

PASSION DRIVEN - MR. JAIRAJ THACKER & MR. SUJAY JAIRAJ

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Jairaj Thacker – Managing trustee of the Narsee Monjee Educational Trust and Mr. Sujay Jairaj – Trustee of the Narsee Monjee Educational Trust, both great individuals of hard work and determination. Here below are some highlights of our conversation:



Mr. Jairaj Thacker - The beginning of a new journey:

JNS [Jamnabai Narsee School] was started by my father Shri Chatrabhuj Narsee in 1971 along with his 2 brothers. We were in business, but he thought we should do something for the society. It was this thought that motivated me to take his vision forward.

OUR FOUNDERS ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT EQUAL IMPORTANCE HAS TO BE GIVEN TO SPORTS, ACADEMICS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

So when a child passes out of school, he/she will have an all round development. Since then, we have come a long way with national and international curriculum. Lot of importance is given for sports and we are fortunate enough to have the infrastructure and platform for the students to perform and excel, we also have professional coaches for football, cricket, athletics etc. We



have a lot of students involved in sports at different levels. We give them a lot of support by allowing them to go for practise, help them catch up with studies etc. By and large children who excel in sports are also good in studies, as sports increases the concentration levels.

For me responsibility at school and business is balanced through the day. I spend the first half of the day at school and the second half at our chemical business unit.

I have been playing Badminton in Khar Gymkhana for the past 50 years. I usually play doubles, 3 to 4 times a week. It's a wonderful exercise and more so because I have wonderful company and hence enjoy great games.

My advice to the young parents is for them to give more quality time to their children. For what you do now, will bear results later.



Sujay Jairaj – Motivated, Creative and Passionate

PATHWAY TO AN EDUCATIONAL CAREER: After finishing my 10th from Jamnabai Narsee School [JNS], I went on to do BMS from N.M college of Commerce and Economics, after which I did my MBA from UK. After my return to India in 2004, I slowly started getting involved in our family business and in education. Since I had studied in JNS I basically knew the general working of the school and added to it, the exposure of studying abroad helped me manage the infrastructure and technology of the school. Over the years these have become my two main key expertise in education. Now I specialise in designing schools. Other than our very own 4 schools: JNS (Juhu), Jamnabai Narsee International School, Chatrabhuj Narsee School (Kandivali) & JNS Gift City (Gandhinagar), I also design other schools too. Whenever I travel anywhere in the world I make it a point to visit schools to update in terms of infrastructure, technology as well of safety measures which is a key factor in designing a school.

I believe that Sports + Academics + Extracurricular activities combined with values provide education. The good part of education is that we can do a lot in terms of creativity and innovation. Everyday is a new day, its a life long learning process.

PASSION FOR SPORTS: I am a total sports person. I have been a former National Badminton player, I have

played in KG and coached under Iqbal Sir. Because of my love for Badminton I happened to buy the rights of the biopic on Saina Nehwal. It was random. I was watching her play in 2015 when she became India's first women's player to be World No.1 in Badminton. The whole process took some time to start off. Parineeti Chopra is currently shooting for the biopic and many a times practices in the KG badminton courts.



Now I am into pistol shooting. And because of my love for this sport a movie on the same is on the cards. The other movie on hand is of Mohammed Salim a football legend from Calcutta. Every movie I am producing is on my passion for sports and not as a business.

Sports is one other important aspect when I am designing a school.

Since I love cycling, I started a small FB group for my friends in 2010, called 'Mumbai Cycling Enthusiasts'. It has now become the largest cycling group in the world with over 18,000 members, including many professional cyclists.

URVASHI FOUNDATION: I run this in my Mom's name. We have adopted 16 schools out of which 3 are special schools. They are all very poor Adivasi schools and we fund them for various things from uniform to shoes, furniture, stationary, books etc. We try to give back to the society in which ever best way possible.



FUTURE PROSPECTS: Education for us is a trust, not a business. We always strive to provide the best in what we do. We get a lot of options to start new schools. Instead of going into numbers we focus on quality. So we are working on improving our schools to make it the best in every way.

"IF YOU WANT TO FOLLOW YOUR DREAM / PASSION WORK HARD FOR IT, BE COMPLETELY INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTION. RESULTS WILL FOLLOW. IT WILL TAKE TIME BUT NEVER LET GO."

It is often said that, 'Seeing is believing', and inspite of a busy schedule Mr. Sujay Jairaj took me on a quick tour around the school.

International standards with no stone unturned be it the infrastructure, technology or safety measures.

As Mr. Sujay had said it's a life long learning process. The strive is on....



Amisha Rajesh
Editor