



## **Celebrating New Year & Khordad Sal**

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022 marked BASZA's New Year & Khordad Sal Celebration at the Rustomjee School. Gamesmaster, Ms Heena Vala, entertained the guests with a novel Housie where numbers on the tickets were selected based on Bollywood tunes, and some other games. Admittedly, we had a poorer turnout than usual with just 40 guests.

But, for Parsis, food is the ultimate clincher. Normally, we give our catering to Express Caterers who have given us excellent service all these years. This time, being Parsi New Year, we experimented with a new caterer, Bee's Kitchen (Benaifer and Pervez Sidhwa from Andheri), who provided a sumptuous buffet dinner of boneless chicken pulav-dar and delicious almond bread pudding. Needless to say, all the bawas enjoyed the fare and many of them surrounded Pervez afterwards to ask if he would cater for them for home functions, whether he sends out daily Parsi food tiffins, etc.

For those interested in contacting them, Bee's Kitchen contact details are: +91 98197 84571, +91 98209 09129 and +91 70213 40280; email: binireads@gmail.com. They have a

professional set up in Andheri with several cooks and delivery boys from where they cater to parties, functions, send out daily tiffins as well as deliver excellent Parsi "*patra boxes*" for Parsi New Year, Jamshedi Navroze, etc..

---

## **BASZA Sponsorship**

It is just a gentle reminder to our members that BASZA programs that are held are heavily sponsored and the facilities provided cost far beyond what the members pay for.

For example, in our last program where the recovery made was just ₹150, the actual cost came to no less than ₹350 per head. The difference is contributed from our Association so that the burden on our members is substantially reduced.

At similar events conducted by other Parsi associations and organisations, the charges are far, far more. We do hope our members appreciate this gesture of BASZA while participating in our programs.

---

## **A Policeman's Life**

Mr Sam D Patel, ACP (Retd), is one of our members. He has taken pains to inform us of the hard work and dedication that policemen put in but mostly get abuses and sneers instead of appreciation in return. One guesses

that in every profession there are a few black sheep who tar the reputation of their profession but one also needs to recognize that there are also highly competent and dedicated persons who uphold it.

Sam retired from service as Assistant Commissioner of Police, and as the Principal of the Traffic Institute at Byculla. Among the awards with which he has been honoured are: the Director General of Police Insignia, Police Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar (2015) and the Zochild Jewel of the Community Award (2018).

He recounts instances of having had to make personal sacrifices for his job. For example, when he received a call from the DGP at 11:30 in the night to rush off for a VVIP bundobust duty. Sam had to abruptly leave the “adarni” ceremony of his daughter, Homai, and attend to duty. He was also often recalled from leave and asked to attend to duty. He has also had to take dead bodies to the morgue or cemetery at odd hours.

On 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017, Sam received a Note of Appreciation from the Welfare Association of Ex-Police officers of Maharashtra which is reproduced below:

To  
Mr Sam D Patel, ACP (Retd)  
Mumbai

Sub: Note of Appreciation & Gratitude

Way back in 1961 when you had many beneficial and luxury offering professions, you chose to become a police officer knowing well that all it had to offer was engagement with the worst of humanity, daily risk of life, extreme pressure, numerous occupational hazards, sacrifice to family life and not to forget low pay and little thanks.

The courageous soul in you with determination to serve the society at large, chose to put life on the line each day to help ensure a safe society by accepting to deal with complex, dangerous and confusing situations in the underbelly of the society, situations which most of the people get the privilege to turning a blind eye.

The real Parsi virtues in you were distinctly displayed in your incessant response to every person in distress who approached you for help during your entire length of service including the most volatile communal riots of 1969 in Mumbai, 1971 in Bhiwandi to 1993 in Jogeshwari. You answered every call to end a potentially deadly situation knowing well that there was no guarantee of safe return to your home.

Your selfless commitment for the public safety was distinctly visible not only in your day-to-day conduct but also when you defused a bomb which could have killed the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and accompanying policemen and public. You placed the community that you served above your family.

It is difficult to pen accolades of your devotion and commitment of decades, in a few lines. Such was your conduct that even governments of various countries including Italy, Iran and Canada appreciated your assistance by testimonials.

We thank you for having upheld the sanctity and reputation of the Police Department by displaying all required ethics, devotion and being brave by not shying away from taking decision in most adverse situations for fear that there is no guarantee that the decision was the right one.

Your conduct and commitment upheld the expectations of a common citizen of India from a

member of the Parsi Community. Parsis are known for their morals and ethics. You reinforced that impression in every person who came to you in need of justice, support and advice.

Please accept our heartfelt and sincere appreciation of the services rendered by you and a symbol of gratitude to you and also to your family for having supported you in upholding the prestige of the Maharashtra Police Service.

Yours faithfully,  
S P ADHAV  
Secretary

---

*India's undoing has been how immune its citizens have become to corruption.*

*Keki Mistry, CEO, HDFC*

## **Will Ministry of Minority Affairs be Scrapped?<sup>1</sup>**

As per an article in the Deccan Herald, The Ministry of Minority Affairs (MMA) which was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJ) in 2006 to focus on issues relating to Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis and Jains is likely to be scrapped and reverted back to MSJ as the "Department of Minority Affairs". All schemes being implemented by the MMA<sup>2</sup> are expected to continue after the merger.

---

<sup>1</sup> BASZA expresses gratitude to publications like Parsi Khabar, Jam é Jamshed, Parsi Times, Parsiana, Times of India, Mid-Day, Parsi Bol, and others, from where we may

While the ministry officials refused to comment, sources said that the government believed that MMA was created by the UPA government as part of its appeasement policy towards Muslims, who are the most prominent "minority".

Currently, WCD minister, Smriti Irani, holds additional charge of MMA following the resignation of Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on expiry of his Rajya Sabha term.

---

## **Aapri Rani**

Following the demise of Queen Elizabeth II at a ripe old age, a number of Parsis are said to be feeling a touch bereaved. It is even rumored that on her "chaaram" some Parsis had mutton dhansak on their menu.

For generations certain Parsi households, particularly those whose elders lived in the pre-Independence era, have had portraits of the Queen, be it Victoria or Elizabeth. The post-independence generation, however, scoffs at this, thinks it is crazy and have mostly thrown those portraits away.

have condensed the published items, with or without embellishment

<sup>2</sup> Including the JIO PARSI Scheme

Now that there is no Queen, one wonders whether King Charles III will enjoy any loyalty at all among our community, particularly when many hold a grudge against him for the untimely death of their beloved Princess Diana.

---

## **The Dharamsala at 9 Bow Street**

Parsi elders built dharamsalas and sanatoria all over India, many of which are still a boon to the community for their hygienic upkeep, reasonable rates and delicious food. Those who go to Kolkata, and are not fussy about five-star stay, often lodge at the 'Manekjee Rustomjee Parsi Dharamsala for Parsi Travellers' located at 9 Bow Street right in the city centre. The dharamsala is run by the Calcutta Zoroastrian Community's Religious and Charity Fund.

Kolkata's Parsi population that used to be 2500 has now dwindled to about 450, mainly due to the city's prolonged economic decline. Nevertheless, the dharamsala personifies Parsi culture in Kolkata. They also started a restaurant open to all communities under the stewardship of Dara and Meher Hansotia<sup>3</sup> and introduced the people

of Kolkata to delicious, authentic Parsi food like sali boti, akuri, patra ni machchhi, Parsi cutlets and kawabs, lagan nu custard, dhansak, khichri patio, curry chaval, chicken farcha, machchhi no saas, etc..

---

## **King's Persian Bistro at Pune**

Pune is a city for foodies. But in spite of an array of fabulous cuisines available all over town, when one visits Pune he does not feel at home until he tries out the Parsi food there.

There are several outlets and the most famous of them all, of course, is Dorabjee's at Dastur Meher Road. Lesser known is King's Persian Bistro at 7 - East Street. Run by a duo of mother-in-law and daughter-in-law who joined hands with the owners of Badshah Cold Drink, this restaurant that opened 12 years ago has even won the Times Nightlife Award.

Apart from Parsi dishes, they also specialize in Iranian dishes like chelo kebab, jujeh kebab and zereskh pulav. They also cater for navjotes and lagans. Every few weeks they organize a lagan-nu-patru, where eight delicacies are served on banana

---

<sup>3</sup> Sadly, Dara and Meher left Kolkata at the beginning of this year and re-migrated to Ahmedabad.

leaves. Try it out the next time you are in Pune if you haven't already.

## Solve the Puzzle

Find the names of the following Parsi MONTHS in the grid...

Farvardin, Ardibehest, Khordad, Tir, Amardad, Shehrevan, Meher, Ava, Adar, Deh, Boman, Aspandard

K	D	R	A	D	N	A	P	S	A
N	S	E	N	F	V	T	A	P	R
A	H	N	N	A	I	K	R	E	D
M	E	H	E	R	M	H	S	N	I
A	H	O	V	V	O	O	I	T	B
R	R	M	A	A	R	R	B	A	E
D	E	E	R	R	E	D	D	M	H
A	V	H	E	D	A	A	S	A	E
D	A	X	D	I	K	D	G	N	S
O	R	R	A	N	T	Y	A	K	T

---

## DROP

If undelivered, return to:

Mr Minoo Khan, K-605 Nalanda, Sunder Nagar, SV Rd, Malad(w), Mumbai 400064

---