



RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE—The Trust continues to abide by the Government of India regulations regarding restrictions for non-Indian visitors in Lower Meherabad. Full cooperation is being given (See *In His Service* July 2023). The Trust has re-applied to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) and is hopeful for a positive outcome that will allow the Trust to once again receive foreign charitable donations.

MEHERABAD PILGRIM ACTIVITIES—

Pilgrimage continues for visitors from around the world. Twice weekly, guided tours are being given of Lower Meherabad so pilgrims can avail themselves of the opportunity to spend time in this sacred area. Talks, programs, film showings, and concerts are now happening in the Admin Hall of the Meher Pilgrim Retreat (MPR), and are enthusiastically attended. Other Meherabad activities continue, including tours of Upper Meherabad, and the Museum is open daily.

SAMADHI GROUNDS/MEHERABAD INFRA-STRUCTURE—

The grave markers of Baba's parents and His women disciples on Meherabad Hill west of Baba's Samadhi are being restored. New field drains and tree root barriers have been installed, and grave markers are being repaired.

A talk being given in MPR Admin Hall during Young Adult Sahavas

How to Donate

THE TRUST IS SUPPORTED entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba's lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through your hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings the objects to completion which He laid down in the Trust Deed, when it pleases Him to do so. Please see "How to Donate" on the Trust's website: www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org/where-to-contribute/

Another way to support the Trust is to list it as a beneficiary in your personal Legacy. See "Legacies": www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org/legacies

Trust financial information is provided annually in the Trust Financial Report, sent out with the June issue of this newsletter and posted on the Trust website. More information can be found in the Trust's website at www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org.

Current news about foreign donations

Although the Trust cannot accept foreign donations at this time, we encourage Trustwallas and Meher Baba organizations to continue to collect the love offerings from Baba lovers and to keep the funds on account until such time that we will be able to accept them.



New sinks installed in Hostel D

All lettering is being redone. Maintenance of infrastructure and upkeep of properties is ongoing. Hostel D has a new roof as well as new bathing rooms and toilets.

MEHERAZAD—Pilgrim visits continue to Baba's home. Due to rain shortage, local wildlife is wandering into Meherazad and its surrounding wooded areas, trying to find food. There have been several sightings in recent months of leopards, a concern regarding villagers' livestock. One colorful addition is a population of peacocks having found a perfect home in the thick woodlands at the base of Seclusion Hill, and their call can be heard in the early mornings and evenings.

MEHER ENGLISH SCHOOL—Mrs. Stella Manuel, who served as the Principal for the school for more than 25 years, completed her service in April 2023. Over 500 students continue to enjoy the excellent education provided by the dedicated staff.

MEHER NAZAR—The 61st anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba Ahmednagar Centre was celebrated in October. Historic tours of Meher Nazar continue.

MONSOON—Total rainfall in 2023 is 21.8 inches for Meherabad; the 10 inches of rain that fell in the last week of September saved Meherabad from a very poor monsoon. There is now sufficient water in the wells at Meherabad to last until the next monsoon. Sadly, Meherazad received only 15.14 inches.

ONGOING—To fulfill Baba's wishes as stated in the Trust Deed, for the benefit of all concerned, ongoing objectives of service continue for all departments, including Meher Free Dispensary, Meher Health Centre, Community relations, Archives, Publications, and other Trust areas of focus.

Photograph courtesy of Meherabad International Young Adult Sahavas



WHAT IS THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST?

CREATED IN 1959 under Meher Baba's direction, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust has the purpose of fulfilling the objectives in the Trust Deed set out by Baba and the Trustees He appointed. The Trust Deed calls for the maintenance of Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb; for the creation of pilgrim facilities; for educational, medical, and other charitable services; for estate development and procurement of sources of water; for the advancement of Avatar Meher Baba's love-message through melas, museums, lectures, publications, and the arts; and for spiritual training.

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Or sign on via the Trust website: <http://ambppct.org/subscription.php>.

For Reservations to Stay at Meherabad:
FOR MEHER PILGRIM RETREAT: pimco@ambppct.org.
FOR HOSTEL D/DHARAMSHALA: jaibaba@ambppct.org.

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DONATIONS AND INQUIRIES SHOULD BE SENT TO: THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST,
POST BAG NO. 31, KING'S ROAD, AHMEDNAGAR 414001, MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA.



A NEWSLETTER FROM MEHERABAD

Samadhi Super-Structure Announcement

To Meher Baba's Worldwide Family,

The Avatar Meher Baba Trust is initiating planning for the Super-Structure that will overarch Baba's Samadhi, and is inviting His lovers to participate in its design. At this time, all who are interested may submit ideas for design. This document:

- provides background information about the Super-Structure;
- clarifies the timing of the design and construction of the Super-Structure;
- shares perspectives about the Super-Structure from the mandali;
- details the design process;
- specifies requirements and guidance for those providing submissions;

This initial call for design ideas is the first opportunity for His lovers to be included in this inspiring process. There will also be an opportunity in a later phase for His lovers to offer feedback on the final designs that have been curated, as described below.

This entire process is intended to capture the imagination and creativity that resides in the worldwide Baba family in order to create a design that is worthy of the Highest of the High.

Background

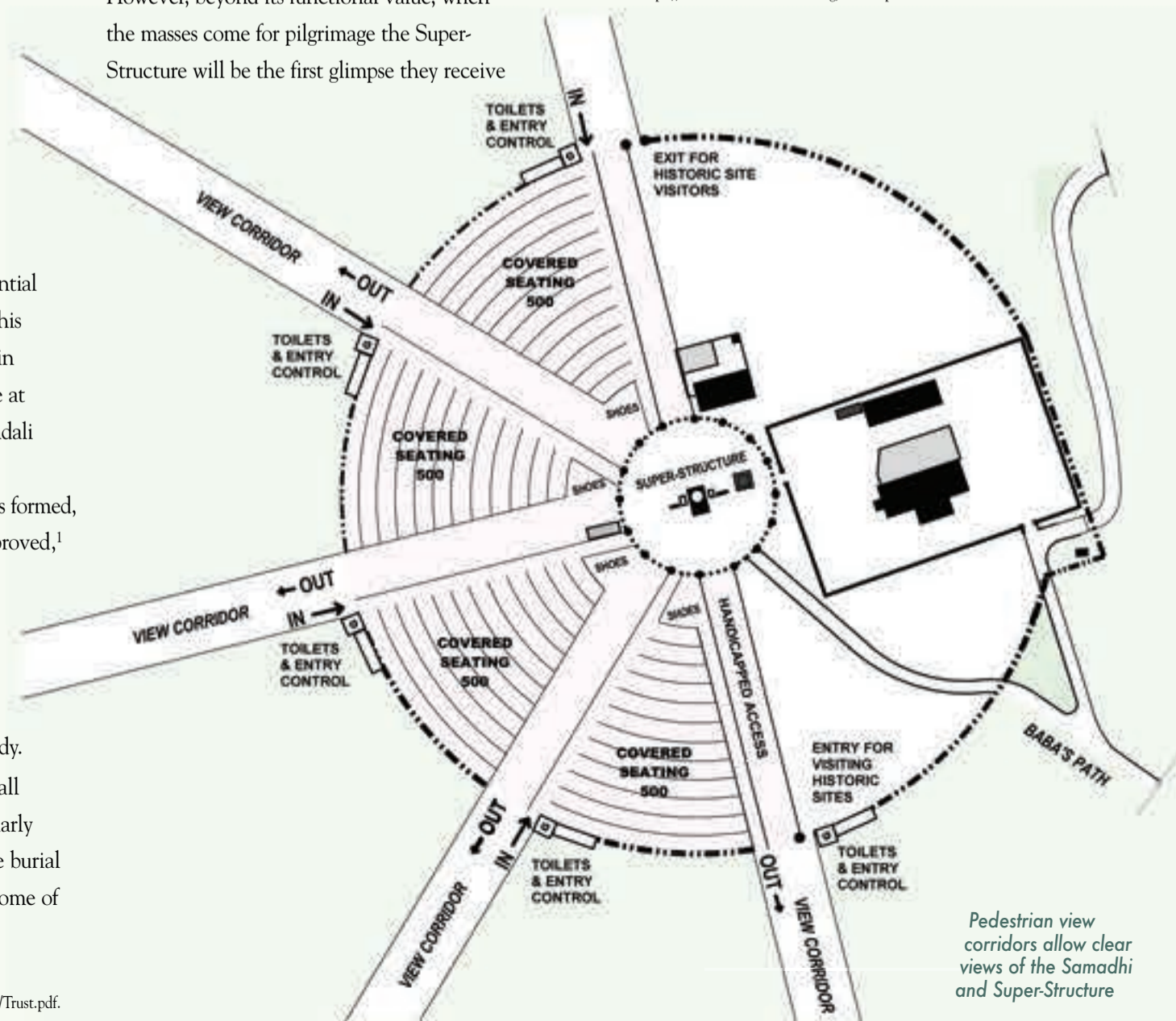
The Samadhi of Avatar Meher Baba is the essential focus of pilgrimage for His lovers for all time. This building atop Meherabad Hill was constructed in 1938 using stones from the original Post Office at Meherabad, which Beloved Baba and His mandali inhabited in their early time at Meherabad.

In 1959, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust was formed, and its founding Deed, which Meher Baba approved,¹ specifies that:

- A** The existing Tomb must always be available exclusively for the Settlor's physical remains to be buried therein as and when the Settlor drops His body.
- B** An area of not less than fifty feet on all the four sides of the Tomb to be similarly available for its expansion and for the burial of the physical bodies after death of some of the Settlor's women disciples.

- C** The existing Tomb proper and the said specified area for its expansion and for the graves which may be or will be there shall always be left completely unaltered and unchanged for all times even when a bigger tomb is built as a super-structure over them i.e., the Tomb proper and the specified area to be included under the super-structure as one collective whole.

Establishment of the Super-Structure is one of the few aspects of the development of Meherabad that Meher Baba directly specified. The Super-Structure will be important to help preserve the physical structure of the Samadhi, as well as to protect pilgrims from the elements as they approach the Samadhi for darshan. However, beyond its functional value, when the masses come for pilgrimage the Super-Structure will be the first glimpse they receive



Pedestrian view corridors allow clear views of the Samadhi and Super-Structure

of the Samadhi complex—a sight that will help prepare them for the preciousness of their intimate darshan at the Samadhi. Therefore, the mandali seemed to fully appreciate the fact that this Super-Structure will become a defining feature of Meherabad. And as such, the greatest effort must be made to ensure that such a feature is worthy of overarching the Samadhi of the Avatar of the Age.

Timing of Super-Structure viz. the Master Plan

The Trust Master Plan² calls for the Super-Structure to be constructed, but it provides no specific time frame for when this is to happen. Rather, the Master Plan specifies that the Super-Structure will be built at a time when the number of pilgrims coming to Meherabad has significantly increased from what they are today. Since there is no way to project the rate of increase in the numbers of pilgrims, it is not possible to establish the time when the Super-Structure will be built.

Therefore, the Trust recognizes that the actual construction may be some time off.

Nevertheless, the Trust believes that now is the time to come up with the design for the Super-Structure. The urgency of doing this now is to incorporate into the design an understanding and appreciation of the mandali's perspectives on the Super-Structure, especially from Mani S. Irani, Meher Baba's sister. It is also important to capture in the design process the experience and perspective of residents and trustees, whose close involvement with the development of the Trust Estate has been influenced by the mandali and, for some, their direct contact with Meher Baba.

The appendix provides diagrams that illustrate how darshan might take place within the Super-Structure; it

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2. <https://avatarmeherbabatrust.org/master-plan>.

1. <https://avatarmeherbabatrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Trust.pdf>.