



IN HIS SERVICE

DECEMBER / 2025

A NEWSLETTER FROM MEHERABAD

Centenary Year of the Remarkable 1925

INTENSE ACTIVITY

The years 1925 and 1926 were years of intense activity at Meherabad for Baba, His men and women mandali, school children, Arangaon villagers, and visitors from other places. Baba described this time in talks given at the 1955

Sahavas at Meherabad.

In His own words, "After several months (January 1925) we settled down and the place



Outside Hazrat Babajan School, 1925-26

gradually became known as Meherabad. For almost two years (until November 1926) it was like a small model town. In it lived about five hundred souls, working in the hospital, the dispensary and the schools. There were also ashrams for boys, men and women, and shelters for the poor and for lepers, all of which were established here in connection with my work." [Meher Baba, *Listen, Humanity*, ed. Don E. Stevens. Myrtle Beach, SC, Sheriar Foundation, 1977, p. 253.]

MEHERA'S ROLE

Baba indicated Mehera's importance to Him that year. He gave Mehera a heart-shaped gold ring engraved with one word: MEHER. He declared to the women mandali, "Mehera is my Radha. Her love is unique. She is most special to Me." In this way, Baba made Mehera's place as His Beloved unmistakably clear.

HOSPITAL

The Meher Charitable Dispensary and Hospital was opened on March 21, 1925. The facilities were located in the Mess Quarters (later known as the Old Dharamshala). Those requiring hospitalization would be kept at Meherabad, and all arrangements were provided for their food and clothing. The daily patient count eventually rose to almost 125. During the next fifteen months, almost 7,500 patients were treated or hospitalized.

SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN

Baba opened a free boarding school for the children from nearby Arangaon on March 25, 1925, named the Hazrat Babajan School. All children were welcome regardless of caste, creed, or religion, which was a radical idea at the time. Eventually, nearly 200 boys filled the school, and the smaller Hazrat Babajan Girls School was also opened. This was the first time education was offered at Arangaon at all, and the addition of a school for girls would have been very rare.

CASTE UNIFICATION AND HELP FOR THE POOR

The village was very poor, and many of the children were of lower caste, or Harijan, the "Untouchables." Baba took a very active role in their daily lives, personally supervising their care. He attended classes, helped obtain uniforms, joined their games, and inspected them each morning to see that they were clean and properly dressed. He even bathed the children Himself and helped wash their clothes. If a visitor arrived while He was bathing the boys, Baba would sometimes ask them to help. Some agreed, while others hesitated to touch the children. Baba would then say, "If you have come for the darshan of God, know that these Harijan children are my God... Here, the only God you will find are these children." [Bhau Kalchuri, *Lord Meher*, online ed., p. 572.] Baba later explained: "Weekly rations were issued to the most helpless of the Arangaon villagers... Hundreds of people from the villages near Meherabad benefited from the free hospitals, and thousands utilized the dispensary... Boys of all castes and creeds including untouchables soon began to live, eat and intermingle freely... Each day I spent three to four hours bathing the school children... All the

As 2025 draws to a close, Baba lovers the world over can reflect on the amazing time in Baba's life, one hundred years ago, when He began His lifelong Silence. In that memorable year, Baba seems to have set in motion activities and themes that will continue to have significance through the ages. Starting with the celebration for Silence Day, we have honored many of those momentous events at Meherabad this year, through programs, talks, and Tavern Talk presentations.

mandali also had to grind grain... I also shared in the daily grinding." [Listen, Humanity.]

The holidays of different religions were observed at Meherabad, with large gatherings, music programs, projected films, games and sports, in which everyone was welcome to take part.

WRITING THE BOOK

Three days after beginning His Silence, on July 13th Baba began spending several hours a day writing "The Book." This manuscript was written during 1925-1926 in Baba's own handwriting. Baba wrote in the Jhopdi initially, later in His special Table House cabin, and also at several other locations in Upper and Lower Meherabad. The manuscript was eventually kept safely in a special case, and none were allowed to read it. Baba wore the key to the case around His neck.

Baba carried this manuscript with Him to the West in 1931. He also took it on the Blue Bus tours through parts of India. Later, the manuscript was taken to the United States before being returned to India, where it was entrusted at various times to close disciples and even kept in a bank locker. Its whereabouts have remained unknown since 1958.

He revealed: "The big book I have written will be the future Bible, Koran, Avesta and Veda, as it will be universally accepted by all castes and creeds. I have stopped writing anything after finishing this great work and hence it has force." [Lord Meher, online ed., p. 834.]

THE FIRST DHUNI

The first Dhuni of Meherabad was lit by Baba November 10, 1925. The monsoon had failed and Arangaon villagers pleaded with Baba to save them from the extreme drought. The fire was lit at 11:00 pm. After a while Baba told the villagers to depart for home. Before they reached their homes, the skies opened in torrential rain. The rains fell for fifteen hours and all the wells were filled. One year later, and again two years later, the Dhuni was lit. On both anniversaries it rained, the second year with heavy floods. Years later, Baba instructed that the Dhuni fire be lit on the 12th of every month, and that devotees should each toss a stick of sandalwood on the flames, to symbolize an attachment they wish to surrender to Baba. This sacred tradition continues today, at that same Dhuni pit at Meherabad.



Baba with children in Ahmednagar, February 3, 1934



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Baba's dear ones,
Jai Meher Baba!

Each season brings new challenges, yet also fresh opportunities to deepen our offering of love and service in His name. Nothing we accomplish is through our own effort; it is Baba alone who sustains and directs His work.

A small peek into the stream of big and small labors that have kept the Trust moving forward in recent months:

- Meher English School: A new prefabricated concrete compound wall has been installed in the front of the school, replacing old wire fencing. A new insulated roof has been installed and is nearly finished. Grounds are being prepared for sports activities.
- At Hostel-D, the solar hot water system has been upgraded, restoring full operational efficiency and reducing dependency on electric water heating.
- On the publication front, the Trust has been blessed with two significant additions to the growing list of translations of *God Speaks*. The Italian version, translated by Vittoria Lovisatti, Donata Mazzola, and Benedetta Giusti, is now available online. Similarly, the Hebrew translation, translated by Michal Namor Sivan, has also been added to the Trust's website's Online Library, further extending Baba's words to seekers across the globe.
- There is no further news of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration being renewed, so we are still unable to accept donations from abroad. So, as Rumi says: "When He closes a door, it is not to confine you. He only wants you to knock more fervently".

- Another area of growth has been in fundraising through Corporate Social Responsibility, programs whereby businesses contribute a portion of profits to charitable causes. Since the beginning of 2025, this initiative has been gaining momentum. By Baba's grace, four small-scale companies have already contributed to the Trust's charitable initiatives in education and medicine. One such contribution funded the purchase of ophthalmic equipment used for cataract surgeries at Meher Hospital in Meherabad. The fundraising team is also in dialogue with other corporations that have expressed interest in supporting the Trust's ongoing work. With the help of Baba lovers across India, these efforts are expanding the base of support for His cause.

In the bustle of daily life, it is only Baba's Life and words that remain the guiding light, bringing warmth, hope, and comfort to the heart.

On one occasion, Baba told Dr. G.S.N. Murthy that He was in the mood to grant him anything he desired. Dr. Murthy asked for *Mukti* (liberation). Baba's expression turned sour, and with visible disappointment, He said, "For My lovers, I have already placed that in their pockets. If you had to ask, you should have asked for this." Baba then turned to Eruch and asked him to recite three verses from the "Meher Chalisa" written by Keshav Nigam, which stands as an unparalleled poetic offering of our times, extolling the glory of the Avatar and echoing the soul's deepest yearning for the Beloved.

VERSES 19 TO 21 OF MEHER CHALISA

जब जब जन्म धरौं धरनीं में,
सगुण रूप को पाऊँ ।
सेवा भक्ति पूरी करके,
निर्गुण माहिं समाऊँ ॥१९॥

EACH TIME I AM BORN,
MAY I FIND, O GOD-MAN, THY FORM.
THEN, WITH MY DEVOTION AND SERVICE UNTO THEE
AT LAST FULFILLED, BE RE-ABSORBED INTO THY
FORMLESSNESS. (19)

मैं चरनन को दास तिहारो,
निशदिन यह मनाऊँ ।
करो कृपा ऐसी ठाकुरजू ,
तुव सेवा को पाऊँ ॥२०॥

I AM A SLAVE AT THY FEET.
NIGHT AND DAY I LONG FOR NAUGHT ELSE
SAVE THY GRACE TO SO DESCEND UPON ME, LORD,
THAT I MAY SERVE THEE. (20)

जब जब धरनि माहिं तुम आओ,
अधम उधारन स्वामी ।
मोहि अधम को भूल न जाना,
हौं तुम्हार अनुगामी ॥२१॥

O REDEEMER OF SINNERS!
WHENEVER THOU SHALT DESCEND ON EARTH,
FORGET NOT THIS SINFUL ONE,
FOR I TOO AM THY FOLLOWER. (21)

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI

In Baba's Love,
Framroze (Falu) Mistry
Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust

THIS NEW LIFE IS ENDLESS

"THIS NEW LIFE WILL LIVE BY ITSELF ETERNALLY, EVEN IF THERE IS NO ONE TO LIVE IT." - MEHER BABA

The 76th anniversary of the beginning of Baba's New Life was celebrated at Meherabad on October 16, 2025. Mandali Hall, located in the Main Bungalow at Lower Meherabad, was the venue for a rich and varied program featuring music, readings, and talks about Baba's New Life. Since the original planning meetings that Baba held with selected Baba lovers in 1949 took place in that very room, it was a special joy for Baba lovers to gather there and listen to stories and songs from that time with Him.

Especially inspiring were the readings of Baba's own words about the significance of the New Life.

"This New Life is endless. Even after my physical death, it will be kept alive by those who live the life of



Dhake reading "Farewell to Baba and Companions,"
Mandali Hall, Meherabad, October 15, 1949

complete renunciation of falsehood, lies, hatred, anger, greed and lust; and who, to accomplish all this, do no lustful actions, do no harm to anyone, do no backbiting, do not seek material possessions or power, who accept no homage, neither covet honor nor shun disgrace, and fear no one and nothing; by those who rely wholly and solely on God, and who love God purely for the sake of loving, who believe in the lovers of God and in the reality of Manifestation, and yet do not expect any spiritual or material reward, who do not let go the hand of Truth, and who, without being upset by calamities, bravely and wholeheartedly face all hardships with 100 percent cheerfulness, and give no importance to caste, creed, and religious ceremonies."

Baba lovers sharing stories and songs from the New Life
in Mandali Hall at Meherabad, October 16, 2025





The Welcome and Information Centre being put to good use

A warm, cozy space where they can view films on Meher Baba's life and work, find pamphlets on His messages, prayers, mission, etc., and share stories of Him, told personally with Welcome Centre volunteers. For many, this place provides a much-needed spiritual oasis as well as a safe place to ask about Meher Baba. Some say they come in with their mind stuck in doubt or despair, and leave with their heart made whole and overflowing with His love.

WELCOME CENTRE

The Welcome and Information Centre moved into its new quarters in the old Library at Meher Retreat on Meherabad Hill in early June 2025. Since then, our pilgrims have numbered 1,290, most of them visiting Meherabad for the first time.

Walking in, a pilgrim finds a



New roof panels seen to the left of the school entrance

The final steps of waterproofing and plastering have been done on 80% of the school; the remaining large hall will be completed during summer.

MEHER ENGLISH SCHOOL ROOF

A new roof was installed on our Meher English School, constructed of special sandwich panels, also known as puff panels, installed for their heat insulation quality. This will make the school buildings more comfortable for the children.



The team of helpers work diligently for Baba

SAMADHI PORTICO CLEANING

A deep cleaning session at Baba's Samadhi portico was done by a team of volunteers on October 5, 2025. This is done regularly three to four times a year, to preserve the sanctity and cleanliness of the entryway to His Samadhi. The session began with dry

dusting, which included clearing cobwebs and wiping down the pillars, grills, and wooden panels. This was followed by sweeping the entire portico ceiling, along with a thorough wet cleaning of the ceiling and corners, where fungus had accumulated during the monsoon season. This act of service, carried out in a spirit of love and dedication, stands as a humble offering of gratitude, a reflection of our love for Baba, and our reverence for the sacred space that draws so many hearts to His divine Presence.

HOT WATER SYSTEM

A new, unique solar boiler system has been installed at Hostel D, providing 24-hour hot water for pilgrims. The system is similar to that utilized in five-star hotels and not before seen at Meherabad. The engineer for this project gave the Trust a very good price for the work.

LANTANA INVASION

The flowering shrub known as *Lantana camara* is a common, invasive plant in India, though it is not native to the subcontinent. If not controlled, this shrub can take over, choking out other plants and disrupting ecosystems. This year at Meherabad, boosted perhaps by the plentiful rain, the lantana seemed to increase wildly all over the Trust estate. These habitat stealers need to be eradicated. Using a tractor to pull a specialized cable, the environmental team managed to remove, by the roots, huge amounts of lantana all over Lower Meherabad, a job that would have taken years to do manually with picks and shovels. Next they will tackle Upper Meherabad, as the Hill has also been invaded by Lantana.

HERBAL GARDEN

The Indian Government provides afforestation projects from time to time in conjunction with the Trust. This year they are planting an herbal garden on 15 acres of Trust land in an area that has not been previously afforested. The plants will be native herbs important in Ayurveda. After caring for the new plants for three years, the Government will hand the project to the Trust. The Trust has a good relationship with the Government for these projects, as we are known to be reliable in following through to maintain the plantations.



A portion of Helen Dahm's murals inside the Samadhi

ONGOING SAMADHI MURAL MAINTENANCE

We reported in our last issue on the preservation work done during the dry summer months on the interior walls of the Samadhi, which were damaged by water infiltration. During the rainy months most of this type of work cannot be done. However, the removal of old varnish on the murals was done in August, in preparation for the application of new varnish.

The remaining wall repair work and new varnish application will be done when the rains are truly over and the atmosphere is dry.

The varnish on the walls is meant to be a "sacrificial layer," removeable as needed. The varnish protects the paint layer by absorbing dust, dirt, and U.V. exposure. In time it yellows and needs to be removed. A professional art conservator was engaged for the varnish removal work, which was done expertly and completely in two days. The type of solvents used for this removal ensures that no paint comes off during this process. When the time comes, a newly improved, breathable varnish will be applied to protect the precious murals.

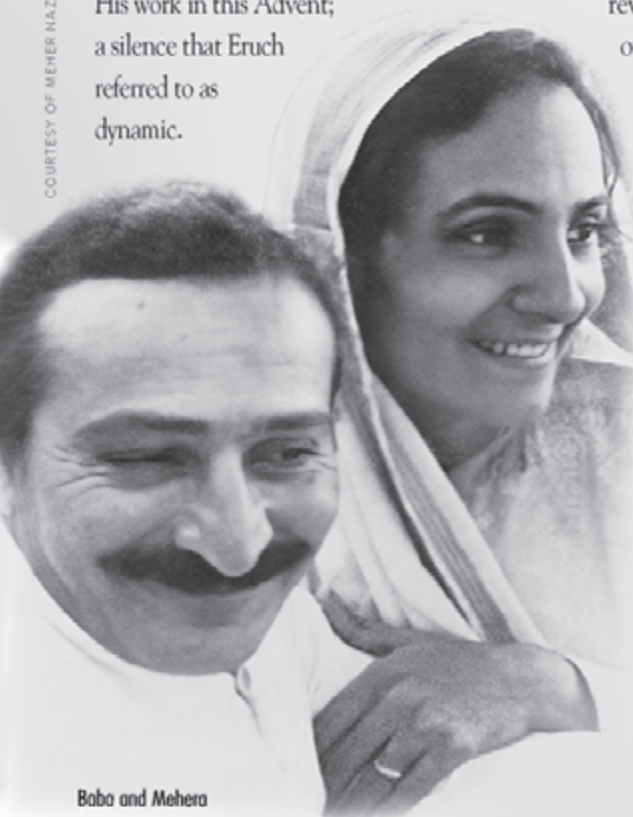


Baba inside the Samadhi, 1954

MEHERA RECALLS 1925

COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS

In 1925, Beloved Avatar Meher Baba began His silence; a silence that continued for forty-four years throughout every phase of His work in this Advent; a silence that Eruch referred to as dynamic.



Baba and Mehera

Another event took place in 1925, an event not often talked about, but which holds great significance. For it was during 1925 that Baba revealed whose destiny it was to fulfill the role of His beloved; that one whom Baba said is the purest soul in the Universe; who loves Him as He should be loved; who has that same exalted role to play in this Advent as Radha to Krishna and Sita to Ram. For Avatar Meher Baba it was Mehera Jehangir Irani.

Mehera recalled that moment vividly when Baba revealed her special status. "One morning, perhaps a month after Baba started His silence, He came into our compound and stood on the east verandah of the Post Office.

"I did not see Baba as I was inside the room cleaning His breakfast utensils, but He must have given a clap for one of the girls working in the temporary kitchen. When they came running up to Him, He gestured, 'Send Mehera!' They came

rushing to the room and told me, 'Quickly, Mehera, Baba wants you.'

"Oh, I thought, Baba wants to tell me something. I hope I have not made a mistake.

"Baba had freshly bathed, and He was standing on the verandah beside the wooden packing case that He used as a seat . . . I could not believe my eyes. Baba was so beautiful. He was very young and very, very slim . . . there was a pink flush on His face. His brown hair was loose, shining in the sun, with the tips golden and looking like a halo around Him . . .

"Baba asked me, 'What were you doing?' I was doing my work, Baba, I replied. 'Are you happy?' Yes, very happy, I told Him. Then Baba sat on the packing case, took His slate, and on that He wrote down what He wanted to tell me.

"From the first time I saw you I recognized you as My Radha,' He said. And He told me some other things, too, but that much I can tell you." [Mehera, compiled and edited by Janet Judson with assistance from Shelley Marich. Trenton, NJ, Beloved Books, 1989.]



Mehera loved this photograph of Baba, taken circa 1926

COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS

SILENCE DAY SAHAVAS



Inside the Information booth

COURTESY OF IRENE HOLT

A special Sahavas to commemorate Meher Baba's 100th Silence Anniversary was held at Meherabad from July 9th–11th, 2025. Approximately 3,000 Baba lovers gathered together for the 3-day program. Accommodation was provided at Lower Meherabad, the Pilgrim Education site, and Meher Pilgrim Retreat (MPR).

On Meherabad Hill, the Amphitheatre came alive with songs, bhajans, plays, films, and talks on topics related to Baba's Silence and other events of 1925. These programs were held from the late afternoon of July 9th, up to midnight arti, and all day on July 11th. On the 10th, all kept silence with Baba, and were able to have darshan at His Samadhi, take darshan at the Jhopdi where Baba stayed when He began His Silence in 1925, and watch silent films shown on the Amphitheatre stage. Also on the Hill, near the parking area, the Meher Information Centre booth was set up to display beautiful photos and information about Baba and His activities in 1925.



Baba's Jhopdi (hut) decorated on July 10, 2025

COURTESY OF JESSICA MEDNICK

AND STILL YET MORE...RAIN!

The monsoon season this year brought tremendous rains to Meherabad and Meherabad, which are bursting with greenery and standing-water ponds as a result. The season total as of the official end of the monsoon in October is 42.5 inches, the second-highest rain gauge reading in 22 years of record-keeping at Meherabad. The annual average is 28.2 inches.

The downpours started early, in May rather than the usual June beginning. May itself was extraordinary. While the 20-year average is half an inch for the month, this year we recorded 15.2 inches in May. Mediocre showings for June, July, and August were followed by the rainiest September we've seen, bringing in 17 inches then, followed by 1.5 in October.

These heavy rains resulted in a huge rise in groundwater reserves. Wells full to the brim are seen all over the landscape, as are ponds and rivulets, as the ground cannot absorb it fast enough. The large

catchment pond to the southwest of the Samadhi overflowed its banks and has provided a beautiful lake scene from the road on the way to the MPR.

Unfortunately, such bounty can have terrible effects as well. With so much rainfall occurring in a short amount of time, there has been tremendous flooding in the region. Farms and villages have suffered losses of crops, animals, as well as the very topsoil that is their lifeblood. Agricultural Maharashtra will be feeling these ill effects for some time.



The lake

COURTESY OF IRENE HOLT

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.

Contact: The Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba Trust, King's Road, Post Bag 31, Ahmednagar, 414001, M.S., India.

Email: chairman@ambpct.org.

Website: www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org.

Support: 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.

How To Donate: 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/

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.

In His Service is the newsletter of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust; all articles are compiled under the direction of the Chairman. Issued biannually, it is designed and published by Sheriar Press, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA. All content copyrighted © 2025 Avatar Meher Baba P.P.C. Trust, and all quotes of Meher Baba copyrighted © AMBPCT, unless otherwise indicated.

New Email Addresses:

For reservations in any Trust accommodations, please email reservation@mail.ambpct.org
The Welcome and Information Centre also has a new email: meherwelcome@gmail.com

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