



# GLOBAL COUNCIL OF ZOROASTRIANS TRUST (GCZT) & GLOBAL WORKING GROUP (GWG)



## NEWSLETTER – 2



The Mission of GCZT is to offer a platform to the Zoroastrian Community to come together and work together for the wellbeing and prosperity of the Parsi, Irani and Iranian Zoroastrian community worldwide.

Volume 2 - February 2025  
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**SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF GLOBAL COUNCIL OF ZOROASTRIANS TRUST (GCZT) AND GLOBAL WORKING GROUP (GWG) HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 (9.00 A.M TO 5.30 PM) AT THE WEST END HOTEL IN MUMBAI.**



**PRESENT**

GCZT SETTLORS, TRUSTEES, ADVISORS,  
GWG REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, VIP GUESTS & PRESS

**RECORDS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION**

The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's Report were presented at the Meeting:



Treasurer's Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2024, was read out by Trustee Sam Balsara.



Secretary's Report for the year ended 2024 was read out by Trustee Yazdi Tantra.

## CALL TO ORDER

- In accordance with provisions of Trust Neville Shroff was appointed the Chairman of the meeting.
- As the requisite quorum was present, the meeting was called to order.
- Meher Bhesania Trustee GCZT delivered the welcome address and moderated the meeting.

## BENEDICTION

- Er. Dr. Bujorji Antia, Settlor, Trustee and Erstwhile Chairman of GCZT delivered the benediction prayers.

## COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING

### *Message from Noshir Dadrawala, Advisor GCZT*



**Noshir Dadrawala**



### ***‘Imperatives of giving to the community’.***

Noshir Dadrawala, Advisor GCZT, one of the foremost consultants on Legal Compliance for nonprofits and Corporate Social Responsibility spoke on the ***‘Imperatives of giving to the community’***. He said there are islands of prosperity in the community in a sea of middle class and poor Parsis. Therefore, the question arises - are we giving enough and if not why? We need to give wisely and uplift the community. This can be done by using the 3 T’s - giving of your time, talent and your treasure of wealth, that will provide a range of benefits including increased happiness and well-being, a sense of purpose, stronger community ties, personal growth, and the positive impact of alleviating the suffering for those in need. Essentially, giving back to the community can contribute to a more fulfilling life for the giver as well as the recipient.



## CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH



**Neville Shroff**, Chairman GCZT thanked the Settlers, Trustees, Advisors, Regional Representatives, Committee Members, VIP guests and those who joined the meeting via zoom.

He said “We at GCZT are driven by our dedication to enhancing the wellbeing of individuals in our community who require assistance, creating a better and brighter future for all. The challenges that lie before us are significant, but it is said that opportunity do not happen you create them.

It is crucial that we harness our collective strengths to address these challenges head-on, to make a meaningful difference to those in need. We are here because we believe in the power of unity and collaboration. We are here because we understand that by working together in harmony, we can achieve much more than we could ever accomplish individually.

It is important to recognize that the Global Working Group is now in its 16th year and encompasses ten regions across the globe. This milestone is a testament to our resilience and commitment to our shared mission. We request that all Regional Heads be responsible to promote GWG/GCZT in their regions to ensure a wider audience, and they are aware of GCZT's presence as a benevolent organisation.

The mission of GCZT Trust is to confront pressing global challenges and enhance the lives of individuals and communities in need, responding to immediate needs; it is all about creating sustainable solutions that empower individuals and uplift the community.

GCZT has outlined its strategic objectives, that will guide our work in the coming years.

These objectives are not merely aspirational; they are actionable goals and an informative film outlining the five critical areas – Health and wellness, Support to the poor and needy, Empowering Mobeds, Empowering youth and Community Matters has been produced this year by Meher Bhesania courtesy GWG Arts and Heritage Committee.

### **Health & Wellness Initiative:**

Health is a fundamental human right, and we must prioritize the well-being of our community members. Our healthcare initiatives will focus on:

**Upgrading Healthcare Facilities** where we hope to upgrade the Parsee General Hospital (PGH) to meet world-class standards. This includes enhancing medical facilities, expanding services, and ensuring that our community has access to high-quality healthcare. Under the guidance of Dr. Mrs. Rati Godrej, we have provided PGH with several priority initiatives.

Health Insurance Policies is another area where we are working to provide affordable health care insurance options to our community members, ensuring that everyone has access to essential medical care. We will develop public health awareness campaigns and programs that educate individuals about health issues, preventative measures, and available resources.

The Healthcare Committee comprising Dr. Mrs. Rati Godrej and Homi Katgara will oversee initiatives related to healthcare and well-being, ensuring that our community members have access to necessary resources and support.

### **Empowering Youth Initiative:**

Empowering the next generation is paramount. Our youth represent the future of our community, and it is our responsibility to equip them with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities they need to thrive on.

We hope to develop programs and initiatives that foster youth leadership, encourage innovation, promote civic engagement and be responsible for the future and our survival.

We will establish training programs that equip individuals with marketable skills, enhancing their employability and economic prospects. By promoting entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency, we can empower individuals to create sustainable livelihoods.

Our initiatives will focus on providing educational support to children and youth. We shall endeavour to establish scholarship programs to support deserving students in pursuing their educational aspirations. By alleviating the financial burden of education, we can empower the students to reach their full potential. A strong education will lead our community out of financial dependence and provide a respectable lifestyle.

We hope to implement mentorship programs that connect youth with experienced professionals in various fields. By fostering these relationships, we can provide guidance, support, and networking opportunities that will benefit our youth as they navigate their educational and career paths.

The Youth Empowering Committee comprising Homiyar Madan, Arzan Wadia and Dorab Mistry will work to inspire and engage our youth in community, building efforts, fostering a sense of responsibility and connection to our heritage.

### **Empowering Mobeds Initiative**

Preservation of our faith through the enhancement of our Mobeds is vital. Supporting the education and sustainable development of our priests is crucial for the continuity of our religion.

We recognize that the spiritual well-being of our community is intricately linked to the health and vitality of our clergy. The Empowering Mobeds Committee comprising Noshir Dadrawala and Adi Jehangir will work in this area.

### **Help to the Poor and Needy Initiative:**

Addressing economic disparities within our community is vital for fostering sustainability and resilience. Our economic empowerment initiatives will focus on:

**Poverty Alleviation Programs** and we shall implement programs to address poverty, providing vocational training, supporting microfinance initiatives, and offering livelihood support to those in need.

The help to the poor and needy Committee comprising Dinshaw Tamboly will work in this area...

### **Community Matters Initiative**

Declining demographics has always been a worrying factor.

Regional representatives will take part in this exercise and provide statistics in the manner required by the Demographic Committee to arrive at a total count of our population worldwide.

**The Cultural Preservation Committee** will focus on initiatives aimed at preserving our heritage and culture, promoting awareness and appreciation among community members.

## Conclusion

- Most importantly we will need to **raise funds** which is always an arduous task and hence request each and every one of you here today to please use your connections to assist and make this happen for the greater good of our global community.
- Every region will have to raise contribution from their side and support GCZT, especially in India as the trust is registered in Mumbai.
- All the Advisors will have to play a meaningful role to ensure that progress takes place in their respective areas.
- We will actively seek opportunities to engage with like-minded individuals, organizations, businesses, and institutions that share our vision and values. Together, we can amplify our impact and effect lasting change.

Let's embark on this journey, with integrity remaining at the forefront of our efforts as we are committed to upholding high ethical standards in every project we undertake. Transparency and accountability are essential to building trust within our community and ensuring that our initiatives align with our core values. Let's work with respect, and teamwork to build a sustainable future. The challenges we face as a community are significant, but our collective strength and commitment to one another will guide us as we navigate the path ahead. Thank you all for being here and May God bless you!



## Message from Dr. Burjor H. Antia, Erstwhile Chairman of GCZT



**Dr. Burjor H Antia**



### REPORT ON GCZT

Dr. Burjorji Antia, Settlor, Trustee and erstwhile Chairman of GCZT delivered a sterling speech covering the important features of the Trust created preferentially for the benefit and betterment / upliftment of PARSI / IRANI ZOROASTRIAN COMMUNITY WORLDWIDE INCLUDING INDIA and provides means to make the Parsi / Irani and Iranian Zoroastrian community strong and prosperous worldwide; for strengthening various segments of the community and thereafter for all other persons irrespective of class, creed and community and for advancement of similar objects of general and social welfare.

The focus of the activities of the Trust shall always be of a Socio-Economic nature. He mentioned names of the Settlers, Trustees and Advisors. At present, the Trust Corpus is around Rs. 1 crore 31 Lakhs, out of which Rs.1 crore 20 Lakhs have been equally invested in Fixed Deposit with Zoroastrian Co- operative Bank Limited and HDFC Bank.

A few issues have been identified, and respective Advisors will work in these areas as mentioned below:

**Support to the Poor and Aged** - Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly

**Empowering Youth** - Mr. Homiyar Madan, Mr. Dorab Mistry, and Mr. Arzan Wadia

**Health** – Mr. Homi Katgara and Dr. (Mrs) Rati Godrej

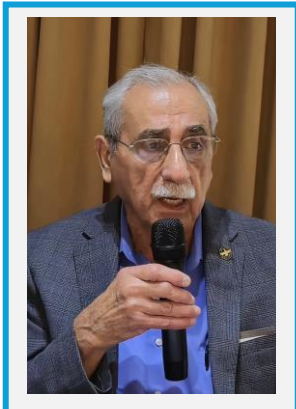
**Mobeds and Agiyaries** - Mr. Adi Jehangir & Mr. Noshir Dadrawala

The Trustees have also presented the above projects to the Trustees of J.J. Charities Fund, and they have sanctioned a sum of Rs.1 crore for the same to be paid by equal yearly instalment of Rs.20,00,000/- per year during next 5 years.

Trustees and Advisors have planned to have a group Mediclaim Scheme for 3000 poor Parsi/Zoroastrians, and they are in negotiations with Viloo Poonawalla Foundation, Pune and other trusts.



## Message from Rohinton Rivetna, Trustee GCZT



Rohinton Rivetna



### **‘GCZT Beyond 2025’**

GCZT Trustee Rohinton Rivetna said “wherever you may be from across the globe, we are a one worldwide community without borders, and that is our strength. “

Since the formation of GCZT in November 2022, we have come together globally to work together for the wellbeing and prosperity of our community worldwide. Parochial thinking must change. Local to Global should be our motto.

Let’s set some goals to accomplish in the next 10 years:

- Reverse the demographics decline
- Elevate our Mobeds to be spiritual leaders of our community,
- Develop the ethic of collective giving -- Every household to subscribe a share of their wealth to the community. We can do it, ladies and gentlemen, if we set our hearts and minds to the challenge.

We are some 120,000 strong worldwide, according to Roshan Rivetna’s study, a few years ago. Half of us live outside the Indian subcontinent and Iran. In togetherness is our strength, let us get that imprinted in our minds. The future ahead is exciting, let us make it bright, it is in your hands! A burgeoning set of youth organizations give us much hope.





## Message from the Treasurer - GCZT



Sam Balsara

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Bank Account under the name of GLOBAL COUNCIL of ZOROASTRIANS TRUST was opened in Feb 2023.

#### **FOR 22-23**

**Receipts:** Initial contributions: Rs. 131.00 lakhs,

**Interest:** Rs. 0.56 lakhs

**Balance: Rs. 131.56 lakhs**

#### **FOR 23-24**

**Receipts:** Interest: Rs. 7.62 lakhs

**Expenses:** Taxes, Prof. Fees, and Expenses: Rs. 3.45 lakhs

**Balance: Rs. 135.73 lakhs**

#### **FOR 24-25 (so far)**

**Receipts:** Interest Rs. 5.27 lakhs Donations: Rs. 1.10 lakhs

**Expenses:** Taxes, Prof. Fees and Expenses: Rs. 1.29 lakhs

**Balance: Rs. 140.81 lakhs**

## Message from the Secretary – GCZT



Yazdi Tantra

### SECRETARY' S REPORT

In this, my second year as Secretary of GCZT, I am extremely pleased to report a very successful and active year for the Trust.

Our Settlers and Trustees remain the same as earlier:

**Settlers:** Dr. Burjorji H. Antia, Dinshaw Tamboly and Kersy Bhesania

**Trustees:** Neville Shroff, Chairman, Dr. Burjorji Antia, Sam Balsara, Yazdi Tantra, Meherangish Bhesania and Rohinton Rivetna

**Regional Trustees** incorporated during the year – Viraf Mehta, Kayomarz Sidhwa and Malcolm Deboo

**Advisors** – Dr. Mrs. Rati Godrej, Homi Katgara, Dorab Mistry, Homiyar Madan, Adi Jehangir, Noshir Dadrawala and Arzan Wadia

#### Auditors

M/s. H N Sinor & Co – Chartered Accountants our current auditors are hereby reappointed as Auditors for the current period.

**Various Action Groups** have been formed based on the expertise of the eminent individuals who have volunteered to be a part of our Team which will be expanded by each of them separately.

We are grateful to our chairman, who has worked tirelessly to provide direction and maintained the Trust's relevance and effectiveness.

We look forward to a productive day ahead with insightful deliberations and evolution of specific action plans to take our Trust forward in achieving its objectives.

Yazdi Tantra  
**Secretary, GCZT**

## INDIA



**Viraf Mehta**

Viraf Mehta, Chairman, Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) took to the podium and highlighted BPP's contribution to the community. He said today BPP provides 4400 families a roof over their head in Mumbai and 22 colonies fall under their jurisdiction.

2024 was an eventful year. 500 individuals were given monetary help, 30 students were given scholarships for higher studies. The Trustees are in talks with developers to kick start projects at three Baug's namely – Bharucha, Godrej and Navajbai Contractor Baug at Mahim. They are also looking into the possibility of building an aviary to breed vultures. In the meantime, two pits have been built to put the '*rakhia*' for disposal in a proper manner. BPP have raised substantial amounts for Kathi fund to help the small agiyaries, and launched the Mediclaim Insurance Scheme for the Zoroastrians on voluntary basis with the help of Maneck Dastur of KM Dastur Reinsurance Brokers Pvt Ltd. In Mumbai. The scheme will offer lots of benefits to the community.

## U.K



**Dorab Mistry**

Senior Trustee ZTFE and Advisor GCZT, Dorab Mistry spoke eloquently on the steadfast commitments of ZTFE in the year 2024. Firstly, he said that ZTFE has come up with an excellent model for developing 'Scholar Priests' with blessings from Dasturji Kotwal who is now getting old. An endowment fund has been created to sponsor young priests from India to come and work as the Minister of Religion. Thereafter the priest shall be enrolled at SOAS to pursue his degree in MA or MPhil. Further, he was extremely proud to say that the 8<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Youth Congress hosted by ZTFE got sold out in just 7 hours and proposed that our dynamic youth should be kept within the GWG fold. With a view to improving mobility and networking he said ZTFE subsidizes taxi fare to seniors to attend the functions at the Z Club. This helps them to get out of the house and network. Mehraban Pouladi the high priest of Iran was invited to London and thereafter he travelled to India. "May his visit lay a strong foundation for Iran and India as India is a place rooted in rituals and Iran is where our history began. The publication of Tamam Khordeh Avesta was a success and this year books on Zoroastrian customs and traditions shall be published and distributed. He concluded on a hilarious note saying that "Nothing is complete without Zoroastrian festivities, and they are proud that since the past two years ZTFE is celebrating both the Shenshai Navroz as well as Jamshedi Navroz. One is a subsidized meal at the Zoroastrian Centre attended by 300-400 people and the other is an upmarket lunch or dinner at the Taj Saint James' Court." Malcolm Deboo, President ZTFE who could not make it to the event submitted his excellent report.

## NORTH AMERICA



Kayomarz Sidhwa



Arzan Wadia



A detailed report was sent by Kayomarz Sidhwa, President FEZANA who was unable to attend the GCZT AGM so Arzan Wadia the Past President of FEZANA touched upon the following points:

### 1. Leadership and Youth Engagement

- **ZYNA Leadership Retreat:** From February 16 to 19, 2024, the Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA) held their annual retreat at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E-Mehr in Vancouver, Canada. The event focused on community building and cultural engagement, leadership and team building for participants aged 15-35.

- **World Zoroastrian Youth Leaders Forum 2.0:** Between May 24 and June 2, 2024, the second edition of the World Zoroastrian Youth Leaders Forum was hosted at the ASHA Centre in Gloucestershire, England. This exclusive event brought together 25 dynamic young Zoroastrian leaders to collaborate and envision innovative projects for the community. Past FEZANA President Arzan Sam Wadia, Communications Chair Tanya Hoshi and ZSBC President Kayras Irani participated as mentors.

- **Zoroastrian Youth Camps** were held in Houston, San Jose, Toronto, Cincinnati, Southern California and many other places over the summer.

- **ZYNA East Coast 4 Dar-E-Mehr Bus Trip:** On Labour Day weekend, over 45 youth and young adults gathered in Washington D.C. for the start of the 4-day bus trip visiting 4 Dar-E-Mehrs and 5 associations along the East Coast of the US and up into Canada. The trip started from Kamran Dar-E-Mehr in Boyd, Maryland, made stops at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Dar-E-Mehr in New York and then visited the OZCF Atashkadeh and the Mehraban Guiv Dar-E-Mehrs in Toronto.

### 2. Educational Initiatives

- **Religion Lesson Plans:** In 2024, the FEZANA Religion Education Committee launched a comprehensive set of age-appropriate lesson plans covering topics such as prayers, ceremonies, the Gathas, and Zoroastrian history. This resource aims to support religion education teachers worldwide.

The REC website with a wealth of information can be found at <http://fezana.org/education>

**Zoroastrian Intergenerational Oral History Project:** The REC started a new series of podcasts and videos where young teens and adults interview older relatives and discuss their journeys from their homelands to North America. This allows for the recording of history in audio and video format. The entire series can be seen on the REC website

- **Audio Project: The Gāthās and Yasna Haptaṅhāiti:** To make Zoroastrian sacred texts more accessible, FEZANA introduced an audio-written collection of the Gāthās and Yasna Haptaṅhāiti in December 2024. This initiative allows individuals to engage with these hymns



## NORTH AMERICA REPORT CONTINUES...

### 3. Scholarships and Awards

- **FEZANA Scholarships:** The 2024 FEZANA awarded scholarships totalling \$95,000 to support Zoroastrian students in their academic pursuits.
- **North American Zarathushti Community Awards:** Nominations for the 2024 awards opened on June 1 and closed on July 30. The awards aim to recognize outstanding contributions within the community, with winners announced at the 18th North American Zoroastrian Congress.

### 4. Community Development and Philanthropy

- **Tirdad Lohrasb Welfare and Critical Assistance Endowment:** In December 2024, FEZANA established this endowment to provide financial assistance to individuals and families facing critical needs, ensuring the community's well-being.
- Two endowments in the names of **Khorshed and Phiroze Sethna** and **Najamai and Cavasji Pavri** were setup by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The first one shall provide funds for welfare and critical assistance. The second one provides scholarships for students.
- **Pledge for Four Program:** Launched on December 3, 2024, this initiative encourages members to commit to annual pledges over four years, supporting various FEZANA projects, including scholarships, infrastructure, and youth empowerment.

**FEZANA Unity and Welfare Committee**, to ensure that those in need receive timely and meaningful assistance here in the continent of USA or in India. Money is disbursed through the various Welfare Endowments Funds and the generosity of the Zarthushti community at large.

### 5. Cultural and Religious Celebrations

- **Nowruz Celebrations:** On March 19, 2024, Zoroastrians across North America celebrated Nowruz, marking the vernal equinox. FEZANA organized virtual concerts and community events to honor this significant occasion.
- **18th North American Zoroastrian Congress:** Held from December 29, 2024, to January 1, 2025, in Houston, Texas, the congress centered on the theme "Generation Z: Propelling Zarathushti Resurgence." The event featured over 60 speakers and attracted more than 725 attendees, with a notable 40% under the age of 40.
- All the **Gahambars, Jashn-E-Sadeh, Yalda** and many other cultural festivals are celebrated at our various Dar-E-Mehrs all around the year.

### 6. Commemorations

- **In Memoriam: Bapsi Sidhwa:** FEZANA mourned the passing of renowned author Bapsi Sidhwa on December 25, 2024, in Houston, Texas. Her contributions to literature and the Zoroastrian community were honored and remembered.



## AUSTRALIA



**Firoz Pestonji**



**Farida Irani**



Firoz Pestonji and his wife Maharukh came all the way from Perth to participate in the GCZT and GWG AGMs at the West End Hotel whereas Farida Irani joined the meeting via zoom from Sydney.

Firoz said that the young community of Zoroastrians in the Oceanic Region continues to ensure that their presence is noticed by the locals and a sizeable number of entrepreneurs keep the traditional Parsi ethos of owning their own business, strong here too.

Most Zoroastrian are settled in the major cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide, Auckland & Christchurch etc.

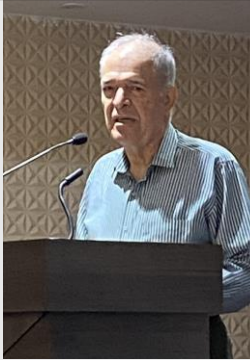
Here are some more noteworthy points:

- 1 - Sydney AZA had a new committee elected a few weeks ago and all seats were filled out. They are an active group and the oldest in the Oceanic region.
- 2 - Sydney, Melbourne & Perth continue their regular religious classes for children, seniors' meetings on Sundays & other activities for general members regularly at their community level.
- 3 - Zoroastrians in Adelaide are being cajoled to form formal association, but they are still thinking about it.
- 4 - Brisbane has a sizeable community but no formal association, they are happy to stay the way they are, for now.
- 5 - In Perth BAWAZ hold their Getting out of Perth Picnics and rural visits, speaker sessions and assisting new migrants settle down with local guidance and assistance. ZAWA also has an active role in keeping members together and keeping the cultural and sports groups strong along with regular meets.
- 6 - Bawaz also continue to distribute the Yearly calendars to the Shahen Shahi, Kadmi and Fasli groups in the Oceanic region in Brisbane, Adelaide, Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, groups in Perth and posting the same to Hong Kong and Singapore, for the last two years. These are forwarded to us through Zoroastrian Studies in Mumbai and printed thanks to donors from USA
- 7 - Regular Mukta prayers are held each year in Perth and Sydney for over a decade now
- 8 - Auckland has a prayer room operated by the Salori family and is a central focal point for local Zoroastrians. They have their regular outings and Auspicious day functions regularly. They tried to organise a Youth camp last year but could not generate numbers and had to postpone the same.
- 9 - Perth & Melbourne are still in hopes of having their own community centre in future.

Farida Irani said that Jashans and other events keep bringing the community together in Sydney. Many appeals of help are received by them throughout the year, and they extend as much help as they can. She mentioned that Mobeds need to be respected, and they are looking into setting up of a Mobed's fund.



## IRAN



**Khodayar Attaie**

Everyone in the audience was elated to see Khodayar Attaie from Tehran. The first thing he said is - that the Dharamshala in Tehran which was once the favourite place for newcomers to stay now stands in dilapidated condition. He requested if some donors could come forward and help restore the building. Further he supported the remarks made by Mr. Percy Master, Global President WZCC that our youth should think before leaving the country. Iran also faces a similar situation as several youth from Iran have migrated overseas. He dispelled the myth that there is discrimination against Zarathushtis in Iran and clarified that all religions are respected equally. There is also a Zarathushti Member in the Parliament in Iran. Infact, the country advocates that all Zoroastrians should know the 'Avesta' and have a deeper understanding of their religion. Another point which he refuted was that people don't get jobs in Iran but mentioned that his son is a medical engineer and is doing extremely well. On a concluding note, he reiterated that there is immense scope in one's own country if one sees and it is not necessary that you prosper only if you go abroad.

## Pakistan



**Dinshaw Avari**

Dinshaw Avari, the GWG Representative from Pakistan joined the meeting via zoom. He requested that his report be presented which reads as follows: "The 155 years old Wadia Dar-e-Mehr operates with three mobeds 365 days a year. There are only four Nussesalars for the Anjuman Dokhma in Karachi. Slowly age and health are creeping up with them, making only three functioning Nassesalars today. All living, salary, full health and medical, maintenance, leave fare, etc expenses are incurred by the Karachi Anjuman. Their request is to help source two additional Mobeds (preferably single) and two Nassrsalars for the Community in Karachi. Long term contracts and one-year contracts are possible.

The report further stated that out of 750 Zoroastrians left in Pakistan, a small number of Zaarthushtis wish to visit our sacred Atash Behrams in Mumbai, Udvada, Navsari and Surat. However, the conditions to apply for VisitorVisa category is so prohibitive that it deters mostly all, chief problem being lack of sponsor in India. One of the categories available is "Pilgrim" visas for Pakistani Zoroastrians. If a relaxation for Pakistan Zarathushtis can be made to apply on individual basis and if the Indian sponsoring organizations for this category can be the Anjumans under which the Atash Behrams operate that will greatly facilitate Zoroastrian pilgrimages to India. I contacted the Minority representative in New Delhi but unfortunately with no success."

## UAE



**Meher Bhesania**



Meher Bhesania GCZT Trustee and Regional Representative of GWG from GCC region shared the good news that a special committee comprising one eminent person from each of the five GCC regions - Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE is in place. The purpose of forming this special committee is to spread the awareness of GWG and bring the community together and work unitedly to achieve progress.

The total population of Zoroastrians in GCC region is around 1700 members. Dubai as you know is progressing at a non-stoppable speed so in 2040 Dubai will be the best city to live in. The golden visa for 10 years and no income tax are two attractive features to settle down in UAE.

In our efforts to promote the objectives of GCZT a new film has been produced by the GWG Arts and Culture Committee which offers a strategic solution to futuristic activities the trust will undertake.



**GLOBAL WORKING GROUP IS SPREAD IN 10 REGIONS WORLDWIDE AS FOLLOWS:  
INDIA, NORTH AMERICA, IRAN, UK & EUROPE, AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, PAKISTAN,  
SINGAPORE, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND.**







## THE WORLD ZARATHUSHTI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Percy Master the Global President of WZCC shed light on the progress made by WZCC in the year 2024.



Percy Master

He said – with a view to sustain all-inclusive progress WZCC decided to implement a strategic plan in the year 2022. The main thrust areas where WZCC will concentrate in the years to come will be as follows:

1. To promote intellectual, economic and social values.
2. Youth to the fore.
3. Women Empowerment
4. Chapter development and membership
5. Empowering entrepreneurs and professional
6. Community and outreach
7. Networking

**The first area of concentration was Thrust 1 – to promote intellectual economic and social values.** Good education will lead our youth to become good professionals and entrepreneurs. Once they succeed, they will develop the philanthropic spirit of Zoroastrianism.

**The second area of our thrust is to promote youth as much as we can.** More power to the youth is our slogan since 2022, We would be failing in our duty if we do not promote youth to succeed. Our numbers are dwindling fast. We must remember that our roots are in India and this is our motherland. Our forefathers created reputable business houses, hospitals, educational institutions, residential colonies and several trusts to look after the wellbeing of our community. If we do not preserve these facilities in India, we will not be able to maintain our 8 Atash Behram's and over 100 odd fire temples which they have so diligently built. In fact, the Iranshah fire is situated in Udwada in India. We must therefore create facilities that will encourage our youth to remain in India, consolidate and prosper. This can be done if we have the will to do so. The Government of India has restarted the Jio Parsi scheme but more needs to be done by us for the community to multiply rapidly. One game changer facility which WZCC provides is startup finance to young entrepreneurs and professionals. We have financed 18 such startups, who have been successful and Twenty-five Lakhs interest free finance for a period of 3 years, plus 6 months as moratorium. The corpus created for this funding is on a rotational basis. Several of the recipients have returned the money before time to enable us to give finance to other startups. A similar fund is now being created in North America in collaboration with FEZANA, known as ZEDF, *Zarathushti Entrepreneurship Development Foundation*. This facility gives USD 50000 interest free with similar conditions. We have financed 5-6 startups which are also doing well. Due to the excess funds available with ZEDF, education scholarships are also being given up to USD 15000.



**Another initiative which WZCC has taken is to develop extensive networking outside our community by engaging with multiple chambers of commerce worldwide.** WZCC, has become a member of the ICC, International Chamber of Commerce, where we have 245 chambers with 1.45 million members, a networking beyond compare. According to me you can promote your business worldwide.

**To encourage and give experience to our youth we have a monthly spotlight** which we conduct WZCC- under Farrokh Mistree and Karishma Koka, where successful entrepreneurs and professionals are interviewed and moderated to give their experience and their successes stories. This spotlight gives a lot of knowledge to our youngsters.

**Besides this we conduct several webinars on different topics.** We have also created a Youth Network by selecting a Youth from each of the 14 chapters and formed a group which will concentrate on the development of youth in their jurisdiction. Further we have tied up with FEZANA's youth and social media platforms to create a synergy between our youngsters. We are in the process of developing a Youth Network by collaborating with various youth organizations to make a combined effort to promote youth by having webinars of several successful youths so that these successful events can be held by the youth, for the youth. We are sure this global youth network will promote friendship, exchange of ideas, learning experiences and above all good fellowship for the future generation to interact and marry within the community.

**We also have a quarterly newsletter which promotes activities of WZCC globally.** This newsletter is widely circulated on social media and other apps. You can login to our website – [wzcc.org](http://wzcc.org) which can also be operated also on your mobile phones.

**We have several schemes; the budding youth program gives free membership between the ages of 15-18 years.**

I wish to thank all International Board Directors, Chapter Chairs and Region Chairpersons for their co-operation throughout the year. I also recognize the efforts put in by the Central Administrative office at Mumbai for their continued effort in meeting all statutory requirements. Success only comes with Team effort.

**To potential entrepreneurs** – I say, Entrepreneurship is living a few years of your life like most people won't, so that you can spend the rest of your life like most people can't.

**To professionals** – I say, Professional is not a label you give yourself. It's a description, you hope others will apply to you.

The good human relations not only bring great personal rewards but are essential to the success of any enterprise.



**Farrokh Rustomji**



## **EDUCATION**

### **Farrokh Rustomji**

The CEO of RD Setha Trust, Farrokh Rustomji spoke on the benefits of educational scholarships offered to thousands of students by the R.D.Sethna Trust over the years as one of the topmost agencies funding education. R.D. Sethna had a dream that we should all strive to build a better India. Last year the Trust collaborated with two universities – Technical University of Denmark and one more University in France. He thanked WZCC-ZFN, Farokh Mistree and his team for empowering Zoroastrian youth.



**Tehemton Mirza**



## **NORTH AMERICAN MOBEDS COUNCIL**

GCZT Trustee, Rohinton Rivetna spoke on behalf of Mobed Tehemton Mirza who could not attend the AGM. He said that the North American Mobeds Council is also experiencing a severe shortage of Mobeds as our senior Mobeds in North America who served the community exceedingly well are coming of age. We do have several young Mobeds but they are engaged in their own professions so that is our dilemma. We are trying to do several things to overcome this situation but nothing concrete has happened and we hope that we can come up with a solution globally to address this problem.

The North American Mobeds Council is also engaged in giving courses under the Institute of Zoroastrian Studies. They publicize them from time to time so anyone can participate from any place in the world. Usually, five Saturday's courses are available and delivered by specialists from around the world.





**Behram Pastakia**

## FEZANA UN NGO

Dr. Behram Pastakia from Washington DC and GWG Committee Members thanked the organizers for giving him an opportunity to speak at the AGM on the work done by the UN NGO committee at FEZANA. His first question to the audience was - why should we be participating in the UN? I would like to summarize that if we lead a happy healthy and prosperous life then we are leading a Zarathushti life in consonance with the Gathas. The United Nations provides us a forum where we can live that life. The items mentioned by the Keynote speaker, hunger, poverty, ignorance are all manifestations of druj. The 17 Sustainable Developmental Goals of the UN address these issues. He then drew the attention of participants on the exhibit of Cyrus the Great that resonates all over the world. Anyone from anywhere can access the exhibit as FEZANA has a small model. They can send it to any individual in the world to download and print it and to take it to their local society. Cyrus the great was the first to introduce Persian Gardens at Pasargade in Iran. Interestingly at the 18th North American Congress in Houston in December 2024, showed the Visions of Paradise. These Persian Garden designs have impacted gardens all over Europe and Spain and down to the Mogul Gardens in India. That's a legacy for us to cherish. The idea of freedom, of justice, and equality, from Ancient Iran were incorporated by the Founding Fathers of the US constitution, Thomas Jefferson et al who read the Cyropaedia and understood the value of this thinking. The Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah, looks up to Cyrus the Great as a revered figure. It was the Achaemenians, Cyrus the Great and his successor Darius the Great who helped the Jews rebuild their temple in Jerusalem, after they were freed from captivity in Babylon. He also spoke on Women's Empowerment project and explained how anyone can apply and be a part of this project. This year in March 2025 they are going to have two abstracts accepted for presentation at the UN.



Cyrus the Great Exhibit at the Washington Hebrew Congregation, Embassy Row, Washington DC on 8 Sep. 2024, with members from the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Inc .

Last thing, he talked about was the Ava project. He thanked Delzin Choksey, from Northern California, the author of children's books, and a digital artist, for designing the above exhibit which captures the plan for the Ava Project, which will come due in 2023. He thanked Roshan Rivetna for giving three watch words – inspire, educate and build community as a guide when he took charge of the Publications Committee of FEZANA. He ended by saying that anyone can participate in UN at 3 levels You don't have to be an NGO. Collaboration between member states of the UN (e.g. Governments of India, Australia, Pakistan, UAE, Hongkong, Singapore, New Zealand, Canada, wherever Zarathushtis live) could partner with likeminded businesses and NGOs to present at the United Nations. For example, there is an upcoming Oceans Conference in Nice, France in the summer of 2025.



## Film on GCZT by Meher Bhesania

Meher Bhesania, Trustee GCZT said that the Arts and Culture Committee of GCZT has been producing wonderful films from time to time to promote GWG and GCZT. Last year the Committee developed the GCZT website which has a plethora of information. She thanked Yazdi Tantra's company for providing technical support and maintenance of this website.

This year the Committee produced a special film which provides futuristic vision on GCZT containing the 5 verticals. The film was developed at the Mazda Studios in Mumbai and then reedited by Hanoz Navdar, a well-known young film Editor in Dubai. The film was shown at the North American Congress in Houston in December 2024. It has been presented to various trusts in Mumbai and is being formally launched today. This film is of 4.30 minutes and contains the blueprint of GCZT's 5 goals that will be pursued starting this year to help our community members prosper.



# VIP GUEST SPEAKERS



Nadir Godrej being felicitated by Neville Shroff who spoke on:  
**“How Z Organisations should come together to support GCZT”**

[Hear More](#)



Senior Council Darius Khambata spoke on:  
**“Happiness to those who give happiness to others. What we need to do as a community”**

[Hear More](#)



Piruz Khambatta Rasna Group spoke on :  
**“Support to Building and Strengthening Z Community”**

[Hear More](#)



Dr. Keki Turel spoke on:  
**“Illnesses in the Z Community and how should GCZT be prepared”**

[Hear More](#)



The latest development by GCZT is the development of Zfunds portal conceptualized for the benefit of both givers and takers in our community in India.

GCZT Trustee and Tech Guru Yazdi Tantra has developed this portal. Whilst outlining the benefits of this portal Yazdi said - “We often have Parsis in need, who seek assistance from a variety of Trusts available in the community. Unfortunately, the needy rarely have knowledge of, or access to, all the Trusts who are willing and able to give assistance. Besides, it is a tedious task to physically visit and fill up various forms and attachments for each of the Trusts. This is especially true of those in need of immediate medical assistance in critical cases. On the other hand, there are many Trusts who are willing and able to aid, but do not have genuine takers from the community. Many a times, their annual disbursement targets remain unutilized.”

**Zfunds.org**, is a single portal where all Trusts will register one time and make themselves available to the disadvantaged for both educational and medical needs. The beneficiaries are required to register only once on the portal – giving their basic contact details, the details of their needs, along with supporting documentation, etc. Once they register, their application will be visible to all the Trusts, who can independently decide (based on the information provided) how much they would like to sanction for each of the cases. The total sanctioned amount will be visible to all the other Trusts, who can further decide to sanction amounts as per their norms, till such time the total amount requested, is satisfied.

For the beneficiaries the advantage is that they have to apply only once and their need will be visible to all Trusts who have the means to help, as per their norms.

For the donors, they have a constant flow of applications and once they sanction a specific amount, they can call up the beneficiary and complete their own internal processes. Further, it will help avoid over-financing in specific cases, as may be happening now, owing to non-sharing of information. The beauty of the portal is that the online applications can be made on computer or even directly from their own mobile phones having an Internet connection. In case the incumbent does not even have a mobile phone, the first Trust he approaches may enable him to fill up the form online. Zfunds.org will thus be a single point clearing house for all such cases in the community. It is a win-win for both the parties and an important tool for smooth processing of applications and disbursements.



## Update on World Zoroastrian Congress scheduled in Singapore – Year Dec. 2026

Cyrus Driver, a Committee Member of the 13th World Zoroastrian Congress in Singapore highlighted the following progress via zoom on Singapore Congress that is in making.

- Preparations for WZC Singapore 2026 are overall on track.
- The organizing team includes 40 volunteers, organized into 13 committees. A Coordination Committee provides overall guidance and support.
- The congress dates have been finalized as 28-30 December 2026. We plan to organize additional activities relating to pre-Congress and post-Congress, for which participation will be optional. One of the post-Congress events is likely to be a New Year's Eve part on 31 December 2026. We will also organize tours of the Zoroastrian Museum at our Zoroastrian Centre, most likely as a post-Congress event.
- The venue – Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, has been finalized and booked. The venue allows us to scale up in case we have higher participation than we expect.
- We are planning to arrange three tiers of accommodation: a) a high-end hotel, which will be the Marina Bay Sands; b) a mid-range hotel; c) an economy hotel. Options (b) and (c) are yet to be finalized. We will arrange shuttle buses from the hotels to the venue.
- The theme of our Congress is “Reach Out, Aspire and Rise” or “ROAR”.
- We'd like to emulate a lot of the good work we've seen in recent Congresses – great speakers, lots of panel discussions, large visibility for youth leaders, increasing use of technology for audience engagement (e.g. live voting by the audience).
- We aspire to go beyond and set a new high standard on the following fronts:
  - Bridge East and West: have large attendance from all the Zoroastrian population centres across the world, and provide a platform for all views
  - Facilitate a high attendance from our Iranian brethren; visas should be less of an issue at Singapore than they were at London or New York
  - Have the most engaging and fun children's track ever
  - Provide a range of professional networking and mentoring opportunities for young adults
- We seek the support of all Zoroastrian associations in promoting the Congress and drumming up interest to attend, once we are ready with our website and social marketing.

## Update on 9<sup>th</sup> World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Mumbai - Year Dec. 2027

The update was provided by Viraf Mehta, BPP Chairman & Delzeen and Paurushaspa from ZYNG.

- The Congress logo is ready. It comprises of four colors that depict vibrancy and provides balance and harmony in our lives. A wonderful idea indeed!
- Taj Lands will be the official venue of the Congress.
- The duration of Congress will be for 3 nights and 4 days. Dates shall be announced shortly but they will preferably be one week before the New Year.
- 300 rooms have been booked and option to stay elsewhere in vicinity hotels is being explored. Delegates can also stay with family and friends outside and attend the program during the day.
- Pre and post congress events shall take place including site visits to Atash Behrams.
- 500 members from overseas and 500 from India are expected to attend the Congress.







The opening of the Youth Session was done by three inspiring Advisors namely - Homiyar Madan (India), Dorab Mistry, (UK) and Arzan Wadia (North America).

The Advisors mentioned that while each region follows its own set of programs the youth around the world are more or less doing events at national and international level quite successfully. These words of encouragement motivated the youth who felt assured that the community is ready to help them in every way.

**Homiyar Madan** – covered the following two points:

- **Career and Mentorship Programs**

He said that ‘Antrang’ an organisation in India believes that by fostering career exploration, enabling informed choices and a robust ecosystem our youth can pursue their desired career choice. Efforts shall be put in place to promote a Career and Mentorship program for Parsi youth.

- **Involvement of youth in Community activities**

He said three youth were sent to the Youth Leadership Program at the Asha Centre in UK last year. One member is now a guest writer at FEZANA, and WZOT Team are contemplating taking one more youth this year with them during their food distribution drive in Gujarat.

**Dorab Mistry** – touched upon ZTFE’s efforts in promoting the idea of building Zoroastrian Scholars and teaching them at SOAS.

**Arzan Wadia** – advocated the international exchange program for Zoroastrian youth between India and USA so that they can gain some more experience by working with companies located in India and USA.



### Parshan Khosravi – North America



With great enthusiasm Parshan Khosravi on behalf of WAYZ Taskforce Committee presented a proposal to establish a dedicated youth wing within the GCZT—WAYZ (World Alliance of Young Zoroastrians) on zoom.

This initiative will inspire, engage, and empower Zoroastrian youth aged 15 to 35 by providing a platform for global collaboration, leadership development, and cultural preservation.

The Zoroastrian community's future lies in the hands of its youth. However, across the globe, he saw challenges in maintaining connectivity among younger generations due to geographic distances, competing priorities, and the lack of unified programming that reflects their interests.

WAYZ would bridge this gap by supporting youth-oriented programs, creating opportunities for cultural exchange, and fostering a sense of belonging among Zoroastrian youth worldwide.

This new wing would work under the guidance of GCZT while operating with an independent structure that allows youth representatives to take ownership of initiatives.

WAYZ would coordinate efforts such as global youth conferences, mentorship programs, community service initiatives, and digital platforms to connect and amplify the voices of young Zoroastrians.

He believed that with GCZT's support and leadership, WAYZ can become a driving force for reinvigorating the younger generations' engagement with our traditions and community.



## **Behnaz Nanavatti, WZCC Youth Director**



Behnaz Nanavatti, the International Youth Director of WZCC highlighted the Key Initiatives for 2025. They are as follows:

1. Alternate Monthly Webinars (India & Iran)
2. Hold four Global Webinars a Year
3. Collaborate with ZYNG to create a larger impact
4. Host WZCC's Overnight Conclave at Udvada
  - Focus: Entrepreneurship, youth leadership, and community growth.
  - Format: 2-3 days of workshops, networking, and panel discussions.
  - Host International Youth Meet in 2026 and take a trip to Iran of around 15 to 20 youth to network with youth in Iran and with a view to bringing together young professionals. This event will be a major milestone in fostering stronger youth networks and cultural exchange across regions.

### **Goals & Expected Outcomes**

- Strengthen youth networks.
- Provide educational and professional growth opportunities.
- Enhance community engagement and leadership skills.
- Establish a sustainable framework for future youth programs.

She added with the right collaborations and enthusiasm; we can make 2025 a stepping stone toward larger international youth initiatives. Looking forward to working with all stakeholders to bring these plans to life!

**Mark your calendars and let's celebrate together  
'WZCC Silver Anniversary' in December 2025!**



## Hoshang Gotla – XYZ India



The Founding Member of ‘XYZ’ group in India - Hoshang Gotla spoke vibrantly on a very inspiring topic – **‘Empowering Youth in Global Zoroastrian Community.’**

He said, his journey began at the early age of 15 years working with youth and senior citizens in the community and trying to make a difference by getting along with them to do the same. Since last 10 years he is trying to bring the extremely young Zoroastrians together in the age group of 2-25 years. He said - we are at a crucial juncture where we must unite, reflect and take bold step. Our youth are not just the youth of future; they are our present who bring in fresh ideas, boundless energy innovative solution but we must guide them to take up leadership roles. They have to preserve our traditions and strengthen our collective identity and to achieve this I propose 5 key areas where we can act decisively:

- Youth representation.
- Cross border collaboration.
- Unified organisations.
- Career guidance.
- Religious and cultural education.

### **Let us start with youth representation:**

The appeal here is that every Zoroastrian trust will include at least one youth member ideally who is in their 30s or 40s as an observer. This will ensure that the younger generation learns and understands how these trusts operate, and we create a pipeline for future leaders who are mentored by experienced members. It is not just about giving the youth a seat at the table. It’s about preparing them to take on the reigns and ensure seamless transition in leadership.

**Cross border collaboration** – this is where we must think beyond borders as a global community maybe we are a small community, but our reach is mighty. Imagine the possibility if the Zoroastrians from different countries will share, exchange ideas support one another whether through global platforms or joint events, with cross border collaboration we can foster unity and amplify our impact. By addressing the challenges, we can build a strong interconnected community.

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**The need for unified organisations** - currently we have numerous groups and initiatives working towards similar goals while their dedication is admirable, they are often fragmented. By aligning objectives we can eliminate the duplication, optimise resources, maximise our efforts as after all unity is strength. We must invest in career guidance - Our community has always valued education but it's time to step further. Imagine a structured mentorship program that starts in the 8 class and continues till the 12<sup>th</sup> class. Then extends through college.

**Career fairs and workshops and professional networking** can help guide our youth successful careers when our young people thrive professionally, they not only uplift themselves up but also their family and the community as a whole.

**Finally, and perhaps more important – education about our religion and culture.** We need to develop a modern syllabus that is engaging, interactive and accessible globally. Online videos, eLearning platforms, forms of storytelling can make Zoroastrianism come alive for our children. By helping them understand and connect with their roots we can instil a sense of pride and belongingness that keeps them within the community. The path forward is it requires collective effort.

Let us form committees, set tangible goals and actionable steps whether it is mentoring youth professionally, operating with a group in other countries or developing educational content every small effort counts.

In closing the fruits of our community depends on the seeds we plant today. By empowering the youth fostering unity and preserving our culture we can ensure bright and sustainable future for the Zoroastrians worldwide.



**SHIAVAKSH MANDEGARI, IZYN**

Shiavaksh Mandegari from Oklahoma City and originally from Iran said that Iranian Zoroastrian Youth Network (IZYN) group was established in 2023 and gave a brief overview of the activities covered by them:

- Facilitating collaboration among young Zoroastrians in Iran and around the world
- Facilitating cultural interaction among Zoroastrians and promoting unity
- Sharing socio economic business opportunities
- This group comprises of 7 members located in Iran, India and Australia
- Projects are being undertaken - one is the Yazd cultural and heritage resort
- Then there are India Iran commercial ventures,
- Iranian return to roots program



**KIMIYA SHAHZADI, ZYNA CO-CHAIR, NORTH AMERICA**

Kimya Shazadi from Michigan highlighted a few things they have been doing for the last four years. She said she was involved in the World Zoroastrian Congress in the US and the World Zoroastrian Congress in London. She noticed a massive resurgence of activities in Zoroastrian youth in NA after the Covid in 2020 so that's when she and Fravash Chothia got involved. To start with we organised a 'Retreat' with 30 plus people. The next year we had 60 plus and this year 110 people have signed up. So we see the youth in North America as a beacon of thriving future Zoroastrianism and that's the feeling we got when we went to the Asha Centre where we connected with young leaders and members from all over the world. It was such a pleasure to see youth work in unity. So many of us have attended the 'Return to Roots' programs and just to build bridges and with technology in place we took the idea of 'Return to Roots Program' and organised two road trips to visit our Dar-e-Mehrs one on the West Coast with six Dar-e-Mehrs in California and in the last six months we did the East coast cross country trip between America and Canada. We are so spread out in the diaspora that it is difficult to connect. But North America is doing a really good job. Our youth numbers are doubling our online presence is exponentially growing and we have so many members of ZYNA in WAYS where this initiative was discussed. Many members of ZYNA are interested in connecting with youth in other countries especially India and WAYS is our ask is to keep the youth connected.



**FRAVASH CHOTHIA, ZYNA CO-CHAIR, NORTH AMERICA**

Fravash Chothia said that he was also there when they were building WAYS at the ASHA Centre and he has recently become the Co-Chair of ZYNA and they are planning the 'Retreat' with 100 people. Apart from running these events he said ZYNA has six committees all managed professionally. The youth are always kept engaged in religious and cultural activities.



**DR. ZAL CANTEENWALLA, CO-CHAIR YOUNG ZOROASTRIANS, ZTFE**

Zal Canteenwalla the Co-Chair of the young zoroastrians at ZTFE gave a quick update on the youth perspective. The young Zoroastrians are very active and they are largely based in London and they are all members of ZTFE. The portal of ZTFE is important in fostering initiatives not just for the young Zoroastrians but extremely young zoroastrians too. ZTFE offers an educational program that relates to early course on 'Zoroastrianism' through its FUN Club which is the monthly Sunday school. There is a large YWhatsapp group of 200 to 300 members. Vibrant Instagram presence also exists. Since 2020 due to unprecedented migration from India many post graduate students came to the UK with some in their early stages of their careers. The new arrivals have injected new life in our community. Many have strong Zoroastrian identity. Youth participation is very important to ZTFE. He praised Ruzbeh Hodiwala a PHD student at SOAS who is very active and Ervard Bharda a full time Mobed. Their recent youth congress was very powerful and brought youth from every corner of the world. This shows that our Zoroastrian values transcend borders. The unfortunate fact of 21<sup>st</sup> century is that many young Zoroastrians stay hundreds of miles away from their anjumans /associations so distance becomes a cultural quarantine for them. They often grow up not knowing anyone beyond their immediate family. This islocation creates challenges even in this age of digital connectivity and in maintaining our religious identity in the diaspora outside of India and Pakistan is a herculean task. The practical difficulty is compounded when social dynamics get there. This is precisely the reason why congresses are places to reachout to other people in global spaces and improve engagements. Besides there is a demographic decline in our community proposed the two fold strategy:

1. More Youth Congresses should be held every two years as the four years gap is getting too long.
2. We would like to hold a global event in the UK. Based on our recent experience of holding the Youth Congress the UK community is prepared to host a 4-5 days event for 300 -400 youths with international participation, including a session at the House of Lords with help from our Patron Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBE. We will collaborate with ZYNG and other organisations.

In conclusion - he said, only with the help of ZTFE's stalwarts and institutional backing we shall be able to do this and he thanked the ZTFE stalwarts immensely.



Sam Balsara, of Madison World and Trustee at GCZT whilst moderating the Advisory Session said that GCZT has a very able set of advisors who are very well resourced and highly qualified and capable. They are – Homi Katgara, Dr. Mrs. Rati Godrej, Dinshaw Tamboly, Adi Jehangir, Dorab Mistry, Homiyar Madan and Arzan Wadia.

Let's invite Homi Katgara and Dr. Mrs. Rati Godrej to speak on the work done on the Health Vertical by them.



**Homi Katgara**, the partner at Jeena and Co., Trustee, Masina Hospital and Advisor GCZT spoke on two points relating to the health vertical of GCZT:

- 1. Mediclaim Insurance Scheme** – he said this scheme is to help the less fortunate in our community. It's an excellent scheme as it covers pre-existing illnesses, there is no age limit, covers newborns, no medical checkup etc. The policy premium will be Rs.25,000 p.a for a family of four. We are approaching large sponsors/businesses to help us in this effort, and we are hopeful we will succeed in the next few months. In the meantime, data compilation of poor and needy people is in progress.
- 2. The second good news is - The inauguration of a Neuro Rehab Centre at Masina** which has the latest equipment's, and we are looking at ways to increase the footfall of Parsi and Irani Zoroastrians and request our Parsi press to help us in doing good publicity on this matter.





**Dr. Mrs. Rati Godrej**

Dr. Rati Godrej mentioned that our community is blessed with good genes of longevity for which we should be grateful to our ancestors. However, the community is facing challenges with communicable and infectious diseases like malaria, dengue as well as chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, strokes, heart disease, cancers, lung diseases and neurological diseases. Hence, we really need to look at health care programs for our community in a very holistic way and develop programs not only to take care of our Physical and Mental health but Spiritual health too.

Our babies are born healthy but over a passage of time many of them struggle with obesity and mental health issues, so we need to develop good habits in our children. We as a community should collaborate on this.

We should have a look into our outreach programs, for example, if our seniors need help to go to the hospital and they don't have proper transport then mobile vans should be there. Many Zoroastrians live in Baugs for them we should conduct useful health related programs and do early screenings.

Palliative care is another area to be looked into as it aims to improve the quality of life for those with serious or life-limiting illnesses by providing physical, social, emotional, and spiritual support. Masina Rehab Center has been designed to help patients who have suffered strokes, Parkinsons etc. Loneliness is also catching up with seniors in our community as children are unable to visit their parents. This aspect also needs to be looked into.

She ended up by saying that "let's all work together to build a physically, mentally and spiritually strong community." That is the goal of our health committee.

**ACTION POINTS PREPARED BY THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON 3.2.25  
AT THE DADAR ATHORNAN IN MUMBAI**

	<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>ASSIGNED TO</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATE</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
1	Bringing awareness in youth of our declining demographics and their responsibility.	Meher, Sam and Arzan	25-May	A one page leaflet to be prepared for circulation worldwide
2	Spread the idea of the ethic of collective giving with scriptural reference.	Ramiyar, Yazdi, Noshir and Sam	25-May	A one page leaflet to be prepared for circulation worldwide
3	Spread the idea of naming a Z - Charity in one's will (bequest). Prepare a standard form for circulation worldwide.	Noshir	25-May	Prepare a standard form for circulation worldwide.
	Advocate agiyaries with no footfall to relocate the fires to another agiary and repurpose the property.	Noshir	Immediate.	Blitz Krieg everywhere even worldwide to bring awareness.
4	Preparation of a syllabus for the enhancement of Mobeds training for :New Mobeds and continuing education for older mobeds	Ramiyar with the assistance of Mobeds Empowerment Team?	Prior to the July 25 biannual meeting	Syllabus to be circulated worldwide
5	Remuneration of Mobeds: Encourage religious institutions to set up endowments funded by the laity to supplement their Mobeds income. An example to be created for others to emulate.	Dinshaw, Piruz and Ramiyar.	Prior to the July 25 biannual meeting	Agreement that is reached may be publisized worldwide
6	Move forward the idea of setting up an International House on a business footing for overseas visitors	Dinshaw to look into the possibility of upgrading unused floors at the Parekh Dharamsala	As and when possible	

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6	Move forward the idea of setting up an International House on a business footing for overseas visitors	Dinshaw to look into the possibility of upgrading unused floors at the Parekh Dharamsala	As and when possible	
7	Preparation of a Jashan participation primer for laity to participate in the Jashan ceremony.	Ramiyar	When able	To be distributed worldwide
8	Prepare Terms of Reference for a demographics team and Identify members of the team one for each Region.	Roshan to share contacts in each Region with Meher	Prior to the July 25 biannual meeting	This team not only to keep track of our shifting demographics but also to welcome and settle new comers to a Region.
9	Primer for the youth, "Living a Good Zarathushti Life."	Jamshed Rivetna author of "My first Zoroastrian prayer book" may volunteer	When able	
10	Preparation of a primer for life-cycle ceremonies - navjote, wedding and death.	Ramiyar. Roshan to send her special issue of FEZANA Journal for Navjote, Wedding and Death Ceremonies to Ramiyar.	When able	
11	Promoting Cyrus the Great good governance and respect for all creed and cultures. A package of artifacts relating to Cyrus the Great to be distributed to all Regions with a "how to promote" guide.	Behram with assistance as needed	When able	Burjis Daruwalla has offered to assist.

# Pictures from the GCZT & GWG AGMs on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

## At the West End Hotel in Mumbai







**Pictures from the Consultative Committee Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025. The Lagan-nu-Bhonu was courtesy – Dinshaw Tamboly, WZOT.**

