

Karachi Parsi Institute Celebrates 133rd Founders Day with Grace and Legacy

The Karachi Parsi Institute commemorated its 133rd Founders Day on 25th April 2026 with an evening that beautifully captured the essence of tradition, community and enduring legacy.



The venue was transformed into a picturesque setting, illuminated with cascading fairy lights that cast a warm and celebratory glow over the gathering, as members of the community came together in large numbers to mark the occasion.



The presence of the Honorable Chief Guest Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister of Commerce, added distinction to the occasion.



The programme commenced punctually, honouring a cherished KPI tradition, with Natasha Mavalvala as the gracious Master of Ceremony.

The evening began with a solemn benediction by Ervad Burjise Bhada, followed by the National Anthem, setting a tone of reverence and unity.





The President's address reflected on the significance of the occasion, emphasizing that this was not merely an anniversary, but a legacy. He described KPI as the heartbeat of the community, an institution that has stood resilient even through the trials of two World Wars. He urged the gathering to honour the founders by upholding their values and safeguarding the community's rich heritage. A visual presentation on two large screens showcased memorable milestones and key moments from KPI's journey, further deepening this sense of reflection.

The highlight of the evening was the felicitation of distinguished individuals, whose contributions across diverse fields continue to inspire.



The ceremony began with Jimmy Engineer, recipient of the Sitara-i-Imtiaz and Hilal-i-Imtiaz, a celebrated artist and humanitarian whose work transcends borders.

Upon receiving the shield, he spoke with humility, noting that while he has been receiving awards and honours from governments since the 1970s, recognition from his own community holds a uniquely special place in his heart.



Mrs. Aban Kabraji, recipient of the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, was honoured for her influential work at the global level, providing high-level strategic advice to the United Nations on green finance and nature-based solutions. Her address echoed the values of service and responsibility, reinforcing the importance of using knowledge and expertise for the greater good.



The evening also honoured Senator Roshan Bharucha, a dedicated social reformer whose lifelong efforts, particularly in Balochistan, have empowered women through vocational training and community initiatives.



A recipient of the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, her award was accepted by her niece, Tushna Patel, followed by a heartfelt video message in which she expressed her gratitude to KPI for acknowledging work that has always been close to her heart.



In the field of medicine, Dr. Zeryab Setna was honoured for his distinguished career spanning over three decades, including extensive training in the United Kingdom and a commitment to advancing healthcare in Pakistan.

His contributions have earned him national recognition, including the Sitara-i-Imtiaz.



Dr. Zarine Mogal was acknowledged for her significant role in developing epilepsy services in Pakistan, particularly through her association with JPMC, bringing specialised care to countless patients.

She is also a recipient of the Epilepsy Society of Australia Scholarship for the Asian-Oceanian Fellowship in Clinical Epileptology (2004), reflecting her dedication to advancing expertise in her field.



A touching moment followed as Dr Jamsheed Vakharia, Director of General Surgery at Charlton Memorial Hospital and recipient of the Southcoast Health President's Award for Excellence, was represented by his mother.



Mrs. Meher Vakharia, who received the award on his behalf. His video message, filled with warmth and gratitude towards his parents, resonated deeply with the audience.



KPI also recognised global academic excellence by presenting an award to Dr. Nergis Mavalvala. She was a key member of the LIGO team that made the first direct detection of gravitational waves in 2016 & was awarded MacArthur "genius" Fellowship. A physicist, whose achievements continue to inspire generations. Her uncle, Nauzer Mavalvala, accepted the award on her behalf, accompanied by a brief and inspiring video message from her.





The youngest honouree, Anushe Engineer, brought a refreshing sense of promise and enthusiasm, symbolising the future of the community with a confident and engaging presence.

Anushe won the 2024 AIPS Best Young Reporter award in the writing category for her feature story on Arshad Nadeem at the Paris Olympic in Morocco.

Recognition was also given to students for their academic achievements. In a graceful gesture, Mrs. Jam Kamal, wife of the Chief Guest, was invited on stage to present the awards.



The Tehmina R. Collector Founders Day Cup for the Top Matriculate Girls of 2025 was awarded to Feroza Adil Vakil,



The Tehmina R. Collector Founders Day Cup for 'O Level' was awarded to Teah Hormuzd Mana who scored 3 A (Stars) & 5 A'S in her O Level making her the Top O level Student of 2025.

This was followed by the presentation of awards to graduates of Bachelor's and Master's programmes.



Farzana Darayoush Kolah

Bsc. Honors in Accountancy, Management & Law.

She was also awarded the "EFU Life Assurance Gold Medal" for her excellent performance at IoBM.



Katie Homi Khambata
Bachelor of Science.(Computer Science)



Ratanshaw Khurshed Karanjia, Bachelor of
Business Administration.(BBA)



Jehangir Dorab Anklesaria,
Bachelor of Science. (Honors)



Ardavan Darius Solan
Bachelor of Laws.
(Award being received by his father)



Nariman Hoshang Irani
Bachelor of Commerce.



Sharmeen Adil Patel
Master of Science. (M.Sc.)
(Award being received by her mother, Farah Patel)



Arish Cyrus Asphandyar

Master of Business Administration and Engineering. (MBA&E)

(Award being received by his father)

***** The
wife of KPI President Dr. Delara Mavalvala presenting a
bouquet to Mrs. Jam Kamal Khan.





Following the awards ceremony, the Chief Guest, Jam Kamal Khan, Federal Minister of Commerce, addressed the gathering. In his speech, he reflected on his long-standing association with members of the Parsi community, recalling personal connections and expressing admiration for their contributions to society. He thanked the President and the managing committee for their efforts in preserving the institution's legacy.



Marking the close of a memorable Founders Day, the President of the Karachi Parsi Institute, Mr. Marazban Mavalvala presented a commemorative plaque to the Chief Guest as a gesture of appreciation for his presence and support.



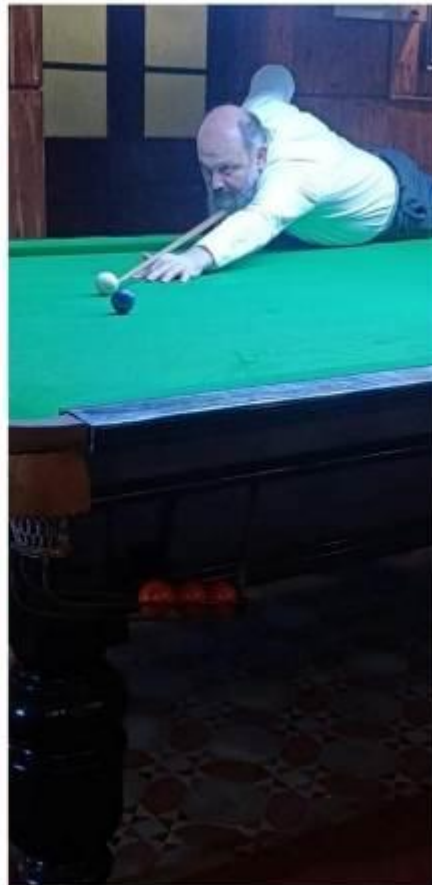
Group Photo: Chief Guest flanked by KPI President, Members of the Managing Committee & recipients of High Achiever Awards.

The evening concluded with the Parsi Anthem. Guests then spent time reconnecting and engaging in warm conversation before dinner was served.



The culinary spread was both generous and delightful, to end the evening.

A lighter moment



The Chief Guest & KPI President share a friendly frame of Snooker as Founders day winds down.

After the formal proceedings of Founders Day drew to a close, the Chief Guest and the President of KPI shared a moment that perfectly captured the spirit of the evening — relaxed fellowship over a game of snooker.

With ties loosened and speeches done, the two took to the green baize in the KPI billiards room as members looked on with smiles.



Under the soft glow of lights and shared memories, the 133rd Founders Day stood as more than just a celebration—it was a reaffirmation of identity, resilience, and belonging.

KPI continues to stand tall, not merely as an institution, but as a living legacy carried forward with pride by its community.

*The Managing Committee thanks Gulnaz Mondegarian for the write-up
&
Ronnie Dubash for the photographs.*