

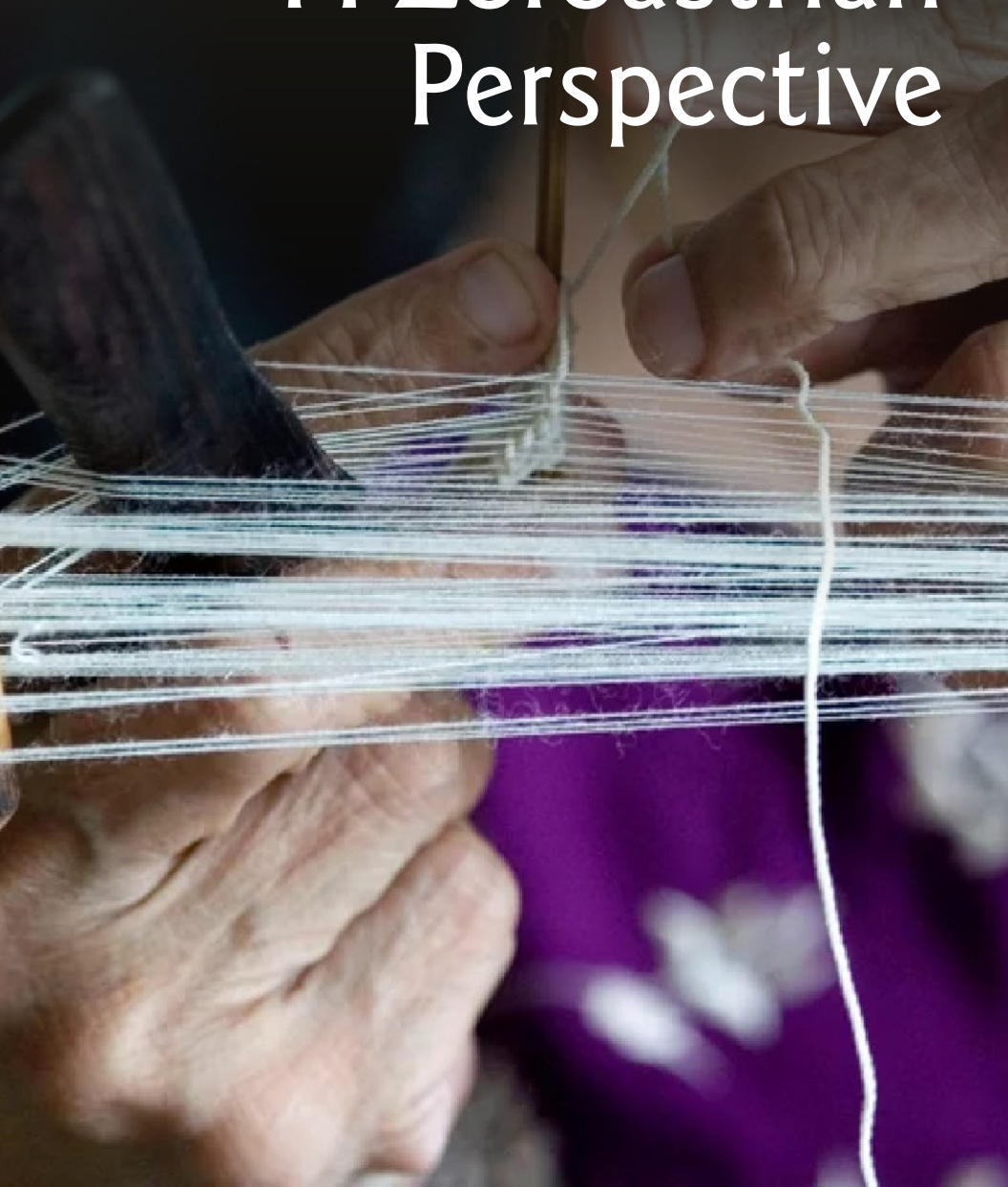


ParZor

TISS–ParZor Programme in

# Culture & Civilisation:

## A Zoroastrian Perspective



TISS-ParZor Programme in

# Culture & Civilisation:



The Programme enters its second year after a highly successful first iteration. This Online programme has attracted participants from diverse backgrounds and ages. Studies include Zoroastrian rituals and festivals, archaeology and history, linguistics, architecture, theatre, Parsi literature and oral traditions, gaining unique insights into the Parsi community's heritage and interactions. From their enduring legacy across South & Central Asia, and in global diasporas this culture with ingenious solutions for modern challenges, provides fresh perspectives and untapped research opportunities. The Programme uncovers forgotten chapters of world history while inspiring innovative insights for the future.

## A Zoroastrian Perspective

- ▶ **Curriculum:** This pioneering Course examines a world heritage, not through the lens of religion but through its vibrant presence in art and culture, in the rich socio-economic fabric of a globalized world, in the strength of its ecological traditions, Migration and Diaspora Studies and through its unusual demographics. It can be taken in modular form or as a complete Certificate program.
- ▶ **Expert Faculty:** Renowned Global scholars and practitioners.
- ▶ **Global Perspective:** Learn about a multicultural legacy of humanity blending Persian, Indian, Chinese and European civilisations.
- ▶ **Career Pathways:** Opportunities in Heritage Management, academia, media, arts, and more.

*Team at TISS*



## Statement by TISS Pro Vice-Chancellor



*It gives me great pleasure to announce the TISS-Parzor Academic Programme, the first-ever Academic Programme on Parsi*

*Zoroastrian Cultural and Heritage Studies. Culture and heritage are fundamental to the ancient civilization of India. Both South Asia and the Persian Gulf share strong commercial, energy, cultural, and people-to-people links. Therefore, I wish all those involved in a multicultural interpretation of this relationship great success.*

**Prof. Shankar Das**

*Pro Vice-Chancellor, TISS, Mumbai*

## Message from Founder of the Programme



*Parzor founded under the aegis of UNESCO is today an international repository of information on the vulnerable culture &*

*heritage of the Zoroastrians. To share this knowledge with the next generation and keep alive academic research is the aim of our collaboration with TISS, India's leading university in the Social Sciences. An intercultural society that has Persian, Chinese, Indian, and European influences and the Parsi paradigm of fitting into India's welcoming assimilation, has much to teach diaspora and migration patterns in the world today.*

*The Programme has a vibrant learning community, encompassing undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students, as well as professionals from various sectors. A dynamic interactive pedagogy fosters an exchange of ideas and perspectives.*

*We welcome you on an exciting journey that will take you across time and geographical distances to help you grow, learn and lead in the world of tomorrow.*

**Prof. Shernaz Cama**  
*Parzor Foundation*



# Highlights

- ▶ The TISS-ParZor Online Certificate Programme advances after a successful launch in 2024.
- ▶ Students from Italy, London, Russia, the USA, Iran, and cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad have participated.
- ▶ Renowned teachers have guided them fostering a global learning community.



# Highlights (contd)

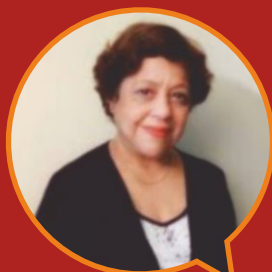
- ▶ The programme features special Guest Lecturers and Global Networking Opportunities from India and abroad.
- ▶ From interactive workshops to thought-provoking discussions, students explore Zoroastrian culture and traditions as part of Studies in Civilizations.



Dr. Abhimanyu Acharya



Prof. Almut Hintze



Prof. Coomi Vevaina

## CORE FACULTY

*Experts from across disciplines*



Dr. Firdaus Gandavia



Prof. Kavas Kapadia



Dr. Kerman Daruwalla



Dr. Kurush Dalal



Dr. Sarah Stewart



Dr. Meher Mistry



Prof. Shernaz Cama



Prof. Siva Raju



# GUEST FACULTY



Arzan Wadia



Arundhathi Subramaniam



Dr. Anusha Ramanathan



Dadi Pudumjee



Ashdeen Lilaowala



Dr. Dinyar Patel



Prof. J.K. Banthia



Divya Cowasji



Dr. Snober Sataravala



Prof. Zubin Mulla



Prof. Shalini Bharat

*Students & faculty bonding over a meal, Mumbai*



# Online Certificate Programme

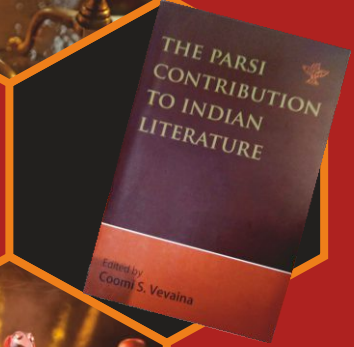
- ▶ **Mode:** Online, flexible 10-month structure.
- ▶ **Certification:** Awarded by TISS PARZOR.
- ▶ **Options:** Full Certificate (20 credits) or modular enrolment for individual courses for 2 Credits each.
- ▶ **Guidance for Research Dissertation:** 4 Credits

*Interactive online classroom*

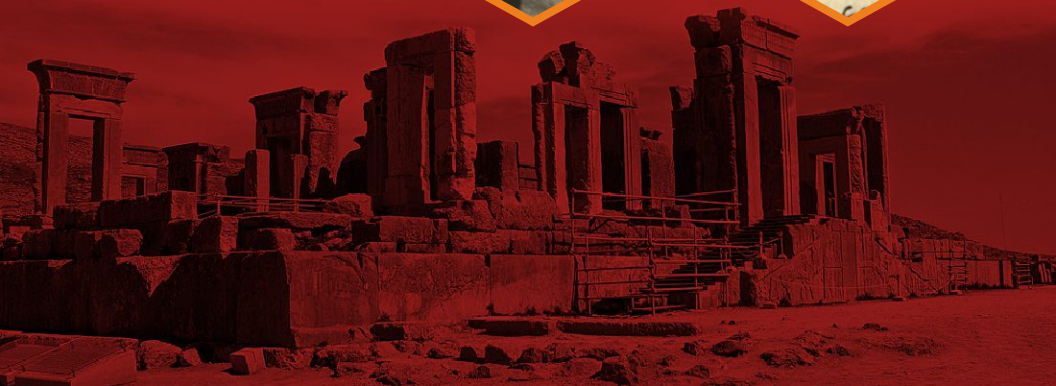


# Curriculum Snapshot

- ▶ *Foundation Course:* Philosophy, History & Culture.
- ▶ *10 Electives:* 7 to be chosen. Oral Tradition, Parsi Literature in English, Material Culture: Arts, Crafts & Architecture, Avestan Language, Persian & Parsi Gujarati Literature, Parsi Theatre, History, Archaeology & Heritage, Parsis & Modern India, Demographics, Print History & Journalism.
- ▶ *Upcoming Additions:* Film Studies, Parsi Cuisine, and Entrepreneurship.



CULTURE AND HERITAGE STUDIES  
**PARSI DEMOGRAPHICS**  
Prof. Siva Raju (Convener), Prof. Shalini Bharat & Prof. Lata Narayan (Guest faculty) & other speakers  
Starts - 9th January, 2025



# Student Reviews



*I conducted ethnographic research on the Parsi Zoroastrian community for my dissertation, *Return to the River: Parsi Zoroastrianism and Ecological Harmony in the Age of the Anthropocene*. Guided by Dr. Shernaz Cama and Dr. Sarah Stewart, I joined the TISS-ParZor Certificate Program's Foundation Course, collaborating with UNESCO-ParZor to explore water's heritage. A visit to Bharuch revealed ancient Tanka rainwater systems and rural Zoroastrian traditions, while tours of Dadar Parsi Colony and the Athornan Institute offered rare insights. This experience has enriched my research and will resonate far beyond my thesis.*

**Gabrielle Carter**  
University of Bologna



*Joining the TISS-ParZor course has been a deeply rewarding journey. Prof. Shernaz Cama's captivating lectures, Prof. Almut Hintze's guidance in Avestan studies, and Prof. Coomi Vevaina's dynamic approach to Parsi literature have brought the community's heritage to life. This course has deepened my understanding of Zoroastrianism, enabling me to serve my community with greater knowledge and compassion.*



**Ervad Firdaus Pavri**  
Priest & Journalist, Mumbai



*The course has been a transformative learning journey. Engaging discussions with esteemed professors and guest speakers provided a comprehensive understanding of Parsi culture, delving into its socio-cultural, historical, and linguistic dimensions. An exciting and impactful experience!*



**Sakshi**  
MA in English Literature  
Delhi University

# Student Reviews



*The TISS-ParZor Program has opened exciting new avenues to explore Zoroastrian heritage and culture. The foundation course*

*was exceptional, providing a glimpse into the treasures awaiting us over the next ten months. I'm eager to learn, unlearn, and gain fresh perspectives.*

**Kerman Fatakia**  
*Priest, Mumbai*



*This course has been fascinating. I eagerly look forward to uncovering more as it unfolds.*

**Shailaja**  
*Journalist, Delhi*



*The Avestan course has been enriching, building on my foundational knowledge of the language. The sessions introduced*

*the Hoffman system of transliteration and Avestan phonology, with Prof. Almut Hintze's expertise guiding us throughout. Highly recommended for anyone passionate about Iranian or Zoroastrian studies.*

**Ravichandar**  
*Banker, Chennai*



*The TISS-ParZor Program has been enlightening and enriching. As a Parsi, I discovered so many facets of our culture and religion that*

*were new to me. This course has sparked my curiosity and introduced me to writers with unique perspectives. I've enjoyed every aspect and look forward to what's to come.*

**Rishaya Palkhivala**  
*Film Studies Student, Mumbai*

## Contact Us

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