

NAVSARI



Navsari Atash Bahram

For nearly eight centuries, the city of Navsari played a significant role in the religious fabric of the community. It is in this city that the practice of Zoroastrianism evolved in India and where the learned priests of Sanjan came and stayed for 300 years bringing with them the sacred Atash Bahram fire of Sanjan.

- First priest to arrive in Navsari to serve the needs of a growing Parsi population was Kamdin Zarthosht in c. 1142
- The Bhagarsath Anjuman a priestly enclave tasked with ecclesiastical powers was established in 1275 CE
- The Vadi Dar-i Mihr a venerable ritual precinct for high rituals and for the initiation of priests was built in the 13th century.
- Navsari became a place for Zoroastrian learning and priests initiated and trained in the Vadi Dar-i Mihr were known for their ritual proficiency, giving the town the moniker dharam ni tekri - summit of the faith.
- 1740 marks the departure of the Sanjana priests from Navsari after a disagreement with the Navsari priests over ecclesiastical matters. They finally settled in the town of Udvada in 1742
- In 1764 the Navsari Atash Bahram was built and became a place of pilgrimage for those Parsis who had familial connections with Navsari
- In 1579 the community appointed Meherji son of Rana as the high Priest of all the Parsis in India after his famous meeting with Emperor Akbar which brought him and the Parsi community, national recognition.