effort to help every patient in need of emergency medical assistance.

MAY 10, 2020

DEAR DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, FRIENDS, WELL WISHERS,

# UPDATE 01 WZO TRUSTS – COVID RELIEF & REHABILITATION



Dinshaw K. Tamboly  
Chairman – The WZO Trusts

Community members are aware that WZO Trusts have undertaken a massive programme to support poor Zoroastrians affected financially due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The following areas have been identified in which to extend support.

1	Arranging food grains packages for Zoroastrians in cities, towns and villages who have suffered economic hardships
2	Financial difficulties being faced by families of white and blue collar workers having received only half their regular salaries and in many cases no salaries
3	Financial difficulties being faced by individuals involved in modest Self Employment initiatives such as driving autorickshaws, commercial taxi's, auto mechanics, stationery shops etc who have been unable to go about their professions.
4	Full time Mobeds who are not employed by Agiyaries but are daily wage earners many of who presently have no income.
5	a) Supporting agriculturists who have been unable to harvest their standing crops that have decayed on account of non availability of labour force. b) Dairy Farmers having suffered financial setbacks as milk collected from their livestock's being unable to reach the processing dairies; difficulty in obtaining feed for their cattle. c) Poultry farming having come to a standstill as it has not been possible to transport the fully grown fowls to processing units. d) Brick kilns are an industry having a short 7 month window (December to June); Zoroastrian beneficiaries who have established kilns in their villages have suffered severe financial setback as the migrant labourers have left for their native places leaving half baked and unbaked bricks causing immense hardships.

Applications from poor Zoroastrians affected financially by the Pandemic will continue to be received till May 24, 2020. These may be sent to all the four id's mentioned below:

[wzotrustscovid19@gmail.com](mailto:wzotrustscovid19@gmail.com)

[admin@wzotrust.com](mailto:admin@wzotrust.com)

[trustees@wzotrust.com](mailto:trustees@wzotrust.com)

[dinshawtamboly@gmail.com](mailto:dinshawtamboly@gmail.com)

The request circulated to donors worldwide for funds to undertake such a massive project was met with alacrity and generosity. Principal donors so far have been Mrs. Pervin & Mr. Jal Shroff of Hong Kong, The Trustees of Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong Canton & Macao and Trustees, Trustees of Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Deed of Settlement Funds, Mumbai. Donations, big and small continue to be received from individuals.

The massive programme to distribute food grains, utility items & cash for extending support to poor Zoroastrians residing in villages and towns who have been financially affected due to the Covid-19 Pandemic has begun.

The first such distribution was undertaken in Mandvi & Mangrol areas on May 6 & 7. The second round of distribution was done at Vansda & Ahwas Talukas on May 8 & 9. Similar distributions in and around Surat, Navsari, Vyara, Ankleshwar & Bharuch, villages in Dharampur Taluka, Jawahar & Dahanu in Palghar Taluka, Karchond & other places in Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli are all in the pipeline and will be completed within the next few days. Beneficiaries in and around Ahmedabad will be catered to once the one week absolute lockdown announced from May 07 onwards has been lifted. Around 500 Zoroastrian families are expected to benefit from food grains and utility articles to be distributed.

## The items being distributed to each family are:

1.	5 Ltr. Edible oil	2.	1 Kg Vegetable Ghee
3.	5 Kg Wheat Flour	4.	4 Kg Rice
5.	2 Kg Tuvar Dal	6.	500 Gram Masoor (Lentil)
7.	500 Gram Moong Dal	8.	500 Gram Chana Dal
9.	500 Gram Chhole Chana	10.	500 Gram Chora (Black eye peas)
11.	500 Gram Besan (gram flour)	12.	500 Gram Ravo
13.	500 Gram Poha (Pauvaa)	14.	2 Kg Sugar
15.	2 Kg Sugar	16.	1 Kg Salt
17.	200 Gram Chili Powder	18.	100 Gram Garam Masala
19.	100 Gram Turmeric Powder	20.	200 Gram Toothpaste (Tube)
21.	4 cakes of bath soaps	22.	3 bars dish washing soap
23.	3 cakes of detergent soaps	24.	1 Kg. Detergent Powder
25.	Rs.2,000 cash for purchase of vegetables and other utility items as required.		

The food grains distributed are sufficient to last a family of four individuals for just over a month. Should it be assessed, at a later date to be necessary, another round of similar supplies will be distributed.

The names of beneficiary families are being furnished by the local Zoroastrian Anjumans and resource persons who have volunteered to extend support in the areas in which they are located.

We express our sincere gratitude to our principal donors Zoroastrian Charity Funds of Hong Kong, Canton & Macao for the financial support extended to WZO Trusts to enable this massive distribution of food grains to be undertaken.

Our equally sincere gratitude to:

Mr. Darayes Gandhi, Trustee of Mandvi – Mangrol Anjuman,

Mr. Darayus Mirza, Trustee of Vansda Anjuman,

Mr. Sam Chothia, Trustee of Valsad Anjuman,

Mrs. Shirin Kanga & Brig. Jehangir Anklesaria, Trustees of Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat,

Mrs. Maharukh Chichgar & Mr. Fredy Mistry of Surat,

Mr. Viraf Deboo of Pune

Mrs. Kamal Kavina of Ankleshwar,

Mr. Jehangir Bisney of Hyderabad,

Dr. Shernaz Cama & Dr. Niloufer Shroff of Delhi,

Team WZO Trusts at Navsari – Aspi Ambapardiwala, Cyrus Vandrivala, Rohinton Contractor, Sharmin Tamboly,

Team WZO Trusts at Mumbai – Farzana Mojjani, Freyaz Shroff, Homiyar Madan, Yazdi Randelia, Cyrus Vankadia, Hoshedar Parakh,

Team Empowering Mobeds – Binaifer Sahukar, Er. Hormuz Dadachanji, Er. Meher Modi.

who have all been extending full cooperation, working extremely hard with commitment and dedication, in receiving, collating and carrying out due diligence on requests received from their areas of Zoroastrians who have been financially affected by the Pandemic.

We look forward to continued support from community members in the days and months to come.

**Dinshaw K. Tamboly;**

Chairman – The WZO Trusts.



## UPDATE FROM SHERNAZ CAMA ON AID TO IRAN ZORHOSTIS

On Friday, 8 May 2020, 14:53:21 BST, Shernaz Cama <shernazcama@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Malcolm,

As requested by you earlier, please find below the details of the aid sent to Yazd. I am sorry about the delay but we wanted to purchase and list out the last consignment for shipping before writing to the ZTFE / English Zarthushti Supporters whom you mobilised so efficiently.

### 1. Aid sent to Iran as Medicines and Equipment

- 1.100 Actemra Injections: Rs. 15,57,046 (Community Donations-Variou donors Parsi-Zoroastrian community in India and Abroad)
2. Fluvir 2000 Tablets: Rs. 78,400 (Parzor Trust and Community Donations)
- 3.1000 Antiflu Tablets: Rs. 4,83,225 (Parzor Trust: from Community Donations)
4. TWO (2) Philips Triology Ventilator with Accessories (Bought as donations by Dr Cyrus Poonawalla)
5. 500 Breathable performance Surgical Gown (Bought as donations by Dr Cyrus Poonawalla)
6. 1000 N99 Face masks (Bought as donations by Dr Cyrus Poonawalla)
7. 30 boxes Latex Examination Gloves (Bought as donations by Dr Cyrus Poonawalla)
8. Warf 4500 Tablets + Metafort 500, 97,500 Tablets + Antiflu 500 Tablets: Rs. 1,88,525 (Community Donations- Various donors Parsi-Zoroastrian community in India and Abroad)
9. Maxirich 28,000 Tablets: Rs. 2,46,413 (Community Donations- Various donors Parsi-Zoroastrian community in India and Abroad)

### 2. Number of Consignments airlifted and the dates they left Delhi:

- a) 18 March, Mahan Air, Delhi-Tehran
- b) 25 March, 2020 Mahan Air, Delhi-Tehran
- c) 10 May 2020, Mahan Air, Delhi-Tehran (To depart this Sunday) Mahan Airlines carried the consignments gratis as humanitarian assistance to Iranian citizens. This was arranged for us through the help of the Embassy of Iran .

### 3. Total expenditure from cash collected: Rs. 25,53,609/-

The Medicines were sold to us by Cipla at a highly discounted rate.

The ventilators were around Rs 10 lakhs and the other equipment of high quality was another very large amount of well over Rs 25 lakh. These were purchased and shipped out to us from across India through the kindness of Dr Cyrus Poonawalla and his very helpful team.

For further reference, a listing of media reports covering the support is documented below:

- Coronavirus | Iran's Parsis thank Indian Parsi associations for help, The Hindu, March 30 2020
- President praises Zoroastrians' benevolent activities against coronavirus, Berasat, March 26 2020
- Zoroastrians In India Send Second Relief Shipment To Iran, Radio Farda, March 26, 2020
- Zoroastrians In India Send Second Relief Shipment To Iran, Payvand, March 26, 2020
- Overseas Zoroastrians assisting coronary heart disease patients in Yazd, Amordad News, March 26, 2020

Hope that this will give a complete picture of the work done and the community's humanitarian efforts.

Warm regards,  
Shernaz Cama

From: malcolm deboe <malcolm\_deboe@yahoo.co.uk>

Date: 10 May 2020

Subject: Covid Support for Iran/ India

Thank you Shernaz.

From your email, humanitarian aid sent to Yazd. comprising of 3 consignments is valued well over Rs.60 lakhs.

Once again congratulations for your efforts as the expeditor and bringing everything together.

Best wishes

Malcolm

## COVID SUPPORT FOR IRAN/ INDIA

From: Shernaz Cama

Date: Sun 15:40 10-5-2020

Dear Mobed Firouzgary & Dr Ekhtiari,

As we want to make sure that whatever we have sent to Iran as Assistance during the Covid crises is totally accounted for in terms of items and costs, we are sharing a statement requested earlier by some UK Zoroastrians .

Please find it below. Please circulate these details, as I am still hearing from Australia and America and of course Iranian Zarthushtis , that as far as they know nothing has reached Tehran.

You have seen the photos of the items in the article we have shared with you today. On the positive side we are happy to say that we have heard from people who have been helped in their treatment. Of course all the items went to the Shahid Sadoughi University Of Medical Science Hospital in Yazd . Patients can be of any religion or be non believers. Our job as Zarthushtis is to help all Creation and to alleviate suffering.

Ventilators which were very difficult to send out, are used in hospitals ,not by any one individual ,but by many for many years. The Actemra Injections are used intravenously in

critical cases. These were only made available through the kindness of the Chairman Cipla, Dr Yusuf Hamied as they were not available in India.

Most of the medicines we were requested to send by the Dean of the Shahid Sadoughi University Of Medical Science Hospital are only prescribed by trained doctors in a hospital and need Administration by Doctors .

As long as we have done our duty by answering the call for help from Yazd , we are satisfied. We are truly grateful to all our community and our other supporters without whom our work could not have been done. We are especially grateful to Dr Chegeni, Ambassador Of Iran in India, Mr Ali Moghari and Mr Hekmat for their great help in clearing our consignments at the Customs in Delhi .

I hope this email now makes all the details clear. Please circulate this in Farsi so people can see exactly what was sent to Iran for the Zarthushti as well as Yazd and other communities where the items were needed.

Please stay safe and Mobed Firouzgary you must take Assistance from younger people who are happy to help you. Please don't go out in public at this time of infection.

Warm regards,  
Shernaz Cama

## Iranian Finance Minister thanks Parsis for helping Iran with COVID-19 supplies



Zoroastrian tower of Silence in Yazd, Iran  
(photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif thanked the Parsis of India for offering COVID-19 aid to his country in a tweet on Friday. The Parsis, as their name implies, migrated to India from Persia centuries ago. They are in actuality Zoroastrians, one of the oldest religions in the world which pre-dates Islam and Christianity. Article in [...]



## PRESERVATION OF GENES & RACE WAS THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF ANCIENT IRANIANS

The Ancient Iranians Were Aware That the Traits Stored In Their 'Bunak' (Seed) For Nine Generations Would Be Destroyed Through Inter-marriage. Firdausi Wrote: "CHUN TOKHAME BEHETAR ALUDGE AST, BUZORGI AZIN TOKHAMA POLUDGE AST" – When There Is an Onslaught of Pollution on an Exalted Tokham (Seed), The Sublime Quality Within It Is Thoroughly Destroyed.

It is an accepted fact that the genetic qualities found amongst a race of people are passed on from generation to generation, through the seed of the male and the womb of the female, and that these hereditary qualities are influenced by the culture prevailing in the civilization at the time when that race exists. In addition to the physical characteristics, future generations also inherit the sacred innate (inborn, distinctive) character, including the qualities of spiritual discipline and religious fervour, of their forefathers through the seed of the father, which is nourished by the womb and the milk of the mother.

### GENETIC SEED

Thus, the qualities of gene womb-milk have a primary effect on the people of the race. While cultural and social interactions and education have a secondary effect, which either strengthens or weakens these primary qualities. In every seed of the male, there is a smaller seed. The Pahlavi writers called it 'Bun' (seed) and 'Bunak' (diminutive seed). According to the Pahlavi writers of yore, the sacred innate character, which includes the qualities of spiritual discipline, religious fervour, faith, traits, qualities, moral perfections and imperfection of his ancestors of nine generations are stored in the Bunak of the male. These are passed on from one generation to another.

### INNER SPARK

The sacred, innate character is not some airy-fairy concept, but rather a 'Spiritual Energy' called 'Atash' (not to be confused with Fire). This Atash, which resides in the innermost part of the spiritual DNA of every person, is called Atash Vohu Friyan. It has four sub-energies, which have specific names. Mino Karko, Vazisht, Urvazisht and Spenisht.

While all individuals have these different Fire Energies, they are said to be different for persons of different

faiths. Some of the sub-energies are latent and some dominant. Persons born into the five major faiths - Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Zarathushti - are all distinguished because they each have a different Fire Energy active in the spiritual DNA of their respective followers. For a person to progress spiritually and achieve salvation (Frashogard) the Fire Energy present and active in his/her DNA needs to be further energized and fueled to greater heights. This is possible through following the religious disciplines and tarikats (religious methodologies) of the faith he/she is born into.

For a Zoroastrian, that means putting on the sacred vestments of Sudreh Kusti, head covering. Maanthra prayers, utilizing the spiritual institutions of Atash Behrams. Agiaries. Dakhmas. Yasna etc. to achieve spiritual progress and move towards Frashogard, one small step at a time.

### INTELLIGENT BREEDING

The ancient Iranians knew the importance of Positive Eugenics (Oxford Dictionary definition of Eugenics = of the production of fine offspring by improvement of inherited qualities) and took adequate measures, which led to the improvement of their stock by breeding healthy, intelligent, capable and loyal Zoroastrians.

They were very aware of the fact that there are genetic differences, body-chemistry differences, etc. between groups of people. They were fully conscious of the fact that if they intermarried, the chromosomes, which they had inherited in a certain symbolic pattern, were liable to be garbled and thrown into confusion.

They were aware that the traits and characteristics stored in the Bunak for nine generations would be gradually destroyed if they contracted intermarriages. It is in this context that the greatest mystic poet of Iran, in the last thousand years. Firdausi wrote these memorable lines: "Chun Tokhame Behetar Aludge Ast, Buzorgi Azin Tokhama Poludge Ast" (When there is an onslaught of pollution on an exalted Tokham (seed). The sublime quality within it is thoroughly destroyed.)

In ancient times, it was a practice amongst the Mazdayasnis to imbibe and develop, from a very young age, the qualities for which they were so renowned. Evidence for this can be found at several places in our religious

writings. The preservation of the original genetic characteristics was known amongst them by the term, "Boonak Paasbaani", which means preservation, in pristine form, in their genes, the qualities as per the doctrines of the Din.

### PRAYER FOR PARSIPANU

The Saoshyant (Saviour) of our present age. Dastoor Adarbad Marespand. composed a short Pazand prayer known as Chithrem Buyat and has ordained that we pray and derive benefits from it. The prayer expresses a hope: "May the seed, which contains the imprint of the teachings of Asho Zarathushtra and Lord Ahura Mazda remain in this home and those who reside in it! May they obtain and assimilate the nourishment, which will preserve and protect their seed. The gene of the Zarathushti Din. And, through such nourishment, may they grow excellent genes in them and give birth to such Zarathushti progeny."

This prayer supports the fact that the Mazdayasni people desired to preserve their 'Parsipanu' by following the tenets of the Din. They wished to develop their personality and nature by assimilating and imbibing the good effects of the training and education as per the Din

### PAARSAA PAARSIHAA PUTHRA


It is keeping these in mind that in every dynasty. Irani Zoroastrians boldly declared, "PAARSAA PAARSIHAA

PUTHRA, AARYA, AARYA CHITHRI!" Thus, they set a model example to their children who, in turn, grew up in an atmosphere conducive to developing the qualities of the 'Paarsaa' or what we today call Parsipanu. There is no doubt, that it was precisely to fulfil this desire that our forefathers left the shores of Iran and came to India, even though it was possible for them to stay amongst the Arabs. They brought with them the consecrated "Aalaat" (spiritually consecrated implements) & "Nirang". It is because of this that the holy Paavikat of the Din has been, more or less, still preserved. It is not difficult to imagine that if these old holy traditions known as 'Dareghayao Upayaniao' in Avesta are done away with, Parsipanu will no longer survive.

Our forefathers who came to India were of the 'Buniyaad' or lineage of 'Airichithra' - possessors of the noble seed. They largely preserved their physical, moral and spiritual heritage by strictly marrying within the fold. They remained as an insulated group and, thereby, developed a distinct and much admired ethnic identity and avoided the scrambling of genes.


**BY MALCOLM B. BHESANIA, JAM-E-JAMSHED, 10-5-2020 - PG 5.**

(Malcolm Bhesania is a California based IT professional and Zoroastrian scholar)



ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

## Fitness Hour With ZYNG



Yog Svadhyaya  
Yoga with Rayomand

Danceout by  
Burzin Engineer

Meets

Yoga by  
Rayomand Sirvala

Date: 21.5.20  
Time: 5pm-6pm  
Venue  
@zyng2.0

#StayHome  
#StayFit

