

VADA DASTURJI KHURSHED KAIKOBAD DASTOOR

Dasturji Khurshed Dastur Kaikobad Dastoor is the Vada Dasturji (Head Priest) of Shreeji Pak Iranshah Atashbehram at Udvada and the entire Zoroastrian community worldwide for the past 15 years.

He is the President of Udvada Athornan Anjuman and Udvada Samast Anjuman. He is also the Chairman of Foundation for Development of Udvada. He is the President of the Damanwalla Charitable Dispensary in Udvada and is the Trustee and President of Seth P.P.Mistry High School at Udvada.

He is a Trustee & the President of Athornan Mandal, (an organization responsible for the welfare of Priestly class) Mumbai since 2002. He takes a keen and active interest in the working affairs of the Dadar Athornan Institute of which he himself is a proud alumnus.

Dasturji Khurshed took his religious education at the Dadar Athornan Institute and his academic education from the Dadar Parsee Youths Assembly High School. He was initiated as Priest at the early age of 12.

He has performed higher liturgical ceremonies at the Udvada Atash Behram since the young age of 16 years.

He is a graduate from the H.R. College of Commerce & Economics in Mumbai.

As part of his religious and spiritual duties, he delivers lectures on the Zoroastrian Religion and its History to people of varied age groups of children, youth and adults all over Mumbai and India including places like Ahmedabad, Navsari, Surat, Baroda, Delhi, Hyderabad.

In 2005, he was invited to the 5th World Zoroastrian Congress in London to initiate the proceedings and address our community there. In 2009, he was also invited to the 6th World Zoroastrian Congress at Dubai where he was requested to deliver the benediction. In December 2013, at the 7th World Zoroastrian Congress held in Mumbai, Dasturji initiated and addressed the vast gathering of Zoroastrians and others.

In 2010, he was on a lecture circuit across the eastern parts of North America, where he addressed vast community members at places like Florida, New York, Boston and Toronto on various religious, historical, social and community issues. He had also given an address at the Jewish Synagogue in New York on the comparative aspects of Zoroastrian and Judaic religions.

Dasturji was also responsible to invite the current P.M. Shri Narendra Modi, who was then C.M. of Gujarat, to Udvada to address the largest gathering of Zoroastrians, nearly 5500 and more in numbers, in April 2011, wherein Dasturji felicitated Shri Modi and blessed him as the next PM of India.

In January 2013, he was invited as one of the speakers to present a paper on 'Historical Chronology of Kisseh-i-Sanjan and the Iranshah Atashbehram' at the Conference celebrating 140 years of the First Dastoor Meherji Rana Library held at Navsari.

In May 2014, Zoroastrian Trust Funds Of Europe felicitated Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor at a function held at the Zoroastrian Prayer Hall in London.

In July 2014, Dasturji Khurshed was invited to deliver a lecture at the Ontario Zoroastrian Community Foundation in Canada, which was telecast live via internet to the wide spectrum of North American Zoroastrians and worldwide.

Dasturji Khurshed was also a speaker at People's SAARC Inter-Faith Meet for Peace, Harmony and Solidarity in South Asia in 2014.

In September 2015, he was invited by the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago to deliver the keynote address at the Society of Scholars of Zoroastrianism Conference supported by FEZANA, to encourage Zoroastrian studies within the community.

In December 2015, Dasturji Khurshed was instrumental in planning and holding the mega event '**Iranshah Udvada Utsav**' (IUU) at Udvada from 25th to 27th December 2015, wherein a large number of Parsi/Irani Zoroastrians, aggregating 4000 in number, gathered from all around the world to celebrate and enjoy our rich and diverse Zoroastrian culture.

As recent as last year, Dasturji Khurshed was felicitated by the Mayor of the city of Houston in Texas by declaring September 9, 2016 as '**Dasturji Khurshed Dastur Kaikobad Dastoor Day**' at a glittering ceremony conducted at the Zarthushti Heritage and Cultural Center in Houston.