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PARSI JUNCTION

Sunday, 10 April 2022

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

THE COMMUNITY WEEPS FOLLOWING A COMPLAINT BY KERSI RANDERIA, CONVERSION OF LEAVE AND LICENSE TO TENANCY HAS BEEN STAYED

Kersi Randeria has succeeded in bringing about a stay on the conversion of Leave and Licenses to tenancies.

Historically, it is very rare that the BPP Trustees who have made commitments actually stick by them after elections. The current Trustees had a gem of an idea to convert all leave and licenses to tenancies. This was on the election manifesto of nearly all Trustees.

To act of their commitment, three Trustees (Viraf Mehta, Armaity Tirandaz and Xerxes Dastur) passed a ground-breaking resolution on February 21, 2022, permitting all lawful licensees to convert their leave and license agreements to that of tenancy by paying the statutory stamp duty.

When this issue was brought up before Justice Kathawala and Justice Jadhav by certain individuals not in favour of conversion, including Trustee Kersi Randeria, the Court was of the view that if the individuals felt a wrong action was being taken, they could consider moving the High Court (Chamber Judge) for relief. However, no one challenged this decision.

However, we now have learnt that the

**PARSI JUNCTION
RECEIVES NOTICE
FROM CHIEF ELECTION
COMMISSIONER
IN THE PARSI
JUNCTION ISSUE OF
27TH MARCH 2022,
UNDER NEWS ITEM
TITLED 'BPP BOL',
WE HAD COMMENTED
ON CONVERSION OF
LEAVE LICENSE TO
TENANCY FOR WHICH
WE RECEIVED A NOTICE
FROM THE CEC**

Election Commission of the ongoing elections has put a stay on the resolution passed by the Trustees on February 21, 2022 on conversion of leave and licenses to tenancy. The stay has been put by the EC pursuant to a complaint dated March 24, 2022 filed by Kersi Randeria who has

opposed the resolution passed by Viraf Mehta, Armaity Tirandaz and Xerxes Dastur.

It is our view that politics that takes away benefits to the community should be frowned upon. The community had the golden opportunity to allow the conversion of all lawful leave and licenses to tenancies so that all beneficiaries can be secure and safe in their home without the fear of eviction. This opportunity seems lost for now and no one except the community beneficiaries shall weep.

Below are the emails exchanged by this paper with the Election Commission:

To,
Mr. Kersi Sethna
Editor & publisher
Parsi Junction

Dear Sirs,

RE: News item in Parsi Junction edition of 27th March 2022 on the subject conversion of Leave & Licenses to tenancies

The Election Commission has noticed with grave concern the publication of a News item titled "BPP BOL" in the above Parsi Junction issue.



Prima facie the title is deliberately misleading to convey an impression to the reader that it is an official communication from the BPP.

You are called upon to forthwith intimate in writing to the Election Commission your source of information relating to the details of the resolution passed by the BPP trustees regarding the above subject matter.

Please also forthwith intimate in writing to us whether you were made aware by any BPP Trustee or BPP staff member of the directions issued by the Election Commission dated 24th March 2022 to the BPP trustees not to issue any Public advertisement/news item in this regard.

You are requested to provide the aforesaid information not later than 29th March 2022 by noon under any circumstances.

The Election Commission reminds you of the personal Undertaking given by you to the Hon'ble Bombay High Court, and the inclusion of your publication in the Order sanctioning the Election Scheme dated 1st March 2022 passed by the Hon'ble Bombay High Court.

The Election Commission will be further investigating the matter which prima facie appears to be an attempt to circumvent the directions of the Election Commission.

All further communication on the subject shall be through the email id electioncommissionbpp@gmail.com.

Your Sincerely,

Commodore Aspi Marker

CEC"

In reply we sent the below mail explaining the news item:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen on the Election Commission,

Bombay Parsi Panchayat, Mumbai

I have read your email down below and that is why I am replying. I am currently in Poona and confined to bed due to old age illnesses and that is why I am late in sending this email to you all.

1. At first, I would like to unconditionally apologize to the Election Commission if our 27/March/2022 edition of Parsi Junction has caused any hardship to you, due to any

misunderstanding or otherwise. Every story has two sides and **within the community our aim is to provide what we think is the right side of the story in keeping with our motto of transparency and accountability.**

The article with the title **BPP BOL** is something we have been using for much time now to let the community know interesting new items of the BPP, the apex Trust of our community. These are our views only. We have never proposed for anyone to think that this is from the BPP and there is no complaint against this ever.

The hot topic of conversion of leave licenses to tenancies has been in the news for quite some time, right from 2018 till date. In fact in the past, two Trustees have also published articles on this topic with us. Other Trustees have published articles on this topic in other papers. **The view of the paper is that tenancies should be given to all as long as the Trustees can keep the colonies for Parsis only.** We have stated this in the article and this is the view we published.

Details of the resolution passed by the Trustees on 21/February/2022 of conversion of leave licenses to tenancy has been circulated on Whatsapp as well as print media to answer your query regarding this Resolution.

We are not aware of any directions of yours of 24/March/2022 nor has anybody informed us of the same. If you send us a copy of the same, we are willing to publish the same in next issue if you so desire so that the community can become aware of the same.

We like to confirm that our article BPP BOL is not defamatory in any way of anyone, which is the only commitment made by this paper to the High Court.

We remain confirmed to the commitment given by us to Judge Kathawalla and have no attempt to break the commitment for which we reiterate our assurances to you all in that regard.

With thanks and regards
Kersi Sethna"

The cec after reading our above explanation, has closed the inquiry with the below reply:

News item in Parsi Junction edition

of 27th March 2022 on the subject conversion of Leave & Licenses to tenancies

Thank you for your mail.

On Fri, 8 Apr, 2022, 7:07 pm Election Commission, <electioncommissionbpp@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr Sethna,

We refer to your email dated 29 Mar 22.

The EC finds your response unsatisfactory and believes that there was an attempt to circumvent the decision of the EC, in the matter. However, in light of your unconditional apology, the matter is closed. You are cautioned to comply with the provisions of the Election Scheme and Code of Conduct, in letter and spirit.

In your next issue, you need to publish both letters of the EC to you and your reply.

Sincerely,

Commodore Aspi Marker

Chief Election Commissioner"

As we have stated to the EC, our intent is to provide the truth (which may be bitter to some). Our commitment to the High Court is limited to not making defamatory material against any person – which we have all intentions to abide by. As we are not election candidates, the other provisions of the Scheme of Elections or the Code of Conduct are not applicable to us.

OUR COMMITMENT MADE TO THE DIVISION BENCH AS RECORDED IN ITS ORDER IS BINDING ON US AND NOTHING BEYOND THAT. THE EC IS CONCERNED WITH CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS IN A FAIR MANNER AND NOTHING MORE.

EDITOR.



THE BOMBAY PARSEE ASSOCIATION PAYS HOMAGE TO SIR HORMUSJI COWASJEE DINSHAW (ADENWALLA) ON HIS 165th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

The Bombay Parsee Association paid homage to Sir Hormusji Cowasjee Dinshaw (Adenwalla) on his 165th Birth Anniversary on April 4, 2022 at 9. a.m. President Xerxes Vispi Dastur, garlanded the statue of Sir Hormusji at Veer Nariman Road (Near Bhikha Behram well) on behalf of The B.P.A. Others who garlanded the statue were, great grandson Jehangir Patel, great grandson Saroosh Dinshaw, great great grandson Hirji Adi Jehangir, Commodore Aspi Marker, great grandson Homi Patel, Marazban Wadia and Adi Mehta.

Bombay Parsee Association President Emeritus, Mr. Vispi Shapur Dastur mentioned the highlights of Hormusji's life and achievements. Hormusji was the Founder Patron of the Bombay Parsee Association and Founder President of the Iran League. His great grandson Jehangir (Editor of Parsiana) mentioned how the family had established and developed the business and helped the poor

and the needy. Others who also spoke included Commodore Aspi Marker, Adi Mehta, President FOZAWAC.

Floral tributes were also paid on behalf of the Bombay Parsee Association, Iran League, Cowasjee Dinshaw Trust, Navsari Parsee Association, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, etc.

Others present included members of the Adenwalla family,

Aloo Shroff, Pervin Sidhwa, Tehmina Peer, Rusi Bhungara, Jamshed Keki Mistry etc. Snacks boxes were provided courtesy Commodore Marker. Around 25 persons joined in paying homage to this great son of India and the Parsee community.

Xerxes Vispi Dastur

President

Bombay Parsee Association

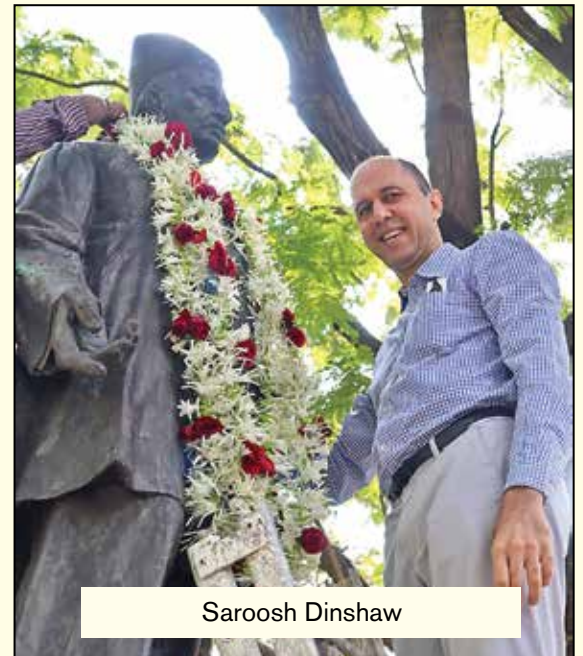


The Bombay Parsee Association
President Emeritus - Vispi Dastur



President of The Bombay Parsee Association
& BPP Trustess - Xerxes Vispi Dastur

Celebrating **50** years
V. S. DASTUR & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Saroosh Dinshaw



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• Sunday 10-04-2022

PARSI JUNCTION

LIKE MINDED CANDIDATES FOR THE BPP ELECTION

MAHARUKH KOBAD NOBLE

Proposed by: Mr. Farokh Kavarana

Seconded by: Mr. Hanoz Patel

Mrs. Maharukh Noble has worked in the shadows of her own success for decades. Her commitment to serve the less-privileged of our community has been at the forefront of her resolve and she now wants to take these initiatives through the BPP.

Mrs. Noble has spent more than half her life serving the less fortunate and needy of our community. It all began under the influence of Late Mrs. Silloo Kavarana, fondly remembered as the Florence Nightingale of the Parsi community. Mrs. Noble spent a good part of a decade working at the Red Cross with Mrs. Kavarana, after which there was no turning back.

Maharukh Noble has been a silent worker for decades but her repertoire speaks volumes. She has been on the Ladies Committee of the Parakh Dharamshala



for over fifteen years helping those who have been forgotten by their own families. She has been on the Managing Committee of the Ratan Tata Institute (RTI) for almost fifteen years

and for the last five years, she has been a Trustee at RTI. . She is also the Managing Trustee of the 119 year old Stri Zarthosti Mandal that is synonymous with providing doles to the poor, education aid to the needy and medical aid to the less fortunate. The Mandal not only distributes food grains, Sadra, Kusti and other necessities to the poor living in the interiors of Gujarat but has also constructed borewells and provided electricity connection to families staying in villages.

Through the Zarthosti Mandal, Mrs. Noble has single-handedly spearheaded the Adopt-A-Mobed scheme to provide monthly hampers to the Priests of our community as a token of thank you for the yeoman service they provide us.

Mrs. Noble is not just religious but believes in preserving our religious institutions too.

As part of the Kar Seva group she has actively help organize and participated in the cleaning, repairing and painting of the Agiaries and Aatashbehras. So far the Ranji Agiary at Grand Road, the Soonaji Agiary at Gowalia Tank and the Ashburner Agiary at Khetwadi have been the recipient of this groups efforts.

It is well know that Maharukh Noble holds Community Welfare very near and dear to her heart. Her latest contribution to the community is the Dr. Nelie Noble Medical Center at Khareghat Colony. Not only did Mrs. Noble provide the funds required to repair, renovate and design the medical center, she has also committed to a monthly contribution towards the running of the medical center for the next few years. This magnanimous donation will alleviate the concern of the Parsi/Iranis in that area of the lack of doctors in colonies to provide death certificates.

We are happy that individuals like Mrs. Maharukh Noble have put in their candidature for the BPP elections and rest assured in the coming weeks, you will hear more on the social activities and plans for the community.

THE PRESIDENT, TRUSTEES
AND
THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
KHAREGHAT COLONY YOUTH ASSOCIATION
TRUST FUNDS



Invite you to the
Inuaguration of Dr. Nelie Rustomji Noble Medical Centre
by
Dr. Farokh Udwadia
at
1-A, Bldg., No. 28, (Behind Bldg., 10 & 11) Old Khareghat
Colony, Hughes Road, Mumbai - 400 007.
on Saturday, 9th April 2022.
at
6.30 p.m. Onwards

RSVP - 9820554973 / 9870743410 / 8850409526



EMPOWERING MOBEDS TRUST

REGISTRATION NO: E-36787(M)
C/O THE WZO TRUST FUNDS.
C-1, HERMES HOUSE, MAMA PARMANAND MARG,
OPERA HOUSE, MUMBAI 400 004.



Settlers	Advisors
Dasturji Dr. Firoze M. Kotwal Dasturji Khurshed K. Dastoor	Dasturji Kaikhushru C. Ravji (Meherjirana) Ervad Dr. Ramiyar P. Karanjia

Trustees	
Mr. Dinshaw K. Tamboly Mrs. Binaifer K. Sahukar Mr. Karl K. Sahukar	Ervad Dr. Burjor H. Antia Ervad Meher S. Modi

Team Members	
Mrs. Kashmira A. Kakalia Ervad Cyrus D. Darbari Ervad Hormuz A. Dadachanji Ervad Kaizad H. Karkaria Ervad Kerman Fatakia Ervad Porus J. Katrak Ervad Sheherazad R. Pavri	Mr. Sarosh K. Daruwalla Ervad Farzad A. Driver Ervad Firdaus R. Pavri Ervad Khushroo Makihatana Ervad Marazban N. Kanga Ervad Dr. Mazda K. Turel Ervad Shahvir Panthaki

OUR JOURNEY BEGAN 6 YEARS AGO TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION & COUNSELLING SKILLS TO OUR MOBEDS & THEIR FAMILIES. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ATHORNAN MANDAL AND THE WZO TRUST FUNDS, WE HAVE GROWN SINCE THEN TO ENCOMPASS VARIOUS OTHER ACTIVITIES.

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR TRUST HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CHARITY COMMISSIONER, MUMBAI. WE WILL CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE OUR VARIOUS PROGRAMMES TARGETED AT MAKING MOBEDI A VIABLE AND RESPECTED VOCATION. WE HOPE TO PROVIDE A PLATFORM WHERE MOBEDS REGAIN THE POSITION THEY HELD A FEW DECADES EARLIER AS CO-LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY.



LIKE MINDED CANDIDATES FOR THE BPP ELECTION

RUMY ZARIR

Proposed by: Adv. Jamshed Mistry
Seconded by: Capt. Percy Master

Rumy Zarir one of the community's most active and well-known community worker and activists. Everyone knows Rumy as the man who will get things done!

A common man from a humble background who has come up the ranks the hard way! Rumy understands the people's needs, the community's needs! He is grass root worker who is always available 24x7 for the community.

Rumy was sole representative to bring down the viral videos on YOUTUBE that defamed the community by falsely propagating child marriage within the community and portrayed our Doongerwadi as a haunted place.

Rumy is driven by the community affairs. An independent thinker and a doer.

During the peak of the pandemic when people were confined to their homes,



Rumy was one of the few who stepped out every single day to the aid of the community, arranging everything from groceries to ambulances and medical aid for whoever and whenever needed. He stepped up to the plate when vaccinations began and got hundreds of Parsi families priority to get their shots easy and fast. He is especially commended for the efforts he made towards the seniors of our community.

Rumy Zarir was felicitated with the '100 Most Impactful Corona Warrior Awards' by the Social Talks in association with Indian Drug Manufacturers' Association (IDMA) for services rendered during the lockdown to society at large.

Rumy has been appointed as CEO OF Zoroastrian Building Fund where he is doing a very commendable job to look after the welfare of all the residents of Chikalwadi complex at Tardeo.

Rumi has been a silent worker through out his life. When we learnt of his contribution towards our community we were shocked

and yet immensely impressed.

Rumy was one of the key individuals involved in Thooti Agiary encroachment issue and was instrumental in sorting the matter by endlessly following up with local authorities for over six months. He ensures the sliding gate illegally made by the neighbouring society was completely demolished. He also made sure that the parking spaces were freed up for Parsis visiting the Agiary which were also illegally encroached upon.

Rumy also helped o save the Eedawalla Agiary situated at Marine lines by halting the construction of a public lavatory outside the Agiary. The same was then demolished after filing a written objection and several follow-ups with the BMC authorities.

When the need to preserve our culture and heritage arises, Rumy will always be in the forefront and will march on towards making it happen. Some people dream of success, while other people get up every morning and make it happen. In the coming weeks we will show you how Rumy Zarir has performed feats far greater than our community is aware of.

NEW HOME FOR SENIORS

A new 16-studio, ground-plus-one-storey, Healing Touch, Senior Citizens Home at Village Garade, 23 kms from downtown Poona, has been started by ex-merchant navy officer Capt Adi Mistry on March 5, 2022. At present nine seniors are set to reside in the apartments that are "fully furnished with everything from toilet paper to geysers," he notes. Facilities include a big recreation room, with a 48-inch television set and "almost all basic indoor games... The land has a long walkway, with huge trees, all along the roads... We plant about 300 trees every year," Mistry stated. Wife Khurshid manages the staff.

Rooms are available at a predetermined price, and mostly on sharing basis. "The basic amount starts with about Rs 36,000 per month and gradually comes down to Rs 18,000 per month for



long-term residents," noted Adi. "This can reduce further if we get donations... We can increase the number of senior citizens by building more infrastructure, as I have more plots."

"I have already invested about four crore rupees to fulfill my mother's (Shera) dream, wish and command," the 72-year-old Adi stated. "Dikra kai bhi karé tau buddha o né sambhaaljé, dua laagsé (Whatever you do, take care of the elderly... you will receive their blessings)," the senior lady reportedly told Adi. "I have prospered... séva karu tau su khottu chhè (what is the harm in serving?)" he told us.

Mistry may be contacted on 9822209752; Healing Touch, At and Post Village Garade, Gat. No 2313/1, Taluka Purandar, Dist Poona, 412301.



THE TRUSTEES WE CAN TRUST - BPP CANDIDATES



ARMAITY RUSTOM TIRANDAZ

Proposed by: Mrs. Zarine Daruwalla
Seconded by: Mrs. Zarine Engineer

Mrs. Armaity Rustom Tirandaz is the flag bearer of our community. She has been a Trustee of the BPP for 13 years and the Chairperson since Jan '21. And by god her service to the community is par excellence.

No soul in the community can make any ill-toward statement against this iron-lady, except those who are weak and afraid of her capabilities as a true leader.

Many were of the view that Mrs. Tirandaz would not be contesting this election. However, we are happiest to see her file her nomination as there is no better person to lead the community for the next 5 years.

Mrs. Tirandaz is the first lady Chairman in over forty years. And should she be re-elected (which we are certain she will) - she will become Chairperson of the BPP for a complete term and will be the longest serving female Trustees of the BPP since the introduction of adult franchise.

Mrs. Tirandaz's grit and determination has been tested at every single step of her Chairmanship but she has never let the noise made by her detractors bother her. She conducts herself with tremendous grace and poise and has managed to maintain her independent identity. Her passion to serve the community burns bright even today and in the coming weeks you will get a better idea of what her experience and strength she has to offer the community.

XERXES VISPI DASTUR

Proposed by: Mr. Cyrus Jamshed Guzder

Seconded by: Mr. Keki Mistry

Xerxes – the Trustee who kept all his commitments.

When he contested to be elected in 2018, Xerxes committed to resign with the rest of the Board in October 2022 giving up 3 years of his 7 year term. Being a man of his word, he is stepping down in just 4 years as a Trustee of the BPP in May 2022 with the rest of the Board as per his commitment and standing for re-elections. By doing so, he has single handedly saved the community Rs. 40 Lakhs of Trust funds which would have been spent on a mid-term election.

When he was appointed in 2018, Xerxes along with the support of Chairman Tirandaz and fellow Trustee Viraf Mehta fought to remove extra service charges of Rs. 750/ pm that had been ruthlessly levied on community colony residents by the then majority Trustees to cover up for loss of revenue due to his wrong policy of not auctioning even high value flats.

Finally in 2020, Xerxes prevailed and kept to his election commitment to remove the additional service charges of Rs. 750. This reduced the burden on the community members many of whom were poor and yet being threatened, illegally, to either pay the service charges or face eviction from their homes.

His commitment to convert Licensees to Tenants was not allowed to be fulfilled either



by the then majority Trustees. But when the tide changed with the Majority now being led by Armaity Tirandaz, the Trustees decided to convert lawful Licensees without any baggage to Tenants after obtaining legal opinion from the Solicitor firm of Mull and Mulla and DSK Legal.

Xerxes Dastur has an exemplary career so far. He

is an auditor of various Parsi Trusts, Agiaries and Atash Behrams. He is also the Trustee and Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Ripon Club, President of the Bombay Parsi Association, Chairman of the Mumbai Chapter of the World Zarthushti Chamber of Commerce, Member of the International Board of the World Zarthushti Chamber of Commerce to name a few.

To add to the many feathers in his hat, he is also the President of the Sir Ness Wadia Memorial Pavilion and the treasurer of the Rustam Baug Welfare Association.

Being a Chartered Accountant by profession and running his own company, V.S. Dastur & Co., Xerxes' penchant for fiscal efficiency cannot be matched. He was quick to join Yazdi Desai in managing the accounts of the BPP and post Yazdi's resignation, he has taken charge. It is another story that the BPP's financial condition was dire even before Xerxes became a Trustee but kudos to him for helping in keeping the Trust above water. The next few weeks will show.

VIRAF DINSHAW MEHTA

Proposed by: Mr. Keki Mistry

Seconded by: Mr. Adille Sumariwalla

Viraf is probably the most outspoken Trustee on the right side of the spectre. He is honest and hardworking and despite being the youngest Trustee in the BPP, he has stood shoulder to shoulder with peers clearly showing us that age is just a number.

As Vice-President at one of Asia's leading Investment Group, Viraf has amassed over two decades of experience in the capital markets



and currently heads his own trading team. Despite that, his contribution of time and dedication to his community and especially the beneficiaries of the BPP is unparalleled.

He is loved and hated for being the son of the ex-Chairman and community stalwart Mr. Dinshaw Mehta.

But despite his nay-sayers and detractors constantly trying to pull him down, he has managed to clear every hurdle with sincerity and humility.

Continued....



Viraf Mehta has had a torrent first term where he spent the first half fighting to simply get his basic right to information as a Trustee. Both he and Mrs. Tirandaz were denied access to all papers, agenda, minutes, documents, legal or even any BPP accounts. Having no choice he and Mrs. Tirandaz were forced to eventually move the Bombay High Court to get an order directing all information to be provided to all Trustees. The HIGH Court whilst castigating the dictatorial behaviour of the then majority Trustees, ordered them to treat Mrs. Tirandaz and Mr. Mehta as equal Trustees. While the huge legal cost of this hearing was borne personally by Mr. Mehta and Mrs. Tirandaz, the then majority Trustees charged their legal bill of almost Rs. 70 lakhs to the BPP and misused the much needed community charity funds to settle an inter-Trustees dispute.

Viraf Mehta, like his father, has earned the reputation of being the go-to person for anything a community member may need. He is

caring and compassionate. He listens patiently and does not hesitate to call a spade a spade.

One cannot ignore the proactive approach of Viraf Mehta during the Covid pandemic which lasted for almost two years. Besides being part of the team at the BPP that was responsible to ensure that all the poor and weaker sections were fed lunch and dinner by setting up a kitchen in Cama Baug, he single handedly took on the responsibility of co-ordinating with the Parsi General Hospital to provide the first vaccine shot for everyone in our community, whether living in a colony or not. He also gave his personal guarantee to the Hon'ble Bombay High Court to hold the Farvardin prayers at the Doongerwadi in September 2020 for the benefit of the community. Members Trustee Xerxes Dastur was the only other Trustee who stood shoulder to shoulder with Mr. Mehra on this day. **Viraf Mehta is the architect for ensuring the conversion of all Leave and Licenses to tenancies. But unfortunately at this point, Trustee Kersi**

Randeria has opposed this and filed a complaint with the Election Commission and obtained a stay on this issue. We are certain with the right board elected, they will do what is right to ensure all lawful leave and licenses are converted to tenancies.

Given the financial distress the BPP is in, Viraf Mehta along with Xerxes Dastur and Chairman Armaity Tirandaz resumed the Auction of High value flats which had been stopped by the earlier majority Trustees. Before his resignation, late ex-Chairman Yazdi Desai had also seen the merit in this and had changed his mind to now allow such auctions. This has once again brought much needed funds in the coffers of the BPP. Not only does the BPP benefit from this but the outgoing Tenants are allowed to encash their tenancy whilst allowing a new family to start their life in a Parsi colony.

The next few weeks will layout a road map for the revival of the BPP beyond the past debacles it faces.

WHAT WE NEED: KOM NI UNITY

What We Expect: To Trust our Trustees

For the upcoming election, there is a hope for change

From our Trustees we expect:

- 1) Continuous constructive work
- 2) Funds towards Repairs of old Buildings
- 3) Housing for the Poor
- 4) Housing for those young couples earning above the Rs. 1 lakh cut off
- 5) Raise more donations to repairs assets like has been done for Doongerwadi and Gamadia Boys Hostel
- 6) Reduce litigation and resolve legal matters (Mindless litigation MUST STOP)
- 7) Empower and enable young Zoroastrians earning well to take long term mortgages and increase their capital.
- 8) Subsidies to the poor in the community
- 9) Unlock plans for redevelopment which have been locked up in bureaucratic red tape
- 10) Bring further transparency into the functioning of the BPP
- 11) Publish the accounts of the BPP
- 12) Ensure transfer/transmission to legal heirs is seamless, transparent and time-bound. Clear the backlog.
- 13) Use the BPP website more efficiently to streamline basic processes
- 14) Look into the community wide group Insurance plan which the BPP has not been able to do because of lack of finance



DOES NOT AN INCREASE IN SALARY AMOUNT TO AN INDUCEMENT TO VOTERS? – asks DR. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR

I was informed that the BPP Trustees are in the process of increasing the salary of the Class IV workers by over 20% and its cumulative effect considering Provident Fund, various leaves and other indirect costs would lead to atleast 25% increase in wage bill every month. I was very surprised at the timing of the decision to increase the salaries, especially when a new Board of Trustees is to take office within two months on May 29, 2022.

Suspicious into the action of the Trustees, I inquired into the number of Class IV workers (Zoroastrians and non-Zoroastrians). I was shocked to learn that:

there are a total of about 220 Class IV Workers, of which: a total of about 25 are Zoroastrian (Khandiyas) and A total of about 190 are Non- Zoroastrians, comprising gardeners, security staff, peons, pumpmen, most of them being unskilled category.

The Board of Trustees is seeking to increase the salary of all the above 220 workers.

In my view, the salary of Class IV Zoroastrian workers, predominantly our Khandiyas should be increased far more than just 20%. It is injustice that inspite for all the services rendered by them, they are only given an paltry increase of just 20%, which is what all the unskilled Class IV Workers also will get.

The Khandiyas are the backbone and gateway to our deceased.

Clause 8.13 of the new Scheme of Elections clearly defines the role of the Election Commissioners to conduct Elections with Transperancy and to conduct free and fair elections.

The Zoroastrian Class IV employees and their family members are being enticed by clearly increasing their salaries and concurrently their perks by the current Trustees. IS THIS FAIR TO THE OTHER CONTESTANTS?

PRIMARILY THE NON- ZOROASTRIAN CLASS IV EMPLOYEES SUCH AS GARDENERS, SECURITY, PEONS ETC. SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONTRACTUAL.

WRONG POLICIES AND DECISIONS THEREON HAS CULMINATED INTO THIS CONSISTENT PROBLEM EVERY TIME THE AGREEMENT IS TO BE RENEWED WITH THE UNION.

DURING THESE TIMES OF RECESSION, WOULD ANY CORPORATE GIVE THIS HANDSOME RAISE OF 25% IN SALARIES?

However, this increase must not be done by the present Board of



Trustees as any increase in salaries today would undoubtedly amount to an inducement for them to vote for the current Trustees.

Any decision to increase must be taken by the new Board and the Class IV workers be paid arrears for the time worked under the existing contract.

At present the monthly salary bill is around Rs. 1.1 Crore and that too without Overtime. With the anticipated 25% increase negotiated with the Union, it means the monthly wage bill would now be Rs. 1.375 crores and yearly wages amounts to Rs. 16.5 Crores. Thus a huge amount of Parsi Charity funds of Rs. 16.5 crores is spent on staff. And once again to offset this huge increase the Trustees would again have to increase Service Charges by Rs. 1000/ to Rs.1500/ pm from all the Parsi beneficiaries thus imposing this cost to Parsi residents of all our colonies who will have to pay to satisfy the demands of the Union.

Why not let the new Trustees who will take office next month on 29-5-2022 negotiate the increase in salary as they will be in charge for the next five years whilst the present Trustees term will expire in close to a month.

It is worth mentioning at this stage that the wage bill of non-Zoroastrian Class IV Workers is about Rs. 70 lakhs pm, Zoroastrian Khandias is about Rs. 7 lakhs pm, BPP Superior staff most of who are Zoroastrians is about Rs. 25 lakhs pm and other retired office staff on Contract is Rs. 10 lakhs pm. Thus totaling Rs. 1.12 Crore a month.

At present without the new settlement, A Khandya earns around Rs. 40,000/ pm TO Rs. 27,000/ pm without overtime and about Rs. 55,000/ pm to Rs.30,000/ with Overtime, besides other Royalties being paid to them.

A Class IV worker earns from Rs. 40,000/ pm to Rs. 30,000/ pm without overtime.

I had complained to the Election Commission regarding these steps of negotiations with Union taken by the BPP. Unfortunately, my complaint has been peremptly rejected by the EC, without providing me an opportunity to be heard.

I have always believed in transparency and in this commitment, I had copied my complaint to all the Parsi press so that they are made aware of the facts.

My complaint and response from the EC directly dismissing my complaint has already been published in the last issue of Parsi Junction. I have since then, written to the EC seeking clarity as to the process which the EC intends to follow for all complaints and whether it is appropriate for the EC to dismiss my complaint without providing me with the opportunity to be heard. A response is awaited.

My service to the Community will continue despite this action by the EC permitting the Trustees to increase the salary of workmen, including the 25 Zoroastrian khandiyas who will now be indebted to the Trustees and this is an inducement for votes.

Aside from increase in Salary, other incidentals is to pay for mediclaim of the Class IV Workers, marriage gift, long service reward, retirement gift, funeral expenses of family member at Rs. 7000/, shoe allowance of Rs. 1200/, Bonus of 40 days, etc.

What takes the cake is giving a donation of Rs. 7 lakhs to the Union over three years. A novel proposal.

As the Complaint was dismissed, without providing me with an opportunity to be heard, I inquired with the EC on the process it intends to follow relating to EC Complaints. No response to my query has been received.

DISPOSING OF URGENT COMPLIANT: Complaint to Chief Election Commissioner

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your email informing me that there is no need to intervene in my complaint.

The scheme of elections mandates that all decisions taken by the EC need to follow the principles of natural justice. I note that the contents of your email below have been passed without giving me the opportunity of being heard, which in itself is in violation of these principles.

For the sake of clarity and transparency, may I kindly request the EC to inform me (as well as the Community) the procedure that is going to be followed by the EC upon them receiving complaints under the scheme of elections.

This request is being made to ensure all complaints made to the EC are heard and decided in the same manner.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Dr. Zuleika Homavazir

IT IS HOPED THAT THE CEC WILL RECONSIDER HIS PEREMPTORY REJECTION WITHOUT GIVING ME A PERSONAL HEARING IN THE INTEREST OF NATURAL JUSTICE AS LAID DOWN BY THE DIVISION BENCH OF THE HIGH COURT AND GIVE ME A CHANCE OF A PERSONAL HEARING TO CONVINCE THE COMMISSIONERS.



PROTOCOL FOR COMPLAINTS OR GRIEVANCES BEFORE THE ELECTION COMMISSION [EC]

1. EC will adjudicate any complaint relating to the election arising from an alleged breach of the Scheme for the Election and/or Code of Conduct [CoC].
2. A complaint or grievance in writing will be entertained by the Election Commission if-
 - (A) Made by a person whose name appears in the General Register or Donor Register including candidates and Trustees; and emailed to electioncommissionbpp@gmail.com. No other means of communication will be accepted.
 - (B) Complaint must contain:-
 - i. Full Name and address of the Complainant along with Complainant's membership number as on the Certificate of registration issued by the BPP.
 - ii. Scanned copy of the Aadhaar Card
 - iii. Particulars of the occurrence/event leading to such complaint
 - iv. Name of the person/s against whom the complaint or grievance is made
 - (C) Shall be made at the earliest possible time from the occurrence complained.

3. PROCEDURE UPON RECEIPT OF COMPLAINT

- (1) EC shall in the first instance examine whether the complaint received falls within the EC's authority /role under the Scheme; if the EC is of the view that the Complaint falls outside its authority or scope, the Complainant will be notified that the complaint cannot be entertained.
- (2) In the event the EC is of the view that the complaint so received falls within the EC's authority /role under the Scheme; the EC will issue Show Cause Notice along with a set of the complaint and supporting documents to the person/s against whom the Complaint or grievance is made ("Respondent"), to enable such Respondent to furnish a reply to the same.
- (3) The Respondent shall reply to the complaint and the allegations made therein and send it to the EC, with copy to the Complainant within 4 [four] days from the date of receipt of the Complaint by the Respondent.
- (4) On receipt of the Reply from the Respondent, the EC will examine the complaint based on authenticated evidence provided by the parties and call for a hearing by email on any working day (Monday to Friday) during working hours (10 am to 4 pm) only. At the hearing so fixed, neither the Complainant nor the Respondent are entitled to be represented through an Advocate, or any Constituted Attorney.
- (5) The EC has the discretion to grant such relief as it deems fit.
- (6) The Complainant and the Respondent shall be informed of the EC decision (reasoned and in writing) within 14 [fourteen] days or such time as may be extended from the date of receipt of the Complaint.

4. POWERS OF EC

- (1) The EC, appointed by the Bombay High Court, is the final authority on all aspects concerning the holding of elections; and the EC's directions, orders and instructions shall be obeyed by all persons including candidates, Trustees, BPP staff, without demur or reservation, in all matters relating to elections and electoral process, as provided under the Scheme sanctioned by the Bombay High Court.
- (2) Under the Scheme, the Chief Election Commissioner ("CEC") is empowered to declare the election of any candidate as invalid for breach of the Scheme of CoC; as also to declare any serious breach as 'corrupt electoral practice', which may result in a candidate's election being invalidated.
- (3) Apart from the power to **invalidate** an election, the EC may issue such other directions or orders as are necessary to remedy the breach of the Scheme or CoC.
- (4) Any decision to invalidate the election of a candidate shall not be effective for a period of four weeks from the date of such decision; and is subject to challenge before the competent Court.

Commodore Aspi Marker
Chief Election Commissioner



BPP ELECTIONS: Part 1

BY PHIROZE AMROLIWALLA

"Finally, the election process for seven trustees of the Parsi punchayet has commenced with the closing of nominations! For this, the community needs to thank retired Justice Sharukh Kathawala for burning the proverbial midnight oil, perhaps for the last time in his illustrious career as a Judge of the Bombay High Court.

It was a pleasure to view videos of Justice Kathawala being felicitated by the Bombay Bar Association on the eve of his retirement when he demitted his office on the last day. Our Bombay High Court has had some of the finest judges and continues to have them today too and like many of his predecessors, he has most certainly carved a niche in the portals of the High court!

As in most matters, almost every judgment results in controversies and has supporters and opponents!

There are voices and WhatsApp messages congratulating Justice Kathawala and suggesting,



that now that he has retired, he should offer his services to the community as a trustee of the BPP. However, there are a few disgruntled voices who, after a detailed perusal of the amended scheme and the filing of nominations by some individuals, are wondering, whether the amended scheme was framed by high profile senior counsel at the behest of some trustees to accommodate certain candidates of their choice while disqualifying some others!

The age-old procedure for amendments to the scheme has been that the trustees discuss, deliberate, and then finalize any amendments to the scheme and after giving 4 days' notice to the Charity Commissioner, approach the Judge-in-chambers for approval. This provision continues even in the scheme just amended. Strictly following this prescribed procedure would have allowed an aggrieved party to appeal before the Division Bench. It is a common perception that Senior Counsels with their expertise and skills are masters in arguing their stand and one needs to understand that Judges too are human and judgments/orders are based on facts as presented before the learned judges. After all, it is humanly impossible for judges to read the minds of litigants and decipher hidden agendas if any.

What started as a minor amendment of reducing to two terms of 5 years each for trusteeship has ultimately resulted in a major change in the whole scheme."

THE NARGOL AGIARY URGENTLY NEEDS A MOBED SAHEB



Roz : Ashishvang, Mah: Aavan, YZ 1391

(7 April 2022)

Nargol is a very popular small sea-side town in Gujarat, very close to Sanjan, where the Parsis first settled in mainland India when they arrived from Iran. Nargol is indeed a historic town and had a bustling Parsi population till recent years when many have moved out.

Interestingly, there have been some new flats and housing societies constructed lately in Nargol and that has seen a slight rise in the Parsi population, although the Parsis in these flats are more or less weekend and holiday residents.

The Nargol residents have a wonderful Agiary, the Poonjiagi Agiary, which houses both an

Aderan grade fire and a Dadgah Saheb.

This Agiary is URGENTLY in need of a mobed saheb to perform its various duties, which have been mentioned in the accompanying illustration. The salary too is handsome and so are the accommodation facilities. Earnings would be the salary, plus the income generated from sukhad-divo, jashans, rituals performed and muktad prayers.

Mobeds who are fed up with the hectic life-style of Mumbai or other big cities should take up this challenge and offer their services to this blessed Agiary. Ahura Mazda and Adar Yazad will bless you and your family if you look after the Atash Sahebs in this agiary. Additionally, Nargol is a wonderful place to reside with close proximity to Sanjan, Gholvad and Dahanu.

The requirement of a mobed Saheb is URGENT, hence please circulate this notice promptly amongst all your Parsi contacts, especially in the mobed circles.

For more information please contact the Trustees of the Nargol Agiary:

Hoshang Havewala - 98200 41374
Rohinton Dadachanji - 89760 00982
Khushroo Daboo - 98204 52434

CONTAGIOUS DISEASE ALERT

"Gonorrhea Lectim".

The Centre for Disease Control has Issued a Warning about a new virulent strain of Disease that is transmitted from one human to another. The disease is contracted through dangerous and high-risk behaviour.

The disease is called ***Gonorrhea Lectim*** and pronounced..... "gonna re-elect him"... Many victims contacted it in 2015...

After having been constantly downgraded for the past eight years, **'Cognitive Characteristics'** of individuals infected include:

1. Anti-social personality disorders.
2. Delusions of grandeur with messianic overtones.
3. Extreme cognitive dissonance.
4. Inability to incorporate new information.
5. Pronounced xenophobia and paranoia.
6. Inability to accept responsibility for own actions.
7. Cowardice masked by misplaced bravado.
8. Uncontrolled facial smirking.
9. Ignorance of geography and history. Hence the compulsion to 're-write'/fabricate both.
10. Tendencies towards evangelical theocracy.
11. Categorical all-or-nothing behavior.

Naturalists and Epidemiologists are alarmed at how this disease originated from a tea stall somewhere in Gujarat in the vicinity of a Railway station.

GUESS WHO?



TRADE THE STOCK MARKET

Expert advice by Champion Tiger Vispi Irani

Welcome to my weekly round up of stock markets.

Last week we had stated that NIFTY will have a range of 18130 on the upside and 17400 on the downside. Again exactly to our call NIFTY showed a high of 18114 and on the downside showed 17600.

Now lets come to our weekly buy call on stocks. I had given two stocks as buy calls.

First one was on Kotak Bank at 1779. As predicted, Kotak Bank showed a high of 1840 which gave a return of around 4%. Our second call was on State Bank Of India (SBI) at 508. SBI rallied till 520 giving a return of 2% for the week.

Now lets come to our next weeks calls.

Where NIFTY is concerned again I will have



Tiger Vispi Irani

a positive bias. NIFTY on the upside can rally till 18350 and now on the downside the supports come at 17450 so that should be our range for the coming week.

My two buy calls will be first one HDFC at 2457 for tgts of 2570. Our second call will be on Apollo Tyres at 203 for tgts of 214 for the week.

My long term buy call will be on Ultratech Cements at 6835 for atleast 15 % appreciation in the next 6 months.

Happy Investing!

Team champion tiger

These are my personal views and full discretion should be used on ones part
Vispivis@yahoo.co.in

Care vs Selflessness

To make a difference in
Someone's life
One doesn't have
To be brilliant Rich
Beautiful or perfect
You just have to care

Asho Zarathushtra
Spent His entire life
Spreading a very simple message
In His simple three worded tenet
So that Humanity can live
In Peace Harmony

Humanity is like a tapestry
Interwoven with humans
Of colour caste creed
Or for that matter religion

A good word or a good deed
Can make a difference in
A person's life & can go
A long long way!

We r running a rat race
I am aware we are
Only human
Sometimes we are
Neither here nor there
But if we pause chill
As well use our power
Of reasoning
We definitely can
State with pride:
For Humanity we do care
And leave the world
A happy place

**Choicest Happiness
Farida**

A Mind

**"They say a mind is
A Terrible thing to waste"**

**I recall that when they
Were trying dig a tunnel
Directly under our sacred
Wadiaji Atash Behram
What hooplah was created??
Instead of saving your energy
Diverting one's energy to
Bring about unity and harmony
Within the community.**

**Did you all get ?
A Nobel Prize?
I certainly think not
If only one would
Concentrate on
Educating & eradicating
Racism Discrimination and
Bigotry**

**As well Exclusion
At the same time
Saving our precious religion
Zoroastrianism
A lot happier
The Zoroastrian Community would
be!!**

**In the end we will
All travel down the
Same weary road
Awaiting our sentencing
Cause at that time one
Will be judged by one's
Good Thoughts especially
Good Deeds as well as
Type of life one lead
Cause there is No Escape**

**Choicest Happiness
Farida**



BAWA BIKES BREAKFAST



On March 20, 2022, the Zoroastrian Youth of the Next Generation 2.0 (ZYNG 2.0) organized a bike ride, followed by a sumptuous breakfast at the Parsi Gymkhana Marine Drive. Over 130 Parsi bike enthusiasts woke up at the crack of dawn to show off their beauties.

Bikes of all shapes and size from vintage, classic, super-sport, adventure, cruiser, tourer and off- roader made it to the venue



covering almost all the models from Ducati, Triumph, Kawasaki, BMW, Royal Enfield, Bajaj, BSA, Norton, KTM, TVS, Jawa, Harley Davidsons, Aprilia, Yamaha, Honda and Suzuki to name a few.

What better way to bring in Navroze than doing what Parsis/ Iranis love doing best, a scrumptious meal and riding their beauties.



Thank you Darayus for getting the NCB youth for the bike ride

