

# THE BANGALORE PARSEE ZOROASTRIAN ANJUMAN

## *Celebrating 100 Years of The Bai Dhunmai & Cawasji Dadabhai Dar-E-Meher*



***Roj Ardibehesht Mah Shehrevan, 1395 Y.Z.  
Wednesday, 14th January 2026***

**10:00 AM - JASHAN CEREMONY AT THE DAR-E-MEHER**

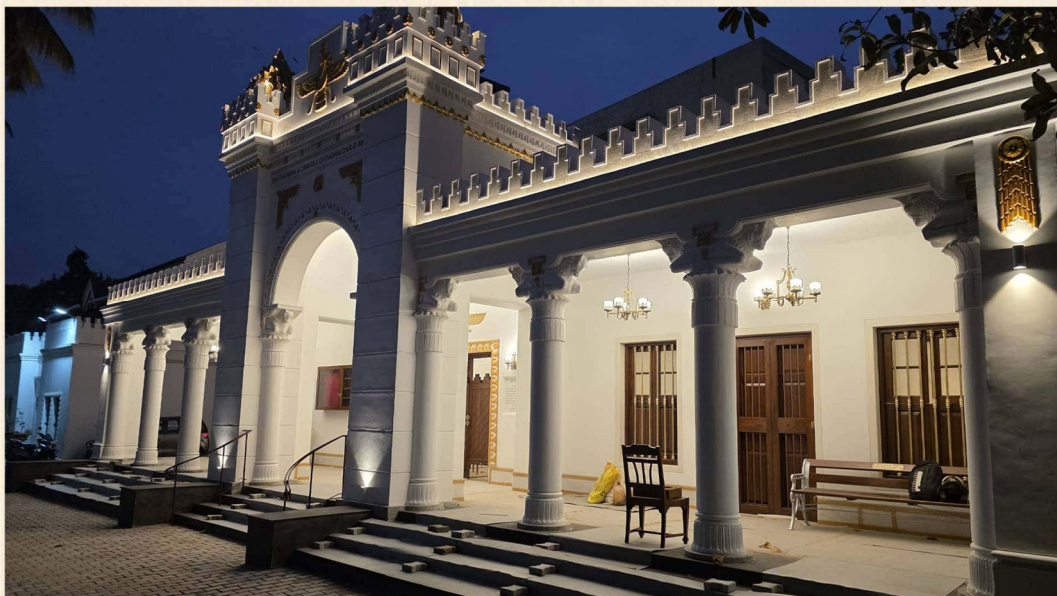
The Jashan will be performed by  
Vada Dastur Tehemton Burjor Mirza  
of Udvada  
accompanied by other Officiating Priests  
and will be followed by a Hum Bandagi.  
*Guests are requested to be seated by 9:45 AM at the Dar-E-Meher.*

**11:30 AM - THE LADY JEHANGIR KOTHARI MEMORIAL HALL**

Snacks and get-together, followed by an Address by  
Vada Dastur Tehemton Burjor Mirza  
after which Lunch will be served.  
*Guests are requested to be seated by 11:30 AM at  
The Lady Jehangir Kothari Memorial Hall*

**6:30 PM - TRINITY HALL, THE TAJ M. G. ROAD,  
TRINITY CIRCLE, BANGALORE**

Welcome drinks, followed by an Address by  
Mr. Noshir H. Dadrawala  
after which Dinner will be served.  
*Guests are requested to be seated by 6:30 PM.*



*The Jashan was performed by  
Vada Dastur Tehemton Burjor Mirza of Udvada,  
accompanied by  
Er. Fardoon Karkaria, Er. Yezdi Unvalla,  
Er. Farhad Sanjana, Er. Shahzaad Sahiar,  
Er. Meherzad Irani, Er. Cyrus Nariman,  
Er. Cyrus Dhabhar, Er. Hoshedar Govadia,  
Er. Burjor Aibada, Er. Hormazd Aibada,  
and Er. Kaizad Kotwal*











## Centenary celebration of The Bai Dhunmai & Cawasji Dadabhai *Dar-e-Meher* in Bangalore

The Bai Dhunmai & Cawasji Dadabhai *Dar-e-Meher* celebrated one hundred years on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (Roj Ardibehesht, Mah Shehrevan 1395 Y.Z.) Extensive repairs and renovations were carried out during the year 2025 under the leadership of Dinshaw Cawasji the grandson of the founder. Devotees started pouring in from early morning and the atmosphere was charged with devotion and bonhomie among members of the community.

A *Khushalinu Jashan* of four *karda* was performed at 10:00 AM by twelve priests led by *Vada Dasturjisaheb* Tehemton Burjor Mirza. The Hall was packed with devotees and although a *shamiana* and television to view the *Jashan* was placed outside in the compound, many preferred to stand and offer their prayers while the *Jashan* was going on. The *Jashan* ceremony concluded with a *hum bandagi* and refreshments of *sagan nu sev and dahi* (prepared by The Taj) with *chashni* in the compound.

At around 11:30 AM members congregated at The Lady Jehangir Kothari Memorial Hall where *Vada Dasturjisaheb* Tehemton Burjor Mirza addressed the community.

### *Brief history of the Dar-e-Meher*

In his address, *Vada Dasturjisaheb* said, "We, the priests of Sanjana *Tola*, share a unique bond with this *Dar-E-Meher*, as it was two of our



***Mobeds, Ervad Behramji Jamshedji Unvalla and Ervad Jamshedji Rustomji Katila, who traveled to Bangalore with Bareshnum and Alat (religious implements) in a car driven by Seth Dinshaw Cawasji.” He recounted that in their journey to Bangalore, they made two stops: the first at the Dadiseth Atash Behram Compound in Bombay, followed by a second stop at the Belgaum Agiary. They ultimately arrived in Bangalore on the third day. It was these two mobeds who conducted higher liturgical ceremonies such as Yazashne and Vandidad for three consecutive days to sanctify the Dar-e-Meher and on the fourth day, the Holy Fire was enthroned in the sanctum sanctorum. Also, since the Bangalore Anjuman Panthak operated under the guidance of the High Priest of the Deccan and Malwa, a Jashan was performed under the direction of High Priest Sardar Khan Bahadur Dasturji Kaikobad Aderbad Dastur JamaspAsa, alongside Ervad Pestonji Unvalla and other mobed sahebs.***

### ***Two pillars of tradition***

Dasturji touched upon on two pillars that have shaped our community’s tradition across the millennia: the sanctity of Fire and the indispensable role of our priesthood. He said, “in the Zoroastrian worldview, Fire and Priesthood are not simply ritual symbols; they are living instruments through which Divine Order or *Asha*, is made manifest in the material world.” He added, “understanding their significance is essential not only to appreciating our religious identity, but also to safeguarding the continuity of our faith in the modern era.”

### ***Sacred flame***

Dasturji emphasized that our forebears believed that as long as the sacred flame burned, the ethos of Zoroastrianism would remain alive. Fire temples are therefore not relics of a bygone era instead they are centers of ethical and spiritual rejuvenation. The sacred



flame is tended with precision, discipline, and reverence, representing the meticulousness with which we are expected to approach our own moral lives.” He felt that priests are the custodians of our sacred tradition and the Zoroastrian priesthood, (*Athornan*) is not a hierarchy of authority but a lineage of service. The role of a priest is grounded in discipline, learning, and ritual precision.

### *Athornan as retainer of Asha*

“Priests hold the responsibility of preserving the spiritual integrity of our ceremonies, maintaining the sanctity of Fire, and transmitting doctrinal and ritual knowledge across generations. Our scriptures describe priests as servants of *Asha*, not arbiters of power” he said.

Liturgical rituals of our faith demand extraordinary precision. The *Yasna* ceremony, for instance, encompasses seventy-two chapters and must be recited with immaculate accuracy in pronunciation, pacing, and gesture. It is not a symbolic performance but a metaphysical process believed to strengthen the cosmic order. Dasturji felt, “our priests, across centuries, have served as archivists of knowledge, protectors of tradition, and exemplars of devotion. Whether in the ceremonial pavilions of ancient Iran or the fire temples of Udvada, Navsari, Surat, Mumbai and beyond, they have preserved a lineage that connects us to our ancestors and ensures our faith’s endurance.

While concluding he said, “as we face the challenges of assimilation, dwindling numbers, and cultural dilution, it becomes even more important (a) to honour and maintain our consecrated Fires, (b) to support priestly education, (c) to encourage our youth to understand the spiritual and intellectual depth of our tradition and priests to perform ceremonies with full ritual purity and completeness.”



Dasturji's talk was followed by a lively question and answer session and towards the end Noshir Dadrawala on behalf of Dinshaw Cawasji announcing a donation of twenty-five lakh rupees to support whatever initiative Dasturji may have in mind for priests.

Everyone enjoyed the lunch catered by the Taj, particularly the traditional *dhan-dar-kolmino* patio.

### *Evening reception*

The evening celebrations were held at the Taj located at Trinity Circle in Bangalore. Noshir H. Dadrawala delivered the keynote address emphasizing the need to make integral the Zoroastrian way of life and living. He stressed on the importance of finding the right balance between praying and practice of the religion. Prayers are considered most effective when combined with action as a catalyst for personal change and a motivator for engaging in practical, real-world solutions. While prayer is a vital spiritual discipline, it is not a replacement for effort, but an act of atonement with *Ahura Mazda* where one prays for guidance and strength while actively working toward a solution.

Noshir stressed on the need to befriend *Ahura Mazda* and being 'God-loving' rather than 'God-fearing' and shifting the focus of faith from obedience based on fear of punishment to a relationship rooted in love, grace, and gratitude. He felt that *Ahura Mazda* should be perceived as an 'ocean of love, friendship and wisdom' rather than a judge or punisher. Spiritual strength comes through faith and friendship with the Divine, rather than fear-driven compliance.

The evening ended with cocktails and a sumptuous dinner which included *patrani macchi* and Sali chicken.

*Mr. Noshir H. Dadrawala*  
*January 2026*



## A 100-Year-Old Spiritual Anchor

**14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (Ruz Ardibehesht, Mah Shehrevard, Y.Z. 1395)** will long be etched in the minds and hearts of the Parsee community of Bangalore. The occasion: the Bai Dhunmai and Cawasji Dadabhai Dar-e-Meher completed 100 years as a spiritual anchor of faith for the Bangalore community.

The Trustees of The Bangalore Parsee Zoroastrian Anjuman (BPZA) left no stone unturned in making the centenary celebrations a grand success, both in terms of the Jashan ceremony led by Vada Dasturji Tehemton Burjorji Mirza of the Iranshah Atash Behram, Udwada and the religious discourses and community lunch-cum-dinner that followed.

Following the Jashan, Ervad Fardoon Karkaria, Panthaki of the Dar-e-Meher, reflected on the enduring legacy of the benefactors, observing that their spirit continues to live on in every prayer offered and every lamp lit within the Dar-e-Meher. He also paid heartfelt tribute to the late Ervad Pestonji Jamshedji Unvalla, the first Panthaki of the Dar-e-Meher, whose dedication and guidance laid the spiritual foundations upon which the institution stands today.

Later, addressing a packed audience at The Lady Jehangir Kothari Memorial Hall, Vada Dasturji Mirza fondly recalled his personal and familial association with the Bangalore Dar-e-Meher, noting that his maternal uncle, Ervad Jamshed Chinoy, had served the Agiary with devotion for nearly 25 years.



**Appointed to the highest liturgical office of the Parsi community in India at the young age of forty-four, Vada Dasturji Mirza spoke movingly about the rigorous spiritual and academic training undertaken by priestly initiates.**

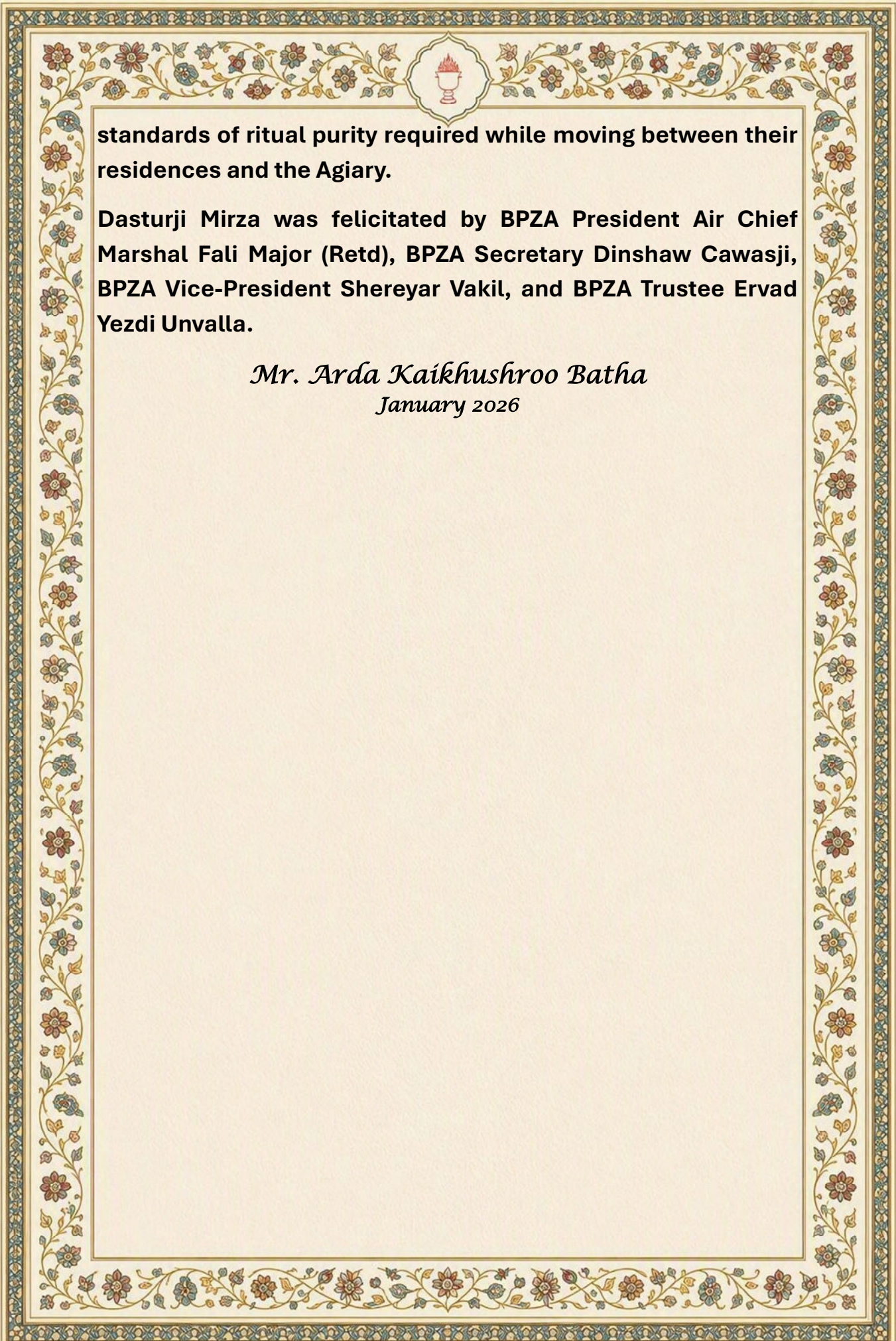
### **PILLARS OF FAITH**

**Dasturji Mirza observed that the strength and continuity of the Zoroastrian community rest upon two pillars: the consecrated Atash and the priesthood. Both are living embodiments of divine order – Asha – and together safeguard the faith in an ever-changing world.**

**He emphasised that Fire is not a deity to be worshipped, but the purest representation of Ahura Mazda's presence. He noted that our forefathers, upon arriving in India, instinctively understood that the consecration and preservation of the sacred Fire was essential for the survival of Zoroastrian religious life. "Fire temples," he remarked, "are not relics of a bygone age; they are centres of ethical awakening and spiritual renewal."**

**In a striking analogy, he likened Fire, Priesthood and Community to the three sides of a triangle that sustains Zoroastrian life. While Fire and priesthood provide the enduring spiritual anchors, the community bears the responsibility of nurturing and strengthening priestly institutions.**

**Dasturji Mirza highlighted the importance of financial security for priests, observing that economic independence enables them to serve the community with dedication, dignity and enthusiasm. He also drew attention to encroachments of fire temple properties, noting that such intrusions have increasingly made it difficult for priests to maintain the strict**



**standards of ritual purity required while moving between their residences and the Agiary.**

**Dasturji Mirza was felicitated by BPZA President Air Chief Marshal Fali Major (Retd), BPZA Secretary Dinshaw Cawasji, BPZA Vice-President Shereyar Vakil, and BPZA Trustee Ervad Yezdi Unvalla.**

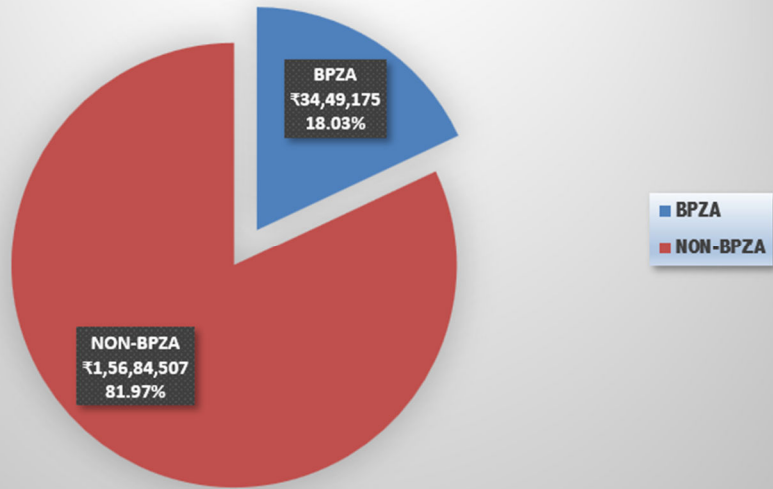
*Mr. Arda Kaikhushroo Batha*  
*January 2026*

## Our Generous Doners

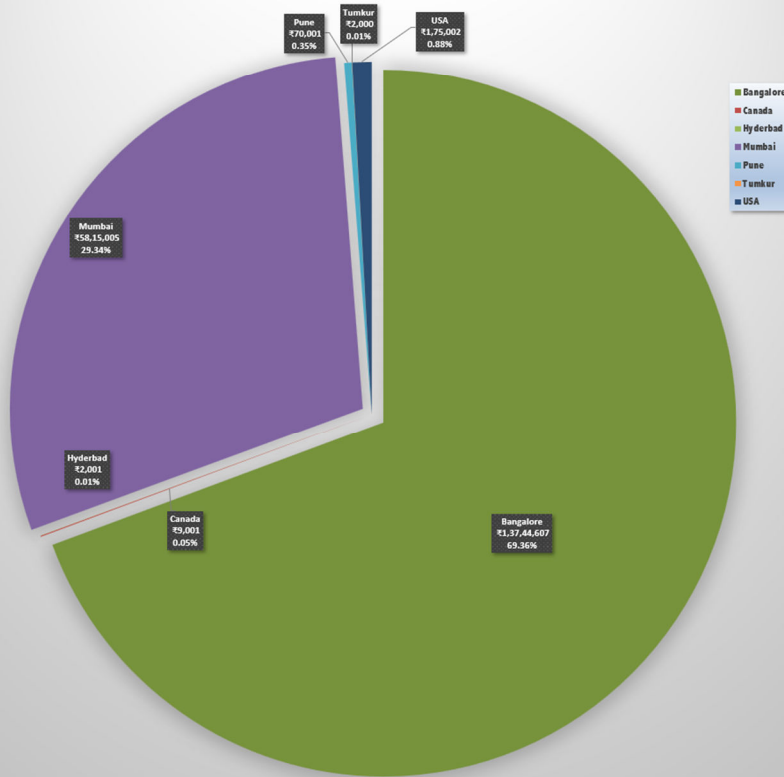
| Sl.No | Date        | Name                                                                                  | Amount    |
|-------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1     | 02-Apr-2025 | Mr. Zarir M. Bharucha                                                                 | 20,000    |
| 2     | 02-Apr-2025 | Mrs. Gool Rumi Gyara                                                                  | 10,000    |
| 3     | 05-Apr-2025 | Ms. Mehernaz Contractor                                                               | 15,000    |
| 4     | 07-Apr-2025 | Ms. Serah D. Langrana                                                                 | 10,001    |
| 5     | 05-May-2025 | Mrs. Rashna N. Mistry                                                                 | 30,000    |
| 6     | 25-Jun-2025 | Mr. Pervez F. Patel                                                                   | 11,000    |
| 7     | 14-Aug-2025 | Ervad Fardoon D. Karkaria                                                             | 5,001     |
| 8     | 14-Aug-2025 | Mrs. Dilnawaz F. Karkaria                                                             | 5,001     |
| 9     | 14-Aug-2025 | Mr. Zarvaan F. Karkaria                                                               | 5,001     |
| 10    | 29-Oct-2025 | Dr. Kashmin & Er. Adil J. Govadia • In memory of Bai Najan and Er Jehangir J. Govadia | 50,000    |
| 11    | 29-Oct-2025 | Er. Edul A. Govadia • In memory of Bai Armaity and Seth Jamshed D. Commessariat       | 25,000    |
| 12    | 29-Oct-2025 | Er. Cyrus A. Govadia • In memory of Bai Mani and Seth Tehemton M. Babaycon            | 25,000    |
| 13    | 06-Nov-2025 | Minority Commission                                                                   | 90,00,000 |
| 14    | 01-Dec-2025 | Mr. Cyrus Aspi Nariman                                                                | 1,00,001  |
| 15    | 02-Dec-2025 | Mrs. Parveen Adil Jassawala                                                           | 2,50,001  |
| 16    | 02-Dec-2025 | Mr. Adil Jal Jassawala                                                                | 2,50,001  |
| 17    | 02-Dec-2025 | Mr. Ariez Adil Jassawala                                                              | 10,001    |
| 18    | 02-Dec-2025 | Mrs. Rushne Jamshed Antia                                                             | 5,000     |
| 19    | 11-Dec-2025 | Mr. Yezdi F. Unvala • In memory of Faram, Dhun, Nauzer and Yezdi Unvala               | 1,00,000  |
| 20    | 12-Dec-2025 | Mr. Cyrus Sarosh Lalkaka                                                              | 11,000    |
| 21    | 16-Dec-2025 | Ms. Ashrafi Cawasji                                                                   | 5,000     |
| 22    | 17-Dec-2025 | Tata Sons Private Limited                                                             | 50,00,000 |
| 23    | 18-Dec-2025 | Ms. Scheherazade P. Bharda                                                            | 10,000    |
| 24    | 18-Dec-2025 | Mr. & Mrs. Phiroze & Freny B. Bharda                                                  | 10,000    |
| 25    | 18-Dec-2025 | Ms. Makki B. Bharda                                                                   | 7,000     |
| 26    | 18-Dec-2025 | Mr. Behram A. Patel                                                                   | 3,000     |
| 27    | 20-Dec-2025 | Mr. Dinshaw Cawasji • In Memory of late D. Cawasji                                    | 1,09,864  |
| 28    | 23-Dec-2025 | Mr. Adi J. Unwalla                                                                    | 10,001    |
| 29    | 23-Dec-2025 | Mr. & Mrs. Homi & Zarine Nariman                                                      | 10,001    |
| 30    | 31-Dec-2025 | Ms. Ratti K. Arsivala                                                                 | 5,000     |
| 31    | 01-Jan-2026 | Mrs. Gool Rumi Gyara                                                                  | 10,000    |
| 32    | 02-Jan-2026 | Ms. Tinaz Chinoy                                                                      | 5,000     |
| 33    | 07-Jan-2026 | Mr. & Mrs. Piroja & Daraius Mehta & Family                                            | 2,00,000  |
| 34    | 07-Jan-2026 | Kanekal Nettakallappa Foundation                                                      | 50,000    |
| 35    | 07-Jan-2026 | Lakshmamma Ramachandraswamy Charities                                                 | 50,000    |

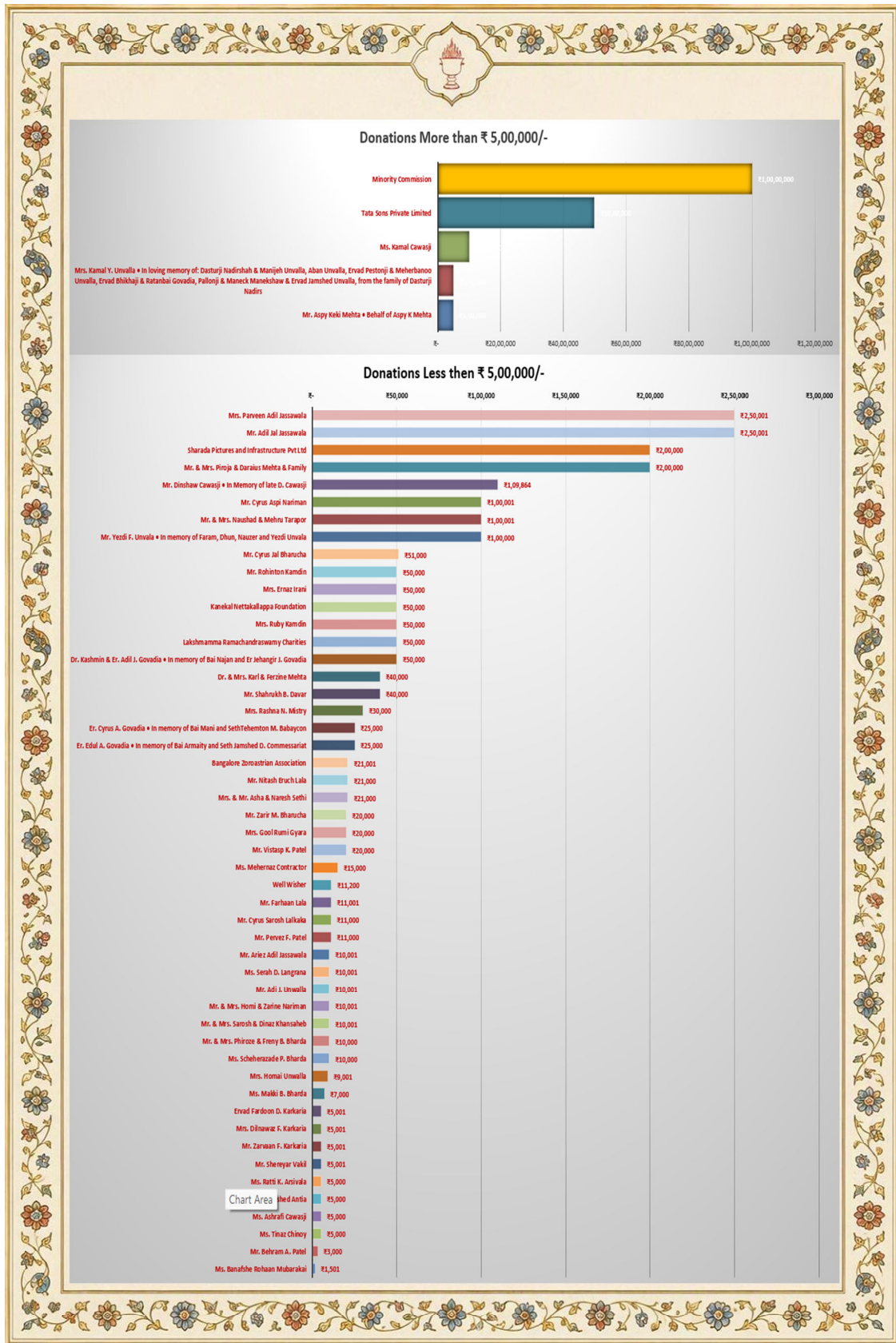
|    |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 36                                                                                   | 08-Jan-2026 | Late Nadirshah Unvalla Family - In Memory of:<br>Dasturji Nadirshah & Manijeh Unvalla, Aban<br>Unvalla, Ervad Pestonji & Meherbanoo Unvalla,<br>Ervad Bhikhaji & Ratanbai Govadia, Pallonji &<br>Manek Manekshaw & Ervad Jamshed Unvalla | 5,00,101  |
| 37                                                                                   | 08-Jan-2026 | Mr. & Mrs. Naushad & Mehru Tarapor                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1,00,001  |
| 38                                                                                   | 08-Jan-2026 | Mrs. Homai Unwalla                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 9,001     |
| 39                                                                                   | 14-Jan-2026 | Dr. & Mrs. Karl & Ferzine Mehta                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 40,000    |
| 40                                                                                   | 14-Jan-2026 | Bangalore Zoroastrian Association                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 21,001    |
| 41                                                                                   | 16-Jan-2026 | Mrs. Ruby Kamdin                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 50,000    |
| 42                                                                                   | 16-Jan-2026 | Mr. Rohinton Kamdin                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 50,000    |
| 43                                                                                   | 16-Jan-2026 | Mr. Vistasp K. Patel                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 20,000    |
| 44                                                                                   | 16-Jan-2026 | Mr. & Mrs. Sarosh & Dinaz Khansaheb                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 10,001    |
| 45                                                                                   | 23-Jan-2026 | Sharada Pictures and Infrastructure Pvt Ltd                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2,00,000  |
| 46                                                                                   | 02-Feb-2026 | Minority Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 10,00,000 |
| 47                                                                                   | 06-Feb-2026 | Ms. Banafshe Rohaan Mubarakai                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 1,501     |
| 48                                                                                   | 08-Feb-2026 | Well Wisher                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 11,200    |
| 49                                                                                   | 23-Feb-2026 | Mrs. & Mr. Asha & Naresh Sethi                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 21,000    |
| 50                                                                                   | 16-Mar-2026 | Ms. Kamal Cawasji                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 10,00,000 |
| 51                                                                                   | 16-Mar-2026 | Mr. Cyrus Jal Bharucha                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 51,000    |
| 52                                                                                   | 23-Mar-2026 | Mr. Nitash Eruch Lala                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 21,000    |
| 53                                                                                   | 23-Mar-2026 | Mr. Farhaan Lala                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 11,001    |
| 54                                                                                   | 14-Apr-2026 | Mrs. Ernaz Irani                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 50,000    |
| 55                                                                                   | 18-Jun-2026 | Mr. Aspy Keki Mehta - Behalf of Aspy K. Mehta                                                                                                                                                                                            | 5,00,000  |
| 56                                                                                   | 18-Jun-2026 | Mr. Shahrukh B. Davar                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 40,000    |
| 57                                                                                   | 24-Aug-2026 | Mr. Shereyar Vakil                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 5,001     |
|  |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |

## Donations of BPZA Members and Non Members



## Donations by Location





## Cost of Renovations

| WORK                                  | Amount             | GST              | TOTAL              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>⇒ Ceiling</b>                      | <b>4,49,353</b>    | <b>30,873</b>    | <b>4,80,226</b>    |
| False Ceiling                         | 4,49,353           | 30,873           | 4,80,226           |
| <b>⇒ Décor</b>                        | <b>4,85,569</b>    | <b>9,861</b>     | <b>4,95,430</b>    |
| CNC Engraving                         | 1,47,789           | 4,500            | 1,52,289           |
| Frames                                | 2,46,700           | 0                | 2,46,700           |
| Statues                               | 30,200             | 0                | 30,200             |
| Toran                                 | 31,100             | 0                | 31,100             |
| Windows                               | 29,780             | 5,361            | 35,141             |
| <b>⇒ Electrical</b>                   | <b>14,17,175</b>   | <b>2,55,092</b>  | <b>16,72,267</b>   |
| Repairs                               | 14,17,175          | 2,55,092         | 16,72,267          |
| <b>⇒ Fees</b>                         | <b>7,81,726</b>    | <b>1,40,711</b>  | <b>9,22,437</b>    |
| Architect Fees                        | 6,50,000           | 1,17,000         | 7,67,000           |
| Inspection Fees                       | 1,06,726           | 19,211           | 1,25,937           |
| Land Survey Fees                      | 25,000             | 4,500            | 29,500             |
| <b>⇒ Fittings</b>                     | <b>8,850</b>       | <b>1,593</b>     | <b>10,443</b>      |
| Chain Pulley                          | 8,850              | 1,593            | 10,443             |
| <b>⇒ Flooring</b>                     | <b>1,01,33,583</b> | <b>18,24,045</b> | <b>1,19,57,628</b> |
| Filling                               | 5,21,834           | 93,930           | 6,15,764           |
| French Drain                          | 3,18,172           | 57,271           | 3,75,443           |
| Marble & Granite (Laying)             | 32,35,891          | 5,82,460         | 38,18,351          |
| Marble & Granite (Material)           | 57,39,162          | 10,33,048        | 67,72,210          |
| Protective stone treatment (Labour)   | 60,000             | 10,800           | 70,800             |
| Protective stone treatment (Material) | 74,800             | 13,464           | 88,264             |
| Removal                               | 1,83,724           | 33,072           | 2,16,796           |
| <b>⇒ Furnishings</b>                  | <b>26,400</b>      | <b>926</b>       | <b>27,326</b>      |
| Carpets and Curtains                  | 18,500             | 926              | 19,426             |
| Cushions                              | 7,900              | 0                | 7,900              |
| <b>⇒ Light and Fan Fittings</b>       | <b>7,97,315</b>    | <b>1,43,516</b>  | <b>9,40,831</b>    |
| Fans - Ceiling Fans                   | 49,958             | 8,992            | 58,950             |
| Lights - Internal/ External           | 7,47,357           | 1,34,524         | 8,81,881           |
| <b>⇒ Louvered Openings</b>            | <b>48,000</b>      | <b>8,640</b>     | <b>56,640</b>      |
| Windows                               | 48,000             | 8,640            | 56,640             |
| <b>⇒ Plumbing</b>                     | <b>8,53,819</b>    | <b>1,53,686</b>  | <b>10,07,505</b>   |
| Consulting Engineering Fees           | 1,00,000           | 18,000           | 1,18,000           |
| Repairs                               | 7,53,819           | 1,35,686         | 8,89,505           |
| <b>⇒ Polishing</b>                    | <b>1,26,610</b>    | <b>0</b>         | <b>1,26,610</b>    |
| Handles, rods and prayer items        | 1,26,610           | 0                | 1,26,610           |
| <b>⇒ Restoration</b>                  | <b>90,25,111</b>   | <b>18,18,531</b> | <b>1,08,43,642</b> |
| Civil                                 | 90,25,111          | 18,18,531        | 1,08,43,642        |
| <b>⇒ Structural Work</b>              | <b>8,61,879</b>    | <b>1,55,138</b>  | <b>10,17,017</b>   |
| Internal                              | 5,30,753           | 95,535           | 6,26,288           |
| Roof                                  | 48,600             | 8,748            | 57,348             |
| Walls                                 | 2,82,526           | 50,855           | 3,33,381           |
| <b>⇒ Ventilators</b>                  | <b>62,900</b>      | <b>11,322</b>    | <b>74,222</b>      |
| Repairs                               | 62,900             | 11,322           | 74,222             |
| <b>⇒ Waterproofing</b>                | <b>13,79,014</b>   | <b>2,48,223</b>  | <b>16,27,237</b>   |
| Internal                              | 1,27,637           | 22,975           | 1,50,612           |
| Roof                                  | 12,51,377          | 2,25,248         | 14,76,625          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                    | <b>2,64,57,304</b> | <b>48,02,157</b> | <b>3,12,59,461</b> |