

Culture and Civilisation: A Zoroastrian Perspective



TISS and ParZor have successfully launched the second iteration of their pioneering Course on ***Culture and Civilisation: A Zoroastrian Perspective***. The course highlights the culture, heritage, and contributions of the Parsi Zoroastrian community.

20-Credit Certificate Programme

- **Start Date:** January 2026
- **Total Credits:** 20 (approx. ten months)
- **Course Structure:** 30 hours per 2-credit course; 2-3 classes per week, 5 weeks
- **Attendance:** Regularly required
- **Assessments:** Periodical assessments
- **Online Classes:** Zoom — *Interactive & Recorded*
- **Join from Anywhere.**



Course Structure

- The **20-credit Certificate Programme** offers multiple courses, each worth **2 credits**.
- Students opting for the Full Programme must complete the **compulsory Foundation Course-Philosophy, History & Culture**.
- Courses will be offered **sequentially**, beginning with the **Foundation Course in January 2026**, followed by the elective modules.
- Each 2-credit course includes 30 hours of learning, combining:
 - Live teaching
 - Tutorials
 - Discussion sessions
 - Engagement with course material
- There will be 2–3 class sessions per week, and each course will be completed in approximately 5 weeks.

The Full Certificate Programme comprises:

- **1 Core Course** (2 credits)
- **7 or 8 Elective Courses** (2 credits each) — *14 / 16 credits*
- **Research Paper / Dissertation** — *2 / 4 credits, 20 credits*

Semester-wise Courses:

The courses offered are detailed below:

Course Name	Number of Credits
Foundation Course- Philosophy, History & Culture	2 credits

1. Zoroastrian Customs, Ecology, and Rituals 2. Parsi Literature in English 3. History, Archaeology and Heritage 4. Parsis in India: A Historical Perspective 5. Material Culture: Arts & Architecture 6. Languages of Zoroastrianism 7. Introduction to Avestan 8. Parsi Demographics 9. Parsi Theatre & Performing Arts	Any 7 or 8 electives of 2 credits each = 14 / 16 credits
Research Paper/Dissertation	2/4 credits
Overall full Certificate Program requirement: 1 core course + 7/8 elective courses + Research Paper / Dissertation	20 credits

**The sequence of modules may vary, and their dates are subject to change.*

Choose any module(s) of your choice

- **Flexibility:** Register for individual courses. No age bar.
- **Rolling Enrolment:** Enrol before each course starts

Faculty Profiles

Faculty	Profile
Prof. Shernaz Cama 	Prof. Shernaz Cama, retired Associate Professor, taught at Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University for 41 years. She is the Founder Director of ParZor Foundation.
Prof. Almut Hintze 	Prof. Almut Hintze is a globally renowned scholar in Avestan language. She is the Zartoshty Brothers Professor of Zoroastrianism at SOAS, University of London, and Fellow of the British Academy.
Dr. Coomi Vevaina 	Dr Coomi S. Vevaina, Professor and Former Head of English at the University of Mumbai, is an internationally acclaimed education futurist, literary critic, peace activist, teacher educator, writer, and storyteller.
Prof. Kavas Kapadia 	Prof. Kavas Kapadia has been involved in Planning and Architecture education in India while developing his interest in Urban Planning. He has served as Head of the Department and the Dean of Studies of the SPA.
Prof. Siva Raju 	Prof. Siva Raju is the Professor for the Centre for Excellence in CSR at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and was the Deputy Director of the TISS Hyderabad Campus.

Faculty	Profile
Dr. Sarah Stewart 	Dr Sarah Stewart was the first Shapoorji Pallonji Reader in Zoroastrianism at SOAS. She was the lead curator of the exhibition The Everlasting Flame: Zoroastrianism in History and Imagination in New Delhi.
Dr. Meher Mistry 	Dr Meher Mistry is the Head, Department of History at Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College, Mumbai and has been teaching History to undergraduate students for the past 17 years.
Dr. Kerman Daruwalla 	Dr Kerman Daruwalla is the project coordinator for the TISS-Parzor Academic Programme. Kerman completed his PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London in 2021.
Dr. Kurush Dalal 	Dr Kurush Dalal, a specialist in the Early Medieval Period, has conducted several archaeological excavations. He serves as the Director of the INSTUCEN School of Archaeology in Mumbai.
Dr. Firdaus Gandavia 	Dr Firdaus Gandavia is a Chartered Accountant. He completed his PhD in English Literature and has taught at Mumbai University as a guest lecturer. H is also a passionate book reviewer.
Abhimanyu Acharya 	Dr Abhimanyu Acharya is a multilingual fiction writer, playwright, translator, and scholar currently based in Ontario, Canada, where he is a postdoctoral associate at Western University.

Fee Details

****Total Fee:** ₹60,000/- payable at admission+ Rs 500 application fee

- The fee breakup is given below:

Component	Fee breakup	Amount (Rs.)
Fee	Tuition fee	35 000
	Examination fee	2 000
Charges	Dissertation / Study Supervision	10 000
	IT Charges	2 000

	Library / Online material charges	1 000
	Other (ID, Platform access, Certificate, etc.)	2 500
Fund	Development fund	4 000
	Alumni Fund	500
Deposit	Caution deposit	3 000
	Total Programme fee	60 000

- **Scholarships:** Partial fee waivers for deserving candidates.
- **How to apply for a scholarship?** Send a 300-word motivation letter to tiss.parzor@gmail.com
- **Modular Option:** ₹7,500 per course + application fee.

Important Information for International Applicants

Full Certificate Course:

- **High Income Economies:** Total \$1150 (Course \$1080 + Application \$70)
- **Upper Middle Income Economies:** Total \$1080 (Course \$1010 + Application \$70)
- **Lower Middle Income Economies:** Total \$1010 (Course \$940 + Application \$70)
- **BIMSTEC/Low Income Economies:** Total \$930 (Course \$860 + Application \$70)

Modular Option:

- **High Income Economies:** \$120 per course
- **Upper Middle Income Economies:** \$110 per course
- **Lower Middle Income Economies:** \$100 per course
- **BIMSTEC/Low Income Economies:** \$100 per course

Additional Fee: *Application/Admission fee \$10 per module*

Note: International Applicants include those with a foreign passport or OCI card. NRI Applicants with an Indian passport can choose their status.

What Will I Get?

- **Programme Certificate:** Prestigious *TISS–ParZor Certificate in Culture & Civilisation*
- **Module Certification:** *Completion Certificate* for each course/module

Admission Process

- **Apply Online:** Use the e-application portal at <https://nirantar.tiss.edu/>
- **Create Profile:** Complete profile and upload documents
- **Need Help?:** Contact Program Coordinator at tiss.parzor@gmail.com

For more admission details: <https://admissions.tiss.ac.in/view/10/admissions/stp-admissions/tiss-parzor-online-certificate-programme-in-cultur/>

**For more queries, email tiss.parzor@gmail.com*

Who's This Programme for?

- **Curious Minds**
- **Humanities & Heritage Enthusiasts**
- **Researchers & Professionals of all ages (18 years & above)**
- **Social Entrepreneurs**
- **Intercultural Leaders**
- **Fashion & Design Enthusiasts**

Why join?

- **Learn from Experts:** Guidance from leading global scholars and practitioners,
- **Earn Credits:** Strengthen your academic profile.
- **Career Benefits:** Jobs in Heritage Management, Media, Design, Tourism, Online Content Creation, & Other fields.
- **Experience Crafts:** Discover traditional skills and techniques.
- **Engage Actively:** Join workshops, training, and interactive lectures and access rare manuscripts.
- **Explore New Fields:** Diaspora, Migration, Literature, Theatre & Performing Arts.

Good luck with your application! We look forward to embarking on this journey with you!

For any assistance, contact +919321648323 / +918007999490 or email tiss.parzor@gmail.com

APPLY NOW: <https://nirantar.tiss.edu/>