

Our Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Borivli & Suburban Zoroastrian Association (BASZA) was held on 25th June 2025 at Rustomjee International School, Dahisar (W).

President Minoo Khan chaired the meeting, which commenced with the approval of the previous year's minutes and the adoption of the Secretary's Report and audited financial statements. The financial report highlighted a net surplus for the year, with the corpus growing marginally. Zubin & Associates were reappointed as honorary

auditors for another year with gratitude of their dedicated service.

The meeting also addressed committee elections for the 2025-2028 term, with Veera Pastakia joining as a new committee member. Applause was given to the doyen of BASZA, Yazdi Motiwala, for his decades of valuable contribution to the Association. He and Keki Panday both withdrew from the Committee for health reasons. The newly elected team was unanimously approved.

Jimmy Adajania, holding the new office of Vice President, emphasized the importance of discipline in the BASZA Members' WhatsApp Group, warning against rule violations. Additionally, he encouraged members to donate generously to support the Association and its annual contributions to the Parsi Infirmary in Navsari.

The meeting concluded with heartfelt thanks to Mr. Boman Irani for always supporting BASZA's programs generously.

BPP Addresses Community's Mental Health

For generations, conversations about mental illness in the Parsi community were often hushed or avoided. Now, the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) is changing that narrative with a dedicated mental health fund for those battling depression, bipolar disorder,

schizophrenia, and other psychiatric conditions.

The initiative will not only cover hospitalisation and medicines but also caregiver training, rehabilitation, and vocational reintegration—ensuring those in need have a path back to stability.

Importantly, all applications will be assessed by mental health professionals and handled with confidentiality. Trustees believe this step, supported by community donations, could break the silence around mental health and replace it with compassion and timely help.

An 80th Birthday That Never Was

Captain Percy Meher Master, the global head of the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce, recently found himself at the centre of an audacious online scam. Cybercriminals impersonated him, sending emails

that invited friends and business associates to his "80th birthday celebration" and urging them to donate to the poor instead of bringing gifts.

The messages, complete with his photograph and bank details of a

so-called beneficiary, seemed genuine enough to fool many—until community members began calling him directly. No money appears to have been lost, but the police have opened an identity theft case and are urging caution.

Return of the Cawasji Patel Mango



Sanjay Deshmukh



The Cawasji Patel Mango

In the quiet village of Vechale, Maharashtra, a rare mango variety is making a comeback—the Cawasji Patel mango, once a prized fruit in 19th-century Mumbai. Named after the philanthropist Cawasji Rustomjee Patel, who built Mumbai's CP Tank water reservoir and has a street in Fort named after him, this mango was so

beloved by the British that a basket was sent to Queen Victoria in 1838. Unlike the sweet Alphonso, the Cawasji Patel mango is harvested green, with white, fibreless pulp—perfect for pickles, jams, and diabetic-friendly treats.

Today, the variety is nearly extinct in markets, overshadowed by

commercial favorites. But farmer Sanjay Deshmukh is keeping it alive, grafting scions onto his 'raiwal' mango tree. Meanwhile, research centers like the USDA's National Germplasm Repository and India's Laldhori Botanical Garden preserve its germplasm, safeguarding genetic diversity.

A Parsi Stand at Old Trafford



Clive Lloyd and Farokh Engineer before the New Stand

On a bright day at Old Trafford in Manchester, the crowd witnessed history—the unveiling of the "Sir

Clive Lloyd and Farokh Engineer Stand." For Engineer, now 87, it was a deeply personal moment:

the first Indian cricketer to have a stand named after him outside India, and the last male Parsi to

play Test cricket for the country. Known for his charisma, sharp wicketkeeping, and fearless batting, he starred for India and Lancashire, helping the latter to

multiple championships in the 1970s. While he notes with some regret that no stand bears his name at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium, this recognition abroad feels like a

long-overdue tribute to his trailblazing career and the Parsi cricketing legacy he represents.

The Curtain Drops on Parsiana



Jehangir Patel



Parsiana Office

For six decades, Parsiana magazine has been more than just a publication—it has been the Parsi community's mirror, chronicler, and sometimes its most fearless critic. Founded in 1964 by Dr. Pestonji Warden and taken over in 1973 by a young, Yale-educated Jehangir Patel, the fortnightly evolved from a staid bulletin into a sharp, liberal voice unafraid to tackle contentious issues such as women's religious rights and mixed marriages.

But with its key editorial team now in their 60s, 70s, and 80s, and few young journalists willing to take on its niche mission, the magazine will publish its final issue on October

21, 2025. The decision has saddened readers in Mumbai and the diaspora, who saw Parsiana as a vital link to home. Its closure is yet another sign of the challenges facing small community institutions in an age of rapid media change.

When Jehangir Patel bought Parsiana for a token one rupee in 1973, he brought with him Ivy League polish, newsroom discipline from American dailies, and an appetite for controversy. Under his leadership, the magazine shed its formal, cautious tone and embraced active journalism, covering issues that made the orthodox bristle. His willingness to

list mixed marriages in the Milestones column and to challenge powerful bodies like the Bombay Parsi Panchayet cemented Parsiana's reputation as a progressive voice.

Even now, Patel defends his editorial choices with clarity and conviction, lamenting not financial woes but a generational shift toward instant media and entertainment that has left print journalism without heirs. As Parsiana prepares to bow out, Patel's legacy is that of a reformer who believed the community's institutions should be builders of service, not brokers of real estate.

Jimmy Boy: A Pause, Not Good Bye



Jimmy Boy at Vikas Building, Fort

For nearly a century, Jimmy Boy Café has been a Fort landmark, serving keema pav, patra ni macchi, and Irani chai to generations of Mumbai's food lovers. But on June 20, 2025, just months before its 100th birthday, its doors were shut when civic authorities declared the Vikas Building unsafe. The closure

followed ignored structural warnings from the previous year. While its historic premises remain sealed, the owners are fighting in court to have the building deemed repairable.

Meanwhile, the Mahim outlet continues to serve loyal customers,

and baked favourites are available at a Navy Nagar café. Whether or not the centenary is celebrated at Horniman Circle, Jimmy Boy's spirit remains unbroken—a reminder that heritage is as much about people and recipes as it is about walls.

PPP Fights for Recognition

The Poona Parsee Panchayat, in a formal appeal to educational authorities, has demanded that Zoroastrian students be explicitly listed under the minority category in admission forms – a right already granted by the Indian government but often overlooked in practice.

The Panchayat's push, if successful, could open doors for young Parsis in competitive fields like medicine

and engineering, ensuring our community isn't left behind.

"Our community is small, but our voice matters," says advocate Marazban Irani, chairman of the Panchayat.

Despite Supreme Court recognition, Parsis frequently find their community missing from minority options in admission

portals, leaving students unable to access reserved seats or scholarships.

BASZA expresses gratitude to publications like Parsi Khabar, Parsiana, Jam é Jamshed, Parsi Times, Times of India, FPJ and others, from where we may have condensed the published items and images in this issue with editorial changes.