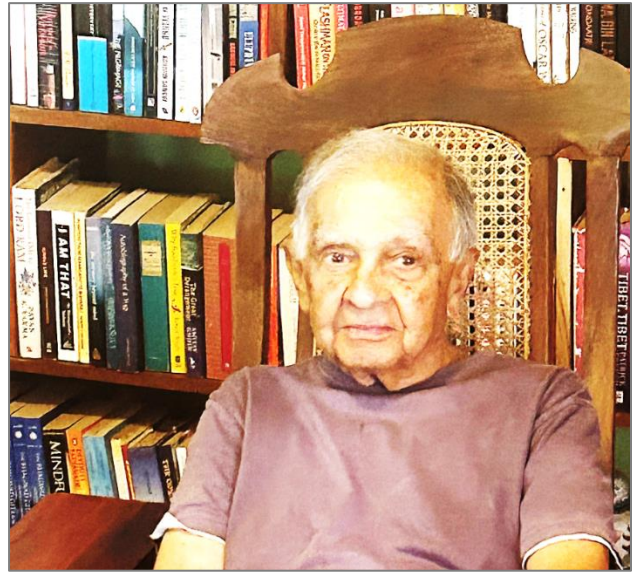


Who is Jayasinh Mariwala?

JAYASINH MARIWALA is a 92-yr-old bright cheerful man who has taken retirement from active business life, hails from a traditional Kutchi business family from Gujarat. Now, he lives in the hills of Mahabaleshwar in Machutar village all by himself for the last 32 years. He is in sync with nature around him, an elevated soul who has detached himself from material life.



His story becomes a compelling narrative, to be told to the world about how a successful businessman shunned worldly pursuits to retire in the hills in his sixties to lead a puritan life amidst nature. Having a legacy of coming from a Kutchi Gujarati business family into export of spices and coconut operating in Kerala, he is the fourth-generation entrepreneur of AutoHangar (Mercedes Sellers) fame. Even his surname Mariwala comes from the word 'black pepper' – MARI - in Gujarati, because they were once the biggest exporters of black pepper from India.

He chose to lead a different life away from the humdrum of Mumbai. For the fact that he had been visiting Mahabaleshwar as a four-yr-child since 1935, pre-independence days it went in his psyche and he yearned to one day to settle in this salubrious hill station, which he did in 1993. With all the resources and money at his disposal he handed over the baton to his sons to run the family business, it was the right time for him – surrender in the lap of nature.

His villa in a 5-acre jungle plot on panchayat land near the Mahabaeshwar market is free from municipal clutches. He does not have electricity – lighting is run on solar power. No tap water – they store water by rain-water harvesting used all round the year. Waste disposal is by vermi-compost and sewage disposal in septic-tanks. He grows his own vegetables and fruits in his jungle property. That's living in a self-sustaining way!

Mariwala's greatest contribution has been reviving the 106-year-old Morarji Gokaldas Rural Hospital in Mahabaleshwar. In late 2018, the Ministry of Health decided to hand over the management of the hospital to the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), who also runs the Bel-Air Hospital nearby in Panchgani.

Mariwala took up the challenge under PPP India to improve public health delivery, without privatisation or corporatisation, at the same time drawing on the goodwill of corporates and generous citizens. He raised a corpus of Rs 16 Cr from private businesses and revamped the hospital. Today, the hospital treats 60,000 patients from rural areas and become a modern medical facility for treatment of rural population around Mahabs.

What more, this man lives on his terms in harmony with nature amidst pure surroundings in the forests of Mahabaleshwar. He could be the greatest living person working to preserve and endorse the twin hill-station of Maharashtra.