

PARSI ZOROASTRIAN ANJUMAN OF SECUNDERABAD AND HYDERABAD 125, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003 Tel: 040-27841766/27849322/27849323 Website: www.pzash.org Email: pzash2@yahoo.com/pzash2@gmail.com

## For Private Circulation Only

31<sup>st</sup> July 2020

## **NEWSLETTER**

Dear Zarthustis,

I trust you and your respective families are keeping good health in these difficult times.

I take this opportunity to greet each of you a Very Happy Navroze and Khordad Saal and pray the New Year brings you all happiness in abundance.

With best wishes

### Mrs. Gulbanoo Y. Chenoy President – PZASH.

During the Y.Z. Year 1390, the following Jashan / Prayer ceremonies will be performed at the three Dar-e-Mehers, New Tower of Silence and Old Tower of Silence at Secunderabad and Hyderabad.

<u>PLACE</u>	<b>OCCASION</b>	<u>ROJ/MAH</u>	DATE	DAY	<u>TIME</u>
Anjuman Dar-e-Meher	Naoroze	Hormazd/Fravardin	16/08/2020	Sunday	10:30 AM
Hyderabad Dar-e-Meher	Khordad Saal	Khordad/Fravardin	21/08/2020	Friday	10:00 AM
New Tower of Silence	Farvardin	Fravardin/Fravardin	03/09/2020	Thursday	10:30 AM
Old Tower of Silence	Farvardin	Fravardin/Fravardin	03/09/2020	Thursday	5:00 PM
Viccaji Meherji Dar-e-Meher	Dasturji Kukadaru Baaj	Behram/Fravardin	04/09/2020	Friday	5:00 PM
Hyderabad Dar-e-Meher	Salghireh	Ardibehesht/Ardibehesht	17/09/2020	Thursday	10:00 AM
Anjuman Dar-e-Meher	Jamshed-i-Naoroze	Dae-Pa-Adar/Ava	21/03/2021	Sunday	9:30 AM
Viccaji Meherji Dar-e-Meher	Jamshed-i-Naoroze	Dae-Pa-Adar/Ava	21/03/2021	Sunday	10:30 AM
Anjuman Dar-e-Meher	Avan Parab	Ava/Ava	23/03/2021	Tuesday	5:30 PM
Viccaji Meherji Dar-e-Meher	Atash-nu-Parab	Adar/Adar	21/04/2021	Wednesday	5:00 PM
New Tower of Silence	Farvardin	Fravardin/Adar	01/05/2021	Saturday	10:30 AM
Old Tower of Silence	Farvardin	Fravardin/Adar	01/05/2021	Saturday	5:00 PM
Hyderabad Dar-e-Meher	Jashan-e-Sadeh	Ashtad/Adar	08/05/2021	Saturday	7:00 PM
Anjuman Dar-e-Meher	Zarthosht-no-Disho	Khorshed/Dae	23/05/2021	Sunday	10:00 AM
Hyderabad Dar-e-Meher	Homaji-ni-Baaj	Govad/Dae	03/06/2021	Thursday	10:00 AM
Anjuman Dar-e-Meher	Salghireh(Centenary)	Ardibehesht/Asfandarmad	14/07/2021	Wednesday	10:00 AM
Viccaji Meherji Dar-e-Meher	Salghireh	Behram/Asfandarmad	31/07/2021	Saturday	10:30 AM

#### Here are some of the important happenings during the past one year:

- Khan Bahadur Edulji Sohrabji Chenai Anjuman Dar-e-Meher, Secunderabad has completed it's centenary on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.
- The Anjuman Library verandah and Bungli were recently extensively renovated.
- The Khan Bahadur Edulji Sohrabji Chenai Anjuman Dar-e-Meher and the surrounding area has been extensively renovated.
- Additional CCTV camera has been installed in Anjuman Compound for enhanced security.
- CCTV cameras have been installed at Bapoo Baug complex to enhance security.

**Triannual General Body Meeting: Triannual** General Body Meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2019 at the Parsi Dharamshala, Secunderabad. After transacting normal business pertaining to adoption of accounts, elections were held for three positions in the Managing Committee. The following members were declared elected and will be on the Committee for a period of 6 (six) years.

- 1. MR. NADIR E. CHINOY
- 2. MR. KERFEGAR B. ANTIA
- 3. MR. SAAM A. CHINOY

Mr. Nadir E. Chinoy, Member, was nominated as the Hon. Secretary of the Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman of Secunderabad and Hyderabad.

## **Hyderabad Agiary**

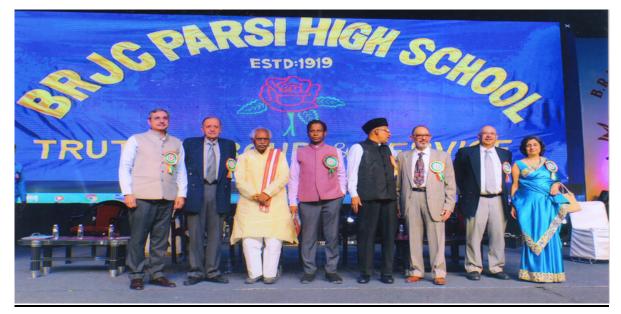
The Bungli at the Hyderabad Agiary has also been completely renovated. The residential blocks are being given a fresh look and being painted.

The Hyderabad Parsi Colony has been conducting Hambandagi every Monday at 7:00 PM regularly since last 14 years. Religious knowledge and stories from Shahnameh are also shared at that time.

They also have a monthly get-together over a game of tambola or song and dance by children of the colony.

## Seth Viccaji - Seth Pestonji Meherji Agiary

Seth Viccaji - Seth Pestonji Meherji Agiary, Secunderabad, celebrated its 172<sup>nd</sup> Salghirah on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.



## **BRJC Parsi High School**

The BRJC Parsi High School celebrated it's centenary on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. The founder Jehangirji Chinoy was a visionary and one bold and visionary step he took was to open the doors of the institution to children of both genders. This tradition is carried forward to this day and in January 2019 there were 423 girls to 569 boys. A ratio of which the school is truly proud.

The celebrations for the centenary started from January 2018 itself. Different programmes were conducted for students and staff. Much enjoyment was derived by all from competitions such as Rangoli, Vegetable and Fruit carving and other cultural programmes.

The celebrations culminated at a grand event where the students entertained the parents and guests with performances of Classical Dance, a Hindi and Telugu skit, dances with Bollywood songs and Bhangra etc. The event was graced by Chief Guests Mr. A.K. Khan (Advisor to the Government of Telangana, Md. Qamaruddin (Chairman-Minorities Commission, Sri Bandaru Dattatreya Ex MP and Governor of Himachal Pradesh, and other members of the minorities commission.

The evening culminated with felicitating of ex-principals Mrs. Thrity N. Bapooji and Mrs. Shernavaz Baria as well as teachers who had rendered 25 years or more of service to this institution.

The management presented silver coins and shawls to the staff who are so ably led by Head Mistress, Mrs. DML Vyjayanthi as they are the true backbone of this institution and are responsible for the prestige and popularity enjoyed by the School.

# <u>The Zoroastrian Stree Mandal Of Secunderabad And</u> <u>Hyderabad (ZSM)</u>

The ZSM is a voluntary women's organization, dedicated to the upliftment of the less fortunate of the community.

Monthly assistance in cash and kind is given to the beneficiaries besides paying off their medical and educational expenses.

To replenish its corpus, the Mandal from time-to-time, undertakes various fund raising activities. In February this year they held "Feb Funbola", for the same purpose. However, such efforts fall short of the requirements, especially in these days of sky rocketing prices in the fields of education and medicine.

Donations from community members has enabled the Stree Mandal to render fifty years of dedicated service, to the deserving.

# <u>Achievers</u>

## <u>Haritha Haram Compaign</u>

Congratulations to our Green Champion **Mr. Omim Maneckshaw Debara**, Trustee, Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman of Secunderabad and Hyderabad (PZASH) for receiving the Award.

This Award has been presented by **CII to PZASH** for their support and involvement in the 2019 Haritha Haram campaign due to which CII could facilitate plantation of over 10 Lakh saplings in the year 2019.

The Award was given a short while ago by CII Telangana State Council at its Annual Meeting 2020 at Hotel Trident, Hyderabad.

PZASH has received this Award for 5 years in a row. They have planted more that 25000 saplings in five years!



MARX-		
-the	Contribution of members for the y	/ear 2010
S.V.S.	S No Company Name	
5-110	1 ITC Ltd - Paperboards & Specialty Papers Division	Saplings Planted
0.40	2 Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad	7,00,000
M	3 Pragati Resorts	2,00,000
1.1.	4 CYIENT Ltd	1,00,000
	5 Delhi Public School, Nacharam	10,000 10,000
E. I	6 GITAM University	10,000
	7 Delhi Public School, Nadergul	5,000
est.	8 NATCO, Hyderabad	4,000
	9 Pallavi Model School, Boduppal	2 000
110	10 Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School - Vidyashram, Jubileehills	3,000
	11 Tata Consultancy Services	2,500
	12 Pallavi Model School, Alwal	2,500
	13 DDMS(AMS) P Obul Reddy Public School, Jubileehills	2,000
	14 Pallavi Engineering College	2,000
	5 Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman of Secunderabad & Hyderabad	2,000
	6 Headquarters Telangana & Andhra Sub-area	1,500
	7 Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Atmakuri Rama Rao School	1,200
	8 Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology	1,000
19	9 Kendriya Vidyalaya Bowenpally	1,000
	Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology	900
21	Happy Kidz Pre-School	600
22	Kendriya Vidyalaya AFS Begumpet	600
23	D.A.V.Public School,Safilguda	500
24		500
25	Sutherland Global Services	
		300
26	Vediri Township	300
	ELICO Ltd	200
	Jewel Gardens, Miyapur	200
29	CII - Godrej GBC	50
	Total	10,54,850
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-	For further details, Please contact:	
1_	Satya Aruna   040 4418 5127   satya.aruna	a@cii.in
	Confederation of Indian Indus	try
	CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Cen	
	Survey No 64, Kothaguda Post, Hyderabad - 50	00 084

#### Kayomarz G. Ichhaporia



**Kayomarz G. Ichhaporia,** aged 14 son of Gev Ichhaporia, proved his mettle at the 28<sup>th</sup> All India GV Mavalankar Shooting Championship & 62<sup>nd</sup> National Shooting Championship Competition (Big Bore) held at Army Marksmanship unit, Mhow (MP) from 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019. He scored **234 points** and secured a place in the Aspiring Shooter's category.

Kayomarz is a student of class IX of BRJC Parsi High School, Secunderabad and also the youngest shooter ever to take part in a Big Bore championship.

He had started Air Rifle shooting at the age of 8 years. He switched over to skeet, and later to .22 free pistol at Gagan Narang's shooting institute Gun For Glory. He was selected from NCC Telangana & Andhra Pradesh for Republic Day Parade at New Delhi. The Army Chief had a word with him when he got to know that there is a Parsi lad in our Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Directorate.

### <u>Gusti Noria</u>



National Senior Champion 2018 – Skeet

- National Senior Silver Medalist 2019 Skeet
- 33rd National Games 2007, Team Gold Medalist
- G.V. Mavlankar Silver Medalist 2005
- State Champion Skeet 2008
- South Zone Silver Medalist Skeet 2009
- South Zone Gold in Big Bore Seniors 2020
- State Silver in Big Bore 2020
- Telengana Open Super Big Bore 2020 5 GOLD, 1 SILVER, 1 BRONZE
- Many Zonal, State & District Medals

## <u>Kynan Darius Chenai</u>





Shooting Discipline – Olympic Trap Shooting.

Member of Indian Shooting Team since 2015, he was in the Junior Indian team before that.

Represented India at the Rio Olympics 2016.

January 2018 – Asian Ranking 1<sup>st</sup> World Ranking – 13<sup>th</sup>

November 2018 – 62nd National Shooting Championship Jaipur ...won - Gold.

Kynan was National Champion for – 2019.

Represented India in World Cup 2019 at Acapulco, Dubai and Korea.

Came 6th, 8th and 11th.

December – 2019 – National ranking was – 1. Indian team selection.

Olympic selection not decided as per World Ranking.

Competitions & World Cup Cyprus & Delhi cancelled due to Coronavirus.

## <u>Kainaz Sharookh Dinshaw</u>

She has Secured 85% in CBSE X standard.

She has scored more than 90 marks upon 100 in three out of total five subjects. This achievement is due to her strong will power and rock solid backing of her parents Mrs. Sanober and Mr. Sharookh Dinshaw. Further, Kainaz Dinshaw is the grandchild of Late Mr. Kersi Dinshaw, who was a gold medalist in X standard at Surat in 1958. She is studying Science in junior college.

## Anahita Zahl Tantra

Congratulations to Anahita Zahl Tantra who has scored 95.6% in CBSE 12<sup>th</sup> exams.

## <u>Richelle Italia</u>

The academic and sporting achievements earned by Richelle Italia are listed as under:-

1. Secured 8.7 GPA in the Telangana State SSC Examination in the month of March 2019

2. Secured 3rd place in the Haritha Haram Elocution conducted during the college Literary and Cultural competitions (2019-2020)

3. Secured 3rd prize in the Essay Writing Competition conducted by the State Central Library Hyderabad.

4. Secured 1st place in the Basketball Tournaments conducted during the college Annual Sports and Games competitions.

### Fashutana Sam Bhagat

Passed her MA in sociology in first class with distinction in the year 2019-20.

### <u>Kenisha Jilla</u>

Age : 14 years old

Class: 9<sup>th</sup> Standard

Achievement: Secured 10/10 GPA for this academic year, awarded 'Academic Excellence Award'. She was also awarded '100% Attendance Award' for this Year. Achievement: 'Award of Excellence' for securing 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Science Fest conducted at her School.

### <u>Kayaan Jilla</u>

Age: 11 years old Class: 6<sup>th</sup> Standard Achievement: Secured 10/10 GPA for the academic year, and awarded `100% Attendance Award' for this Year.

### <u>Danishi Sam Bhagat</u>

She participated in Masterchef India and stood top 40 in india and was broadcasted on TV in the first episode. She was the youngest contestant and was there to present our Parsi cuisine on a platform like Masterchef India. She could only go upto round 3 but was appreciated for her skills without any culinary background.

## **Important Information**

 Golden opportunity for Parsi students – There is a reputed school and college of commerce and management in Mumbai, which provides free education to Parsi students.

Patuck Complex is situated at Vakola, one km. away from Chhatrapati Shivaji Domestic Airport, Mumbai off the Western Express Highway. The road adjoining the campus is named "Rustomba Patuck Marg".

Postal address is 100, Nehru Road, Vakola Bridge, Santacruz East, Mumbai 400 055 (MAH). Tel. no. 26680939, 2668 3806

Junior College -Science (1982).

Students desirous of going for higher studies in Engineering, Medicine or Para-Medical courses and other science faculties can opt for Jr. College-Science. www.patuck.edy.in

At present, only two Parsi students out of 3500 students are availing of this golden opportunity. It is hoped that more and more Parsi students become aware and take advantage of this renowned institution.

2. WZCC is looking to create a data base of Zoroastrian employers and job seekers. Request all interested employers/job seekers to go to http://bit.ly/38t02HK for more information. The aim of the WZCC is to employ every Zoroastrian in India by 2021. You may also contact Diniyar Mehta at +91 98810 64281 or wzcc.youth@gmail.com

## **Religious Corner**

## <u> Jamshedi Navroze – (inserted by Mrs. Farida K. Antia)</u>

Jamshedi Navroze and Khordal Saal are the two most auspicious days not only for Parsis but also for the entire creation.

On Jamshedi Navroze, a great cosmic event unfolds as the sun enters the sign of Aries and begins its perambulation of the Zodiac.

Ahura Mazda showers his benevolent currents (blessings) constantly on the entire universe called the Asare Roshni. They are essential for our existence and spiritual development.

On Jamshedi Navroze day, the Asare Roshni currents which are brought down on the earth by the sun's rays are most prolific, long lasting and of great spiritual importance. Therefore, evolved souls, spend this entire day in prayers (Khorshed and Meher nyaesh) to get the maximum benefit of these currents.

This is the real significance of Navroze a day which comes only once in a year which is unique and most essential for harnessing the showers of blessings of Ahura Mazda.

### Quiz - (inserted by Mrs. Farida K. Antia)

"Along with Navroze celebrations, test your Navroze knowledge" by solving the following quiz.

- 1. King Jamshed is called \_\_\_\_\_\_ in Avesta.
- Jamshedi Navroze is celebrated by Parsis in the month of \_\_\_\_\_ on date
  \_\_\_\_\_ when the sun enters the sign of \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. There should be seven items on the Navroze table starting with English alphabet \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. King Jamshed was the son of \_\_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Navroze is the day of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ equinox, when days and night are
- 6. Jamshed padshah ascended the throne on Roj \_\_\_\_\_\_ and Mah
- 7. International Navroze Day was proclaimed by the \_\_\_\_\_ in 2010.
- 8. Jamshed padshah celebrated Navroze, to mark the end of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ age.
- 9. Jamshedi Navroze is one of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ festivals of the world.
- 10.The ritual of tying the Kusti round the waist was started by king \_\_\_\_\_\_ upon the instructions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Please send your answers to the Anjuman Office by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, 4 PM to win attractive prizes. If there is more than one correct entry, the winners will be chosen by draw.

## Contributions by -

### <u>Perviz Dara Bhote</u>

#### What 'Being A Zoroastrian' Means to Me

Professing the world's oldest known monotheistic faith gives one a sense of the depth of history that one is attached to. Oftentimes, in my mind's eye I picture Zarathushtra in long flowing white robes, head covered, staff in hand, walking innumerable miles - stopping by villages, talking to herdsmen and farmers; sitting

beside a campfire by night, singing to them the Gathas and sharing the Reformed Mazdayasni religion that Ahura Mazda had revealed to him. But not many were willing to accept his message until he reached King Vistaasp and Queen Hutoxi's court. It was a simple message, but after thousands of years, have we still got it right?

To me, the Zarathushti faith is the epitome of democracy because it grants one the 'freedom of choice'. The essence of the faith underlines the fact that only when you ensure that others are happy, can you be truly happy. This can only emanate from 'Right Thinking', 'Judicious Speaking', and 'Sincere Actions'- three principles on which the edifice of Zoroastrianism stands; a universal truth compressed is just twelve words of the 'Ashem Vohu' prayer – "Right thoughts of a good mind are always best and bring forth happiness; happiness is the reward for the one who makes others happy, and that is the best existence." The 'Yatha Ahu Vairyo' prayer too reinforces this truth – "Just like the prophet and other good mentors can be right-minded, so also can each person be good and lead a happy life if they practice 'truth and righteousness' and also 'serve/help' the disadvantaged and help them to be happy too."

Zarathushtra was the first known 'eco warrior', emphasising that it is mankind's duty to preserve the goodness and purity of all the elements of Nature. Unfortunately, humankind has chosen not to listen, and the world is on the brink of an environmental disaster.

Zoroastrianism is an easy-to-follow, universal and happy Faith. There are no compulsions – no strictures to deprive the body - like fasting, no compulsions of shunning wealth or progress. It prescribes living and enjoying a good life, and appreciating all that is beautiful in Nature and all that has been created by the intelligence of humankind. The only restriction is that of 'moderation'.

Being a centuries-old religion, one does not understand the language of the Avesta, so many argue that living by the three-fold principles of Humata, Hukhta, and Huvarashta should suffice for leading a good life. But for the true inquirer, in this age of 'information at the click of a key', there are no limitations for gaining knowledge of our ancient texts.

Chanting of the Avesta prayers is beneficial for a good existence. The lyrics of the Manthravani can grow on you as you begin to enjoy the rhyme and rhythm of the compositions. Just like we enjoy songs sung in unknown languages. Similarly, performing the kusti is a discipline that reinforces in our minds each day the vows

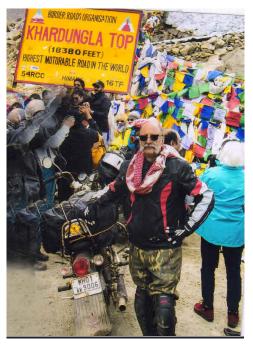
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that we proclaim of Manashni, Gavashni and Kunashni. Oft repeated they become a reality.

It is in great part due to the precepts of our Zarathushti Mazdayasni Din, and that our community has contributed so extensively to whichever nation that it has made its home.

Ushta té!!

### Bomi Patel



### Himalayan Mountain Ride

In July of 2016 after much deliberation I decided to do the one thing any long distance biker has on his bucket list. **Ride the mountains of the Himalayas** .... and ride I did with great pleasure, exhilaration, sometimes at great risk. If you fall over a narrow ridge, then it's about 5000 to 6000 feet downhill. It would take approximately 6-7 hours to reach you for first aid. So why do men do it, put their all, into such a dangerous adventure ???... first a love for riding and confidence in his bike, and second for the

challenge. My mother always said "No risk, no gain beta...". We were riding for 22 days, a total of 2,261 kms. in the mountains.

I had privilege to be the oldest at 62 in the group and so was my Bullet, manufactured in 2009. But we together made it, to tell the tale.

## Report submitted by Mr. Russi K. Doctor

The Dialogue Project in Hyderabad is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs via Meridian International Centre as the implementing partner. The program is also supported by Rubaroo, a youth development organization in Hyderabad working on interfaith and Gender whose alumni are also part of the team of the project.

The Dialogue Project is a 10-weekend journey of a group of 25-30 above the age of 16 from diverse backgrounds. The diversity in other demographics is on the lines of linguistics, gender, religions, social-economic backgrounds, and cultures. These

Dialogue Ambassadors would undergo a leadership journey with dialogue being the core facilitator through a series of site visits, guest speaker interactions, dialogue sessions, and active reflection.

Under this program Ervad Mehernosh H. Bharucha – Head Priest of Bai M.N. Chenoy Parsi Fire Temple Hyderabad was requested to address the group on Zoroastrian subjects. It was on 14/03/2020 that a group of about 20-22 participants visited our colony complex where nice arrangements were made in the community hall for a lively speech and panel discussion followed by Q & A sessions.

Ervad Bharucha started his discourse explaining the origins of Zoroastrianism, the teachings of our Prophet Asho Zarathustra Saheb approx. 8000 years back. As per their format Q & A session was conducted after all speeches.

The first session turned out to be very interesting with almost all the participants coming out with some interesting questions.

The second session was about the role of women and other genders, followed by a lengthy session on glorious Persian history, our subsequent downfall, arrival and progress in India.

The last session was about our festivals and festivities.

The entire event was very informative. Many aspects of the Zoroastrian religion were discussed and Ervad Bharucha patiently answered all the queries to the immense pleasure of the youngsters.

Our respected president, Mr. Mehernosh H. Chenoy saheb along with our secretary cum treasurer, Mr. Russi K. Doctor Saheb graced the occasion for a short time to the delight of all present.

On similar lines a seminar was conducted on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2020, attended by about 25-30 foreign delegates belonging to "The Chicago School of Theological Sciences". This seminar also turned out to be very successful and informative for the learned participants. Ervad Bharucha conducts such seminars regularly on behalf of various "Heritage Walk Groups".

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### <u>Piroja Batliwalla</u>

### Bell Peppers & Paneer Hot Pot

<u>Ingredients</u>

500 gms	Paneer
1 No.	Red Bell Pepper
1 No.	Yellow Bell Pepper
3 Nos.	Green Bell Pepper
1 No.	Big Onion
	Oregano
	Chillie Flakes
	Salt to taste

### Method:

- 1. Cut paneer into 1/2" cubes
- 2. Cut all the bell peppers into small pieces
- 3. Peel and cut the onions into four quarters 9 separate each piece
- 4. Partially deep fry the paneer cubes in a nonstick kadhai or medium to low heat till golden brown
- Remove when done. Remove excess oil and in the same kadhai (with very little oil), sauté all the chopped bell peppers along with the chopped onions for 5 minutes.
- 6. Mix in the fried paneer, sprinkle salt, oregano and chillie flakes according to taste.
- 7. Toss all together and serve with garlic bread.



AVESTHAGEN BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE Avesthagen releases "The First complete Zoroastrian-Parsi Mitochondria Reference Genome: Implications of mitochondrial signatures in an endogamous, non-smoking population"– The study unravels mitochondrial signatures linked to persian origin, longevity and associated health conditions



Avesthagen Limited, with support from the Foundation for a Smoke Free World, New York, USA is developing a systems biology-based approach for the early predictive diagnosis of tobacco related cancers such as lung, head and neck, esophagus, stomach, colon, prostate and bladder cancers to achieve cessation of smoking.

Since 2008, The Avestagenome Project<sup>®</sup> has been collecting a biobank of Zoroastrian Parsi blood samples and extensive patient data from over 4,500 members of this community.

Recognizing the importance of the Parsi cohort and the unique system's approach to research, the US-based, 'Foundation for a Smoke-Free World', whose mission is to end smoking within this generation, awarded Avesthagen "Cancer risk in smoking subjects assessed by next generation sequencing profile of circulating free DNA and RNA" to prioritize research into lung and tobacco-related cancers.

In order to gain a clearer understanding of the historically recorded migration of the Zoroastrian-Parsis, decipher their phylogenetic relationships and understand disease association to their individual mitochondrial genomes, Avesthagen generated the first complete *de novo* Zoroastrian-Parsi Mitochondrial Reference Genome, AGENOME-ZPMS-HV2a-1. Phylogenetic analysis of additional 100 Parsi mitochondrial genome sequences, showed their distribution into 7 major haplogroups and 25 sub-haplogroups and a largely Persian origin for the Zoroastrian-Parsi community. Individual reference genomes for each major haplogroup were used to assemble the Zoroastrian-Parsi Mitochondrial Consensus Genome (AGENOME-ZPMCG V1.0) for the first time in the world.

The study identified 420 mitochondrial variants in the Zoroastrian-Parsi genomes. Bioinformatic analysis of these variants showed a presence of longevity as a trait and associated conditions like cancers such as colon, prostate, neurodegenerative conditions like Parkinsons, rare diseases like Lebers Hereditary Optic Neuropathy and asthenozoospermia, a fertility disorder. Furthermore, the study uncovered 12 unique variants, previously unreported for other populations which are under further investigation.

The research, in specific found a lack of association with Lung cancers and low frequency of DNA mutational signatures associated with Tobacco smoking carcinogen induced cancers in the Parsi community, attesting to unique non-smoking social practices practiced in the community, whose origins go back a millennia.

<u>The research work now released on bioRxiv</u> converges, ancient history, human migration, endogamous population genetics, social behavior and customs that express in genetic signatures of wellness and health.

Dr.Villoo Morawala-Patell, Founder and CMD, Avesthagen Limited and The Avestagenome Project<sup>®</sup> says "We believe in bringing science to life by drawing it out of the confines of the laboratory and setting it free to work in the real, everyday world". Both, Avesthagen Limited and The Avestagenome Project<sup>®</sup> were built on the bedrock of understanding and extrapolating diversity, from environment to human communities; The Parsi-Zoroastrian community renowned for its philanthropy will be contributing through The Avestagenome Project<sup>®</sup> to global health through a deeper understanding of genetics, disease and environment.

#### As on 25th July 2020

#### **Births** (As reported to the PZASH Office)

Naozad D. Elavia, son of Sapna & Dara S. Elavia	21 <sup>st</sup> May 2019		
Veera M. Hansotia, daughter of Avan & Minocher R. Hansotia	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2019		
Aryan R. Bokdawala, son of Farah & Dr. Rohann Bokdawala	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020		
Friya M. Wadia, daughter of Purnishat & Marzban S. Wadia	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2020		
Yazad Zehan Patel, son of Sanayra & Zehan D. Patel	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2020		

#### **Navjotes** (As reported to the PZASH Office)

Hormuzd & Daryush, children of Armaity & Varzavand R. Debara 25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2019

### Marriages (As reported to the PZASH Office)

Fiona R. Wadia with Mehernosh A. Billimoria	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Armita Karaka with Karan B. Madon	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2019

### **Demises** (As reported to the PZASH Office)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Date</u>
Soona R. Irani	91	13/09/2019	Farzaan B. Italia	38	11/03/2020
Ketayuon H. Chinoy	59	17/09/2019	Tehmina Mistry Alpho	nse	11/03/2020
Manizeh A. Hormusji	94	18/09/2019	Boman M. Mirza	93	17/03/2020
Mani J. Nariman	97	29/09/2019	Dr. Parin Vakharia	96	20/04/2020
Sheriyar Bharucha	34	10/10/2019	Erach S. Lala	91	18/05/2020
Petarasp A. Nalladaru	84	08/11/2019	Dolly A. Sarkary	85	27/05/2020
Roshan D. Mistry	71	09/11/2019	Feroze H. Bhathena	69	05/06/2020
Roda N. Elavia	78	10/11/2019	Ervad Rusi Dastoor	65	14/06/2020
Dadi D. Kalyaniwala	87	29/11/2019	Sheroo R. Kalyaniwala	94	16/06/2020
Viraf J. Gotla (Pune)	64	29/11/2019	Ardeshir M. Vatcha	82	21/06/2020
Kerbanu Y.Taraporewa	alla91	03/03/2020	Veera S. Chenoy	83	08/07/2020

Our heartfelt condolences to members of the bereaved families of all the departed. May the departed souls attain Garothman behest.

## May we remind you once again to send us your happy tidings of Births, Navjotes, Weddings or any commendable achievements in your family so that we can spread the good news by publishing it.

Please let PZASH know about any change in address and telephone number, to keep the mailing and SMS list upto-date.

s/d MRS. G.Y. CHENOY President

Disclaimer: The contents of this Newsletter need not necessarily reflect the personal views of the Trustees & Members of the Managing Committee of PZASH.

## <u>Book Post</u>

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