

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Saifee Villa - Dandi - Dedicated to the Nation by Syedna Taher Saifuddin<sup>RA</sup> in 1961

# Sijill

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Featured updates:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
حُبُّ الْوَطَنِ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ

Rasulullah<sup>SA</sup>

*Love of your Nation is an integral part  
of Faith*

### **15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY: Syedna's Message & Doa for the Nation**

As India celebrates its 69th Independence Day, Syedna Khuzaima Outbuddin TUS prays for the nation:

"I extend sincere greetings and felicitations on this 69th Independence Day of India. Our Prophet Mohammad SA has said "Love of your nation is an integral part of faith." My predecessors the 51st Dai, His Holiness Syedna Taher Saifuddin RA, and the 52nd Dai, His Holiness Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin RA, have for the past century guided the Dawoodi Bohra Community on this path. Today as the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq and Syedna of the Dawoodi Bohra Community I continue in their tradition and guide my followers, to being good, peace loving, and contributing citizens of our Nation.

Thus, as we celebrate our Independence Day, I am hopeful that in the message of communal harmony, friendship, entrepreneurship and service to the nation, lies the deeper independence of all of India's citizens; freedom from poverty, hunger, and illiteracy and toward a future of prosperity, social security, and education. Our Prophet SAW has said, "All of creation are the children of God, and the most beloved to God of those children is the one who benefits his children the most." This has been and remains my guiding ethos.

We face challenging times, but the future is full of promise and possibilities. It is with this positive spirit that we move forward in the face of adversity, striving to uphold our principles of truth, justice, equity and social service and we are confident that we will achieve success in our endeavours because of them.

I pray for peace, happiness and prosperity for all my fellow Indians on the 69th anniversary of our Independence.

I pray that in addition to our political freedom we strive towards freedom and independence from hunger,



#### **HISTORY SERIES:**

*Dedication of 'Saifee Villa' to the Nation in  
1961*



#### **NEWS & EVENTS:**

*Pehli Tarikh Majlis Zilqada 1436H*

poverty, hatred, violence and fear. I urge all my fellow Indians to reflect and reaffirm their commitment to the ideals of freedom and free their hearts and actions from hatred and discord. Only when each and every one of us will be at peace and harmony with ourselves and with our neighbours and communities will our Nation be truly Free.

Peace is the foundation of prosperity and development. I pray that as we stay together in peace with each other that India and our neighbours in the world also find lasting peace and security."

### **SIJILL ARTICLE: Love of your Nation**

Commitment and love for one's nation is strongly encouraged by religion. Specifically, our *hudaat kiraam* have guided us to uphold the highest moral values and actively participate in and contribute to the societies and communities in which we live. Love for the nation is not only expressed through patriotism on Independence Day or when our national team is facing another. The core manifestation of our commitment to the nation is through our pursuit of knowledge and education, through our conduct and character, and through our contribution to the growth and advancement of our nation. Our *awliya' tahereen* have encouraged us to enable both boys and girls to pursue both knowledge of religion and to pursue secular and scientific knowledge. They have guided us and set an example for the highest moral values of honesty, integrity and sincerity. They have guided us to respect our fellow human beings, respect different cultures and religions, and to engage proactively with them. By creating this strong foundation of

respect, they have enabled us to contribute to the growth of our state in the truest sense.

When Syedna Taher Saifuddin RA visited East Africa in the 1960's, Sir Malcom McDonald was Governor General of Kenya at the time. In a speech, he said that the Bohra Community was a model community that peacefully integrated, worked with and contributed to the development of the nation. Whether it is in India, Pakistan, East Africa, South East Asia, the Gulf States, Europe, Canada, Australia or the USA, our community is one that is highly respected. The guidance of our *hudaat* and efforts of community members at large have established the identity of our community as an educated, peace-loving, and forward-looking community throughout the world. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin RA became widely known across the globe as the Ambassador of Peace.

Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin TUS continues to guide Mumineen towards these high ideals. In the challenging times that our community faces today, our identity is at stake – an identity that is deeply rooted in philosophical heritage, centuries of guidance, and the efforts and sacrifices of generations.

As we celebrate the 69th Independence Day of India, we pray for peace and prosperity for the Indian Nation. We also pray, that under the guidance of Daiz-zaman Syedna Qutbuddin TUS, may Allah Ta'ala safeguard the unity and identity of our community from being hijacked by regressive and materialistic forces

### **HISTORY SERIES: Dedication of 'Saifee Villa' to the Nation in 1961**

In 1961 Syedna Taher Saifuddin RA dedicated Saifee Villa in Dandi to the

Indian Government in the presence of PM Nehru. This was the historic villa where Gandhiji stayed in Dandi at the end of the Salt March in 1930. This is an excerpt from '*The Foundation*' a monthly publication of the Saifee Foundation from its 1961 April issue, in which reports on the dedication of Saifee Villa in Dandi in 1960.

### ***His Holiness Dedicates 'Saifee Villa' To Nation Through Prime Minister Nehru***

*The quiet, wind swept hamlet of Dandi, off Navsari on the coast, which had made history three decades ago and become a household word in India, dear to freedom lovers, was the focus of attention again on April 6, '61.*

*On that very day, way back in 1930, Gandhiji had picked up a few grains of salt on the village beach having reached there on foot from Ahmedabad in what has come to be celebrated as the Dandi March. This simple act of picking up salt in symbolic defiance of alien authority had stirred the imagination of the whole country and of the whole world, releasing powerful currents of thought and action which ultimately led to Independence in 1947. The significance of the event, perhaps not fully grasped at that time, and in retrospect it stands out as one of the turning-points of the Indian struggle for freedom.*

*In grateful remembrance of that occasion, Prime Minister Nehru, heir to Gandhiji's great mission, journeyed to Dandi on April 6 to pay homage to the memory of the illustrious architect of our freedom, one who had awakened the self-respect of a whole sub-continent, and do honour to all those who had played their part in the movement for liberation.*

*Panditji visited all the places hallowed by Gandhiji's association, unveiled a memorial to martyrs, at Matwad and the Dandi March Memorial on the beach*

and addressed the huge assemblage witnessing the event. And he received from his holiness Dr. Syedna Taher Saifuddin Saheb the gift of his bungalow, 'Saifee Villa', where Gandhiji had stayed at the end of the historic Dandi March and which his holiness dedicated to the nation through the Prime Minister



Dandi, a small village of scattered settlements with one of the most attractive beaches of white sand on the west coast, had been astir for days in advance, preparing for the occasion. Roads had been improvised on the sand, and fences put up to direct and control the large crowds expected. Hundreds, who had trekked overnight from far-off villages, lined the road from Navsari to Dandi in the early hours of April 6. Flags, festoons and flowers breathed hearty welcome everywhere. And the quiet village, which had known no animation for long, was suddenly alive with the bustle and murmur of a vast congregation of spectators, some of whom had been present on a similar day of stir and expectation thirty years ago when Gandhiji walked into Dandi and made it the centre of worldwide attention and the hub of freedom's hope. At that time, the sea was only a little distance away from Saifee Villa where Gandhiji had sojourned with his followers. In fact, at high tide, waves used to lash the steps leading up to the high ground where the building stands. Since then the sea has receded far, leaving an extensive stretch of sand. A one-storied, roomy, airy bungalow,

Saifee Villa has two big-sized rooms on each floor with numerous windows, stretching right across the walls to let in refreshing gusts of sea breeze. The building faces the west, and Gandhiji stayed in the room on the first floor on the southward side while his associates were accommodated on the ground floor. Close to Saifee Villa are a mosque and two tombs held in high veneration by Dawoodi Bohras and members of other communities as well who come there in large numbers from far and near. Surrounding them are rows of squat buildings, with numerous rooms for the accommodation of the devout, and also a common kitchen where free meals are served.

...  
His Holiness welcomed Pandit Nehru at the entrance of Saifee Villa and led him and the other distinguished visitors inside the house, where an inscription in white on a black background, dedicating the place to the nation, was unveiled, by the Prime Minister. His Holiness handed over to Panditji the title-deed of the bungalow, wrapped in an exquisite piece of gold brocade. Then the Prime Minister rested for a while, talking to His Holiness and His Eminence Mazoon Saheb while other members of His Holiness's family, dignitaries of the Dawoodi Bohra community and other prominent invitees gathered round to pay their respects. Before leaving Saifee Villa, the Prime Minister went upstairs to see the room where Gandhiji had stayed. His Holiness, in a letter to the Prime Minister, stated that the bungalow which he was dedicating to the nation had been purchased by him and later on handed over to the Dawat, the administrative agency of the Dawoodi Bohra community. He had been feeling for some time that the place, which had been hallowed by the glorious association of a great personality like Gandhiji and of an epoch-making event

in the history of modern India, ought properly to belong to the whole nation rather than to a community. His Holiness considered himself fortunate in being able to make the dedication 'through the hands of a leader who has himself made a shining contribution to the struggle for freedom and who is so ably fulfilling, in letter and spirit, the great ideological mission of Gandhiji'.

His Holiness added, "I pray to God and earnestly hope that this house, with the proposed library, will radiate the light and inspiration of Gandhiji's teaching and ever stand as a symbol of those noble ideals of love, brotherhood and communal harmony, for which he lived and died and which alone can help exalt man and preserve human civilisation."

...

The full article is published on [FatemiDawat.com](http://FatemiDawat.com)

### **NEWS & EVENTS: Pehli Tarikh Majlis Zilqada 1436H**



Syedna Qutbuddin TUS presided over the pehli Tarikh majlis on the eve of Zilqada 1, 1436H. Khushi ni majlis was followed by qadam bosi and jaman. Photos of the event have been published on [FatemiDawat.com](http://FatemiDawat.com).

### **PHOTO GALLERY: The 51<sup>st</sup> 52<sup>nd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Dais with the Leaders of the Nation (From Sijill 27)**

On the occasion of the 68th Indian Independence Day we have presented a photo gallery of the 51st, 52nd and 53rd Syedna's meetings with dignitaries of the Indian Republic. The

very first Prime Minister of India, PJ Nehru visited Syedna Taher Saifuddin RA in Surat in the Jamea Saifiyyah and in a warm hearted gesture donned the Bohra Topi. Syedna Taher Saifuddin also dedicated Saifee Villa in Dandi to the Indian Government in the presence of PM Nehru. This was the historic villa where Gandhiji stayed in Dandi at the end of the Salt March in 1930.



Syedna Burhanuddin RA continued to maintain good relations with the leaders of the Nation. The President of India Shri. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed attended the inauguration of Rozat Tahera in 1975. In 2003 President Kalam paid a visit to Saify Mahal to meet Syedna Burhanuddin RA. The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh attended the inauguration of the iconic Saifee Hospital with Syedna

Burhanuddin RA in 2005. Syedna Qutbuddin TUS has also maintained cordial relations with many Indian leaders, especially the late Chief Minister of Kashmir Dr. Abdullah and the former Governor of Maharashtra H.E. Mohammed Fazal. When Syedna Qutbuddin TUS celebrated the PhD of his son Shz. Dr. Abdeali bhaisaheb in a function Mr. Fazal accepted Syedna's invitation to the function to honour Dr. Abdeali bhaisaheb in Ivan-e-Husaini in Mumbai. The leaders of the Nation have always recognized the guidance and example set by the 51st, 52nd and 53rd Syednas and have always held them in high esteem.

### **LEGAL UPDATE: Bombay High Court Declaratory Suit 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

The cross-examination of the Plaintiff (Syedna Khuzaima Qutbuddin TUS) in the Suit filed by him in the Hon'ble Bombay High Court resumed on the 29th of July 2015 at 12 PM and continued on the 31st of July 2015, 3rd and 4th of August in the historic Courtroom No. 46, presided by Hon'ble Justice Gautam Patel.

The Plaintiff was cross-examined by Defendant's (Shehzada Mufaddal Saifuddin) Senior Counsel Mr. Iqbal Chagla. Over eight sessions and approximately 15 hours of cross-examination the Plaintiff was asked over 200 questions. Some of the questions and answers that were asked are published on [FatemiDawatLegal.com](http://FatemiDawatLegal.com). A selection of media articles that were published in leading newspapers has been published on [FatemiDawat.com](http://FatemiDawat.com) also. The cross-examination will continue on the 24th and 25th of August. *The above information is published from [FatemiDawatLegal.com](http://FatemiDawatLegal.com).*



#### **This Newsletter**

This newsletter will inshaallah be published every Friday. It will include the latest news and instructions from Syedna Qutbuddin's office and will be published in Dawat-ni-zaban and Gujarati. It will also highlight the latest updates on [fatemidawat.com](http://fatemidawat.com). Please register to receive the newsletter regularly at [info@fatemidawat.com](mailto:info@fatemidawat.com)

Sijill is an Arabic word which literally means official letter. It was a term often used in the Fatimid chancery. The name is inspired by the most auspicious letter 'Sijill-ul-Bisharat'.

#### **Updates this week**

- 15<sup>th</sup> AUGUST – INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY: *Syedna's Message & Doa for the Nation*
- SIJILL ARTICLE: *Love of your Nation*
- HISTORY SERIES: *Dedication of 'Saifee Villa' to the Nation in 1961*
- NEWS & EVENTS: *Pehli Tarikh Majlis Zilqada 1436H*
- PHOTO GALLERY: *The 51<sup>st</sup> 52<sup>nd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Dais with the Leaders of the Nation (From Sijill 27)*
- LEGAL UPDATE: *Bombay High Court Declaratory Suit 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2015*

#### **Upcoming updates**

- Cradle to the Grave – Part 6
- Ikhwanus Safa Article Series – 4<sup>th</sup> Installment
- Quran recitation with commentary analysis (regular).
- Hikayaat: Morals & Fables from Dawat Kitaabs
- Article Series: Women in Islam
- Fatemi Madrasa Namaz Module – Part 2
- Fatemi Dawat Architecture – Galleries and Presentations
- Fatimid Literature Article Series
- Q&A series on pertinent issues: Shari'a compliant finance, qasar namaz.

If you have any suggestions for updates and content please email [info@fatemidawat.com](mailto:info@fatemidawat.com)  
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