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# PARSI JUNCTION

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**Committed to Transparency and Accountability**



## BPP BOL



**BPP Trustee  
Viraf D. Mehta**

The Surat Parsi Punchayet has moved the Gujarat High Court to allow Covid victims. To be consigned to a Dokhma at their Doongerwadi. To see if the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) was doing the same we contacted Trustee Viraf Mehta.

He informed us that he has already tabled this item on the agenda for their meeting on Tuesday, May 25 and is hopeful the BPP will follow in the footsteps of the Surat Parsi Punchayet.

Trustee Viraf Mehta also informed us that in anticipation of a positive outcome, a Dokhma ONLY for covid victims is being looked into as well.

With regards to the vaccines for the community, Trustee Viraf Mehta informed us that the Parsi General Hospital has got a fresh stock of vaccines and vaccination for 45+, after registration, begins from Monday, May 24. Hence the BPP vaccination drive for senior citizens will begin from Monday as well.

Trustee Viraf Mehta also mentioned that he will be looking into a possibility of a tie up between the BPP and Parsi General Hospital for obtaining slots to vaccinate 18+ as and when additional vaccines are made available.



# DOONGERWADI STAFF PRIORITY # 1

## Thank you Dadar Parsi Colony Gymkhana Committee and BPP Trustee Viraf Mehta

### PARSI JUNCTION COMMENTS:

FROM MARCH 2021, THE NUMBER OF PARSIS SUCCUMBING TO THE COVID PANDEMIC HAS RISEN EXPONENTIALLY AND IN APRIL 2021 ABOUT 178 PARSIS DIED DUE TO COVID AND PROBABLY ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER IN MAY 2021, WHO ALL HAD TO BE CREMATED.

THIS HAS LED TO A CACOPHONY FOR DOKHMENASHINI AMONG THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE COVID DEAD, WHOSE LOVED ONES BODIES WERE TAKEN WRAPPED IN RED PLASTIC BAGS DIRECTLY TO BE CREMATED AFTER GEH SARNA BY ERVAD FARAMROZE MIRZA, AT THE PRAYER HALL AT WORLI.

**THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS MAKING DOKHMENASHINI AVAILABLE TO THE COVID DEAD HAS BEEN TAKEN THIS WEEK WHEN MOST OF THE KHANDIYAS AND DOONGERWADI STAFF ABOVE 60 YEARS WERE TAKEN FOR THEIR FIRST VACCINATION JAB TO DADAR PARSİ COLONY GYM KHANA.**

NEXT WEEK THOSE ABOVE 45 YEARS WORKING AT DOONGERWADI WILL BE VACCINATED AND HOPEFULLY ALL WILL BE PROTECTED WITH THE FIRST DOSE VERY SOON.

SINCE SURAT PARSİ PUNCHAYET HAS ALREADY MOVED THE HIGH COURT FOR RELIEF OF DOKHMENASHINI TO THE LOVED ONES OF THEIR COVID AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES, A SIMILAR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PUT ON THE AGENDA OF 25TH MAY BOARD ZOOM MEETING BY TRUSTEE VIRAF MEHTA FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION AND **WE HOPE THE TRUSTEES WILL FAVORABLY CONSIDER MOVING THE COURTS FOR SIMILAR RELIEF.**

**TO ENSURE DOKHMENASHINI IS AVAILABLE TO PARSİ COVID VICTIMS**

From: Viraf Mehta,

**Subject: BPP Trustee - Please Ensure Dokhmenashini is Available to Parsi Covid Victims**

Good morning all,  
Just to keep you updated, last week we were able to get some of our Doongerwadi staff, who are 60+, vaccinated at the Dadar Parsi Gymkhana vaccination center.

The rest of our staff, who are 45+, will be taken next week onwards.

A big Thank You to Zinobia Unwalla, Khushru Daboo and the rest of the DPC Gymkhana team for taking that extra step in helping our Doongerwadi workers to get vaccinated during these tough times.

Regards,  
**Viraf**

From: TZML Admins

**Subject:** Re: BPP Trustee - Please Ensure Dokhmenashini is Available to Parsi Covid Victims

Dear Viraf,  
that is a good positive step by including not only the nasslessars but also the entire Doongerwadi staff in the vaccination drive.

Thanks for keeping us all up to date.

Every step taken is a morale booster.

Sincerely,  
**TZML Admins**

On Tue, May 18, 2021 at 4:34 PM Viraf Mehta, CLSA wrote:

Good morning,  
We are in touch with DPC Gymkhana since last week on the same. Trying to get our Doongerwadi staff, especially our Khandiyas, vaccinated as soon as possible.

Thanks  
**Viraf**

**From:** TZML Admins

**Subject:** Re: BPP Trustee - Please Ensure Dokhmenashini is Available to Parsi Covid Victims

Dear all,

1. There was a discussion on getting the nasslessars vaccinated. There was also a mention that they had to return because of lack of vaccines.

Will the newly inaugurated Vaccination Centre at Dadar Parsi Gymkhana be of any help.

*A post received is as follows:*

Dear DPC residents,  
Dadar Parsee Colony Gymkhana is going to be a vaccination Center from tomorrow.

For any information kindly contact:  
Zenobia Unwalla +91 98200 21357  
Khushroo Daboo +91 98204 52434  
Arnaaz Irani +91 98206 48292

2. Many of us are familiar with the CoWin app (website) through which vaccination appointment slots can be booked.

A companion application alerts you with a notification for an empty slot across various vaccination centres. Incidentally, it also includes Private vaccination centres and hospitals.

This may be of help for getting vaccine slots for the nasslessars.

Please read below:

**COVID-19 Relief: VaccinateMe by HealthifyMe Will Help You Find Vaccine Slots in India, How to Use-**<https://www.news18.com/news/tech/covid-19-relief-vaccinateme-by-healthifyme-will-help-you-find-vaccine-slots-in-india-how-to-use-3708827.html>  
[news18.com]



The actual link is <https://www.vaccinateme.in/> [vaccinateme.in]

Till then stay safe from the storm.

Sincerely,  
TZML Admins (tzmladmn@gmail.com)

**On Thu, May 13, 2021 at 2:03 AM Noshir - CAP wrote:**

Thanks for understanding the spirit behind my raising these questions.

If we can have convincing answers/responses to these doubts, issues and queries we can argue our case strongly before regulatory authorities.

Best wishes.  
**Noshir**

On Wed, 12 May 2021 at 19:29, TZML Admins wrote:  
12 May 2021

**Dear Noshir,**  
thank you for your feedback.

**Dear all,**  
Noshir has put forth some important points.

We are summarising these below.

Please put on your best thinking cap and tell us how to surmount these problems.

All suggestions welcome.

That will strengthen our case when we apply to the BMC for permission.

**ND-1: When science or a scientist tells us that a dead body does not spread infection it's because a corpse neither breathes, nor coughs, nor sneezes! But, it does not mean that the corpse is free of pathogens. If it was, why is a covid corpse zipped in a protective bag?**

**ND-2: Today all we have are rodents at night and by day kites and crows pecking at the body which inflates and bursts open around the third or fourth day, oozing inner liquids. Sunlight too is scarce.**

**ND-3: Sure they mingle with the outside world. But, it's not the same as mingling with corpses in different stages of decompositions and fluid from infected lungs and the gut**

**oozing all over the pavi.**

**ND-4: Could you please elaborate on those SOP.**

The Government and Health Department's SOP is either burn or bury without opening the bag.

TZML: Yes, no SOPs for Tower Of Silence disposal exists at present. Hence. we are referring to SOPs which we collectively as a community need to create and present to BMC

**ND-5: Surely we could try.**

**But, please understand that burning and burying is not the same as:**

**a) Keeping a corpse covered in a body bag on a pavi of an in-use or unused dokhma and**

**b) certainly not the same as keeping a covid cadaver exposed with crows, kits and rodents that move between doongerwadi and surrounding neighbourhoods.**

Thanks to all once again.

Please take part in this brainstorming and discussions so we come to a collective solution.

We owe that much to our dear Parsi covid victims.

Sincerely,  
**TZML Admins.**  
(tzmladmn@gmail.com)

## PARSI VICTIMS TO AVAIL OF DOKHMENASHINI

[TZML COMMENTS IN BLACK AND NOSHIR DADRAWALLA'S REPLY IN RED]

Dear BPP trustees,

as has been discussed again in a Jame Weekly article (25 April 2021 titled "Why Are We Denying Doongerwadi to Covid-19 Related Deaths" by R. Dadachanji), this matter has now **become the most urgent priority** for our small community. This write-up in Jame is a real eye-opener.

Agree.

As it is, a lot many Parsis have passed away in 2021 due to Covid. That itself is a tragedy for the distressed families, but then not being able to perform the soul-satisfying last rites at Doongerwadi is compounding their grief.

Agree.

Last year, the BPP trustees expressed their inability to do anything. Fair enough. But this year, circumstances have changed for the better by a modest degree, and hence it is the community members' heartfelt wish that the matter be re-looked into with more sympathy, enthusiasm, determination and a sense of urgency. **Yes, the key factor is that BPP should not take things lying down but with sufficient brainstorming involving community stalwarts, should devise ways to counter any objections. The BMC should be approached (once again) with proper homework and with a solid legal case.**

Please help us with preparing a "solid legal case".

Let us revisit some past objections:

**1. Infection will spread in handling a dead Covid body:** Scientific proof mentioning that a dead body cannot spread Covid has been in the press for quite some time.

**When science or a scientist tells us that a dead body does not spread infection it's because a corpse neither breathes, nor coughs, nor sneezes! But, it does not mean that the corpse is free of pathogens. If it was, why is a covid corpse zipped in a protective bag?**

In 1918, there was a Spanish Flu throughout the country and Bombay too. Also, there have been Bubonic plague infections in Mumbai. In all these instances, **the Doongerwadi was not closed but was fully functional.**

**One must not forget that in 1918 more vultures than human beings hovered over Malabar Hill and corpses were disposed by these scavenging birds in a matter of a few hours.**

**This cannot be said about 2021.**

**Today all we have are rodents at night and by day kites and crows pecking at the body which inflates and bursts open around the third or fourth day, oozing inner liquids. Sunlight too is scarce.**





**2. Infection of the *nasslessars*:** This has been covered from many angles and all major objections had been previously addressed. People have rightly pointed out that the *nasslessars* do not live in a biological bubble, but they move out and intermingle with other humdins and hence they could get infected in several other ways. So why single out their contact with a Covid infected body as the only possible way to catch infection, rare as it is.

Sure they mingle with the outside world. But, it's not the same as mingling with corpses in different stages of decompositions and fluid from infected lungs and the gut oozing all over the pavi.

In fact, there can be a **solid SOP built specifying exactly how they handle any Covid victim's body**. They should also be provided disposable PPE kits to wear for such cases.

Could you please elaborate on those SOP.

The Government and Health Department's SOP is either burn or bury without opening the bag.

Lastly the dozen or so *nasslessars* should be all given vaccinations on a top priority at the PGH or elsewhere.

AGREE 100%.

Though as we all know, vaccination still does not provide full immunity.

Regardless, agree!

**3. BMC says cremations only:** At the start, the BMC had permitted only cremation for all Covid victims, but then the **Muslims and Christians** lobbied for burial to be included too. The BPP too should similarly lobby for Dokhmenashini to be included. Our efforts should be strong, persistent and robust and fact-filled with the proposed SOPs explained very well.

Surely we could try.

But, please understand that burning and burying is not the same as: a) Keeping a corpse covered in a body bag on a pavi of an in-use or unused dokhma and

b) certainly not the same as keeping a

covid cadaver exposed with crows, kits and rodents that move between doongerwadi and surrounding neighbourhoods.

We really need to build as you stated earlier a "SOLID LEGAL CASE".

A **separate dokhma** especially earmarked for Covid victims should be considered too.

Possible

We are sure that the BPP can rope in some **consulting or PR firm** which specialises in making such presentations to the BMC. **Good lawyers, Vada Dasturjis, doctors like Dasturji JamaspAsa and scholar priests like Dr. R. Peer and Dr. P. Bajan too could complement their efforts. All it requires is a firm resolve and half the battle is won.**

Sam Bulsara and Madison comes immediately to mind and of course all our learned and revered Vada Dasturjis and Scholar Priests.

**4. Fresh objections raised by The Parsi Junction (PJ):** Whilst we thank PJ for carrying our letter in their journal, there has been some misunderstanding. Firstly, we have not suggested moving the Courts or necessarily take a hard-core legal approach. We have favoured BPP putting up a team "Dokhmenashini For Parsi Covid Victims" and coordinate and tap into the vast talent and wisdom available within the community – and then make a proper presentation to the BMC. Please rope in legal and PR consultants if need be. It is very important that BPP take the lead since they are the custodians of the Doongerwadi.

Noted

Covid is here to stay in the country for quite some time now. Today it could be an acquaintance of ours who has been a victim, but God forbid tomorrow it could be someone close to us. Hence we must look and plan in advance for our community's spiritual needs. A decent funeral ceremony in line with the teachings of the religion would not be asking too much.

Agree.

However it must be mentioned that the Towers Of Silence are earmarked for the Dokhmenashini ritual only - burial as

advocated by **Dasturji Khurshed** (even if it is on a very temporary basis) or cremation - are religiously prohibited in these consecrated and sacred premises.

Noted.

Last year when this topic was discussed with the BPP trustees, we were very disappointed with a trustee for the brusque manner in which he raised objections. Let bygones be bygones, we request this Go-Getter trustee too to set the ball rolling.

That trustee remains the same. If honest, straightforward, to the face talk is brusque, so be it. I am not a trustee with an eye on the next elections or to protect my seat.

I speak my mind and after careful thought.

I am here to do my duty not to please any faction of the community or shout populist slogans.

Chairperson Mrs Armaity R. Tirandaz we are sure you will recall the zealous manner in which the late Mr. Rustom Tirandaz had protected Dokhmenashini throughout his stint as a BPP trustee and taking inspiration from his achievements we hope you too will lead the community out of this current predicament with a touch of healing, wisdom and a firm resolve.

I also recollect his graphic description of what he saw inside the dokhma. Many will recollect it.

Trustees have to work in a bi-partisan way by dissolving the "majority-minority" camp mind-set and get Dokhmenashini approved for our Parsi covid victims. That would be a lot achieved in these trying and stressful times.

Totally in agreement with your sage advice. Well taken Sir!

Thank you.

Thank you as well!  
Noshir H. Dadrawala

Sincerely, TZML Admins,  
(tzmladm@gmail.com)  
Dated : 7 May 2021



# Dr. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR WRITES TO SEVERAL PARSI INDUSTRIALISTS FOR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE DURING THESE TRYING TIMES OF THE PANDEMIC

## MR. RATAN TATA IS THE FIRST TO RESPOND

The attached letter to Mr. Ratan Tata has been replied to by his Office with a positive response that all assistance will be provided to the B.D. Petit Parsi General Hospital and so will the Parsi Ambulance be assisted through the Tata Trusts with a direct response to Dr. Zuleika Homavazir.



Dr. Zuleika Homavazir

### PLEA OF Dr. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR

Honourable Mr. Ratan Tata,

On behalf of Our Zoroastrian Community, I pray for your long healthy life. May you remain upright and spry as ever.

Please allow me to bear this responsibility of forthwith writing to you, as a proud Zoroastrian admiring your ethical Leadership and your family's Philanthropy and phenomenal contribution towards building our Nation.

Sir, my utmost apprehension drives me to submissively write to you on behalf of our Zoroastrian Community who need your generous helping hand at these times more than ever.

We had never fathomed such unfortunate times for our Community members whereby we witness more than 40 deaths every

week due to Covid, as of March this year. At this rate of decline, before the end of the pandemic, our miniscule Community could be reduced to half the size of our current population,

**hence with folded hands, I beseech you Sir for your support to the needy Zoroastrian families, as aid to the families of the lower strata of our Community.**

Families have been wiped out due to challenges faced in NOT receiving timely hospitalisation and medication. There is absolute chaos due to the lack of Ambulances at The Parsi Ambulance Division and the Parsee General Hospital. Breadwinners of families who have lost jobs with absolute zero income have faced extreme setback in their financial situation and are in complete distress. The healthcare system at the Parsi General Hospital is not able to cope with the ever increasing demands on its limited infrastructure.

**There is absolute shortage in the supply of Oxygen, ICU beds and more important much needed Vaccines.**

The "so called" Leadership Body of our Community - The Bombay Parsi Punchayet with controversial faction led by Randeria curtailing the other, is neither effectively deploying its resources for the good of the Community nor in any way executing the leadership role it was meant to play in envisioning the future of our Community and upliftment / rejuvenation of the ever declining Zoroastrian population.

I request your generous monitored support and aid from your Conglomerate towards implementing the following measures:

1. COMMUNITY MEDICLAIM policy to cover the hospitalisation and medical expenses of the needy families.
2. TRUST FUND to be set up for the very poor Parsis and Irani families to provide

them with a nominal income to meet their ends.

3. Supply of at least 3-4 AMBULANCES to the Parsee General Hospital.
4. 65 OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS, a pair each for the 32 Parsi baugs/ Housing Facilities.
5. OXYGEN GENERATION PLANT to be set up in Hospital premises to take care of shortage of oxygen at the Parsee General Hospital.
6. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES for our members displaced by the Pandemic.

Plea received from Parsee General Hospital and Parsi Ambulance attached for your reference.

I truly hope we can work our way towards safeguarding the future of our Zoroastrian miniscule population. I will be privileged and happy to facilitate the process.

With you Sir at the helm, we will be able to feed more, empower more and do more for Our Community.

**"We make a living by what we get, We make a life by what we give. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted" is my strong belief.**

Am confident of your assistance and have always appreciated your philanthropic Vision.

Sincerely yours,  
**Dr. Zuleika Homavazir**  
Mobile : 9821033786

**A Gist of emails and telecom correspondences received from the Office of Mr. Ratan N. Tata.**

The appeal for assistance to the B.D. Petit Parsi General Hospital is being directly coordinated by the Tata Trusts.

The appeal for assistance to the Parsi



Ambulance division is being coordinated by the Management of the Tata Trusts, who is in direct communication with Dr. Zuleika Homavazir and Mr. K. Masani of the Parsi Ambulance.

In response to the email, Dr. Zuleika Homavazir has further requested upon the urgent need of a Community Mediclaim Policy.

### AN EMAIL OF GRATITUDE SENT TO HON'BLE MR. RATAN TATA BY DR. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR

Dear Honourable Mr. Ratan Tata,

We're truly inspired by your personal commitment to make a difference in these unprecedented and challenging times.

The very survival of our miniscule Zoroastrian Community depends on the timely assistance and kind generosity in providing "Long Term Support" during these trying times.

We request you to also please consider **formulation of a Community Mediclaim Policy through Tata AIG** to ease up hospitalisation and medical expenses for the very poor of our Community.

**"Nothing liberates our greatness like the desire to help and the desire to serve humanity".**

Your assistance in employing Members of our Community displaced by the pandemic through the contact of your good offices would create scope for the deserving to earn a livelihood.

**Your email during this time of uncertainty has comforted, encouraged and humbled me to continue to serve our minuscule Zoroastrian population. There remains a lot to be done and your guidance will help our Community survive.**

**THANK YOU SIR.**

May God give you Good Health and Strength to guide us safely out of this pandemic.

**"The heart of a Donor is not measured in size, but by the depth of the Commitment to make a difference in the lives of others".**

Graciously yours,  
**Dr. Zuleika Homavazir.**  
Mobile : 9821033786

**DR. ZULEIKA HAS SEPARATELY SENT SIMILAR APPEALS TO MR. ADAR POONAWALA ON HIS PERSONAL WHATSAPP NUMBER FOR VACCINES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. MR. ADI GODREJ, MR. CYRUS MISTRY AND MR. SHAPOOR MISTRY APART FROM MANY OTHER INDUSTRIALISTS HAVE BEEN SENT SIMILAR APPEALS TO SUPPORT THE ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY AND THEIR RESPONSE IS AWAITED.**

## Religions

Religions are like  
An orchard of different  
Fruit trees awaiting your  
Arrival to suck the  
Pristine message within

All religions are  
The same  
Cause no single  
Religion is superior  
Or inferior  
But on the same playing field  
Religion is like a  
Charter of Rights  
Within it are  
Carved the  
Dos and don't  
To guide you safely  
To the "Other side

**Choicest Happiness  
Farida**

We have an alter ego  
Called Conscience  
It pricks when  
We stray from  
The Path  
Reminding us  
To trudge the  
Path of straight  
And narrow  
I am proud to  
State that  
I am a Zoroastrian  
Belonging to a  
Religion call Zoroastrianism  
Whom I have grown to  
Love and Trust  
An uncut clear  
Crystal Diamond  
A diamond in the rough

### \*Every year Dae Mahino and Khorshed Roj is observed as Zarhost-No-Diso\*

This is the day when our Paigambar Saheb, Vakshure Vakshuran (meaning Prophet of Prophets) Asho Zarathushtra left the material earth for His Heavenly Abode . (In common parlance, it means the day when Asho Zarathushtra Saheb passed away).

On this day, special prayer sessions are organized and prayers are recited, with religious discourses focusing on the life and works of the Prophet Zarathustra. Being a day of mourning, it is observed as a solemn occasion. Religious ceremonies and services are confined to the agiaries or held simply at home.

For those interested in knowing the relevant prayers marked for 'Zarhost-no-diso', "On this day, one can have an 'Afringan' and 'Baj' ceremony done in a fire temple or pray by themselves the 'Stom -No-Kardo', taking the name of prophet Zarathushtra and his ancestors and family members.

\*One should also pray the lines 'Ustano Jato Atrava Yo Spitamo Zarathushtro' 101 times.\*

\*It means we are thankful to Dadar Ahura Mazda for sending prophet Zarathushtra to this earth as an 'Aathravan' (priest).\*

\*Yazdan Panah Bad - May God Bless you all and always Protect You\*



# A MINOR CORRECTION

In the last Parsi Junction issue of 16th May, in the article 'Interesting Statistics of the miniscule Parsi Community', we had published the figure of present Parsi population at 69,000, as per 2019 Census.

However Dinshaw Tamboly has corrected our error that 69,000 was the Parsi population as per Census of 2001 and the Parsi population as per Census of 2011 was 57,264. We are grateful to him to point out our error.

We give below the mail received from Dinshaw Tamboly in this regard:

## A minor correction

Table 5.1: Parsi Population in India, Maharashtra and Greater Mumbai (1891-2011)

From Dinshaw Tamboly on 16/05/2021 9:53 am



Dinshaw K. Tamboly

Dear Dinshaw,  
  
A minor correction to Interesting statistics of the minuscule Parsi community in today's issue of PJ.  
  
Q1. What's the population of Parsis in India?  
Ans. 69,000 (as per 2019 Census).

Census is generally taken in the first year of every decade.  
  
The last census was in 2011, but figures were published only in 2017. There was no census in 2019 as mentioned.  
  
The figure for 2011 was 57,264 and not 69,000. The figure was 69,601 as per 2001 census.  
  
The census figures of our community from the time British introduced census in india in 1891 are as per attachment.  
  
Considering that the 18% drop in numbers per decade remain constant and hopefully do not increase, projections for future numbers in India are as below:

2021	46,956
2031	38,504
2041	31,573
2051	25,890
2061	21,230
2071	17,409
2081	14,275
2091	11,706
2101	9,599

Warm regards,  
Dinshaw Tamboly

Year	India		Maharashtra		Greater Mumbai		Greater Mumbai
	Number	Decadal change	Number	Decadal change	Number	Decadal change	(%)
1891	89,490	-	-	-	-	-	-
1901	94,140	4,650 (5.20)	58,093	-	46,231	-	49.11
1911	100,096	5,956 (6.33)	63,860	5,767 (9.93)	50,931	4,700 (10.17)	50.88
1921	101,778	1,682 (1.68)	65,493	1,633 (2.56)	52,234	1,303 (2.56)	51.32
1931	109,752	7,974 (7.83)	71,627	6,134 (9.37)	57,765	5,531 (10.59)	52.63
1941	114,890	5,138 (4.68)	70,139	-1,488 (-2.08)	59,813	2,048 (3.55)	52.06
1951	111,791	-3,099 (-2.70)	79,606	9,467 (13.50)	68,660	8,847 (14.79)	61.42
1961	100,772	-11,019 (-9.86)	77,542	-2,064 (-2.59)	70,065	1,405 (2.05)	69.53
1971	#91,378	-9,394 (-9.32)	72,266	-5,276 (-6.80)	64,669	-5,398 (-7.70)	70.77
1981	71,630*	-19,748 (-21.61)	56,866	-5,380 (-21.28)	50,053	-14,614 (-22.60)	69.88
1991	76,382	*4,752 (6.63)	60,501	*3,635 (6.39)	53,794	3741 (7.47)	70.43
		#-14,996 (-16.41)		#-12,041 (-16.66)			
2001	69,601	-6,781 (-8.88)	54,739	-5,762 (-9.52)	46,557	-7,237 (-13.45)	66.89
2011	57,264	-12,337 (-17.73)	44,854	-9,885 (-18.06)	-	-	-

Source: Census of India as cited in Desai 2004.

Note: #,\* -- Possible aberrations in the census information; Figures in parentheses represent the percentage change.



# CYCLONE TAUKATE RAVAGES MUMBAI

## OUR COLONY YOUTH WELL SERVE THEIR BAUGS

Monday 17th May 2021 was a disastrous day for Mumbai, already reeling under the Covid Pandemic, when Cyclone Taukate hit Mumbai with all its might, with winds of over 140km per hour which brought down hundreds of trees everywhere, blocking roads and carriageways, damaging cars, blowing away hutments and even causing loss of lives.

Two of our colonies were the worst hit-Khareghat Colony at Hughes Road and Godrej Baug at Napeansea Road but the youngsters in both colonies served their Baugs well and prevented what would have otherwise been a catastrophe.

## TEHMTAN DUMASIA LEADS THE YOUTH OF GODREJ BAUG TO REMOVE THE TREE

Monday morning a huge tree fell in the pathway entrance at Godrej Baug and the residents attempts to contact the Fire Brigade and the Disaster Management team of BMC was futile as all the staff were engaged on removing cars underneath fallen trees all over Mumbai. It was then left to Tehmtan Dumasia to galvanize the youngsters of Godrej Baug to come together to remove the tree blocking the entrance.

## WELL DONE TEHMTAN DUMASIA! REPORT FROM A RESIDENT

On 17th May 2021, due to the cyclone a lot of trees got uprooted in Malabar hill and the whole of Mumbai. In Godrej Baug, at around 09.30am a big tree near 'A' bldg. fell across the road closing the main road for entry and exit.

Tehmtan Dumasia along with his son Kayannush, called the security and along with the Maalis, and a few youngsters cleared the road.

Once again, in the evening at around 05.45p.m., two huge trees from the adjoining compound fell again blocking the access road in Godrej Baug, and damaging 3 cars. One of the residents Percy Khan called up Tehmtan, and again Tehmtan along with his wife and son Kayannush came to help. They tried calling the BMC, and the fire brigade, but when none responded, they took up the challenge.

Tehmtan sent his son to get the axes from the maalis cabin, roped in youngsters from the colony (**Astad Deboo, Jehan & Kerman Darbari, Baeshaz Pastakia, Merzi Anklesaria & Rohaan Irani**) and started axing the fallen trees. He also roped in the

security guards who along with the others started chopping away the huge branches. The whole operation of clearing the road went on for nearly 3 hours. A GB Managing committee member Sharukh Billimoria though also standing at the site but made no attempt to physically help the youngsters.

Another resident arranged for tea for all volunteers. It was very heartening to see the youth of the Baug team up together and carry out the clearing work all the time laughing and joking.

The next day a message was sent across praising Kayannush Dumasia for his efforts, while other residents also started sending praiseworthy messages to the team, including one Yezdi Buhariwalla, a resident of Godrej Baug, called Tehmtan Dumasia **The Messiah of Godrej Baug**, praising his efforts in this event.







Unfortunately, the **Godrej Baug committee**, which has been taken to court by Mr. Dumasia for various irregularities and operating as a deregistered association, was quick enough to draft a response to Mr. Buhariwala's message a lot faster than they did in response to the fallen tree. The message stated:

**"There is a Whatsapp message floating around that the Father of Godrej Baug Tehmtan Dumasia and his sons cutting the tree with axes and pulling branches of trees using his xylo while Sharukh Bilimoria was just watching. The colony does not need a certificate from a Buhariwalla who has hyped it up for campaigning & promotional purposes.**

**No individual of a family can claim credit with names in such a situation.**

**People present will vouch that such a scene like pulling the tree trunks with the Xylo never took place, the tree was trimmed and placed aside by the youngsters and the security guard.**

**Without credit to any individual we thank the security guards and the youngsters and all those who came forward and lent us a helping hand. This is not the time to take credit by any individual. It would be injustice to others who helped.**

**Yours Sincerely,  
\*Team GBRWA\***

It seems like the GB committee does not want to thank Tehmtan as he has filed cases

against them in the office of the Charity Commissioner for continuing to illegally function though de-registered by the CC and also manipulating colony funds received from BPP. The GB Committee also chose to insult Mr. Yezdi Buhariwala, a resident by saying **'The colony does not need a certificate from 'a Buhariwalla.'** only because he is a resident that praised Tehmtan. What a committee! Not a single member came forward to help Tehmtan and the youngsters but they did not have the decency to thank the youth who did a commendable job under the circumstances.

When asked about the same, Tehmtan Dumasia narrated the incidents as above and said there was talk about the tree being pulled by his car which did not happen, but eventually it seemed safer to just trim the tree itself, and he did not wish to comment on the behaviour of the committee as he said the matter is sub judice, and was only glad he could help out like any other time.

Tehmtan has also been helping many Parsees get vaccinated, transporting them personally from their residence. He has also helped around 25 Parsi patients suffering from Covid personally, making sure they have an ambulance and helping them secure admission and any other administrative process to be done at Parsee General Hospital. He has received a lot of accolades for his services to the community in these trying times. It is worth repeating here the accolades and blessings given by one such recipient of Tehmtan's selfless help:

"Dear Themtam Dumasya,  
As Zorastrians we always believe in Good

Thoughts, Good Deeds, and Good Words.

In these difficult times of pandemic and distress where we as human race are failing to support our own families you came as a Masiha and lived by every word of a true Zorastrian. You helped us at such times which even in normal circumstance would be difficult.

Today because of the help you offered us, our beloved sister was able to receive the last rites that her noble soul deserved.

We as a family are indebted to you for Life. In these times when no one is available to help, you went out of the way to various government officials like BMC, police station etc to help us get all documentation clear.

You were just a stranger standing by who jumped in to offer support at the time of our distress and pain when all doors seemed to be closing for us.

We thank you from bottom of our hearts and wish you all the best in your future life and endeavours with health and safety.

We wish you reach great heights and position in your life so that you are able to help many many more who are in need.

Thanking you once again.  
Continue your good work.  
State Safe and Healthy.

Love regards  
Fuladi and Family"

**Good luck and keep up the good work, Tehmtan!**





## TREE FALL AT ADERBAD BLOCKS ENTRANCE/EXIT

At about the same time a huge tree right at the Aderbad entrance to Khareghat Colony fell in such a way that the whole entrance even for pedestrians was completely blocked. The tree brought down the two entrance pillars as well which needed to be carefully taken aside to restore it once again at the entrance once the tree was removed.

As the residents are aware, the main entrance to Khareghat Colony has been closed since the last few days due to RCC work of Hughes road going on and Aderbad gate was the only entrance/exit for Khareghat Colony residents. The youngsters of Khareghat Colony immediately took emergency measures in spite of the howling wind and the heavy rains to clear the pipes across the main road entrance and with debris and loose mud made a motorable stretch at the main entrance. They then got a small JCB at the site which started breaking the smaller branches till the gardeners arrived from Doongerwadi to cut the larger branches.

The Welfare Committee sent the below message to its residents:

"A big tree has just fallen at the Aderbad entrance. It's broken the gate and the pillar

and completely blocked the entrance/exit of the colony.

Please note that no vehicles will be able to enter or exit the colony, till this is cleared.

**We're co-ordinating with Viraf Mehta and the Doongerwadi team.**

Please bear with us till it's cleared.

Warm regards,  
**KCWA Committee."**

Trustee Viraf Mehta sent the below message to the residents of Khareghat Colony:

"Dear residents of Khareghat Colony,

A very old tree at the entry point of the Aderbad gate of Khareghat Colony has fallen due to the heavy winds brought by cyclone ( ).

The Colony Welfare Association is on top of the issue and taking all necessary steps to ensure no further damage is caused.

I have contacted the BMC D ward to bring in assistance to move the fallen tree as soon as possible. The Trustees are requesting the gardeners from Doongerwadi immediately to assist in the situation, once the trees fallen at the entrance at Doongerwadi are kept aside.

Residents are requested to please stay

indoors today and if you feel it necessary to leave the colony, request you to use the main gate only.

Regards  
**Viraf Mehta**  
9820146244"

**Ex-Chairman Dinshaw Mehta visited the site late afternoon to boost the morale of the youth. He was informed that the Doongerwadi staff were still clearing the Doongerwadi entrance road where also trees had fallen and promised to come to Aderbad as soon as Doongerwadi carriageway was opened.**

**At Parekh Dharamshala he was informed by the Manager Darayus Ichhaporia that one of the residents needed to be shifted to the hospital due to low Oxygen reading. However Committee member Maharukh Noble arranged to send an Oxygen Concentrator from the residence of Pansy Mehta, wife of the Ex-chairman, and thereby stabilize the ailing resident. Since the Doongerwadi staff were still clearing the Doongerwadi fallen trees Dinshaw Mehta left Aderbad soon.**

**By late evening with help of Doongerwadi staff, the entrance was slightly opened up so that the blockade was opened up to a certain extent.**







# SAM CHOTHIA FABRICATES FALSE NEWS TO SELL PRIME RAJKOT PROPERTIES

The community is aware of the desperate attempts by Sam Chothia of Bulsar to sell prime Rajkot properties but always found young go-getter Khushman Tamboli in his way.

Khushman is against sale of any property and wants it preserved for use by the parsi community and goes out of his way to protect the prime properties from encroachment.

Before reverting to Rajkot, the community is hereby informed that the very valuable Tithal Sanatorium property right on the beach is proposed to be sold in a shady deal by Sam Chothia.

Ex-president of Irani Anjuman, Meherwan Irani fought right upto the supreme court of india and saved the tithal property from being sold/encroached but to be preserved for community use.

Unfortunately due to his failing health Meherwan handed the property over to the Bulsar amjuman who under the leadership of Sam Chothia is trying to sell it off for a pittance instead of keeping it for community use. Of course other residents of Bulsar have opposed this sale proposal before the charity commissioner and the matter is pending before the CC.

Reverting back to the Rajkot matter, having failed in his attempt to dislodge Tamboli from Rajkot affairs, the criminal minded Sam Chothia has now devised a slandering campaign against Khushman Tamboli in the press without any iota of genuine proof but based only on false and fabricated allegations through his khandiyas like Porus Bhagwager, an employee of doongerwadi there. Various false charges were fabricated against Tamboli by this khandya Porus Bhagwager and given to the press. Sam Chothia immediately sent this paper cuttings about a month back to the defunct Anjuman Committee which he heads.

Khushman's family and especially his mother are bringing pressure on Tamboli to withdraw from Rajkot. Since he refused to cow down, Sam Chothia has now sent another fustillade of paper cuttings of false and fabricated allegations to remove this thorn in his way to make crores from sale of this prime properties.

Porus Bhagwager, khandiya of Sam Chothia, even phoned up Parsi Junction and requested them to publish articles against Khushman Tamboli, denouncing him as a criminal. However Parsi Junction being aware of the criminal antecedents of Sam Chothia refused to do so and instead threatened to expose him and Sam Chothia for their intent to criminally defame Tamboli.

This is exactly similar to the fabricated charges made by Yazdi Desai and Khojeste Mistry that ex-chairman Dinshaw Mehta had misappropriated rs 20 lakhs in 2013 out of alleged Rs. 65 Lakhs transfer fees of a dhun bldg flat in revenge for the loss of his wife Anahita Desai to Muncherji Cama. The police in may 2015 after investigation gave a clean chit to Dinshaw Mehta that transfer fees were only Rs. 45 Lakhs and were never Rs. 65 Lakhs. In fact this figure was subsequently accepted by all the trustees of the new board and on that basis transferred the rent receipt in Musharraf's name in june/july 2016.

But Yazdi Desai, to avenge the loss of his wife, in collusion with another master mind Kersi Randeria then got Musharraf Kader to give a false affidavit under blackmail threats that otherwise they will close his guest house business but if he gave the false affidavit then he would be rewarded with rent receipt in his name. Thus from the original charge of stealing Rs 20 lakhs of BPP transfer fees, the only charge now pending is that Dinshaw Mehta used cash Rs. 25 Lakhs which Musharraf had given to the wife of late CEO Mehli Colah at his residence on 31st march 2013

upto november 2013 when he allegedly refunded the money back in november 2013. As the matter is sub-judice we will leave it at that.

At that time too parsi times and several non-communal papers had blown headlines about the misappropriation of 20 lakhs but once he was declared not guilty of the misappropriation neither Yazdi Desai nor Khojeste Mistry nor Kersi Randeria nor Anahita Desai, third time candidate aspiring to be a trustee, had the decency to apologize to Dinshaw Mehta for their false and fabricated charges. This is their true colours. What can one expect from vindictive trustees like these.

Having learnt from his masters, Sam Chothia has followed in his footsteps to remove Khushman Tamboli by insinuations and innuendos of false and fabricated charges and then forward it to pliable press for a few dollars more.

Since Yazdi Desai, partner of Sam Chothia is out and Anahita Desai has yet to come in to make hay whilst the sun shines, it is time that an urgent meeting of the all india federation was summoned and Sam Chothia is removed from the money spinning ministry of CEO of defunct Anjuman Committee.

In fact in the Ahmedabad federation meeting held at Ahmedabad a few years back it was almost approved to appoint the president of Ahmedabad Parsi Anjuman as the president of the DAC but this was overturned later by Yazdi Desai.

Since armaity tirandaz is now the chairman of BPP, it is time that Sam Chothia's deceitful role as CEO of DAC is culminated and brigadier anklesaria of Ahmedabad is appointed in his place and stead.

This is the only way that prime Moffusil properties can be salvaged from the greedy eyes of Sam Chothia and his ILK.



## Kersi Randeria SLYLY REPEATS THE SAME CHARGE OF ‘ONE TRUST-ONE RULE FOR ALL BENEFICIARIES’ BUT NOW IN GUJRATI



Kersi Randeria

Parsi Times of Saturday 8th May carried a full page article under the title “Service charges, the Pandemic and a Pending Refund! Need to implement One Trust One Rule for all Beneficiaries”. A fitting clarification was given by Parsi Junction of Sunday 9th May when the double standards and twisting and fabricating facts of Parsi Times was exposed.

Once again the sly Randeria repeats the same false allegations in the Parsi Times of 15th May but this time in Gujarati. Kersi Randeria in February 2017 got all BPP Baug residents to pay extra Rs. 750/pm to compensate for loss of revenue

by stopping encashment of high value flats. This was opposed by the three minority Trustees but Randeria imposed his will on the Board and till August 2020 had collected around Rs. 10 crores through this illegal increase without authority of law by frightening the residents through instruction to the custodian/manager not to collect rent unless accompanied with this extra Rs. 750/pm.

On 29th July 2020, Armaity Tirandaz, Viraf Mehta and Xerxes Dastur stopped collecting this increase for all residents of BPP Baugs. To gain political brownie points Kersi Randeria now wants BPP to refund this around Rs. 10 crores which he himself had levied in the first place well knowing that BPP has no funds to do so only on the ground that out of 2700 residents, 200 of them have not paid and hence refund to all who

have paid.

The fallacy of this distorted argument of Randeria is the fact that the accounts have been told to keep the collection of this arrears of Rs. 32,250/ (750x43 months from February 2017 to August 2020) pending at present and to recover in future this arrears at the time of transfer of tenancy. Thus nobody has been waived from payment of this extra service charges for 43 months, except the really poor who have been exempted from its payment on recommendation of Liason Committee report.

In spite of this clear cut policy statement Randeria slyly plays dumb and insists on BPP refunding the Rs. 10 crores ONLY AS A POLITICAL GAMESMANSHIP well knowing that BPP has no funds to do so.

**કેરસી રાંદેરીયા ફરી લુચ્છાઈની રાહે, પોતાની જુની રેકૉર્ડ,  
“એક ટ્રસ્ટ – એક નિયમ (બધા લાભાર્થીઓ માટે)” હવે  
ગુજરાતીમાં વગાડે છે.**

પારસી ટાઈમ્સ, શનિવાર – ૮ મે, ૨૦૨૧ ના એડીશનમાં છપાયેલ આર્ટીકલ “Service charges, the Pandemic and a Pending Refund! Need to implement One Trust One Rule for all Beneficiaries” અંગે રવીવીર – ૮ મે, ૨૦૨૧ના પારસી જંક્શનમાં સંપૂર્ણ છણાવત કરતા યોગ્ય સ્પષ્ટતા સાથે પારસી ટાઈમ્સના ડબલ ધોરણ તેમજ જૂઠી અને ઉપજાવી કાઢેલી વિગતોને પારસી સમાજ સામે ખુલ્લી પાડી હતી.

આમ છતાં કેરસી રાંદેરીયા, લુચ્છાઈ કરી, આજ પીપૂડી ફરીથી તા. ૧૫ મે, ૨૦૨૧ના પારસી ટાઈમ્સમાં, ગુજરાતીમાં વગાડી. ફેબ્રુઆરી ૨૦૧૭માં, કેરસી રાંદેરીયાએ બી.પી.પી. હસ્તકના દરેક બાગોના ફ્લેટ ધારકોને માથે રૂ. ૭૫૦/- નો કમ્મરતોડ વધારો ઝીંકી દીધો હતો – કારણ કે કેરસી રાંદેરીયાની આડાઈને લીધે બી.પી.પી. ના હાય – વેલ્યુ ફ્લેટોની હરાજીની આવક આવતી બંધ થતા બી.પી.પી. માટે આ રીતે આવક ઉભી કરવી પડી.

તે વખતના ત્રણ લઘુમતી ટ્રસ્ટીઓએ આનો સખ્ત વિરોધ નોંધાવવા છતાં કેરસી રાંદેરીયાએ, અન્યથા ટ્રસ્ટીઓની મદદથી પોતાનું ધાર્યું જ કર્યું અને રૂ. ૭૫૦/-નો કમ્મરતોડ વધારો ઝીંકી દીધો. આવી રીતે ઓગસ્ટ ૨૦૨૦ સુધીમાં તો પારસી ફ્લેટ ધારકો પાસેથી રૂ. ૧૦ કરોડ આસપાસ ઉઘરાવી પણ લીધા. આ રૂ. ૭૫૦/-નો વધારો કાયદા વિરૂદ્ધ હોવાનું જાણવા છતાં કેરસી રાંદેરીયાએ ફ્લેટ ધારકોને ભાડું વસુલ ન કરવાની ધમકી આપી, તેમને ડરાવી – ધમકાવીને કઢાવી લીધા.

૨૯ જુલાઈ, ૨૦૨૦એ આરમઈતી તીરંદાઝ, વિરાફ મહેતા અને ઝરસીસ દસ્તુરની બહુમતીએ કરેલા ઠરાવ પ્રમાણે આ ૭૫૦/- નો કમ્મરતોડ વધારો, બી.પી.પી. બાગોના રહેવાસીઓ પાસેથી ઉઘરાવવાનું બંધ કરવામાં આવ્યું. હવે કેરસી રાંદેરીયા પોતાની જોહુકમી ચલાવી શકતા ન હોવાથી અને પારસી કોમ માટે સારું કામ કરી રહેલા ઉપરોક્ત ૩ ટ્રસ્ટીઓને હેરાન કરવા તેમજ પોતાને માટે કાઈક પોલીટીકલ માઈલેજ મેળવવા, કેરસી રાંદેરીયા હવે

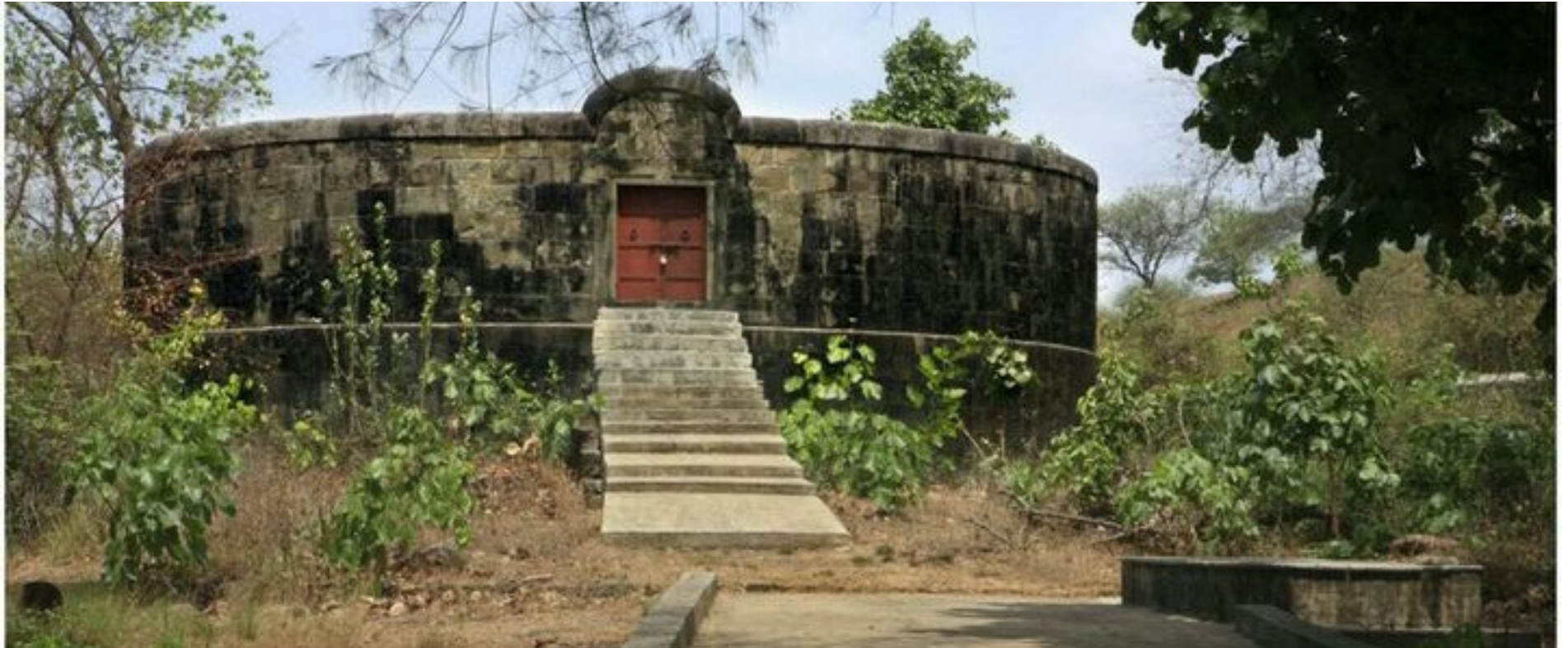
ઈચ્છે છે કે બી.પી.પી.એ જે અંદાજે રૂ. ૧૦ કરોડ ઉઘરાવેલા અને જે ૨૫૦૦ ફ્લેટ ધારકોએ આ વધારો ભરેલો, તેમને પરત રીફંડ કરવા, કારણ કે ૨૦૦ ફ્લેટ ધારકો એ આ ભાવ વધારો નથી ભર્યો અને ટ્રસ્ટમાં બધા માટે નિયમ એક સરખો હોવો જોઈએ; પરંતુ કેરસી રાંદેરીયા એ ભુલી ગયા કે આ કમ્મરતોડ વધારો તો એમણે જ ફ્લેટ ધારકોને માથે માર્યો હતો અને ડરાવી – ધમકાવીને આ વધારો તો કેરસી રાંદેરીયાના કહેવાથી જ વસુલ કરાયો હતો.

કેરસી રાંદેરીયાના આ ખોટા, ભૂલ ભરેલા તેમજ સચ્ચાઈને મરડી મોચડીને ઉભા કરેલા વાદ – વિવાદ અંગે પારસી કોમને જણાવવાનું કે બી.પી.પી.ના અકાઉન્ટસ વિભાગને જરૂરી સુચના આપી દેવામાં આવી છે કે જે ફ્લેટ ધારકોએ આ ભાવ વધારો જે કુલ રૂ. ૩૨૨૫૦/- થાય છે (૭૫૦ x ૪૩માસ – ફેબ્રુઆરી ૨૦૧૭ થી ઓગસ્ટ ૨૦૨૦), તે ભર્યો નથી તેઓ પાસેથી ભવિષ્યમાં આ વધારો, ભાડુઆતના નામ ટ્રાન્સફર વખતે યા અન્ય કોઈ પણ જાતની ફેવર માંગતી વખતે રીકવર કરવાનો રહેશે. આના ઉપરથી સમજી શકાય છે કે કોઈને પણ આ વધારો ભરવામાંથી મુક્તિ આપવામાં આવી નથી. હા, આ વધારો ભરવામાંથી સાચા ગરીબો – જેઓને લીયોઝો કમીટીએ ભલામણ કરી છે, તેઓને જરૂર મુક્તિ આપવામાં આવી છે.

આમ ચોખ્ખી અને ચટ પોલીસી હોવા છતાં અને બી.પી.પી. પાસે રીફંડ માટેના અંદાજે રૂ. ૧૦ કરોડ ન હોવાનું જાણવા છતાં કેરસી રાંદેરીયા માત્ર અને માત્ર જુઠ્ઠાણ ચલાવી રહ્યા છે. આપણી કોમ હવે સારી રીતે જાણે છે કે ખોટાનું સાચું કરવામાં, જુઠ્ઠું બોલવામાં અને ભ્રમ ફેલાવવામાં કેરસી રાંદેરીયા એ માસ્ટરી પ્રાપ્ત કરી છે માટે હવે એમણા ગણ્યા ગાઠ્યા ચેલાઓ / જુ હજુરીયાઓસિવાય કોઈ કેરસી રાંદેરીયાની વાતમાં આવતું નથી કે એમનો વિશ્વાસ કરતું નથી.



# BURIAL AT DOONGERWADI



A response to Shri Khurshed Dastoor's "Parsi Times" (2-5-2021) article by~

## \*ERVAD ROOIYINTAN PESHOTAN PEER.\*

An article appeared in the Parsi Times issue dated 2-5-2021, p.4, titled 'Desperate Times Call For Desperate Measures' (advocating burial for the bodies of the Covid victims at the Doongerwadi), without the name of any author; but a photograph and the language in the first person entail that it is written by the Right Honourable Shri Khurshed Dastoor of Udwada. **As such, it is most regrettable to note that a so-called religious leader could resort to such content, moonlighting himself and others in the process, and taking the entire Parsi Community for a grand ride.**

In the first place, the Rt. Hon. Shri K. Dastoor seems to have rubber-stamped himself over the said article as could be gleaned through the last lines therein. There is a well-known clique in the community regularly working against the interests of the community, and the Hon. Shri K. Dastoor regularly seems to be going with the flow of the said clique. The said article is one more example about the same. It consists of several self-contradictory statements as explained below.

Last year, when the Covid-related deaths started to occur in our Parsi community,

and those souls were getting denied our religiously-mandated Dakhmenashini, **Dr. Pervez Bajan and this writer, in an official letter to the BPP dated June 4, 2020, submitted some suggestions to be worked out in consultation with the government authorities. Instead, one of the self-smart Trustees (Kersi Randeria) tried to fob it off in his usual cavalier fashion.** But when the heat from the community members grew more on them, they arranged for a Zoom-meeting in the first week of July 2020, with relevant members.

Therein, after some discussion, the Honourable Shri K. Dastoor, poured cold water over the issue in the guise of getting further certain information in the matter. The authorities were clearly in an ostrich-type mode, where they buried their heads in the sand, and wished that the storm may pass over them in a short time and they may not be required to do anything. This attitude is clearly reflected by Hon. Shri K. Dastoor in his article under review. But we had clearly warned them in our above said letter about the possibility of a more deadly second wave of this pandemic, not for anything else, but

as a clear historical reality.

One of the community publications, the Parsi Junction, in its recent issue dt. May2-2021, on p. 5, expressly mentions Hon. Shri K. Dastoor by name as one among others, who failed to follow-up on his supposed line of action even after nearly ten months of the said Zoom-meeting. **It has become very clear to the majority of the Parsi community members that it is the ANTI-DAKHMENASHINI LOBBY in the community which is causing obstructions to getting permission for Dakhmenashini to the unfortunate Covid victims by putting out flimsy excuses.**

The community members would be shocked to their wits' end to know from the latest issue of Parsi Junction dt May 9-2021 that the Khandhias and Nassessalars of Doongerwadi are still not being vaccinated. As they are to be designated as frontline workers, the vaccination for this group started since 16th January-2021, and when the vaccination was opened for 45+ citizens since March 1, the vaccines were freely available even upto the end of March when the general public was not much forthcoming.

So, this is not only a case of sheer criminal



negligence on the part of the concerned authorities, but more so, one more excuse to be forwarded for the denial of Dakhmenashini to the Covid victims. The Parsi Junction, the advocates for a section of the BPP Trustees, actually says so, and to top it all, puts the onus on the traditional groups themselves, who are trying to raise the issue of Dakhmenashini, to get the Khandhias and the Nassessallars vaccinated!

**The concerned authorities fail to realize that among the devout members of the community, the ANXIETY OF BEING DEPRIVED OF THE DAKHMENASHINI IS GREATER THAN THE FEAR OF DEATH ITSELF.**

**Now the community members would be wondering why the Hon. Shri K. Dastoor has suddenly rooted for getting burial facilities for the Covid victims at our Doongerwadi.** But there is nothing to wonder about. It is all a part of well-laid out strategy. For that reason, he has resorted to pull the emotional and sentimental strings of the community members by referring to the ghastly scenes of disposal of the dead bodies of the general public, and also inexplicably **exclaiming about the better choice of burial over that of cremation!**

Members of the community are requested here to take note that only about 6/7 years ago, the same anti-Dakhmenashini lobby waxed eloquent about the alternative method of cremation, and went ahead and established a crematorium facility at Worli to that effect, the Hon. Shri K. Dastoor lending his moral support to the same, often exhorting some reluctant Mobeds to conduct the prayers there. At that time the supporters of the said lobby used almost the same language as they are speaking presently for the burial facility.

So was there no one to guide them, including our Hon. Religious leader, about the proper scriptural procedures for the disposal of the dead at that time just 6/7 years ago? However, the fact is that, having created the **crematorium facility, the said lobby is now trying to create a burial facility, that too on the sacred Doongerwadi grounds, thereby effectively trying to put an end to the system of Dakhmenashini, aided and abetted by our Hon. Religious leader.**

Members of the community would also like to pose a question to the Hon. Religious leader that if one were to follow his guidance about burial facility for the Covid victims with all our religious rituals, then what were to be the operational procedures?

Who would give a bath to the body and do the sachkar? **Who would dig the pits, and who would inter the bodies therein? The Khandhias and Nassessallars would be out of action because they would not like to come into contact with contaminated bodies, and they are not being vaccinated still as mentioned above.**

If the Hon. Religious leader and his clique were to come up with any solution to this, then that would be equally applicable to the procedure of Dakhmenashini as well! The only difference between the two systems then would be that the body would be laid underground in case of burial, whereas the body would be laid to rest in the Dakhma; and as Religious leader, our Hon. Shri K. Dastoor might be aware that in the case of the Dakhmas, they are the consecrated ones with efficacious "Tana Ceremony" performed, and designed specifically to absorb and contain the effects of 'druj-e-nasush', the process of pollution, and which themselves act as a sort of a quarantine for the dead bodies; whereas in the case of underground burial, the viruses, bacteria, germs etc. particularly in the case of pandemics like the present one, remain embedded but active for a very very long period of time. Even when the deep permafrost in the Siberian region was thawed, the plague bacteria were found to be active therein.

So is this not a case of creating more problems on our Doongerwadi sacred precincts, when we already have our God-given and religiously-mandated Dakhmas in our midst, an oasis of peace for our departed ones? If one were to channelize one's efforts, then why not towards the restoration of the Dakhmenashini to the unfortunate souls? Otherwise, it would be like searching for stones when one would be having diamonds in one's hands!

The Hon. Shri K. Dastoor also mentions that he has discussed this proposition of burial facility with Mobeds. This reminds one about the episode in the life of our most reverend

Late Dasturji Saheb Dr. Hormazdyar Kayoji Mirza. Although he was one of the High Priests of Udwada, he used to be harassed, both physically and mentally for several years by some priests in Udwada. His followers, particularly in Mumbai, then took up the cudgels for him, and finally restored his and his son, Dr. Peshotan's positions properly.

During that phase, in one of the private conversations with this writer, Dasturji Saheb asked a very succinct question as to 'Whom would you call a priest? Are such persons entitled to be addressed as priests?' By this, the Late Dasturji meant that a priest is not just one who would be able to recite his prayers, but much more beyond that, one who imbibes at least some of the characteristics of a priest as elucidated in our scriptures.

One would therefore tend to ask the same questions to the Hon. Religious leader as to what types of priests is he referring to? The International priests? The Intercontinental priests? The global priests? Or simply the "Chhapela Katlan" ones?

It is also very imperative to know as to on what moral authority does the Hon. Shri K. Dastoor keep on issuing diktats to the community on religious matters. Our own Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, while delivering a lecture on the subject of 'Leadership', stated emphatically that two cardinal attributes are required to be a leader:- 1) Professional knowledge (in the respective fields), and 2) Professional competence. He stated that professional knowledge does not come with birth, but is to be acquired the hard way, and which would lead to professional competence.

Now in the case of our Hon. Religious leader, it is known that his Seat is acquired by nature of heredity only. So according to FM Manekshaw, that itself would not make him a religious leader. Then for the criterion of professional knowledge, in the Parsi community of India, for being a Dastur or a High Priest, the following are the basic requirements:-

a) Recitation of all the prayers (mostly by heart), including all the higher liturgical texts like Yasna, Visparad, Vendidad and so on.





- b) ability to perform or having knowledge of all the higher ritual ceremonies.
- c) Detailed knowledge of 'Tariqats' (religious observations) related to rituals and in daily life.
- d) Knowledge of scriptures and scriptural languages like Avesta, Pahlavi, Pazend and so on.

- e) Understanding of the History of the Ancient Iran, and the history of the Parsis in India. The answers to the above requirements in the case of the Hon. Religious leader are mostly ??????????. I have to mention this with great reluctance as I do not consider myself worthy enough to cast shadows on others, but then it is incumbent upon the concerned persons to understand

their limitations, and then to remain within such limitations, which could be graceful for everyone.

**Let there be Light and there is Light.**

**\*Ervad Rooiyintan Peshotan Peer\***

**\*(Email dated 15-5-2021)\***

## VADA DASTURJI'S REPLY TO DR PEER

17/05/2021 2:50 pm

Dear Learned Scholar Ervad Dr. Rooiyintan Peer,



**Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur**

In all humility I am saddened and distressed by your diatribe that came in response to my article published in The Parsi Times – 'Desperate times call for Desperate Measures'.

I would have much appreciated if you would have addressed

the long tirade directly to me rather than put it on social media. I do not subscribe to the platform and thus received it via a friend/well-wisher who thought it deserved my attention. I will keep my retort short, my tone respectful and, very unwillingly, I, too, will have to resort to social media, instead of addressing it directly to you.

1. I request you to go through the above said article once again and understand (not maliciously and deliberately distort) the text and not arrive at a conclusion that is meant only to target my intentions. Upon reading you will find; I have very clearly stated "I am not promoting an alternate system." And **"I wish to declare that I staunchly uphold my belief in our time tested and eco-friendly system of Dokhmenashini and I believe no other method of disposing the dead is acceptable to me in normal circumstances. Please note I emphatically pronounce that if permission for burial is granted, it must come to a grinding stop as soon as we see the end of this**

**pandemic." Doesn't it mean I Only endorse Dokhmenishini?**

2. You have very rightly pointed out that within our community members the 'ANXIETY OF BEING DEPRIVED OF DOKHMENASHINI IS GREATER THAN THE FEAR OF DEATH ITSELF'. It is quite apparent that you are as moved, as I am, at the plight of the ones directly affected by this Virus. Family members of those suffering from Covid and other very concerned members of the community have been approaching me ceaselessly to help find a suitable solution to this ghastly predicament.

3. In my modest capacity and limited knowledge (as you believe it to be) **I do feel that Burial (I emphasize, only in case of Covid 19) is an ALTERNATIVE TO CREMATION AND NOT TO DOKHMENASHINI.** My learned Scholar Ervad Saheb Rooiyintan, I have had lengthy discussions on this topic, before I wrote this article, with my fellow mobeds in Udwada (who may not be degree holders like yourself), but are experienced, weathered and well read, knowledgeable practicing mobeds, and **we arrived at a consensus that between Burial and Cremation, Burial is the lesser evil.**

4. Dear Learned Scholar Dr. Rooiyintan P. Peer, I urge you to stand up, come out in the open and fight for the right cause, to use your gift of unparalleled religious knowledge and find a solution to this challenging dilemma. I wish you luck and success at what we are failing to do, achieving for the community, a very blessed solution i.e., Dokhmenashini for

those we lose to Covid 19.

5. It is against my principles to get into a useless dialogue where I have to explain myself and my intents (This will be the last one). You have recklessly called me names, you doubt my religious inclination, knowledge and knowhow, you accuse me of being an anarchist and you have even questioned my competence and my integrity. I will refrain from defending myself and from stooping so low and bring into the open the malpractices and double standards used by many of the learned religious scholars of our community. **Character assassination, is in no way going to help me in my crusade to bring an end to Cremating bodies of those who have succumbed to COVID 19 and in my other endeavors.** Undeterred by the forces that wish to bring me down, I will continue my quest to uphold my religious precepts and to preserve my religious traditions and strive for everlasting continuity.

**The words of Dasturji Hormuzdiar Mirza ring true "Sikhela, Bhanela Anari.**

**In answer to all your allegations and charges against me, I maintain - "Silence is the highest religion and a symbol of the Eternal Truth".**

**Dasturji Khurshed K. Dastoor.**

**COMMENTS OF Parsi Junction:** Last week we had published the article of Yashan Jokhi on the same issue of allowing Burial at Doongerwadi when he was **very categorical that the Doongerwadi lands cannot be used for any other system**



**of disposal of the dead other than Dokhmenashini i.e exposure of the dead body to the rays of the Sun by way of KHURSHEDNAGRESHNI and for no other purpose as per the Trust Deed governing the Doongerwadi lands. Thus both cremation and burial are strictly prohibited on our Doongerwadi.**

Ervad Peer above has ALSO come out in support of the proposition that Burial of any dead body-Covid infected or otherwise- cannot be done on our HOLY DOONGERWADI LANDS.

Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur is very categorical that Dokhmenashini is the best system of disposal of Parsi dead bodies. However between Cremation and Burial, he is of the strict Religious view that Burial is the better alternative to Cremation, especially since Aramgah is the accepted mode of disposal of the dead where a Dokhma does not exist.

However in this calamity times of Covid pandemic, when the authorities wrap the Covid body in full plastic covering and will not under any circumstances allow the body to be opened up from the shield of the plastic wrapping before it is cremated or buried. Under the circumstances the suggestion of Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastur of BURIAL OF COVID BODIES IN DOONGERWADI needs careful consideration.

The community will recall that a decade or two back when the proponents of 'DEATH WITH DIGNITY' group wanted to set up a Crematorium on Doongerwadi lands, a distinct schism had developed in the community leading to a sharp division among the members of the community with the 'SAVE DOONGERWADI ACTION GROUP' violently opposing any sacrilege on the holy lands of Doongerwadi, including even parting with the AMBAVADI lands for constructing a crematorium there as a via media.

It was then left to Dinshaw Tamboly to negotiate with the Municipal authorities to allow constructing and setting up of a PRAYER HALL at the Worli Cremation grounds and with financial support/donation from A. H. Wadia Charitable Trust, very soon the Prayer hall became a reality and since last few years this facility is available for

those who prefer to be cremated.

Coming back to the suggestion of Vada Dasturji that **ONLY FOR COVID DEAD**, burial on Doongerwadi should be allowed being a more acceptable proposition compared to cremation and no other body can be buried there and this would be stopped as soon as the current Covid pandemic ends. Where Vada Dasturji slipped up is on insisting that Burial be permitted only at Doongerwadi instead of suggesting a fresh burial ground from the GOVT. or BMC.

Whilst Burial is an accepted mode of disposal of dead bodies where Doongerwadi is not available, and just as Prayer Hall was constructed for alternate mode of disposal of dead bodies, the community can consider setting up a separate burial Aramgah for Covid infected dead, preferably some distance away from Doongerwadi.

Parsis being a miniscule community and with Covid infected Parsi dead would at most be a few hundred and hence a 5000 sq.ft piece of land would suffice for such an Aramgah including the infrastructure of office and other paraphernalia.

There are many Charitable Trusts owning huge tracts of land in the suburbs like N.M.Wadia Charities, A. H. Wadia Charitable Trust, F. E. Dinshaw Trust, Jeejeebhoy Trust, Petit Trust, Cama Madressa Trust and several others. With a right approach from the well wishers of our community to the Trustees of these Trusts we are hopeful that Aramgah land for Burial of Covid infected dead would be a distinct possibility and there would be no need to defile our holy Doongerwadi lands.

If for some reason these Trusts do not want to part with their valuable lands for Burial of Covid infected dead then the community can pool in and buy about 5000 sq. ft land in the suburbs which would cost less than Rs. 10 crores and achieve the objective of Burial as a preferred alternative to Cremation instead of defiling our sacred Doongerwadi lands by Burial of Covid affected bodies in breach of the Trust Deed governing the Doongerwadi lands.

In this context we repeat a mail sent in 2017 when Navsari wanted to allow Burial on their

Doongerwadi lands. The said mail is given below:

**This email was written in the year 2017 when the Navsari Anjuman wanted to build a Burial ground on their Sacred Dokhma lands.**

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**Basic Rule of Law in India as mandated by the Supreme Court, is that objects of the trust, as created by the original donor, cannot be changed later by the trustees under any excuse if the original objects of the trust can still be carried forward even today.**

The principle of Ce-prey is not allowed in a religious trust .

In fact in the Ratilal Gandhi Case (Five Judges Bench), All India Reporter 1954, page 388, the Supreme Court of India actually struck down Section 56 of the Bombay Public Trust Act, which gave wide powers to the Charity Commissioner and the Courts to change the objects of the trust.

Later the Supreme Court confirmed the Ratilal Gandhi Case principle again in the Lalubhai Chotulal Case ( Four Judges Bench), AIR ( All India Reporter) 1965, page 1611, prohibiting the Trustees of a religious trust from changing any objects of the trust, nor can the trustees have any power to change the original beneficiaries of the trust.

After the two judgments delivered by the Supreme Court of India , law of the land is now very clear. **Trustees have just no power to change original objects of a religious trust.**

(Section 141 of the Constitution of India---Law as declared by the Supreme Court to be binding precedent on all Courts in India) Such tharavs in the eyes of Law, have just no meaning, but infact is no more than a waste paper.

If the trustees still go ahead with this tharav, any Zoroastrian can file a case against the Trustees in the Charity Commissioner for removal of trustees and also a civil suit for mandatory injunction.

**\*Rayomand Zaiwala\***

\*(Fri, 24 Feb 2017 at 18:44,...)\*





## KERSI RANDERIA NOW WANTS BURIAL ON DOONGERWADI

The community will recall that a few years back, the Reformists led by Kersi Randeria wanted an end to the ritual of Dokhmenashini at Doongerwadi and set up a Crematorium on the sacred lands.

There followed a bitter and violent struggle between the supporters of 'DEATH WITH DIGNITY' GROUP and the 'SAVE DOONGERWADI ACTION GROUP' wherein Kersi Randeria used his money power to bribe Dhun Baria to do photo shopping and fabricate ugly pictures of the inside of the Dokhmas to prejudice the community members.

Things were getting out of hand which would have led to a sharp permanent division of the community between the Reformists and the Orthodox but that was averted by the diplomatic gesture of Dinshaw Tamboly. He realized that there was no sense in imposing their idea/demand and get a Crematorium constructed on the sacred Doongerwadi lands by hurting the sentiments of the Orthodox section of the community.

Tamboly negotiated with BMC for allowing a Prayer Hall to be constructed on a part of the Worli Crematorium premises at his cost and to be used by all except between 8am and 10 am and 3pm to 5pm to be reserved for use of Parsis only. Since the last few years the Prayer Hall is a reality and there is peace between both factions.

However the Covid pandemic has once again created a fresh controversy among a section of our community members. As per BMC guidelines, Covid infected dead bodies were tightly wrapped in plastic covering and sent straight for Cremation. However the Muslims and Christians got relief from Courts to bury their covid dead without opening the wrapping or taking the body out of the plastic protection.

With more and more Parsis succumbing to Covid and being consigned to cremation, the demand of their families of being denied Dokhmenashini has become quite shrill but since in our case it would involve taking the body out of the protective plastic covering which involves possible risks of the pathogens infecting those around the opened dead bodies, the next best alternative of burial at Doongerwadi is now being suggested as a temporary via media.

However Doongerwadi lands are governed by their Trust Deeds and hence **anything other than Dokhmenashini \*CANNOT\* be allowed at the Towers Of Silence at Mumbai, Pardi, Valsad, Vapi, Daman, Surat, Ahmedabad or elsewhere. If people want to bury the bodies of their dear ones, then the community has to arrange/buy a plot for that \*strictly outside\* the Tower Of Silence premises, \*preferably as far away from it as possible.\* And we don't have to be "progressive" in matters of religion.**

It seems that the call for Burial of covid infected dead has revived the Reformists game plan of stopping Dokhmenashini at Doongerwadi as Kersi Randeria's goon who has been rewarded with two charity flats has come out in praise of this initiative if one were to accept at face value the WhatsApp messages on various groups which reads as under:

**'Excellent initiative by smaller Anjumans of Pardi, Valsad & Vapi/Daman. They have made provision of aaramgah on Pardi Doongerwadi for Covid related deaths. All regular death ceremonies will be conducted as per rituals. This is very progressive, the BPP should take some lessons from this'.**

Msg on Viraf Kapadia's WhatsApp by Kaikhushru Irani means it has been forwarded by Randeria.

Thus we have the Reformist Randeria back to his old tricks of trying to stop Dokhmenashini at Doongerwadi. But what is more shocking is that Anahita Yazdi Desai has ganged up with Randeria to become a Trustee. It was her husband Yazdi Desai who had taken up cudgels on behalf of the Orthodox against the Death with Dignity to oppose Randeria at every stage to stop his crusade to ban Dokhmenashini through the manipulations and fabrications of Dhun Baria.

### હાલરડું

યા ખુદા,

વર્ષોથી મીઠી નીંદર આવી નથી, આજે મારે માટે, તું હાલરડું ગા એક

ઊંઘ એ સૌની જરૂર છે, તડફૂદ છું રોજ રાતે; કોરી જાય છે રાતો અનેક

જ્યારે સૂતી હતી ચાદર તાણી, પળભર માં આવી જતી હતી નીંદ ઊંડી,  
ગહેરી

ત્યારે કુંભકરણ કહેતા લોક મને લાડથી; સ્વભાવ હતો મારો મસ્ત, લહેરી.

આજે તો તું આવી, હાલરડું ગા, તો આવે ફરી એકવાર નીંદર મીઠી, મધ  
જેવી;

હવે તો હું સાચેજ ભૂલવા લાગી છું, ગહેરી નીંદ હોય છે કેવી

એકવાર ફરી, મધ મીઠું હાલરડું સાંભળી, ભર ઊંઘે, ઘસઘસાટ સુવું છે મને

એટલા માટે, હું પુકારું છું, તહે દિલથી, વિનંતી કરું છું, આજે તને

Armin Dutia Motashaw

### DIVINE INTERVENTION

Your divine intervention, Your mercy we  
seek O Lord;

Living like this we humans can no longer  
afford.

With covid n storms, in trouble deep is the  
entire race

In Your loving and caring hands, we rest  
our case.

Forgive us, help us to recover, n on our  
feet stand.

Lord kind, seek we Your support, Your  
helping hand.

Our ego You crushed, the world is again  
at Your feet.

Today we see humans crying in pain; their  
chest they beat.

Armin Dutia Motashaw

### સાંભળી લે

સમજમાં નથી આવતી તારી આં અનોખી રીત,

એ પણ જાણું છું હું; સદા જોય છે તું અમારું હીત;

ભલે હોય તું તારી રાધાનો જ મન મીત

પણ છે તારી સાથે, અમારી બી જન્મો જન્મની પ્રીત.

તારી બનાવેલી સૃષ્ટિ, છે આજે ડામાડોળ, થોડા  
લોકોને લીધે છે કલંકિત

હવે હાથોમાં છે બધુંજ તારા; માનવનું સુખ દુઃખ, અને  
એની, હાર જીત.

સાંભળી લે.

Armin Dutia Motashaw



Serum Institute of India PVT. LTD.  
CYRUS POONAWALLA GROUP

## **Media Statement**

18.05.2021

The Covid 19 crisis has been difficult on people across the globe, including India. In the past few days, there has been intense discussion on the decision of our Government and Indian vaccine manufacturers including SII to export vaccines.

It is important that before we make conclusions, we consider a few important aspects of the events that have transpired –

- Firstly, in January 2021 we had a large stockpile of vaccine doses. Our vaccination drive had started successfully and the number of daily cases being recorded were at an all-time low. At that stage, most people including health experts believed that India was turning the tide on the pandemic.
- Around the same time, many other countries in the world were facing an acute crisis and were in desperate need of help. Our Government extended support wherever possible during this period. It is this spirit that had initially led to cooperation between countries when the virus first emerged in the beginning of 2020. The cooperation between countries also forms the basis for us getting access to technology and aid for healthcare. Today, it is this reciprocity, where India has helped other countries with the supply of HCQ and vaccine exports, that has in turn led to support from other countries.
- We must also understand that this pandemic is not limited by geographic or political boundaries. We will not be safe until everyone globally is able to defeat this virus. Further, as part of our global alliances, we also had commitments to COVAX, so that they could distribute the vaccines around the world to end the pandemic.
- Another important factor that people do not tend to realise is that we are amongst the two most populous countries in the world, a vaccination drive for such a large population cannot be completed within 2-3 months, as there are several factors and challenges involved. That said, it would take 2-3 years for the entire world population to get fully vaccinated.
- SII has delivered more than 200mn doses, even though we received EUA two months after the US pharma companies. If we look at total doses produced and delivered, we rank amongst the top three in the world. We continue to scale up manufacturing and prioritise India. We also hope to start delivering to COVAX and other countries by end of this year.

We would like to reiterate that we have never exported vaccines at the cost of the people in India and remain committed to do everything we can in the support of the vaccination drive in the country.

We have been working with the government tirelessly to do our best for humanity and will continue in the same spirit. This is the time for all of us to unite and work together to defeat the pandemic.

**ADAR C POONAWALLA**  
CEO  
SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA



# ERVAD YEZDI PANTHAKI ON 4 DAYS RITUALS AT DOONGERWADI



ERVAD YEZDI P. F. PANTHAKI

BANAME khuda. Mara Vahala Humdino,

I, ERVAD YEZDI P. F. PANTHAKI refer to 2 articles

1. Can burial be allowed on Doongerwadi during covid times by yashna dadachanji &

2. Tat e TAT between TZML & our BPP trustee Mr. Noshir Dadarawalla in Parsi Junction OF 16TH INSTANT. I have known Noshir as an erudite writer, on our religion. He has some valid points, but I felt at times, it sounded like passing on the buck to TZML group, who have asked BPP to rise to the occasion, to get THE PERMISSION for covid 19 parsee victims, to avail of DOKHMENASHINI, both of which falls under BPP domain, but ponder over my viewpoInt, given hereunder.

I am now 84 years of long life & PUCCA ATHOORNAN, trained in boarding, at DADAR ATHORNAN MADRESSA, ordained Sampoorna NAAVAR MARAATAB from PAK IRANSHAH ATASHBEHRAM UDVADA.

Have given my services as a priest, by reciting innumerable GEHSAARNAS, FULL FUNERAL CEREMONIES, DAILY RITUALS, NAVJOTES AASHIRWADS SANSKRIT AS WELL PAAZAND, during my 71years of priesthood at 83 different

destinations upcountry in India, as well abroad, tincluding IRAN & LONDON (TWICE a sort of world record)

W. Z. CONGRESSS WHERE JARTOSHTY BROTHER WAS CHIEF GUEST And MR.& MRS. Dinshaw Mehta SHARED THE SAME TABLE, WITH MY WIFE SON N MYSELF, tfor which I have won THE FIRST EVER 'THE MOST UNIQUE RELIGIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD' out of many aspirants, floated by 'RUSTAM BAUG ASSOCIATION', N HANDED OVER BY ERWAD Dr. PERVEZ M BAJAN, where scholarly priests n newly ordained priests were present, hence my humble viewpoint ,as under: \_

## My humble viewpoint:

Humdino, even if we get permission for Dokhmenashini, it will be with such restrictions, that practically, it will not be advisable for us' because of the compulsory pre rituals like carrying the body by khaandias (pallbearers) in our hearse'

**SACHKAR:** which cannot be done without touching the body, many a times the emotionally charged dearests n nearests ones hugging or kissing the body, then keeping it on GEHAN surrounded by relatives,

**Doongerwadi workers:** for the pre n post, covid victim body's Gehsaarna ceremony, the staff has to be involved for cleaning, sanitising the whole bungli, gehan, furniture, vessels etc.

Also, the PANTHAKIS N PRIESTS may not take the risk, to recite geh sarna to an opened covid body n lead the paidust till dokhma, apprehensive of catching the deadly virus, putting their lives at risks.

For the next COVID FREE bodies to come for funerals, the booking of the same bungli may not be acceptable by the family members, who may prefer to wait, by putting the body in mortuary <morgue>.

NOW, THE FIRST N FOREMOST QUESTION THAT MUST BE ANSWERED IS "WHO WILL TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY, IF ,IF, BY CHANCE, ANY KHANDHIYA, MANAGERIAL STAFF, INVOLVED PRIESTS, OR RELATIVES ARE STRUCK, BY THE DEADLY COVID VIRUS?????!!!!

WHO IS GIVING THE GUARANTEE, OF NOT A SINGLE CASE, WHEN THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF YOUNG N OLD HEALTHY PERSONS ARE DYING3???

ANYWAY, I HAVE GOT A SIMPLE SOLUTION FOR THAT TOO, WHICH I HAD WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO DASTOORJI KHURSHED, WHICH FOLLOWS SHORTLY.

## MY HUMBLE APPEAL

One thing is crystal clear in my mind, that, we the PARSEES, have been & still r, the respectful citizens, in any country we reside, to follow the laws of the land. Before the covid 19 came, we followed all rituals at crematorium too, n just did not lower the dead body in packed bundle in the graves, as presently per courts 'orders.

So, my humble appeal ,as an experienced priest, to OUR HONORABLE TRUSTEES OF BOMBAY PARSI PUNCHAYET, OUR TRUTHFUL PARSI MEDIA,TRADITIONALISTS & ALL OUR HUMDINS, to please ponder over the points, I express underneath.



THERE IS NO NEED TO GO TO THE AUTHORITIES OR COURT, TO ASK FOR PERMISSION FOR DOKHMENASHINI TO CONSIGN THE ' COVID INFECTED BODY' IN DOKHMA.

ANY AUTHORITY/COURT VL ask us to follow the law of the land n will not make an exception, to open the packed body, thus endangering the lives of all around, to the exposed body for pre n post funeral rituals.

### SOLUTION.

THE BEST SOLUTION LIES ONLY WITH THE HON. TRUSTEES OF BOMBAY PARSI PUNCHAYET, to allow those, who wish to have the 4 days' post disposal rituals like sarosh nu patru<karda> uthamna ,chaharum etc.

THIS ARRANGEMENT & PERMISSION CAN BE RESTRICTED ONLY FOR THE COVID CONFIRMED BODIES N NOT A PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT. Then the rest of the prayers at the respective atashbehras n agiyaris as done.

Further to the above, is my post, in response to DASTURJI KHURSHED which is self explanatory n may help to understand the feelings n sentiments of nearests n dearests of the LOVED ONES LOST.

### Response:

The BPP ought to know that even after cremation, all the 4 days' 'prayers like karda, uthamnas, dhoops daham yazad jashan, chaharum, & Ardafravarsh aafringaan farokshi stum& thereafter dahum, siroj, va, saal roz i.e.DAILY PRAYERS TILL DASHMA MAASISO CHHAMSI & VARSIS are allowed to be prayed n ceremonies performed without the dead body (corpse) being there.

So for a true zoroastrian if his wish for the lifetime was never to be cremated, yet, per the new law, he had to be cremated against his/her wish, what is the harm

if one prayer like gehsaarna being prayed at crematorium without body, n then for the rest of 4 days ceremony the DOONGERWADI BUNGLI IS OFFERED.WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A SOLDIER OR OFFICER DIES ON WARFRONT OR THE NAVY OFFICER DIES AT MIDSEA DURING STORM N NO BODY IS FOUND.??!!!!

### All his post funeral ceremonies are performed

It is because of the LAW OF THE LAND, that in this pandemic period we are compelled to cremate such bodies, but the government does not stop the community from praying for the soul. Surely, common sense demands the wise people to ponder, whether it is possible to keep the body, for all the prayers after death.!!???

THE GATHAS prayed, are not like aashirwads for live couple who can be blessed, at any place they are. The GATHAS are recitations of wisdom n truth n essentially are for the relief of the soul.

I am 84 now, & have prayed n performed hundreds of gehsaarna n full funeral ceremonies all over the country & abroad.

Moreover, I keep on reciting ahunavati gatha which are recited at gehsaarna ceremony n other prayers, whenever n wherever I wish, but do I need a dead body to say a prayer??!!!! GATHAS are prayed in all our liturgical ceremonies like yazashne , vandidad, nirangdin etc. but are not they done without a physical body??!!

I hope ,I am not misunderstood ,but I am orthodox n strong believer, in traditions of religion n way of life, but here, due to the compulsion the question of the deceased's apprehension to be cremated & most probably, helplessly, the dearests n nearests ones' own wish, never to cremate, forces the community to find the solution.

so for compulsion at such pandemic or any other time, why the soul be deprived of such solacing prayer?

All right ,even if the gehsaarna (they are like <sufees' qalaams) , in praise of everything that is good, recited at crematorium, but certainly after weighing the pros n cons religiously, the BPP atleast can spare the cement concrete bunglis, for performing the soulful 4 days' prayers for the satisfaction n peace of the tormented family members.

May you have read the comments of the British times in one of the booklets on DOKHMENASHINI. They said "in india, from cashmere to kanyaakumari, there is no place, as serene, peaceful n full of nature, than the PARSEES 'TOWER OF SILENCE 'to die n lie in peace.

Those who wish to be cremated n get their 4 days ceremonies performed, they can consider at their discretion.

Another most important aspect overlooked, is of the deceased family members' wishes n choice, to get 4 days' ceremonies, at Doongerwadi, only by their own panthakis, with whom they had, n Still have, an age-old relationship, a n thereafter in their jurisdiction.

The BEHDINS don't want the 4 days' ceremonies being performed at crematorium, so following my insistence, offer the facilities of bunglis, that way :-

THE BPP WILL KEEP THE BUNGLIS OCCUPIED,WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THEM N TH MASSIVE STAFF LIKE GARDNERS ,SWEEPERS, CLEANERS ,OFFICE MANAGERIAL STAFF SOLAR CONVERTERS N DOKHMAS.

IF NOT, IT MAY TURN TO BE UNOCCUPIED N IN DILAPIDATED CONDITION, WHEN BPP IS SHOUTING HOARSE FOR FUNDS, IT CAN NOT, SHOULD NOT, N WILL NOT LOOSE THE INCOME.





# DR. SYRUS IRANI ADVISES TO MAINTAIN CORONA PROTOCOLS

**To all my brothers and sisters,**

There are billions of viruses in and around us in our Universe and some viruses become very aggressive. Your cell phones may be one of the source of the virus entering our body and so also, fresh flowers.

I) The cell phones that we carry day and night, leaving them in your pockets, carrying them in your hands with a headphone or leaving them on tables, chairs and kitchen platforms are the greatest source of virus carriers. The ears and mouth get infected very easily, when such cell phones are used. These also cause neurological infections and psychological problems.

There are two mischievous organs of our body:

1. Our mind
2. Our hands

We have always heard of three words in Zoroastrianism - Humata, Hukhta, Hvarshta

The mind keeps on thinking good and bad things, even in our dreams. It is the mind that makes us good, bad and greedy.

It is the hand, which we use constantly from mouth to nose, for eating with or without the spoons and therefore, not only keeping our mind, body and soul clean, but Keeping our hands clean too.

II) Fresh flowers, which we use daily to fulfil our religious rituals to give us more and more in our prayers are another source. These flowers come from plant kingdom, where all sorts of insects, reptiles and animals are acquainted with. In all probabilities, it must be the honeybees which maybe virus carriers and we merrily use these fresh flowers in our homes to please our gods and religious farmans. All other things used are inert, but the fruits and vegetables which are handled by human beings, may also be the carriers. Therefore, wash all fruits and vegetables coming into your house with potash before eating.

The viruses are unicellular. They start living on human proteins when they enter our body through some source and cause all kinds of complications, which are more effective in comorbid living beings. That is why most of the doctors going into blood morphology insist on CRP (C Reactive Proteins). Any living being is infected by viruses which are billions in number in and around us. It was shown last year that bats were the source. We may be wrong to come to this conclusion. Natural viruses do not survive in changing climates. They have got self-limiting life. But the complications they leave behind are many a times life threatening, if medical advice is not sought at the earliest.

Different well-meaning learned people (with due respect) keep on showing us theories, but the practical maybe different. The virulence which some viruses show become untreatable, especially in old age, in which case immunity maybe lacking and by treating ourselves we become our own bosses till such time as our organs are affected, especially lungs and heart. Once these are affected and out of control, tons of antibiotics as prescribed will have no effect. We all know the final effect. Our own kith and kin keep on praying for us but our own gods also cannot help us in this situation. Therefore, at the first instance of signs and symptoms, immediately see a medical advisor, who becomes your saviour and follow his/her advice diligently.

There are billions of viruses in our universe all around us. Some are passive but others are virulent. This time virulence is too much beyond our control and this may end as fast as it came to us. It is like roaches in our house, which while crawling keep on producing. But viruses we cannot see. The growth is so fast and tremendous, which becomes out of control. Keep on cleaning your house even after your servants have cleaned it haphazardly.

Once we die, the source of proteins also dies in our body and there can be no carriers to infect the handlers of the dead body. Our own pall bearers may have fear psychosis to handle covid dead bodies. It is a different matter when the dead body oozes through natural openings. At such times gloves and masks must be used whilst handling the dead bodies as the oozes maybe infectious. Many of our predator birds have died for varied reasons over the years and our dead bodies are not devoured in Dokhmas. Therefore, burials must be adopted – but where? Dokhma land is a stony land, and therefore, to bury our dead kith and kin will be impossible here and also our lease with BMC is "disposal of the Zoroastrian dead must be by Dokhmenashini only". But in the present circumstances, burial can be allowed till such time as pandemic continues.

Therefore, do not fear corona virus. Fear our own robocops in and around us who harm us more than corona virus albeit psychologically and morally.

***Follow all corona appropriate protocols as per guidance of the authorities.***

The above is a personal experience without any data to prove it.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr. Syrus Irani**  
Mahim



**SHARED WITH IMMENSE JOY AND PRIDE:  
MEHER AMALSAD, WESTMINSTER,  
CALIFORNIA, USA**



**NAMC IZS FEATURES  
OUR ICONIC  
FIRDOSH MEHTA  
Former President - FEZANA  
President, Zoroastrian Society Of British Columbia**

**A Special Discussion On  
Rapithwin Gah**

**Sunday, May 23, 2021  
11:00 AM PST  
2:00 PM EST**

**Please Join Us For This Enlightening Session  
Of Sharing With Caring**

**Hello All,**

**We have our next NAMC IZS Discussion Group meeting on Sunday May 23rd at 2pm EST.**

**The topic for discussion is Rapithwin Gah by Firdosh Mehta. It is the 2nd Gah and usually follows the time from 12:45pm until 3:45pm local time. However, it is also referred to 'Biji Haavan' (continuation of the Haavan Gah) during the last 6 months of the Parsi calendar until 3:45pm. Let's discuss about this during our next call.**

**Time: May 23, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join our recurring Zoom Meeting link**

**<https://zoom.us/j/98448391402?pwd=Nm1vZHVCMEJRY09hdjZhb3NJeGpsZz09>**

**The same link will continue for future NAMC IZS Discussion meetings.**

**Meeting ID: 984 4839 1402**

**Passcode: NAMCIZS**





# Catch me if you can

## Photography



The butterfly seems to be teasing this famous tigress Maya from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Every time I visit a forest I try to garner as much information as possible about the landscape, the different species that dwell and the way they thrive. It's important to teach the current generation the importance of forests so that the future generation are also able to enjoy and appreciate the abundant wildlife around us.



**Behram R. Aderbad** works as a professional in a reputed private company, and is also a passionate wildlife lover which got him interested in pursuing wildlife photography. He wants to promote and showcase the wild and wonderful side of Planet Earth through his images. He has travelled to the wild jungles of India and Africa to pursue photography, and any spare time that he finds back home in the concrete jungle is spent photographing different species of birds in and around his house.

ParZor

જીયો પારસી રજૂ કરે છે

JIYO  
PARSI

એક સાંજ યઝદી કરંજિયા સાથે

પારસી થિયેટરના દાયકાઓ



મોડરેટર



માહરૂખ ચિયગર

પારસી થિયેટર કલાકાર સાથે વાતચીત

શુક્રવાર | ૨૮ મે ૨૦૨૧

૬ pm

zoom

MEETING ID: 990 252 6711  
PASSCODE: JIYOPARSIYouTube LIVE  
@PARZORFOUNDATION

**\*શુક્રવારે જીયો પારસી મંચ - યઝદી કરંજિયા સાથે એક સાંજ; 28 મે સાંજે 6 વાગ્યે\***

સુપ્રસિદ્ધ નાટ્ય કલાકાર, દિગ્દર્શક, શિક્ષણ શાસ્ત્રી અને સમાજસેવક એવા યઝદી કરંજિયા સર સાથે એમની વ્હાલસોચી દિકરી મ્હારૂખ ચિયગર સંવાદ સાધશે. જીવનની મજા, હાસ્ય અને રસપ્રદ આંતરદૃષ્ટિની આ સાંજમાં અમારી સાથે જોડાઓ.

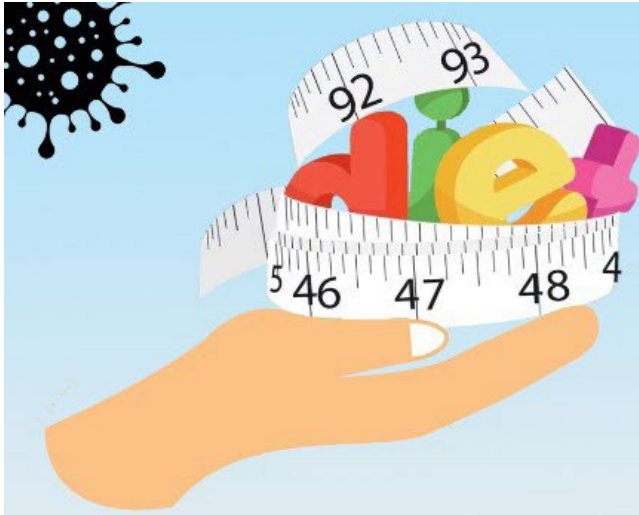
આવો, પારસી થિયેટરની ચર્ચાઓ વચ્ચે સાથે મળીને જઈએ મેમરીલેન તરફ !

Join us on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9902526711?pwd=bmJKbnFhV2NBdUJ3NFJlalNoSUtTdDZ09>

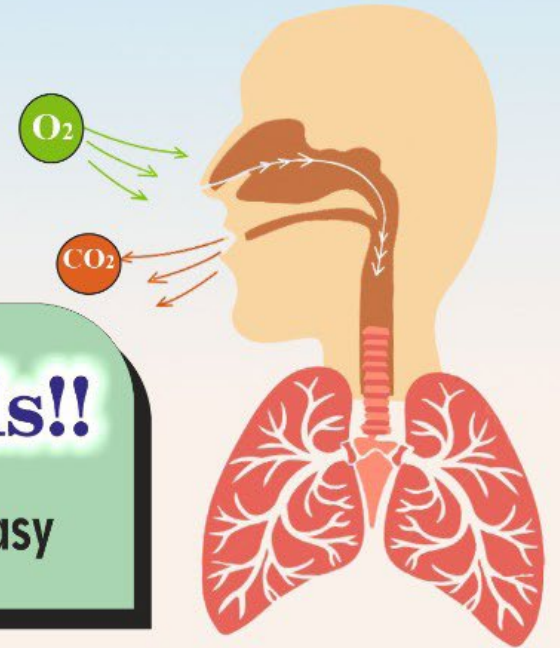
Meeting ID: 990 252 6711

Passcode: jiyoparsi



JIYO  
PARSI**Sunday Special****10:30 am to 11:30 am****Sunday, 23 May 2021**

**Dr. Danesh Chinoy**  
Sports Physiotherapist  
and Psychologist

**Health in Your Hands!!****Be Your Own Best Friend, Breathe Easy****For Questions Please WhatsApp****9820158874****zoom****Meeting ID: 9902526711****Passcode: jiyoparsi****LIVE****23 May 2021,****Timing: 10:30 am to 11:30 am**

We are excited to bring to you the Jiyo Parsi Sunday Special with Dr Danesh Chinoy. Dr Chinoy is a leading professional in Sports Physiotherapy and Psychology. He brings with him his rich experience in handling International Sports Teams and Tournaments. He has been instrumental in developing and delivering the first qualifying program in physiotherapy for the Government of Eritrea in East Africa. He is highly qualified and experienced in the Health and Fitness domains, integrating the holistic Mind and Body Medicine concepts with current Literature and Science. He has published and presented several scientific papers at Prestigious International Conferences and Summits.

Dr. Chinoy has conducted various seminars during the lockdown upon requests from various Educational and social Institutions. He teaches at the Hub Centers of TISS and is currently an Associate Professor at D.Y Patil University, Nerul.

He is also a professional writer for the Parsi Times Newspaper in which he has written interesting articles on Wellness and Health.

This Sunday, he will empower you to take charge of your health. He will also answer your queries on maintaining robust health and longevity. Join us on 23rd May 2021 at 10.30 am to take your health in your own hands!

Join us on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9902526711?pwd=bnJKbnFhV2NBdUJ3NFJlbnNoSUtTd09>

Meeting ID: 990 252 6711  
Passcode: jiyoparsi



# How to dress for your body shape- Part 7



In my last article, we discussed a tubular body shape and how we could counter your tubular silhouette to make it look ideally balanced and attractive. Today, we shall discuss about the Round body shape.

In a rounded body shape in women, we need to try and create an angular silhouette, minimize body width and weight and emphasize shoulder and neckline area. We have to try and lead attention inward towards the waist and up to the face. Visually lengthen entire figure.

- Wrap dresses and tops work well to define the waistline.
- Get a boost of volume in your sleeves with dolman or any other wide sleeves.



- Avoid high neck tops or dresses. V neck is a better option to accentuate the collarbone.
- Peplum tops will help to add some shape and curve.
- Open front jackets will add length along with longer lapels. Opt for longer jackets.
- Go for single breasted blazers.
- High rise flared or Boot cut jeans add some curves.
- High waisted, belted, boot cut pants in darker colors add a consistent shape to the leg and define your waist.
- An empire waistline dress is your best friend. It's one of the most flattering silhouettes.
- Accentuate your shoulders with off shoulder dresses and tops.
- Avoid super skinny pants or jeans with oversized tops.
- Darker colors can give a slimming effect when combined with the correct fabrics and styles.
- Asymmetry in the hemline of dresses can help divert the attention from the body size.
- Vertical lines on tops, dresses and shirts add length and a slimming illusion.
- Avoid large, horizontal line patterns.
- Avoid very large prints placed in places which make you look heavy.

A row of five images showing different styles of trousers. From left to right: a pair of black trousers, a pair of olive green trousers, a pair of grey trousers, and two views (front and back) of a pair of light grey wide-leg trousers.

### *Dresses for Round Body Shape*



### Skirts for Round Body Shape





## Fashion Tips

### Clothing styles for men.

- Wear structured jackets and shirts with vertical stripes. That will add length.
- Avoid double breasted jackets.
- Opt for darker colors
- Try tailored clothing and opt for well tailored trousers.
- Go for V neck t-shirts instead of round necks or high necks.
- Wider collars go well with your wide torso instead of narrow.
- Avoid pleated pants. Instead go for flat front trousers which are straight fit and medium rise.
- a subtle flare in your pants or jeans would work too.
- Avoid skinny jeans since that will accentuate your midriff.
- Don't opt for busy patterns, instead go for solids.

- Avoid tight fitting shirts and t-shirts.

Knowing your body type will help you to get the best out of your clothing. You would also need to know whether you are high or low waisted.

### Kash Pitha

To get the best recommendations and styles suitable for your body type get in touch with me on

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## Nostalgia

Grew up when Mumbai was Bombay

Regardless of the weather, our dinner time was at 7:45 PM and bed time was 8:30 PM

Eating out at a restaurant was a huge deal, a rarity actually, that's when the father decides to shop for our uniform. The best meal was a Masala Dosa and Coca cola.

There was no such thing as fast food on every other day, and having a bottle of soft drinks and an ice-cream from the local shop was a real treat.

Pass your final exams and you might have gotten a new set of clothes, or Bata shoes.

You took your school clothes off as soon as you got home and put on your 'home' clothes.

There was no taking or picking you up in the car, you just walked home.

You got home did your chores and homework before dinner.

Not everyone had a house phone and the best connection to the father was the reading room phone

We didn't have TV, AmazonPrime or Netflix.

We had only All India Radio to listen. The news readers were so familiar that you know them by their voice" This is Lathika Rathnam, with today's news.....

The first thing we would look for in the newspaper was the comic strip of Tarzan, Phantom or Mandrake

We played chor police, lappa chuppi, Football, Cricket, lagori, dabba ice-spice (actually it was "I spy") Marbles and any other game we could come up with...

At home during holidays, we stuck to watching film clips on our make at home projectors. We used a fused bulb filled with water, carved a small hole to the cardboard to hold a film, then a small mirror to focus light on the film strip and one cheap lens in front of the film to project it to the wall in the bedroom. We were amazed to see our own innovation.

Staying shut in the house was a PUNISHMENT and the only thing we knew about "bored" was ---  
"You better find something to do before I find it for you!"

Life was good without Insta, Facebook, Twitter.

Followers were the Friends standing behind you.

We went to the local shop for groceries and chiclets, jeera goli, kismi used to be a couple of paise. If the shopkeeper was looking the other way maybe steal some toffees from his jar.

We ate what Mum made for breakfast and packed it as our lunch too.

Bottled water was non existent.

We drank from the school water tap.

We could walk in to our friends house without alarming them.

We weren't AFRAID OF ANYTHING.

We played until dark... sunset was our alarm or the father's face which ever came later.

If someone had a fight, that's what it was and we were friends again a day later if not SOONER.

We watched our MOUTHS around our Elders even neighbours, because they would report to the father. Looking at the neighborhood chick was just stealing a glance, nothing beyond.

We respected the Police, Firemen, Ambulance workers, Teachers, Doctors and Nurses.

We never answered back... ever !!! the previous day spanking undoubtedly inspires us

We got detention at school for not doing homework, for not been groomed properly, being late to class or being simply naughty.

Our teachers spanked us when we deserved it and our parents did not complain about it.

We did not know what luxury was.

Our simple lives were so good.

Those were the good days.

So many kids today will never know how it was to feel like a real kid .

I loved my childhood and all the friends I hung around with.

Share if you are from the same Generation.....

## Zoroastrian Community

Our Zoroastrian community  
May be miniscule though  
With due respect hasn't been  
Touched with tragedy  
Inspite of practising  
Racism Discrimination Bigotry  
Only exception being Covid 19  
Which leveled the playing field

If one wants to propagate  
Peace prosperity unity  
Then stand up have a spine

And speak your mind  
No matter they be

Recall the words  
On Cyrus Cylinder  
Treat and be treated  
"Not like a slave  
To be poked prodded  
Waiting to be bought"  
But, with dignity respect  
Tolerance regardless  
Of colour caste or creed!!!

Some of us are filled  
With too much Ego as  
As well Pride  
Well, my friends  
Just reminder  
That will soon evaporate  
When one's soul  
Travels to the other side

**Choicest Happiness**  
**Farida**  
**Stay safe & keep well**