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PARSI JUNCTION

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

WHITE PAPER ON REVERSAL OF POPULATION DECLINE

As the community is aware, Parsis are a dying community with death numbers far outnumbering the birth rates. At the beginning of the nineteenth century Parsis in India were over 1,50,000 numbers and that in then Bombay were over 1,10,000 in numbers.

At that time most Parsis had over half a dozen children with many families having a full cricket team, as most marriages at that time were arranged marriages by 'Kachwallis'.

Joint family system was the accepted mode of family life. And that is why when Jerbai Wadia, the scion of the Wadia family, started building their Wadia Baugs most of them were large flats of 2, 3 and even 4 bedroom flats where three generations of families were adequately housed.

Concept of love marriage was unknown at that time and the children dutifully accepted the partners arranged for them by their parents. Even Pre Independence Parsis were over 1 lakh in numbers. But once Parsis came into direct contact with the British and their way of life, the Joint family system was the first to be affected and nuclear families became an accepted norm as also concept of love marriage became an acceptable fashion and the role of 'Kachwallis' was reduced to a minimum.

When the Trustees realized that we were a dying community with most families having just one child or at most two, around 1999-2000, under leadership of Jimmy Guzder, Rustom Tirandaz, Dinshaw Mehta, Dinshaw Tamboly and others, they started the third child scheme initially giving an incentive of Rs. 1000/ pm for the third child from birth till the child was 18 years old.

But since the number of applicants were not commensurate to the expectations of the Trustees, they subsequently revised the scheme whereby the incentive of Rs. 3000/pm was started from the second child onwards and the third child incentive was raised to Rs. 5000/ pm from birth till the child reached 18 years of age.

To increase births, Trustees started the scheme of invitro fertilisation and assisted child bearing facilities through the assistance of Dr. Pundole. The Govt of India also stepped in with their Jiyo

Parsi incentives through Parzor's Shenaz Cama spearheading the Scheme.

In spite of all these incentives, the Parsi population continued to decrease with about 800 to 900 deaths every year and only 200 to 300 births per year and it was estimated that in another 30 to 50 years, our population would reduce to below 20,000 numbers and we would have to be designated as a Tribe.

The Trustees also appointed Tata Institute to examine the cause of decreasing population and measures required to reverse the trend. Their findings were on expected lines—late or no marriages where one third of our gents and ladies never married or they married late with the result that the optimum child bearing age by passed most couples.

Migration to the West was another reason cited as better living conditions there was an inducement that could not be denied to our youth.



To encourage early marriage the Trustees during the period 2000-01 onwards amended the Merit Rating Scheme under which flats were allotted to waiting list applicants and started giving first priority to engaged couples who came with a marriage certificate over riding all other categories.

With Godrej Baug, Multi Storey Bldg. at Bharucha Baug and the new Nirlon colony were available to house over a thousand applicants and the waiting list which at one time was over 3000 was reduced to around 700-800 only in 2012.

But unfortunately after 2011 when Muncherji Cama won, the unity of the Board came to an end and baseless and deliberate false charges were trumped up to displace the then Chairman through the Wapiz majority.

From 2013 till 2018, medium of raising funds through auction of high value flats was abandoned -- first due to Stay Order of the Charity Commissioner from November 2013 till January 2016 and thereafter due to the stupidity of the defacto Chairman Kersi Randeria who was against this policy of auction of high value flats of over Rs 1 crore which was approved not only by Division Bench of Small Causes Court but also recommended by the High Court Judge too.

Instead Kersi Randeria used his majority to gift these high value flats free or at highly discounted rates to his cronies and friends with the result that very soon the Trustees realized their folly when they had no funds to pay even staff salary or share 50% repairs cost or other incentives leave aside funds for new construction badly needed to house young married couples who now have to fend for themselves instead of being offered a reasonable residence as promised by the earlier Board.

Luckily Chairman Yazdi Desai parted ways from Kersi Randeria around 2018-19 and resumed the auction of high value flats as well as allowing tenants to encash the Tenancy value of their flats in spite of Kersi Randeria's dissent as well as publishing his Dissent below the auction Public Notice in the Parsi Press.

This led to Yazdi Desai warning Kersi Randeria to obey the will of the Majority Trustees or take legal action if he disagreed as per the High Court Consent Terms but to no avail. **Ultimately Yazdi Desai was forced to warn Kersi Randeria that if he did not desist from his willful disobedience of majority Trustees decision then he would be forced to move the Charity Commissioner under section 41D for his removal or move the High Court for Contempt of Court for breach of the Consent Terms signed by Kersi Randeria in the suit filed in the High Court by Viraf Mehta against the Majority Trustees.**

All this tension with Kersi Randeria affected Yazdi Desai's health who unfortunately suffered a stroke in April 2020 from which he has not recovered so far and which led to his resigning in December 2020 from the Chairmanship/Trusteeship of BPP and hence Kersi Randeria after making Yazdi Desai suffer a stroke can count himself lucky that he still continues as a Trustee of BPP.



Coming back to the issue of housing just married couples on priority over all other equally deserving cases, the first step is to create enough wealth to construct new buildings by auction of high value flats. Now that the Refundable Deposit Scheme was resumed again it is hoped that enough funds will be generated to start construction of new houses for the just married couples on priority basis.

With the proactive leadership of the new dispensation in power at present under the leadership of Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz and with the induction of two new Trustees after 14th March 2021, it is hoped that Anahita Desai will continue her husband's policy of generating funds from auction of high value flats as well as the new incumbent Berjis Desai once he is elected will bring fresh ideas to raise badly needed resources to be able to resume construction of new buildings to house the just married couples and thereafter allot other needy members of our community.

In anticipation of enough funds being generated by aggressively following the auction process as well as the PROPOSED policy of preferring Donation to Refundable Deposit by giving Tenancy ignoring the Objections and Dissent of Kersi Randeria who refuses to grant any Tenancy to anyone but insists on allotment only on Leave License basis so that his terrorizing our Parsi beneficiaries can continue unabated, the new dispensation of the Board of Trustees should now start their various construction projects all over town which had been kept in abeyance due to lack of funds and the infighting caused by the huge EGO of KERSI RANDERIA WHO STEADFASTLY REFUSES TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST OF TRUSTEE VIRAF MEHTA TO CONVERT ALL LICENSEES TO TENANTS.

1) The first construction project that the new Board should start should be the construction of 300 flats at Panthaky Baug for which undertaking was given by the Board of Trustees to the High Court in 2009-10 and for which Kersi Randeria has filed a Contempt of Court action against the Trustees in 2012-13 and though Kersi Randeria has himself become a Trustee since October 2015, he has deliberately taken no steps to fulfill the solemn Undertaking given by the Trustees to the High Court.

Whilst there have been changes in land usage of Panthaky Baug due to the new provisions of the recently promulgated Development Plan, the High Court Orders can be used to restore the land usage as originally envisaged and the Construction of 300 flats can be started at the earliest. This will take care of all the Just Married couples waiting for homes to start their families.

It is suggested that a few large flats of 3 and 4 RK flats be also constructed and kept in reserve for those families that produce at least three children as an incentive to give them large flats to reverse the decline in Parsi population.

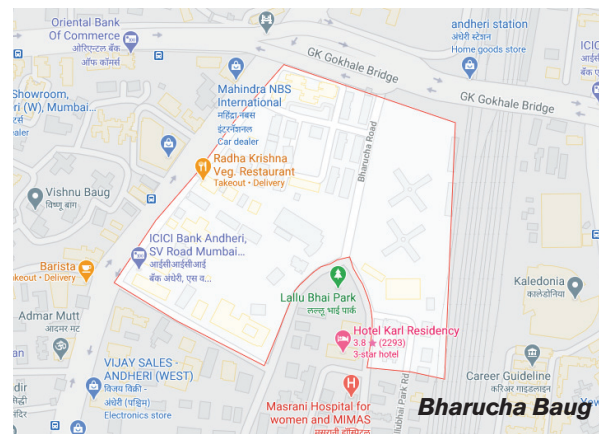
2) SIMULTANEOUSLY the Trustees can resume the Redevelopment of Nirlon Complex for which D-bldg has already been demolished and it was proposed to demolish the existing but dilapidated buildings—C, E, F AND G—And RECONSTRUCT NEW TOWERS in its place.

Unfortunately the Architect in charge of the Nirlon project Mr. I. H. Shah expired a few years back with the result that all the plans and papers have been lost with his demise. His wife has closed down his office and the plans which had been prepared are now lost to the BPP.

With direct access from the Western Express Highway to the Nirlon Complex now available, this redevelopment will be a boon for the waiting list applicants and at least 100 more families can be housed after rehousing all the present occupants of the four buildings.

3) The Godrej Baug Ownership project can also be taken up so that BPP is flush with funds to ensure that new projects for the benefit of our beneficiaries can be started.

4) The Bharucha Baug Ownership project for which Kersi Randeria has already wasted almost Rs. 1 crore as Architect fees for Ownership basis as the Trust Deed of Bharucha Baug is very clear and specific which does not allow Ownership flats nor commercial development but Kersi Randeria has made it a prestige issue and has challenged that he will construct Ownership flats only by having the Trust Deed clauses amended.



The OWNERSHIP project is a non-starter as it would be in breach of the terms of the Trust Deed. Lawyers have already sent notices to the Trustees against the Ownership project but Kersi Randeria has challenged the lawyers that he will amend the Trust Deed but construct Ownership buildings at Bharucha Baug.

It seems that Randeria has forgotten the earlier precedent when Minoo Shroff was the Chairman who tried to sell the Multi Storey building flats in Bharucha Baug on Ownership basis in 1994-95 and had even issued forms at Rs. 1000/ each but when Fali Poncha showed the Clauses of the Trust Deed the then Trustees gave up their proposal to sell the flats on Ownership basis and had to refund the Rs. 1000/ collected from proposed Purchasers.

If the Trustees ultimately decide to construct in keeping with the terms of the Trust Deed then about 80 new flats can be constructed to be allotted free to the poor and needy.

5) The Navajbai Contractor Baug at Mahim is capable of being developed through the six or seven buildings of Palmlands mainly occupied by non-Parsis. The residents of Palmlands are very keen to co-operate to redevelop their buildings under MHADA's 33(7) incentive giving FSI of 3 plus 35% fungible FSI effectively making it 4 FSI. And since under Mhada rules this flats in Mahim have to be sold on Ownership basis this will add to the corpus of the Trust. After rehousing the forty fifty original occupants the BPP will get about 120 new flats for sale on Ownership basis.

6) Dhunbai Wadi and Dhunbai Villa Redevelopment project can be once again started at no cost to the BPP so that the present Occupants, both rental as well as Ownership can get new RCC construction against their present dilapidated buildings plus about 150 new flats for the Developer and BPP to be shared equally.

7) The above six Projects will house all the waiting list applicants and then to attract Parsis abroad to come back to their motherland, the Trustees if they so desire can take up the redevelopment of

a) Cusrow Baug new Ownership bldg which Architect Hafeez Contractor has already designed

b) Dadar Parsi Colony Redevelopment which had already been approved by MHADA and NOC also issued which unfortunately could not progress further as Rustom Tirandaz the main proponent to get MHADA NOC lost to Maneck Engineer who promptly to the bad luck of the community returned back the NOC to Mhada in 2003 on the mistaken belief that in 10 years there would be more flats than Parsis and hence there was no need for any further new constructions. It is a sad commentary on Maneck Engineer that even after 17 years there is a waiting list of over 600 applicants desperate to be housed in adequate flats

c) Navroz Baug Redevelopment project which also has been designed by Architect Hafeez Contractor

d) Khareghat Colony Bldg No. 25 comprising 1RK tenements can be repaired or reconstructed and can house single ladies or gents in view of the predominant Seniors in our community.

In view of the above White Paper outlining the future projects, it is hoped that with adequate housing available for all strata of Parsis our community will multiply and the declining trend will be reversed and the road to recovery of our numbers will commence with the new dispensation under the leadership of Armaity Tirandaz.

BPP ELECTIONS 2021

NOSHIR JUSTIFIES HIS PROPOSING BERJIS DESAI

From: z-newz@googlegroups.com
<z-newz@googlegroups.com>
On Behalf Of noshir
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 8:52 PM
Subject: BPP elections 2021

Although it is my avowed principle that a sitting trustee should not involve himself or herself with elections this is a very critical time at the BPP and I have done what I have not done in my term of office for the last two elections.

I have against advise and criticism from those close to me proposed Berjis Desai's candidature.

I am keen to see a person like Berjis in the Board Room because he will be a balancing force between the "warring parties".

He will also bring his vast legal acumen to the BPP Board.

I have known Berjis since several decades. We started out writing against each other on matters of religion but later keeping our religious differences aside we became good friends. Of course it's another matter that Berjis in recent years has become traditional in his views.

He is my fellow trustee at the Boyce Agyari and where his contribution is invaluable.

He is a person of cool and calm temperament and has the ability to reason out with those holding contrary views.

The BPP today is standing at a cross road and in Berjis I see hope for the future of BPP.

Anahita Desai too will be a good for the BPP.

It would be best if these two could be allowed by the community to come in as consensus candidates and save BPP

election expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs as also laundry expenditure of washing dirty linen. Yes, I have broken the balance of my own self imposed discipline and as Sitting BPP trustee I am actively rooting for Berjis because more than anything else I wish to see balance and discipline on the BPP Board.

Let my critics condemn me if they wish to. But I would rather be condemned personally than see BPP condemned till October 2022.

The wise and those who know the seriousness of the situation will understand.

Noshir H Dadrawala
Trustee - BPP



Noshir Dadrawala

BPP ELECTIONS 2021

ANAHITA YAZDI DESAI AND BERJIS MINOO DESAI ARE THE TWO FIRST AND HOPEFULLY LAST ASPIRANTS HAVING FILED THEIR NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEES ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON 14TH March 2021 at the usual five voting centres.



Anahita Desai



Berjis Desai



ONE MORE FEATHER IN PHIROZE AMROLIWALLA'S CAP



Phiroze Amroliwalla

After having co-operated with Trustees Armaity Tirandaz, Viraf Mehta and Xerxes Dastur to withdraw the illegal levy of extra service charges of Rs. 750/pm on 29th July 2020 and exposing the shenanigans of the notorious Kersi Randeria including transfer of Tenancy from his kaka's flat to his mother's name and other misdeeds of Kersi Randeria, Phiroze Amroliwalla has been proactive with Khan Estate residents to form a committee to be responsible for managing the Security there.

He then started a fund collection drive to install cabins for the security guards which had been lacking for decades at Khan Estate. The biggest problem faced by the security guards at Khan Estate has been the lack of toilet facility which is also proposed to be shortly solved.

We give below his correspondence with the Trustees on the said issue:

Porta cabins for Khan estate Security guards.

On Fri, 15 Jan 2021 20:10:30 +0530 Phiroze Amroliwalla wrote

>Dear Madame Chairperson and Co-Trustees, and CEO Mr. Aspi Sarkari,

You are aware that from January 2021, the BPP guards have been withdrawn from the Khan Estate security duties. One of their main grouse was the lack of Security seating and Toilet facilities.

From October 2020 residents of Khan Estate were persuaded by the BPP Trustees to form a committee and accept responsibility for organizing and managing the security system as was done for over ten years before the deployment of BPP guards as an interim measure.

After receiving the funds collected by BPP, the committee started functioning in right earnest from December 2020. We received various suggestions to provide cabins, toilets, CCTV cameras, enhanced security by raising the height of walls etc.

We started by introducing the myGate app which required no capital investment and which several residents have welcomed. This app is very successfully in use at Khareghat Colony for nearly a year. This requires our main entrance gate to be attended by a guard 24x7.

To this end, we have been actively pursuing the various requirements and have decided to start by installing a 4'x4' Portable cabin at the gate of Khan Estate which will have a guard 24x7 to monitor vendors, couriers, and other visitors. For the purchase of this cabin, we have managed to raise the required finance through contributions by committee members, well-wishers, and some residents.

For future needs, we will appreciate and welcome more funds from the BPP which will help us achieve our goals faster!

However for now we seek your permission to proceed with placing the order. We assure due care and compliance with your fair and reasonable conditions.

Best wishes to all,

For and on behalf of the Security Committee,

Phiroze Amroliwalla
Jehangir Doctor
Jehangir Irani

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 11:01 AM aspi sarkari <aspisarkari@rediffmail.com> wrote:

Sir,

Permission to install the porta cabin for the security staff at Khan Estate is granted. The same shall be entirely at the committee / occupants expense.

A. F. S.
C. E. O.
Parsi Punchayet Bombay
From Phiroze Amroliwalla on 2021-01-21 12:09

Dear Mr. Sarkari,

Many thanks to you and the board for your email!

The cabin will be entirely paid for from

contributions received from committee members, some residents, friends, and well-wishers.

We have other plans for improving the security arrangements and hope the Bpp trustees will help us in the future.

Best wishes,

Phiroze Amroliwalla
Jehangir Doctor
Jehangir Irani

FLOWERS

A flower has many petals
Of different shapes and hues
When the ray of sun
Gently taps on them
They open up and
Start to bloom
When we pray our
Hearts opens up
The aroma of our
Efficacious prayers
Also fill the room

Each petal is attached
To a pistil
From where it gets
Reviving blood
So that it stays
Healthy and strong
So also our efficacious
When we pray
It winds its way to
The Creator
Where it creates
A special bond

When we see
A garden of flowers
Are cup of joy overflows
So too our prayers
Have the power of healing
Making one forget
All worries & woes
Choicest Happiness
Farida

Farida



PLEASE PROMOTE THIS MESSAGE OF ZARATHUSHTRA
WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ENHANCE
THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

FROM: MEHER AMALSAD, WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA, USA

FEATURING BA HUMATA

A Prayer, Leadership & Entrepreneurship
Global Webinar Series on
Prayer With Action And Action With Prayers
by our Thoughtful Priests, Insightful Leaders and Thinking Entrepreneurs

THEME:

BUILDING HAPPINESS
WITH THE CONSCIOUSNESS
OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Ashem Vohu)

On Sunday, February 7, 2021
8:00 AM Pacific Time
11:00 AM Eastern Time
9:30 PM Indian Time
4:00 PM GMT

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83408826220>

Meeting ID: 834 0882 6220
Passcode: 545117





The Second Webinar Features The Following Global Zarathushti Icons:

Our Respected Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor from India
 Our Super Star Priest Mobed Zerkxis Bhandara from United States
 Our Honorable Dorab Mistry OBE; from Singapore and United Kingdom
 Our Dynamic Youth Icon Danny Master from United Kingdom

Along With Our Very Own Zarathushti Neuro Scientist
 from Cambridge University in United Kingdom
 Dr. Karishma Koka, PhD
 Founder, Host And Moderator of Ba Humata

Please Reserve Your Time For A
 Milestone Experience Of Your Life.

<http://https://ba-humata.co.uk>

Please join us for our Webinar to build a Global Zarathushti Fellowship of Collective Consciousness
 Sunday 07 February 2021, 8am PST, 11am ET, 4 pm GMT, 9.30pm IST
 Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 834 0882 6220

Passcode: 545117



Ba Humata
 Flame of Fellowship of Collective Consciousness

Ba Humata is an endeavour
 with good thoughts to build
 Fellowship via Prayer with Action
 and Action with Prayer

We aim to send out powerful united
 vibrations of
 Peace and Love for the good of all.

Talks relating to **Good thoughts** and **prayers with good actions**
 propagating
Fellowship, World Peace, Happiness (Ushta) and Prosperity for All
 Building Happiness With The Consciousness Of Righteousness (Ashem Vohu)



Vada Dasturji Khurshed Dastoor
 (India)



Mobed Zerkxis Bhandara
 (USA)



Dorab Mistry
 (UK & Singapore)



Danny Master
 (UK)



Dr. Karishma Koka
 Founder & moderator

k

The speakers & Biographies are arranged by Mr. Meher Amalsad - Mentor and Facilitator

**The audience will be invited to share with Vohu Mana (good mind) how
 Zarathushti prayers have helped, inspired or enabled them
 to have different experiences in their lives.**



Ba Humata
 Flame of Fellowship of Collective Consciousness

With
G **Thoughts**
O **Words**
O **Deeds**
D

for the Good of All

Principles of Ba Humata:

- Ahunavar, Ashem Vohu, Yenghe Haataam, Aa Aairyema Ishyo and
- Thoughts chosen as the foundation to benefit the Peoples of the Planet (Yasna Ha 49.3 Spentomad Gatha)
 - Rejoicing all actions done with good mind (Vohuman) as a form of prayer (Yasna Ha. 28.1 Ahunavad Gatha).

Goals and Purpose:

To share a deeper appreciation of the knowledge in the Prayers (With meanings), Principles and Practice of our Zarathushti Deen and how this guides all aspects of life.

Conserve and honour the great legacy of our knowledgeable Respected Dasturjis, Respected Ervads, learned people + build proper respect for them.

Build a bridge of communication between our treasured senior generation and our featured future generation

To conserve the Zarathushti knowledge while encouraging the development of the younger generation:
 empowerment with knowledge, leadership for the good of all.

BISNI DAKHMA RESTORATION AT MUMBAI DOONGARWADI COMPLETED

The repairs to the Bisni Dakhma at our hallowed Mumbai Doongerwadi, are finally completed thanks to donations received from certain members of the Parsee community and the unrelenting efforts of the BPP trustees and staff.

Under the guidance of Dasturji Dr. F. M. Kotwal, the required ceremonies to restore the spiritual strength of the Dakhmas was undertaken by Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji and his son Ervad Hormuz, which concluded with the performance of a Jashan ceremony today at Icchapurwalla Pavilion at Doongerwadi by Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji. All those who had donated to the cause were graciously invited to the ceremony. All the BPP trustees were present and so were some of the donors.

After the Jashan, Chairperson Armaity Tirandaz thanked all involved in the efforts with a special memento being offered to Mr. Vistaspar Mehta, the very obliging and most helpful manager at Doongerwadi, under whose charge the repairs were undertaken.

Those present were then introduced to Dr. (Ms.) Rashneh N. Pardiwala, Founder & Director, Centre for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), who has been undertaking native tree plantation drives at Doongerwadi and Ambawadi since the year 2015 in order to revive and restore the health of the forest at Doongerwadi with the support of the BPP. Dr. Pardiwala spoke briefly about the work accomplished by her over the past 5 years. Only Indian native plant tree species were selected for plantations. To-date, 7,092 trees have been painstakingly planted at Doongerwadi and Ambawadi and their survival rate was 98.2%. This plantation of 7092 trees also served as an important carbon sink for the city. A total of 7092 native trees had the potential to sequester 1,567 MTCO₂ over a short span of only 15 years and will sequester many more tons of carbon pollution through their lifespan of growth.

In 2015, Dr. Pardiwala started planting native trees in Ambawadi on her own personal initiative, time, effort and resources. A total of 1477 trees were planted in the first year and slowly her passion to continue afforesting Doongerwadi grew and she continues working silently to help green



one of last green lungs of South Mumbai. Her genuine voluntary efforts over the past 5 years has gradually gained the support of BPP Trustees, sponsors such as Mrs. Persis Vatcha of the Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Trust Funds and even community members namely Mr. Vispy Dalal and Mr. Firdosh Anklesaria.

Dr. Pardiwala regretted that many a times misinformed community members had summoned the police and municipal authorities under the mistaken impression that she was cutting down trees. She explained that only those termite infested trees which had earlier collapsed, were being removed as they would harm the other flora and fauna. She hopes that her efforts to rejuvenate one of the most historical and religious places situated in Mumbai is wholeheartedly supported by the community since Doongerwadi serves both the community and the city by providing vital ecological services that helps improve the city's environment. She was very grateful for the unstinted support received by her from the BPP trustees in her activities at Doongerwadi.

This was followed by a plantation drive, where the guests were invited to plant sandalwood saplings. Sumptuous and delicious snacks and tea were served thereafter to all the

invitees. The whole event in the pleasant environs of Doongerwadi graced by a gentle cool wind and the chanting of our Mathravani by the priests, was a soothing experience by itself.

We are all quick to criticise our trustees for anything and everything. So, in all fairness, when they do a splendid job as done in this repair and restoration of the Bisni Dakhma, they deserve kudos and it is the community's duty to thank them and encourage them. We should also wholeheartedly support their next endeavour, which is the repairs to the Anjuman Dakhma.

Incidentally, she has been doing this whole activity at Doongerwadi completely free of charge and all funds received by her go directly into the plantation efforts of procuring large saplings, installing drip irrigation system with pump, hiring labour to cut and transport fallen trees etc. Not a penny is taken by her. On the contrary, she spends a lot from her own pockets to make ends meet and bridge any shortfall!

She also works entirely pro bono for her own NGO and does not draw a salary from CERE being the Founder Trustee. A true Zoroastrian to the core. A splendid example for today's Parsee youth to emulate!]



PLANTATIONS AT DOONGERWADI & AMBAWADI

Dr. Rashneh N. Pardiwala has been undertaking native tree plantation drives at Doongerwadi & Ambawadi since the year 2015 in order to revive and restore the health of the forest at Doongerwadi with the support of BPP.

Only Indian native plant tree species are selected for plantations with **3-4 year old saplings** with a minimum height of 4-6 feet. Healthy well-rooted saplings with lateral branching are chosen to ensure to ensure a survival rate of 98.20%. To date, **7,092** trees have been painstakingly planted at Doongerwadi and Ambawadi.

More than 50 species of flowering and fruiting forest species like Jarul, Bahava, Sawar, Saptparni, Jamun, Sandalwood, Ber, Bael, Phanas, Beheda, Bibba, Palas, Raktchandan, Chandan, Saag, Shisam etc have been planted to ensure a mixed healthy plantation.

This plantation of 7092 trees also serve as an important carbon sink for the city and every effort is taken to ensure 100% survival with day-to-day maintenance and care. A total of **7092 native trees have the potential to sequester 1,567 MTCO₂** over a short span of only 15 years and will sequester many more tons of carbon pollution through their lifespan of growth.

In 2015, Dr. Pardiwala started planting native trees in Ambawadi on her own personal initiative, time, effort and resources. A total of 1477 trees were planted in the first year and slowly her passion to continue afforesting Doongerwadi grew and she continues working silently to help green one of last ree lungs of South Mumbai.

Her genuine voluntary efforts over the past 5 years has gradually gained the support of BPP Trustees, sponsors such as Mrs. Persis Vatcha of the Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Trust Funds and even community members namely Mr. Vispy Dalal and Mr. Firdosh Anklesaria who have extended support to this noble initiative. Individuals like Mr. Vispy Dalal and others are now gradually coming forth to start helping Dr. Pardiwala manage different aspects of the project and lend a helping hand.

Rashneh is an ecologist from the University of Edinburgh having specialized during her MSc and PhD in the field of Climate Change. She is the Founder & Director of the Centre for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), a Mumbai-based not-for-profit organization that works to promote environmental sustainability through formal education, government collaborations, corporate partnerships and public awareness campaigns. CERE undertakes CSR projects for a range of leading companies such as Wipro, HDFC Ltd, IndusInd Bank, Tata Capital, Toyota Motors, SP Group, BNP Paribas and many others. Dr. Pardiwala presently serves as a Director on the Board of Studies, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and is a Subject Expert for numerous educational foundations and charitable trusts. In 2005, Dr. Pardiwala was recognized as one of the youngest 'Social Entrepreneur for Change' and was awarded the Ashoka Fellowship. In 2009 Dr. Pardiwala was selected as one of Asia's 21 Young Leaders by Asia Society. In 2011, Rashneh was selected by the Svenska Institute in Stockholm for Fellowship program on Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability. In 2013, Dr. Pardiwala was awarded the Ford Fellowship to study at Columbia University, NY.

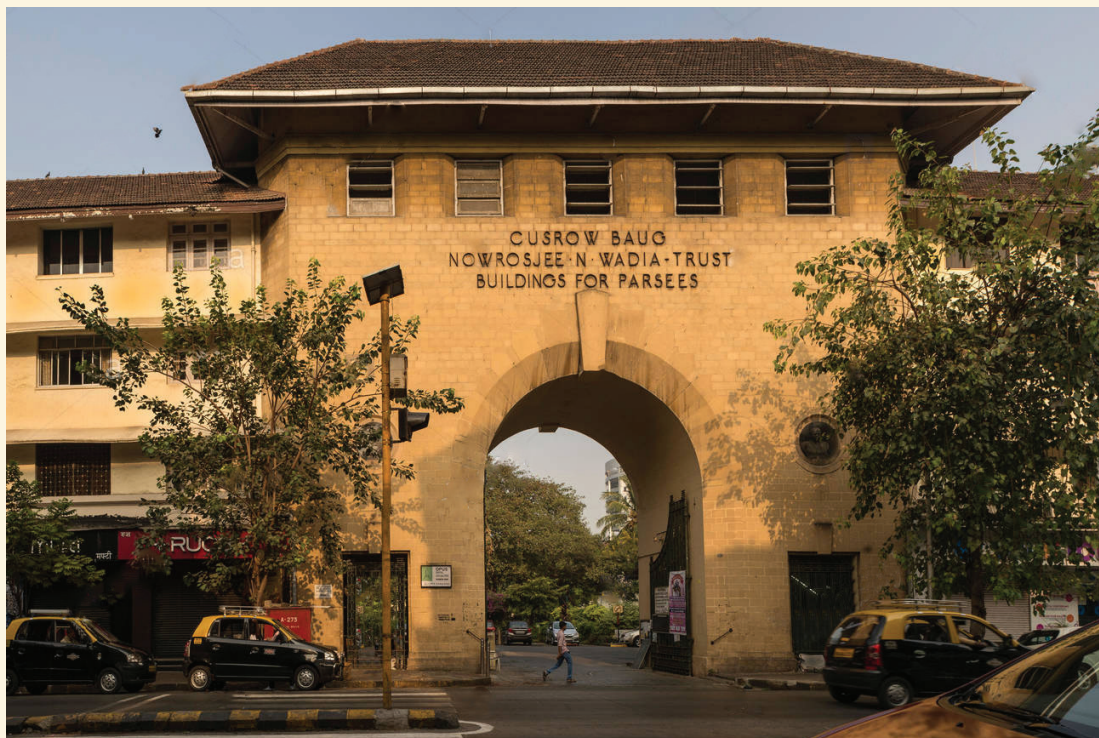
It is important that the Parsee community unites to actively conserve and manage the forests of Doongerwadi in a professional manner like our forests in national parks and sanctuaries.

Every year, many trees fall due to gusty winds and heavy downpours during the monsoon season. In the monsoon of 2020, more than 80 large old trees collapsed due to the Cyclone Nisarga and torrential rains which even led to a major landslide on the road flanking Doongerwadi from Hanging Gardens to Kemps Corner. This unforeseen natural calamity with falling trees destroyed property, damaged parked cars, broke water pipelines and flattened young plantations, leaving BPP and Dr. Pardiwala no option

but to take necessary action. **Trees are living beings, have a natural lifespan and require proactive maintenance.** The overgrowth of weeds and climbers can restrict the growth of young saplings. Termite infested fallen trees need to be cut and removed to make space for re-planting younger saplings and restore ecological balance. Forestry techniques like thinning, lateral branch pruning, opening up of a closed canopy, removal of invasive and exotic species, organic mulching etc. need to be practiced, as and when required, so as to improve the health of our Doongerwadi forest which is under tremendous stress in a highly polluted urban city like Mumbai.

A healthy and diverse ecosystem is slowly emerging because of regular tree plantation drives during monsoon and year round maintenance that is resulting in increased floral and faunal biodiversity. The community needs to support the efforts of BPP and Dr. Pardiwala to help revitalize the forests of Doongerwadi. The thousands of young saplings planted today will grow into tall and strong trees of tomorrow to serve the coming generations of Parsees. Dr. Pardiwala hopes that her efforts to rejuvenate one of the most historical and religious places situated in Mumbai is wholeheartedly supported by the community since Doongerwadi serves both the community and the city by providing vital ecological services that help improve the city's environment.

Rashneh Pardiwala is an Asia 21 Young Leader.

**AUCTION OF CUSROW BAUG FLAT C-12, FIRST FLOOR, 3RK, 900 SQ.FT.****PUBLIC NOTICE**

The BPP N.N & R.N Wadia Baugs are in possession of a **3R+K flat admeasuring about 900 Sq Ft Carpet area on the 1st Floor, being Flat No C -12 at Cusrow Baug, Colaba**. The said flat is proposed to be offered on Leave & License basis to prospective offerers who give the highest quantum of Refundable Deposit in excess of **Rs. 2.75 Crores** for the same.

Those interested are requested to contact the Custodian at Cusrow Baug (Contact No 022 22047521 or (M: **93 2282 5716**) to take inspection of the said flat Monday to Saturday 10 a.m to 1 pm.

- Those interested are requested to attend the Auction to be held on Zoom on **Thursday 28th January 2021 at 6.00 p.m.**, and submit their proposal in a sealed envelope with a separate **Demand Draft of Rs. 1 Lakh** in the name of **"Funds & Properties of the Parsi Punchayet Bombay"** as Earnest Money Deposit which will be returned if their proposal is not accepted. Please do not put the Demand Draft in the sealed envelope but hand it over separately. The Sealed Envelope along with the Demand Draft is to be submitted at Neville House, J.N. Heredia Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400001.
- Interested buyers must quote value of the flat in excess of **Rs. 2.75 crores (Reserve Security Deposit amount)**, exclusive of Stamp Duty and Registration Charges, as applicable for registration of Leave & License Agreement.
- The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of all the applicants on the same day (**on 28th January, 2021**) at 6.00 p.m.
- The highest offer will be taken as the Second Reserve Security Deposit amount and the applicants will be requested to make an Open offer in excess of this Second Reserve Security Deposit amount.

- The highest Open Offer will be taken as the Third Reserve Security Deposit amount.
- The Bid Member – offerer will be guided beforehand by the **Presiding Chairperson- BPP Trustee** for all 3 Round Bidding process . Final Round will be conducted on One-to One direct Phone confirmation for bid in excess of 2nd Round final figure.
- The flat will be allotted to the highest bidder in this Third & Final round. (If any tie it may occur, one more round will be conducted on same pattern of Third & Final round for Final Highest Figure)
- 50% of the full Security Deposit amount of the flat must be deposited by the highest offerer within **15 days** of the auction and the **balance 50% within one month** of the auction. Failure to make payments on the Due date will lead to cancellation of their offer and the forfeiture of the Earnest Money Deposit. The flat may again be re-auctioned, or offered to the second highest bidder, as decided by the Trustees.
- The Leave & License Agreement will be registered after full Security Deposit amount is received by the Trust.
- The Trustees reserve the right to refuse any or all offers at their discretion without assigning any reason.

For and on behalf of the
BPP N. N. & R.N. Wadia Baugs

P. N. Siganporia
SECRETARY



Few Stray thoughts and a few general observations for Sunday January 24, 2021.

From Phiroze Amroliwalla on 2021-01-23 18:51

The Editor, Parsi Junction, Mumbai.

The more I read "From the Editor's Desk" in Parsi Times, the more I admire the Editor and her pen!

In yesterday's PT she has very courageously referred to "a rising sense of dictatorship and intolerance, exhibited by world leaders." She goes on to list them and has not hesitated to include our own PM as "world leaders who don't justify their leaderships". She has correctly stated "Leaders determine the destiny of nations". She further adds "Be it our nation or our community, the same holds true—we trust our elected leaders to deliver progress and welfare. But when the fundamentals and functioning of leadership get compromised, everyone suffers". Well said, Madame! Good and sincere leaders lead by example, but it requires just one obstinate dictator, as in our community too, to cause the "turmoil which had been building up to a crescendo".

Alongside this piece is another apt letter "Trusteeship For BPP" from another lady, Piroja Homi Jokhi whose writing skills and thoughts are worthy of admiration! A fortnight ago she had written an excellent letter in the Parsiana, also on the same subject. **This lady has suggested what Mr. Dinshaw Mehta and the undersigned had stated more than two weeks back that the BPP could save a huge expenditure by allowing the two unrelated Desai's, each for their own justified reasons to join the BPP board uncontested. Having thus joined the board, the lady Anahita Desai and the gentleman Berjis Desai, should then voluntarily seek reelection in 2022 along with the other retiring members of the Board. Their reelection will be a confirmation of the community's faith in them. Thinking aloud, this could be the beginning of introducing for the future, in a phased manner, a cost-saving scheme of having a consensus candidate for unexpected vacancies on the Board.**

It is now taken for granted that any and every election brings out the worst amongst voters and critics alike. Eminent members of our community were not spared even during the 2008 BPP elections when the AFP group had managed to form an excellent panel of candidates. One of the reasons why outstanding ladies and gentlemen from our community hesitate to offer their services and file their nominations, lest their names and those of their near and dear ones also get dragged and embroiled in avoidable controversies.

Maybe the new board should have a relook at the election scheme and along with the longstanding demand to reduce the term of trustees to a maximum of two terms of four years each, also consider inviting eminent men and women of unquestioned excellence who have contributed to the wellbeing and welfare of our community to oversee the formulation of policies and on whom the board members can look up to for advice and guidance. To name any single individual will not be fair to any such equally qualified individual who may be missed out purely through oversight. Such people of eminence will hopefully bring an end to the Groupism which has slowly but surely crept into our Apex Body, the Bombay Parsi Punchayet. Also, the CEO should be vested with

powers to run the administration without interference from any trustee. He should be accountable to the board for implementing policy decisions of the Board.

Till such a Utopian dream can come true, let us all wish the Desai's the best of luck. One never knows if these worthies will be allowed to come in uncontested: There is always the likelihood of a "Mirjafar" lurking somewhere; maybe in the very corridors of power.

Ever since the elections have been announced, messages across the various social media platforms are freely floating with individuals and groups speaking for or against the necessity of holding elections and casting aspersions on the likely candidates. A group of messages argues in favour of elections as that is what Adult Franchise was all about and therefore Not holding elections they feel would defeat the purpose. On the other hand, there are those who argue that allowing the two worthies to join the board uncontested would result in a huge saving of funds that could be better utilised for a more deserving cause.

Let us wait and watch till the next weekend!

Phiroze Amroliwalla

THE CALL OF FAITH

"The Call of Faith The super busy and dynamic young lawyer, Ervard ZERICK DASTUR completed his Maratab earlier this week and is now a full-fledged Parsi priest, having taken his rank in Ahura Mazda's army of devout Ratheshtars. Wish more Parsi professionals from Athornan families would embrace the glorious priestly robes and serve our Holy Fires".



**PRESIDENT
KCYATF**



TAROT PREDICTIONS FOR THE 12 MOON SIGNS (RAASHI) FOR THE WEEK

Kermeez Shroff Ghadiali

Follow me:  lamagusks LaMAGUS

For consultation or workshops
connect with me at:
Mobile : +91 9819221480
Email: lamagusks@gmail.com

All consultations and workshops
will be held online only.



Aries (Mesh Raashi-a l e)

A wonderful week ahead. For those of you looking to start new ventures or simply getting your act together.. this is a promising week. You are seen planning about the future and you are seen socializing as well. Progress in career is also seen.



Leo (Simha Raashi-m tt)

You must avoid making hasty decisions with regards to finances this week. Romance and falling in love is seen this week as well. Try to control your temper to avoid friction at your workplace.



Sagittarius (Dhanu Raashi-bh f dh)

Chances of experiencing a personal laws are there this week. Concentration will be on the homefront. Take care of your health. Overall a bumpy and rough week.



Taurus (Vrishabh Raashi-b v u)

If you are in a creative field or are an artist this week will bring out the best. Otherwise this is a fun filled week. You are seen either relaxing or exploring some hobbies. Chances of receiving some good news are also there.



Virgo (Kanya Raashi-p tthh)

Stress and anxiousness follow you this week. Hence it will be best if you lay low and do not make any hasty decisions. You will get help from an elderly mature person either from your family or workplace.



Capricorn (Makar Raashi-kh j)

A wonderful week ahead. With determination and courage your wishes can be fulfilled this week. Success in your career is seen. Travel is also likely.



Gemini (Mithun Raashi-k chh gha)

Multiple earning opportunities will come this week. You are a powerful creator this week. So take this opportunity and rush ahead on whichever path you may be on. Meditation will help you a lot this week.



Libra (Tula raashi-r t)

A bumpy week ahead. Careerwise it will be good you will get name fame and recognition. Teamwork will pay off. However you are seem stressed out with regards to competition or personal situations.



Aquarius (Kumbha Raashi-g s sh)

You will receive good news or some kind of fame his week. However on a personal front things are not very clear. Be careful who you place your trust in...you might be deceived. You also need to take care of your expenditures.



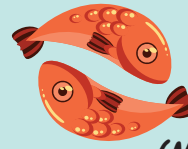
Cancer (Karaka Raashi-dd h)

Hard work pays off this week. You will plan things for the future and will have a successful outcome. You might be confused with choices with regards to your career. Be cautious.



Scorpio (Vrishchik Raashi-n y)

The focus is on career and finances this week. You will reinvent yourself within your workspace. Some of you could also take up a new job or business. Be careful how you spend your money this week. Expenses a seen.



Pisces (Meena Raashi-d ch z th)

Work will keep you busy. New opportunities are also on the horizon. Good opportunities for making money are also seen. Overall a pleasant week.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Over the years
Many have ardently
Fought for social justice
Cyrus the Persian King
Who etched the preamble
of Human Rights
On his Cylinder
Adorning the halls
United Nations
Mahatma Gandhi
Martin Luther King
John Lewis Junior
To name just a few
Will not be the last

They stood shoulder
To shoulder for
Humanity to be
treated not like

"A slave poked
Prodded waiting
To be bought"
But to be treated with
Respect understanding
Dignity Equality

They stated that
Every human is born
Free regardless of
Colour caste or creed
or whether one is a
Royal poor beggar or thief
Unchain the shackles
that bind them
So they can survive
As a whole
As they wish to
Be Free!!!

They sacrificed
Their lives
Shed blood sweat
As well tears
So humanity
Doesn't have to
Live under the shadow
Of fear!!

I end by quoting
John Lennon song:
"Imagine if there was
No Heaven or Hell below us"
To good would be driven
By "Giving Peace A Chance"

Choicest Happiness

Farida

JUST A THOUGHT

Wish I, there were no man made
barriers n boundaries here;

Like birds n beasts without passport
we could travel, far,
or next moment be here.

Without fights, wars n armies to
guard, there would be more cheer.

No one would ever go hungry, there
would be plenty of food, wine n beer

Without weapons destructive, wealth
could be used for purpose better here.

O Ahura, O kind Lord, without getting
frustrated, help me to
spread peace and cheer.

Help us to understanding become and
help our hearts n minds
to become clear.

Armin Dutia Motashaw

હે માનવ

તારી છાતી પર બાંધી લઈ જવાનો નથી કશું તું,
રાખજે સદા એટલું યાદ.

રાખશે જો યાદ, અને કરશે ભેગી,
ખરી મહેનતની કમાઈ, તો થશે તું આબાદ;

પચતી નથી કોઈ ને બી, કમાણી બેઈમાનીની,
થઈ જાય છે એવો માનવ બરબાદ;

સાંભળજે સદા તારા અંતર આત્મા નો અવાજ,
તટોલશે તો સંભળાશે તને એનો સાધ.

દૌલત શૌહરત સાચી હોવી જરૂરી છે,
વેચાતી એને લેતો ના; સાંભળી એ નાનો સાધ,
થશે તું આબાદ.

બની શકે તો કરજે ભલાઈના બે કામ, ખુદા બેઠો
છે આપવા અંજામ, કરતો રહેજે ખુદા દાદ.

Armin Dutia Motashaw