

childhood soundscape. Wadia developed an ear for Hindustani classical music thanks to her uncle who used to play a few records in the house

The baby steps began with a second-hand piano she was handed after she lost her father in the 1940s. Passed down by her father's friend, the piano became her first love at age nine and would go on to accompany her to school and college choirs by the time Wadia turned 15.

While western classical music dominated her childhood soundscape, Wadia developed an ear for Hindustani classical music thanks to her uncle who used to play a few records in the house. In a city then bereft of a school of music, London's Trinity College of Music was the stuff of dreams for Wadia after she completed a diploma in graphic art from JJ School of Art. With two diplomas in piano, she returned to John Victor Paranjoti — the "very exacting conductor who always demanded the best from us" as a soprano. When she ac-

says Wadia who began to introduce Indians to the unheard rhythms and tonalities of modern 20th-century works in the 1970s. Besides inviting composers such as the late Varraj Bhattia to write new choral music, she orchestrated exchange visits with overseas choirs, sowing the seeds of her philosophy that's now baked into PAC's motto: "International harmony through international music".

Meanwhile, something that was "extremely important" to her happened. Wadia became a mother. "She was rehearsing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony all through her pregnancy with me," says her son Sorab, 54, an actor who suspects that he inherited his perfectionism, musical ability and the inability to suffer fools gladly from his fastidious mother. "She wouldn't be okay conducting in a suit that wasn't worn perfectly, or hair that was not just-so..." says Sorab about Wadia who owns a collection of batons and uses each depending on what music she is conducting.

"...even the most vehement fortissimo cannot shake this disciplined woman. Intellectual coolness dominates..." wrote a reviewer in 1974 after she led PAC to win the first prize in Po-

stant understanding of their innermost intentions not only in arrangements of their folk music but also of their most abstract works, Sorab seethed as he watched his mother face "an injustice of racism and sexism" in her home city.

"I dare say I faced more gender and racial discrimination in India than I did abroad," says Wadia, recalling instances when she was sidelined in favour of foreign male conductors "right here in Bombay". "It was something I battled throughout my career," she says. "I have always tried to focus on my job and the music, and ignore the politics as much as I can."

Brushing off those minimalist gestures she was often praised for as "just my style", she says: "I don't like needless drama on the podium. The music is the most important thing and not the 'showmanship' and histrionics of the conductor." Today, the second-hand piano that kicked off her journey has been given away. With her collection of batons and saris, Wadia leads "a simple life". She likes going for drives, meeting friends, occasionally eating out, and, "of course", going to concerts: "That is still my greatest joy."

coverage is poor or unreliable, adding that the process of safety assessments has been complete within a radius of 60km around metro airports such as Delhi, 50km or less. The recent circuit applies to airspace beyond 60km from these airports.

Pilots will find the en route traffic controller has shorted their waiting time and they are permitted to climb or descend to their "optimum altitude" so that was possible earlier. Optimum altitude at which aircraft engines get the best mileage for the fuel burn. "It's documented that an A320 flying at an altitude of 4,000 feet below the optimum

Ex-IRS officer gets 7-yr jail for corruption

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: A former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a special CBI court in Chennai, after being found guilty of corruption and accepting bribes from recruitment agents.

The IRS officer, R Sekar, was charged with accepting bribes to clear emigration certificates between 2007 and 2009, when he held the post of protector of emigrants (PoE).

The court also sentenced Anwar Hussain, a recruiting agent, to four years' rigorous imprisonment.

The CBI had arrested Sekar and Hussain for collecting bribes in the form of "speed money" from various recruiting agents for clearance of emigration certificates submitted by them.

Hussain collected the money and handed it over to Sekar and other public servants.

During investigation, it was found that Sekar had handed over Rs 13 lakh to a person for securing his son's admission to an engineering college. The amount was retrieved.

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