

The Prayer Hall Trust

Registration no. E-29809 (M) dated 28-8-2013

C/o Seven Seas Securities Pvt. Ltd. SHANTI, 5th Floor, 6 Banaji Street, Fort, Mumbai 400 001. India.
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Dear Friends & Well-Wishers,

As many of you will be visiting Mumbai this winter to attend the World Zoroastrian Congress and / or visiting families and friends, my colleagues and I thought it appropriate to appraise you all about a development taking place at Mumbai.

It is a well known and accepted fact that with the vultures having vanished from the Mumbai skies the present system of 'dokhmenashini' has weakened considerably, resulting in a gradual increase of individuals opting for alternate methods of disposal, more particularly cremation.

You will be aware that Parsi-Irani Zoroastrians who opt for cremation are not permitted use of the Bunglis at Doongerwadi and pleas to permit usage for this purpose for well over a decade have fallen on deaf ears.

The facilities available at public crematoria in and around Mumbai are far from satisfactory and are not at all conducive to the performance of last rites and prayers for deceased Zoroastrians.

A well-constructed, well-maintained and conveniently-located Prayer Hall attached to a crematorium has become an absolute necessity for the community.

We are very fortunate that after protracted discussions, the Greater Mumbai Municipal Corporation (GMMC) have agreed to letting our Trust (the "The Prayer Hall Trust") build and donate a Hall on a plot of land within the existing Cemetery / Crematorium complex on E. Moses Road, Worli (opposite the Four Seasons Hotel). We have already executed a MOU with the GMMC and registered 'The Prayer Hall Trust' with the Charity Commissioner, Mumbai.

Details of the proposed 'Prayer Hall' that we intend to construct are as follows:

1. An "L" shaped structure with a built-up area of around 3,700 sq. ft. will be constructed and handed over free-of-cost by the Prayer Hall Trust to the City of Mumbai. The structure will have 2 halls – one larger and one smaller, which can be partitioned-off and used as 2 separate halls when required concurrently.
2. As per the GMMC rules, all Prayer Hall/s have to be open to all faiths, not just Zoroastrians. However, upon our request they have agreed that preference will be given in perpetuity to Zoroastrians for use of the Hall at the times when our funeral and other 4-day prayers are conventionally

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held, viz between 7.00 am to 9.00 am, 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm and 4.00 am to 6.00 am.

3. The Prayer Hall will be available to Parsi-Irani Zoroastrians for performance of the four day obsequies irrespective whether the cremation has taken place at Cemetery / Crematorium complex on E. Moses Road, Worli or elsewhere in the city.
4. The total cost of construction of the building, together with a small green area around the structure and pathways between the plot and the crematorium is estimated to be approx. Rs 13,000,000/= (3700 sq ft @3500 sq ft).

We are also in the process of setting up a second trust to be called '**The Prayer Hall Services & Maintenance Trust**' which will assist families of deceased Zoroastrians with regard to making arrangements for a Hearse, Priests, Flowers, etc. A 24-hour telephone help-line is also intended be set up for this purpose.

It is intended that an additional amount will need to be collected and set aside in the 'The Prayer Hall Services & Maintenance Trust' for the provision of assistance as mentioned above, for Parsi-Irani Zoroastrians, only. We will be approaching you and others shortly for a further donation as soon as this Trust is registered. It would be ideal if we could create a corpus of Rs.35 to 40 lakhs for this Trust, the income of which will facilitate its ongoing operating expenditures towards providing obsequies services only to Parsi-Irani Zoroastrians.

In total therefore, between both the Trusts' we wish to raise by way of donations up to Rs.1,75,00,000/= (Rupees one crore seventy five lakhs).

We request you to consider making a handsome donation **initially** for creation of this much-needed facility of a Prayer Hall and to keep in mind that we shall also be approaching you within the next few months for a smaller donation towards support services to be made available for our 'The Prayer Hall Services & Maintenance Trust' the income of which will be used only for our Parsi-Irani Zoroastrian community.

We look forward to your support and cooperation and request that your initial cheque be made payable to "**The Prayer Hall Trust**".

Both the Trusts' being for '*Religious Purposes*' we have been advised that donations will not qualify for grant of recognition under section 80G of the Income Tax Act nor will it be possible for us to seek registration under FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976) by which we can receive funds from overseas.