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# PARSI JUNCTION

Sunday, 21 February 2021

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

## PUBLIC NOTICE



**BOMBAY PARSI PUNCHAYET**

### ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ELECTION OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE BOMBAY PARSI PUNCHAYET

Candidatures were received from the following persons for the Election to be held on Sunday, 14th March 2021, to fill in the vacancy of two Trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet.

SR. NO	NAME OF CANDIDATE	NAME OF PROPOSER	NAME OF SECONDER
1.	MR. ADIL DINSHAW IRANI	MRS. DHUN ADI POONEGAR	MRS. NERGISH NEVILLE DOCTOR
2.	MRS. ANAHITA YAZDI DESAI	MR. YAZDI HOSI DESAI	MR. KARYESH CYRUS PATEL
3.	MR. BERJIS MINOO DESAI	MR. NOSHIR HOMI DADRAWALA	MRS. MITHOO JEMI JESIA
4.	MS. FARHANAZ P. IRANI	DR. VIRAF JEHANGIR KAPADIA	DR. SYRUS DARVISH IRANI
5.	MR. KAIKHUSHROO SAM IRANI	MR. ARZAN JANGOO GHADIALLY	MR. SHAHRUKH Z. BILIMORIA
6.	MR. KERSI GUSTAD SETHNA	MRS. FRENY POLLY PAREKH	MR. RATAN DHANJISHA PITHAWALLA
7.	MR. TEHMTAN J. DUMASIA	MR. FARZAD SHERIAR JEHANI	MR. NOZER AFLATOON IRANI
8.	DR. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR	MR. R. N. JEEJEEBHOY	KHORSHED DADI ANTIA

- Dr. Zuleika F. Homavazir has not been DULY PROPOSED as required by Clause 20 of the Scheme, as her Proposer is not a Parsee within the meaning of the Scheme, as he no longer professes the Zoroastrian faith. Accordingly, her nomination/notice of candidature is invalid.
- Accordingly, the final list of valid candidatures have been received from the following persons.

SR. NO	NAME OF CANDIDATE	NAME OF PROPOSER	NAME OF SECONDER
1.	MR. ADIL DINSHAW IRANI	MRS. DHUN ADI POONEGAR	MRS. NERGISH NEVILLE DOCTOR
2.	MRS. ANAHITA YAZDI DESAI	MR. YAZDI HOSI DESAI	MR. KARYESH CYRUS PATEL
3.	MR. BERJIS MINOO DESAI	MR. NOSHIR HOMI DADRAWALA	MRS. MITHOO JEMI JESIA
4.	MS. FARHANAZ P. IRANI	DR. VIRAF JEHANGIR KAPADIA	DR. SYRUS DARVISH IRANI
5.	MR. KAIKHUSHROO SAM IRANI	MR. ARZAN JANGOO GHADIALLY	MR. SHAHRUKH Z. BILIMORIA
6.	MR. KERSI GUSTAD SETHNA	MRS. FRENY POLLY PAREKH	MR. RATAN DHANJISHA PITHAWALLA
7.	MR. TEHMTAN J. DUMASIA	MR. FARZAD SHERIAR JEHANI	MR. NOZER AFLATOON IRANI

- There were no withdrawals; therefore, the contest for the Election of two Trustees vacancy post will be amongst **7** Candidates.
- Kindly note that Donor Voters' Certificates **1 to 1534** and General Voters' Certificate from **1 to 39360** will be valid for the Election.
- Laminated Voters' Certificate will be allowed to be used by Voters. In such cases, the Staff has been instructed to punch the certificates at a pre-determined spot, instead of signing them.
- All Voters must carry any one original Government issued photo identification like PAN Card, Aadhaar Card, Government Voters Card, Driving Licence, Passport or Senior Citizen Card.
- Certificates collected on production of Authority Letters by a third party should have the members' signature duly attested by a Notary or Special Executive Officer.
- Certificates collected by a third party on authority letters and which are not attested will not be acceptable.
- All campaigning should be stopped by the Candidates positively on **11th March 2021**.

**BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE  
BOMBAY PARSI PUNCHAYET**

**ASPI F. SARKARI**  
CEO



# WELL DONE ARMAITY RUSTOM TIRANDAZ WHAT A START TO HER CHAIRMANSHIP



Armaity Tirandaz

Yazdi Desai, chairman of Bombay Parsi Panchayat, suffered a stroke in April 2020 from which he has yet to recover. He stopped attending

his work in Writers Corporation office as well as all BPP matters since then.

Ultimately on 23rd December 2020, his wife Anaita submitted Yazdi Desai's resignation both as Chairman and Trustee of BPP. On Tuesday 29th December 2020, at a specially convened Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Yazdi Desai and unanimously elected Mrs. Armaity Rustom Tirandaz as the new Chairman of BPP, being the SECOND LADY to Chair the BPP after Lady Hirabai Cowasjee Jehangir in 1974.

On 3rd January 2021 Public Notice was issued in Jame-Jamshed and Parsi Junction announcing Elections for Two Trustees seats to be held on 14th March 2021 and calling for candidates to file their Nomination papers by 5.15pm of 1st February 2021 and last date of withdrawal of their Nomination being 5.15 pm of 16th February 2021 and fixed publishing the names of candidates with valid Nomination forms on 21st February 2021 and the new elected Trustees were to assume office at 12 Noon of 18th March 2021.

By 1st February 2021, eight candidates filed their Nomination Forms—

1. BERJIS MINOO DESAI—Advocate and Author
2. MRS. ANAHITA YAZDI DESAI—Housewife
3. TEHMTAN DUMASIA—Caterer
4. MRS. DR. ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR—Professor at Wilson College
5. KERSI GUSTAD SETHNA—Retired Share Broker
6. MISS. FARHANAZ IRANI—unknown
7. ADIL DINSHAW IRANI—Retired Purser from Air India
8. KAIKHUSHROO IRANI— Court clerk

On 1st Feb 2021, the Trustees received

a representation from Zuleika Homavazir to add the name of her father, Firdosh Minocher Homavazir as a Co-proposer in her Nomination Form. The Trustees replied back that there is no such provision as a Co-proposer under the Election Scheme.

On 1st Feb 2021 the Trustees received an email from Hanoz Mistry of Parsi Voice fame requesting for disqualification of candidature of Zuleika Homavazir on the basis of interpretation of the word PARSEE as recorded in the Election Scheme as well as certain other clauses of the Scheme and offered proof that Rustomjee Nanabhoy Jeejeebhoy, the Proposer of Zuleika Homavazir has renounced the Zoroastrian faith and converted To Christianity.

Thereafter on 2-2-21, the Trustees received an email from one of the candidate, Tehmtan Dumasia that candidate Zuleika Homavazir has been proposed by Rustom Jeejeebhoy, who is a Parsi CONVERTED to Christianity. He has further stated that as per rules governing the election process both the Proposer and Seconder should be Parsi Zoroastrians and called upon the Trustees to take action for this breach.

The Trustees have also received a letter dated 2nd February 21 from a second candidate Kersi G. Sethna that the Proposer of Zuleika Homavazir is not a Parsi Zoroastrian and she is disqualified and hence to reject her Nomination Form.

Due to the complaints received as above, the Trustees decided to take a legal opinion from Mulla and Mullar regarding the validity of R. N. Jeejeebhoy, a converted Christian being qualified as a Proposer as also whether Firdosh Homavazir could be accepted as a Co-proposer as per the Scheme.

The Trustees also addressed a letter dated 11th Feb 21 to Rustom Jeejeebhoy to confirm or deny whether he has converted to Christianity and presently is a member of Community of Hope Church and requested him to state on Affidavit the true facts as required under the Election Scheme.

On 9th Feb, the Trustees received the opinion of Advocate Dandiwalla, partner of Mulla and Mulla that there is no provision for a co-proposer in the Nomination form and that if Rustom Jeejeebhoy has converted to Christianity then his proposing Zuleika Homavazir would be invalid and against the Election Scheme.

On 11th Feb, Trustees informed Zuleika Homavazir of the Objections received against Rustom Jeejeebhoy being her Proposer is not a Parsi as defined under the Election Scheme having renounced the Zoroastrian faith by converting to Christianity and to clarify the correct facts at the earliest.

Zuleika Homavazir replied back that she is not aware whether her proposer had renounced the Zoroastrian faith by converting to Christianity but admitted that **“rumors of my proposer Rustom N Jeejeebhoy professing the Christian faith is being floated in the social media circles and whatsapp groups and therefore based on such floating rumours and out of abundant caution I had subsequently filed my letter dated 01.02.2021 for adding my father, Firdosh Minocher Homavazir as the co-proposer”**

Two further reminders were sent by the Trustees to both Zuleika Homavazir and Rustom N. Jeejeebhoy that although there is sufficient material on record to indicate that her proposer has converted to Christianity, nevertheless in the interest of fair play and transparency, they called upon both to confirm the correct position.

The Trustees further clarified that her knowledge or the knowledge of the trustees about such act of religious apostasy by her proposer is entirely irrelevant. The scheme stipulates that the proposer has to be a Parsi within the meaning of the scheme and if he is not a Parsi within the meaning of the scheme on the date of such proposal, irrespective whether his name appears in the General register or not, he will not be regarded as a Parsi within the meaning of the scheme





on the ground that religious apostasy is an extremely serious matter and has to be considered in that light.

With over 31,000 members on the registers maintained under the scheme, the trustees or the administration surely cannot be expected to know as to which of them has committed an act of religious apostasy and has ceased to be a Parsi.

Despite the above, the Trustees called upon Zuleika Homavazir to please ascertain from her proposer as to what is the correct position about his change of religion and communicate to them on or before Tuesday 16th February 2021 5.15 PM, in order to enable them to take a decision in the matter.

Subsequently the Trustees on 18th Feb. informed Zuleika Homavazir

that Despite several repeated opportunities to her and her proposer to furnish a declaration / affidavit signed by her proposer stating that he continues to profess the Zoroastrian faith, they have not received the same.

Accordingly, she has not been duly proposed within the meaning of Section 20 of the Scheme, as her Proposer is not a Parsee within the meaning of the Scheme Interpretation clause (a), as he does not profess the Zoroastrian faith.

Since the Election Scheme specifies the definition of a Parsi and with two candidates having non Parsi spouses, the Board under the Chairmanship of Armaity Tirandaz issued letter dated 11th February 2021 to both

Berjis Desai and Kaikhushroo Irani To provide an affidavit affirming that they have not renounced the Zoroastrian faith and continue to practice the same.

Both Berjis Desai and Kaikhushroo Irani have sent Affidavit on Rs. 100/ Stamp paper duly Notarized confirming that they have not renounced the Zoroastrian faith by reasons of marrying a non-Zoroastrian spouse or otherwise and continue to profess the Zoroastrian faith.

THUS FROM ALL WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED ABOVE, IT HAS BEEN A TUMOULTOUS TWO MONTHS OF CHAIRMANSHIP OF ARMAITY TIRANDAZ AND WE CONGRATULATE HER FOR A JOB WELL DONE.



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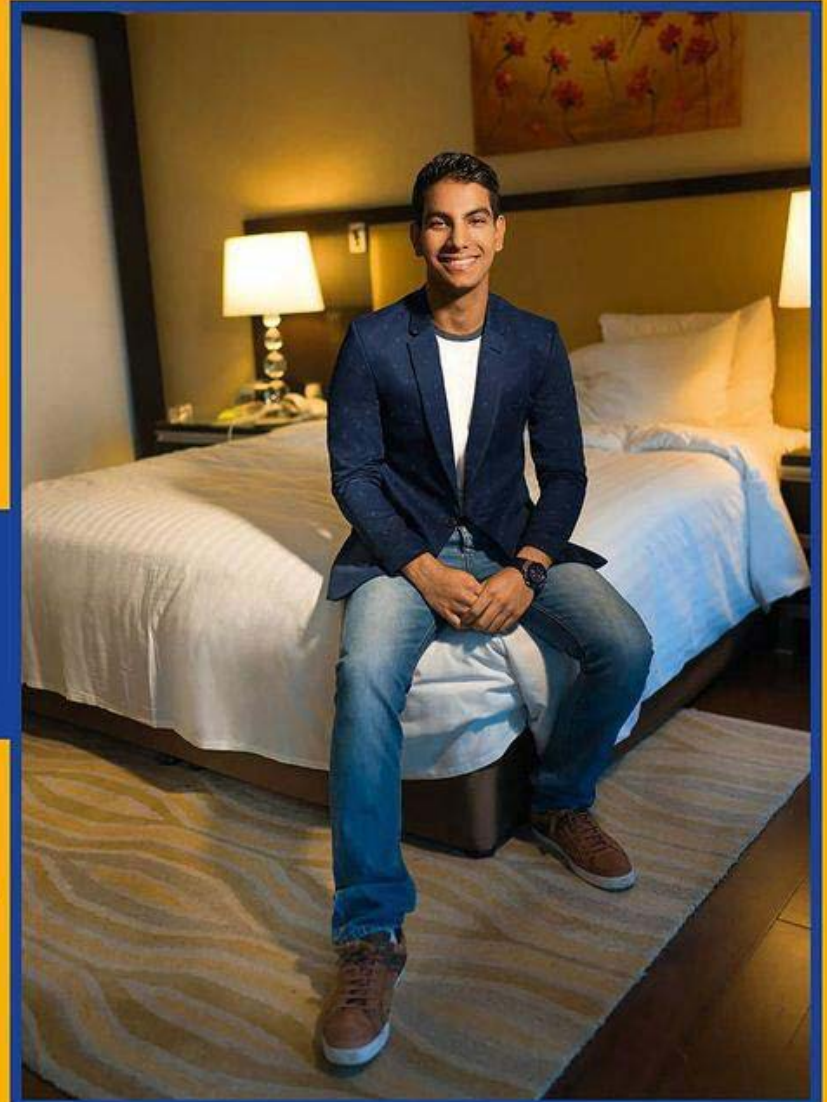
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## Interview With Berjis Desai



**BERJIS DESAI**

Dear Mr. Desai,

As per our conversation earlier, and a brief discussion with Mr. Randeria earlier, I am mailing you the following questions.

I've kept the flow a little strong to keep with the authentication of your answers and your much appreciated 'call a spade a spade' outlook. But pls do feel free to add/change the same as per your preference:

1. You are perceived as an armchair critic and have regularly spoofed BPP Trustees - past and present - in your articles in other newspapers and magazines. What then, made you suddenly decide to throw your hat in the ring for the post of a Trustee?

I ceased being an armchair critic from 1980 onwards when I vigorously campaigned for the CER movement to reform the BPP. Makes them sound like juvenile delinquents! Later, campaigning for their trustee candidates like Jamshid Kanga, Siloo Kavarana, Fali Poncha, etc. And then, I was the draftsman of the present Scheme of Election which introduced universal adult franchise. Kersi Randeria was the prime motivating force to spur me to participate in the AFP campaign in 2008, when we put up the best ever candidates for trusteeship, all of whom lost except Dadrawala. I lost hope. I became more involved with the BPP as a part of the Core Committee along with Sam Balsara, Tamboly and Yezdi Bhagwagar. Last year, Kersi convinced me that I could play a meaningful role on the Board given my connections with 'differently minded' trustees (see how polite I have become). I thought a lot and felt a genuine call to devote a few years or so.

2. Much has been said and written about your change of heart from a vocal - what opposers called a 'reformist' - to a more orthodox religionist. Even as you have shared the details of how and when you had the change of heart, would you like to add anything more to this issue?

The transition occurred over the last decade as I gradually realised that the survival of the community is a must for protecting our faith. Exact opposite of what I very

foolishly and flippantly said 30 years ago. Our uniqueness cannot be allowed to be swamped. In any event, even when I was waving the flag of reform, I never advocated or believed in outright conversion or allowing the entry of non-Parsis into our fire temples. I have always been a devout practising Zoroastrian. In the last decade or so, I have read a lot on esoteric Zoroastrianism including Kshnoom. This may sound terribly mushy but it is true that when I pray before the holy fire, there is a growing deep conviction that preserving

3. Many sceptics may think or allege that this change of heart was for political reasons. How would you answer such critics?

Our traditional values is a must for our survival; both for the faith and the community.

4. We heard that the BPP has asked you for an affidavit declaring that you have always, and continue to, profess the Zoroastrian faith, due to the fact that you're intermarried. Is this true and what is the current status on the same?

True. The Scheme contemplates this. I immediately filed the affidavit.

5. Many Whatsapp messages tie you to a particular group in terms of Parsi politics. Would you clarify the same and will you be independent of political pressures in the BPP Board room?

No! I am not a career Parsi politician. Not even my detractors believe that I am wearing the cloak of orthodoxy to win this election. My convictions are too sacred, to be a reason for this trusteeship.

6. You bring to the table ample corporate experience and despite all the allegations, a long association with the community - as a community activist, as a critic, and as being someone extremely knowledgeable about the BPP, the trust, the trustees and the happening inside the boardroom. How do you plan to employ the same if you get elected as Trustee?

Which group? I am equally warm friendly and comfortable with both Mehta and Randeria. I intend to pressurise them to forge a consensus. I cannot be subject to any pressure. Certainly not.

7. You are known to be an expert on charity laws, dispute resolution, Corp. governance etc. Such expertise will undoubtedly be an asset to the BPP if applied strategically. How do you propose to do that?

My focus will be on solving stalled projects and framing long term policy; and strengthen BPP finances. Randeria's project of upgrading BPP image is attainable. To provide greater financial assistance to our beneficiaries in a more organised manner. To withdraw unnecessary litigation against BPP tenants. To improve staff efficiency and their conditions of service. Greater help for full time mobeds. Priority housing for both staff and mobeds

8. Could you share an overview of your mandate as a Trustee. How do you rate your chances in these elections?

Mandate is to bring harmony consensus greater efficiency compassion and modern management practices to BPP. Prediction? Anahita will of course sweep the polls. I should follow.

9. It is said despite being closer to one group in the BPP, you also have support from Trustees Noshir Dadrawala and Kersi Randeria. In fact, your name was proposed by Dadrawala. How is your relationship with Kersi Randeria? Do you have his support for these elections?

Already answered. People have said that KR will terrorise you. I am looking forward to it!

10. Do you think you will be able to bring peace and harmony to the Boardroom as many are hoping and expecting of you?

Reasonably bright chances. I will strive very hard. Even today, the interaction of the present trustees is not all that gruesome, as some think. The Lord always blesses peacemakers

11. What's your experience with the Trust and the Trustees in your brief interaction, during what is popularly called 'BPP 2.0'?

It was a good beginning. The Committee though was too large. Lessons have been learnt. We must continue this invaluable external help. If I lose, I too will be back on this Committee!





# THE BITTER TRUTH OF ZULEIKA HOMAVAZIR

Zuleika Homavzir resides in Flat No. 10 in Bldg. No. 13, a 3RK Flat admeasuring. 1100 sq.ft. in Rustom Baug, Byculla.

She has been residing there without paying any License Fee, service charges, parking charges, security charges and other charges since 2013.

Despite working as a Professor at Wilson College, Zuleika Homavazir's mind set is such that she has fraudulently attempted to usurp charity property of the BPP.

Unknown to many is the fact that Zuleika has tried to take advantage of charity flats by being dishonest to the BPP and in a unbecoming manner tried to take illegal control over the flat at Rustom Baug as **'ITS OWNER'**.

## Background:

- The Rustom Baug flat was originally occupied by one tenant Mrs. Jerry Mistry. In 2010, Mrs. Jerry Mistry offered to surrender the tenancy value of her tenanted flat to the Wadia Committee of Management (WCM) which at its meeting on 7th April 2010 **approved her offer on 50:50 basis**. The BPP then decided to invite offers for the flat to be given on Leave and License basis to one who offers the highest Refundable Deposit.
- At the auction held on 13-10-2011 between Hanoz H. Nekoo and Zuleika Homavazir, Zuleika offered the highest bid of Rs. 141 lakhs with License fees of Rs. 4000/-per month which was accepted and signed by late CEO Mehli Colah and WCM member Mr. D. S. Gagrath along with acceptance signature of Zuleika Homavazir.
- At WCM meeting of 9-11-2011, it was decided to pay Rs. 70 lakhs being 50% to outgoing Tenant directly by the new Occupant and accordingly the Trust by

its letter dated 22-12-2011 informed Ms. Homavazir of the acceptance of her offer and to deal directly with Mrs. Jerry Mistry. She was then requested to complete formalities of the Leave License Agreement and Registration.

- At the same time, Mrs. Jerry Mistry signed the Surrender Affidavit dated 23-12-2011 and on receipt of her share directly from Ms. Homavazir, she handed over the flat keys to the Trust.
- Thereafter Ms. Homavazir made the balance payment of Refundable Deposit of Rs. 52 lakhs by 3 cheques dated 26-12-2011. The receipt acknowledging these cheques as also original Deposit amount of Rs. 5 lakhs totaling Rs. 57 lakhs were issued by the Trust to her on 27-12-2011, clearly mentioning **"BEING NON-INTEREST BEARING REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT FOR FLAT NO 10 BLOCK 13 AT RUSTOM BAUG, SANT SAVTA MARG, BYCULLA, MUMBAI 400027 AS PER LEAVE LICENSE AGREEMENT"**.
- Having made the entire payment, Mr. Firdosh Homavazir, the father of Ms. Zuleika Homavazir approached the Trust Office with a request to hand over the keys of the flat since the following Sunday, as being an auspicious day they would like to perform Jashan and gain entry into the flat and hence requested the WCM Accountant, Mr. Kali G. Shroff to take the keys of the said flat to his residence in Tardeo from where Mr. Homavazir would collect it the next day.
- The keys were carried home on Friday by Accountant Kali Shroff and on early Sunday morning Mr. Firdosh Homavazir went to Kali Shroff's residence for the keys which were handed over to him in good faith by Kali Shroff.
- Thereafter vide her letter dated 14-3-2012, Ms. Homavazir requested for permission for carrying out essential repairs and restoration of the flat. The

Trust by its letter dated 19-3-2012 reminded her to have the Leave License Agreement executed and registered before permission for repairs can be granted.

- Thereafter, the Leave License Agreement was kept ready for her to sign. **However she failed to comply with the Execution either on the pretext of being too busy with her work or being out of town.** Her father Mr. Firdosh Homavazir who met the BPP Chairman on 2-1-2013 was reminded about this non-execution when he assured that he would have the Leave License Agreement for the said Rustom Baug flat executed as soon as she returns from her trip abroad by 8th or 9th of January 2013. The said discussion was Minuted in the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 3-1-2013.

## ATTEMPT TO ILLEGALLY USURP THE FLAT

- To the utter shock and surprise of the Trust, the Trustees and the Administration staff, Ms. Homavazir issued her Advocates Notices dated 16-1-2013 and 4-2-2013 alleging amongst other things that the **Trust is bound to Execute and Register necessary 'SALE DEED' and convey to their client the right, title and interest in respect of the said flat on 'OWNERSHIP BASIS'**.
- The Trust had handed over full, vacant and peaceful possession of the said flat on Leave License basis to Ms. Homavazir in **GOOD FAITH** on receipt of full payment of Refundable Deposit (which is well documented) and agreement that the Leave License Agreement would be executed and registered thereafter.
- Thereafter the said Ms. Homavazir filed an Application on 9-4-2013 being



Application No. ACC 1/3/13 U/S 51 of the Maharashtra Public Trust Act 1950 before the Hon'ble Charity Commissioner for permission to her to file Suit in the City Civil Court for Specific Performance to sell/convey the flat to her on Ownership basis. **The matter was to be rejected by the Charity Commissioner but was allowed to be withdrawn by Ms. Homavazir on 23-9-2014.**

- Owing to the mischievous conduct of Ms. Homavazir, on 24-4-2013, the Trust filed an Eviction Suit being LDE 105/126 of 2013 in the Small Causes Court against Zuleika Homavazir directing her to quit vacate and hand over vacant possession of the said flat. The said matter is pending adjudication and the next date for Hearing on Documents is on 20-2-2021.
- **Such is the connivance that despite the above dispute being civil in nature, Ms. Homavazir filed a Criminal Complaint in Byculla Police Station against BPP Chairman before the 25th Metropolitan Magistrate Court at Sewree as a Criminal matter u/s 203 of Cr.P.C . The Metropolitan Magistrate dismissed the said Complaint by its Order dated 31-8-2015.**
- **Against the said dismissal, Zuleika Homavazir in 2015 filed an Appeal against the said Order in Session Court being Cr.R.A. No. 1288 of 2015. The Hon'ble Sessions Court dismissed the said Appeal by its Order on 20-4-2017 on ground that Complaint is of Civil nature.**
- In 2015, Ms. Zuleika Homavazir filed one more Suit this time in the Hon'ble High Court at Bombay being Short Cause Suit No. 626/2015 being specific performance suit against the Trust. The Trustees have filed their Written Statement on 15-1-2018 and the matter will be heard in a few years time.
- Despite being a compulsive litigant, Ms. Homavazir continues to reside in and enjoy the said flat without paying any license fee as compensation since 2013.
- **What is most telling of her character is the act that despite being well**

**off, she has intentionally NOT PAID occupation charges, service charges, parking charges and other incidental charges as are being paid by all other residents of BPP Colonies.**

#### HER CONDUCT IS NOT NEW

Ms. Homavazir had contested the October 2015 Trustee Elections. The then BPP Trustees in their rightful wisdom on 28-9-2015 had issued a Circular under heading "KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE" which read as under:

#### "KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE"

"This refers to Mrs. Zuleika Homavazir Satha, the erstwhile candidate for the post of Trustee of BPP.

About two years ago, she had successfully bid for a flat in one of the Wadia Baug Colonies to be allotted on Leave License under the Refundable Deposit Scheme. Having paid Rs. 71 lakhs to the Trust she was in GOOD FAITH put in possession of the flat on an Oral Assurance from her father that he would have the Leave License Agreement executed on her return from abroad shortly.

To the utter surprise of the Trustees, she refused to sign the LL agreement alleging that the flat was sold to her on Ownership basis in an auction and that the Trust should execute the 'SALE DEED'. This has been vehemently defended.

In the latest development she has moved the High Court for Specific Performance of the so called Contract praying for Refund of Rs. 1.41 crore and claiming for damages of Rs. 50 lakhs in the event of failure on the part of the Trust.

**VOTERS BE AWARE BEFORE YOU CHOOSE"**

Voters, today whether or not Ms. Homavazir has been disqualified is of no consequence. What is critical is for all to know the true nature of every individual standing for elections.

Certain factions of the community are hounding a now traditionalist candidate for having married a non-parsi. However, they feel that is a greater sin than that of attempting to cheat the BPP of a charitable flat!

The value of a Trustee should be assessed based what they will bring to the BPP. From the above, Ms. Homavazir is a litigious lady who it seems is seeking to be elected not to serve the community but to illegally usurp charitable property. Is this the kind of Trustee that the community wants to elect to the community's Apex Trust?.

With regards the current election and the reason for her removal, from the documents on record it is now apparent that Ms. Homavazir (proposed by a Christian) sought to mask the truth by claiming that Mr. Jeejeebhoy had not converted to the Christianity faith – despite there being evidence on record which shows beyond doubt that he was a follower of the Christianity faith.

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Rustom Jeejeebhoy brought an amazing word that challenged our thinking and inspired and motivated our hearts!

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Before the closing date of submitting Nomination Forms for Trustees elections on 12-2-2021, she was aware as per own written admission that her Proposer Mr. Rustom Jeejeebhoy had converted to Christianity and yet did not thought fit to file a fresh Nomination Form with a new Proposer even though she was aware of the provision under the Scheme to do so.

Whilst this paper does not always support the rare sensible actions of the BPP Trustees, In this situation, the BPP has taken the correct steps as per the spirit and letter and disqualified Ms. Homavazir for having been proposed by the follower of the Christianity faith.





# More than just stray thoughts for the weekending February 21, 2020

Dear Sir,



**Phiroze Amroliwalla**

I reproduce below a whatsapp message received by me early last week in response to an appeal for funds for improvements to the Khan estate

security system. As the message refers to the **BPP** and my columns in the Parsi Junction, I deem it appropriate to share the same with readers along with my reply to the person who wishes to remain anonymous. Names of persons have been withheld on request.

"Dear Phiroze uncle,

Thank you for sharing the fundraising appeal for the Khan Estate security with me. I respectfully submit to you, (to borrow a phrase from your weekly articles a little more than a few stray thoughts and my observations) on your fundraising appeal as under.

On the one hand, the munificent and generous donation of the princely sum of Rs. 50,000/- by one of the ex-trustees of the BPP is indeed praiseworthy which all the residents of Khan Estate would be grateful for - truly an act, worthy of emulation by the other BPP trustees, one would imagine.

And on the other hand, it is really sad to learn that the very same BPP that describes itself as the global apex body of the Parsi community is faced with a "paucity of funds".

Really? Is it true? Because it's difficult to believe that the BPP is facing "paucity of funds" after the Rs. 20 lakhs unaccounted cash-in-the-cupboard episode, litigation for which is still going on.. as per reports in the same periodical in which your article appears every Sunday.

Is it not strange that the very BPP that is a public charity, is itself in need of charity from its own beneficiaries whose wellbeing and welfare are its prime objectives that it was originally setup for?

Is it also not strange that the BPP has no "paucity of funds" when it comes to splurging crores and crores of rupees of valuable community funds on internecine rivalry and infighting and frivolous litigation against vulnerable sections of the very beneficiaries whose interest it has been setup to protect? Is it true that the very same BPP that spends roughly around Rs. 5 - 10 crores of the community's funds per year, every year on litigation - most of which is frivolous - is really facing a serious "paucity of funds" to the extent of a maximum of say, Rs. 2 - 5 lakhs for upgrading the security of one of its own properties?

Are we to understand that after wasting the crores upon crores of community funds wasted on the renegade priests case or on the litigation instituted by a newly elected board of trustees on the 42 flats allotted by an outgoing board of trustees, the BPP is now facing "paucity of funds"? Was the BPP flush with funds when the above and several other frivolous matters were litigated? Was there no "paucity of funds" then?

Is it also not strange that the very trust that claims that it is faced with a "paucity of funds" to the extent that it is unable to discharge its responsibilities as a landlord, is governed by trustees, most, if not all, who are exceptionally wealthy?

How can a body that is facing a "paucity of funds" afford to behave as arrogantly and contemptuously as it sometimes does towards some of its beneficiaries as reported in articles authored and published by you?

Is it not this "paucity of funds" that we need to address first before we think of sending out appeals to make voluntary contributions which will only embolden the BPP to abdicate its responsibilities as a landlord and serve no other purpose than to bolster the vast amount of funds it spends annually on litigation? I don't know.. maybe someone of your stature can throw some light on this?

Is it not paradoxical that the same global apex body has ample funds to litigate but

cries "paucity of funds" when it comes to discharging its responsibilities as one of Mumbai's largest landlords and spending towards the welfare and wellbeing of its beneficiaries?

That the BPP is faced with "paucity of funds" is known to all and sundry since more than a decade. But no credible evidence in support of the same has been forthcoming which raises the doubts about whether such "paucity of funds" is genuine or otherwise?

Why have multiple sets of the board of trustees failed to address this so-called "paucity of funds"? All they had to do was to simply apply themselves to shunning fresh litigation and reducing the pending litigation - which in the vast majority of the cases is frivolous and initiated purely to pulverize the weaker and vulnerable sections of our community - by arriving at an honest, fair and equitable settlement.

As an activist, you have printed in the media in your own articles about how you were instrumental in the repeal of the enhanced monthly service charges. I am not debating the legality of the same or whether what you did was right or wrong. All I'm simply trying to put across is that where was the so-called "paucity of funds" faced by the BPP then? If those service charges were not rolled back based upon your opposition wouldn't this security expense be self-financed by the residents automatically? Just a thought, uncle, to ponder over ... again, I reiterate, it's not my objective to get into the merits or otherwise, of either the BPP decision to impose the enhanced monthly service charges or your opposition to the same.

I have always believed in the doctrine of the greater good of the greater number by helping whoever I can, whenever I can in every possible way as inculcated in me by my dear guru, (name withheld), who, for decades, as we all know, selflessly served our colony and indeed, our community.. So I'm happy to help with whatever is possible to first reduce this "paucity of funds" self-inflicted by the BPP's love for litigation, especially the frivolous



kind of litigation which is often initiated as a harassment tool by the BPP, especially against the weaker and vulnerable sections of our community. For in so doing, we will not only be able to remove or significantly minimize this so-called "paucity of funds" which will altogether dispense with the need to send out such fundraising appeals but also usher in a much-needed harmony, peace and cohesiveness in our community for future generations.

Respectfully,

Name withheld on request.

## My Response:

Dear K, ( name withheld on your request),

**My congratulations for hitting the nail on the head** and thank you for your 'voluminous' contribution in words on "the paucity of funds"! You said "I'm happy to help with whatever is possible to first reduce this "paucity of funds" therefore I would have been extremely happy had you also forwarded an equally large cheque along with your valued comments! My only regret is that very much like others you too have shied off by requesting that I withhold your identity when I informed you that I would like to put your arguments in the public domain. **This fear from genuinely well-intentioned people like you only encourages those who in your words " pulverize the weaker and vulnerable sections of our community"**.

One agrees with most of what you have stated but so far as our appeal and your reference to the withdrawal of the steep increase in service charges are concerned I must clarify my stand on these issues.

**I must defend the Trustees and the BPP when you say "the BPP to abdicate its responsibilities as a landlord" in relation to the security needs of our compound and community!**

**As a fair-minded person I am sure you too will agree that there are mandatory and statutory responsibilities under the prevailing laws that are cast on the tribe of landlords; and providing security to tenants is, to my knowledge, not one such responsibility.** You must be aware that security in Khan Estate was an initiative of the residents and the **BPP does willingly contribute as their share a**

**sum equal to the amount contributed by the residents though they are not required to under any law.** Ultimately securing the premises is of equal importance to both parties. It would be another matter if you fault them on the issues which are their mandatory responsibilities. **Even there my sympathies with all landlords for the existing rents are not in consonance with costs.**

**Nowhere in our appeal have we stated that it is issued at the behest or on behalf of the trustees and therefore it would be incorrect to assume that.** The trustees have restored the security system to what earlier was done by the residents. It is similar to all other colonies where residents manage security. **To improve security it was solely the committee's initiative and it is only after interacting with some residents that we came up with these projects. With this committee, the buck starts and stops with us and each committee member contributed Rs.10,000/- and since my family has two flats our contribution was Rs.20,000/-.** Only thereafter we started this appeal and as acknowledged by you we were happy and are thankful to Mr. Dinshaw Rusi Mehta for a munificent gift of Rs.50,000/- towards the cost of the security cabin. Though Mr. Mehta has retired from the board his love and interest in community matters continues with greater vigor and he continues to give to the community unlike a person currently on the board who is better known for receiving than giving! **Please bear in mind that along with me my colleagues on the committee Jehangir Doctor and Jehangir Irani and many other residents have made equal monetary contributions and Cyrus Bharucha, Aspi Billimoria and Kersi Tavadia have not only contributed equally but also give their time and effort towards this cause for which I am thankful!**

Unfortunately the general perception for both the community and the trustees is that the BPP is mainly required to concentrate on the housing front! We forget that the **BPP trustees, whose responsibility is of administering and managing huge properties under their Trust, as they are ONLY trustees for the time being and NOT landlords,** have multiple tasks ahead of them but over a period of time have become famous or should I say infamous for their concentration on the housing front. No doubt housing requires a lot of attention

due to the myriad issues and could be one of the sources of income if it was better managed. **Of late the major problem as I see it is managing the Board members themselves; what with their infighting and 'majority' versus 'minority' similar to an elected house of our Lok Sabha and the fracas that follows. A sizable amount as you rightly pointed out was wasted to settle these internal squabbles which were created by the then prevailing 'majority! So far this board functioned under a dictator who, though not an elected Chairman, functioned like one, and made it his business to ensure that his writ prevailed. This person singularly manoeuvres/manipulates and ultimately prevails on who should be appointed/ employed starting with Jt.Dy. CEO's, and trickling down to security guards; allotments of flats and their terms and conditions which vary with the allottees proximity to him etc.; appointing architects and contractors for repairs etc, and even who should get or be denied a free meal from the BPP kitchen during the lockdown.**

This brings me to the issue of my protests and the subsequent withdrawal of the steep increase in service charges. Even you conceded over the phone that the one size fits all and the approx. 500% steep, unjustified increase was not fair. Besides the way it was enforced on most of our gullible residents through a diktat by the same dictator when instructions were given to the Custodians NOT to accept rents and other statutory levies if a resident refuses to pay this increase. This was JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE. **This was an indirect way of increasing the rents which the Rent Act does not permit.** Even in our meeting with the Board in April 2017, I had suggested that assuming that BPP may be in need of funds there were many legal ways of doing so. The amended Rent Act itself allows a 4% annual increase in rents from the year 2000. **Thereafter even his colleagues the late Zarir Bhatena and Noshir Dadrawala tried unsuccessfully to reason with him the need to review and reduce the steep increase but as with most dictators he would not budge. A resolution passed by four trustees to reduce this levy to Rs. 350/- pm was not allowed to be acted upon.**

Earlier the board did not feel the crunch as their policy then was in consonance with the





amended law that permits tenants/landlords to en-cash/pay for surrender of tenancy rights which brought in a sizable amount in the BPP coffers. Since you are familiar with my columns you may be aware that ONLY one Trustee, because of his personal agenda, continues to dissent with this practice after BPP resumed this encashment policy. I say this confidently for **he does not practice what he preaches. To cite an example a Godrej Baug flat was allotted by this same person to his business partners relative for a donation of Rs.8 lakhs only when the market was for around Rs.60/- lakhs. Why? Who will bear the loss of interest alone on this huge amount? To compensate the revenue loss due to such transactions which I have written about and which are only illustrative and not exhaustive, the hapless Parsi brethren**

**were inflicted with the steep increase in Service charges!**

After having lost his majority with the demise of trustee Bhatena and the ill health of Chairman Yazdi Desai, the board took the humane decision to completely withdraw these charges, albeit keeping the Covid situation in mind as well! **The Board set right what was wrong in the first place!** FYI as the Board withdrew this levy unconditionally and started accepting our rents and other legally payable dues, my family gladly donated Rs.30,000/- to the BPP in addition to contributing Rs.20,000/- for Khan Estate. **Incidentally continuing with the levy of Rs. 750/- service charges would not have benefitted the Khan estate residents in any which way and certainly not the security system.**

**Unfortunately members of our community lack the fighting spirit that our forefathers had! Many even fear reprisal at the hands of this ruthless and vindictive Dictator as evidenced by Mr. Bodhanwala of Mahim who was denied a mere free meal from the BPP kitchen during the lockdown by a single sentence fatwa "The issue is closed" when all other trustees were in favour. This about sums up his dictatorship!**

**I hope my reply is convincing enough for you to contribute to the best of your ability and resources,**

Cheers,  
Phiroze Amroliwalla

**To the ULTRA RICH**

O YE RICHIE RICH, ALL MINISTERS, MP, MLA, BEAUROCRATS, BUSINESS TYCOONS, BUILDERS, TO EVER CITIZEN RICH OR POOR.....

A humble request to every wealthy citizen I make; pl share with our INDIA, a little wealth n a few hours.

Here is a very very sincere appeal to use at least 10pc of your wealth for this country of ours

Neglect this please do not, put this will, our INDIA at the top, grow if we fruits, veggies n flowers;

You have more than you can ever hold; be a donor and lovingly open your treasury door

Not a soul then hungry or thirsty will go, definitely bless you they will, from the core.

If you Heaven wish to attain, you will necessarily have to open a good deed store

God has given you aplenty, share for this country of ours, 10 percent if not twenty.

Advertise you can your products, as you in rows three, plant fruit n veg. trees plenty.

Give back to the Nation we must all, in way some; you can easily when you have wealth aplenty.

Local, easily growing fruit, vegetable and flower trees if we have on every Indian road;

Bananas, coconut, guava, chickoo trees, with that you put up you can your advertisement board;

Drumsticks, jackfruit, mangoes, curry leaves even the poorest of poor, then will be able to afford.

A green INDIA, a Rich YOU, satisfied citizens, it will be a dream come true!

Elders weak, nor will a hungry child for food will have to ever crave or about food rue

Let the rich n the "not so rich" join in for physical manual work, as an assisting crew.

MAY EVERY NOOK N CORNER, ALL BUILDINGS, PARKS, ALL ROADS, EVERY LANE BE GREEN, CLEAN N SERENE.

TATHASTU  
AMEN  
AEDOON BAAD

**Armin Dutia Motashaw**

**HEALING HAND**

I know, faith, patience, prayers all give us a helping hand;

But whom do I ask, about the purpose of our creation

Why birth, why adversities, fights n its long duration

Why do we have to be grilled, tortured n troubled

Why is happiness, peace, health all wrapped n bubbled

Its common to see the wicked prosper n goodness suffering in silence

Why is there between goodness and evil no balance ?

Help me to Your mysterious ways accept and understand

Lord, please give me Your kind, benevolent healing hand.

**Armin Dutia Motashaw**



# Inaugural Jashan on Navroze to Kick Off 12 World Zoroastrian Congress 2022 Planning

The 12th World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC) is co-hosted by ZAGNY (Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York), and FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America).

The WZC returns to the United States after 22 years and is expected to attract 1500 attendees from all over the world.

Planning is underway for attendees (including teens and children) to enjoy an unparalleled WZC with engaging programs, dynamic cultural events, interesting exhibits, unique marketplace offerings, and sensational entertainment. This exceptional three-and-a-half-day event, coincides with the July 4th weekend celebrations creating a one-of-a-kind New York City experience!

The WZC will be held at the New York Hilton Midtown, giving attendees the opportunity to stay in the heart of New York City for the event.

## Theme

## Bridging the Global Zarathushti Existence

The tone for a Congress is set by its theme and from the outset we are committed to developing a WZC that will resonate with Zarathushtis from all over the world. More importantly, we are committed to a theme that reflects the aspirations and challenges of the larger Zarathushti community on the cusp of emerging from the first quarter of the twenty-first century.

We anticipate that attendees from all over the world will bring their unique perspectives and formative influences based on their respective cultures. Our goal is to ensure that we bridge Zarathushtis from across the world, and also bridge age, gender and spiritual differences.

We look forward to a robust attendance from our global Zarathushti community and are dedicated to developing a program that will be rich in content and appeal to the diversity that we hope will be represented. Our community today is truly global, and represents a diaspora that brings with it its unique challenges. The WZC will give us the

opportunity to strengthen connections and build bridges while respecting our diversity.

Our Zarathushti existence is not static, but ever changing. Even as we look back at our existence, we will also look forward during the WZC. As we stand here in 2021 and look forward to 2022 and beyond, we should expect to continue to evolve – demographics, geographies, social media – all of these will influence our global community and continue to pose the questions – Who Are We? What Do We Represent? What will our future be or look like? While abstract, these questions are particularly relevant to us and our future generations. We expect our program content will raise these thought provoking questions and leave attendees with a renewed sense of pride and purpose that we will endure.

## INAUGURAL JASHAN ON MARCH 20, 2021 FOR THE 12TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN CONGRESS

Please join Zarathushtis from all over the world virtually for a Jashan which will be held at the New York Dar-e-Mehr on Navroze to launch preparations for the 12th World Zoroastrian Congress 2022 (WZC) on this auspicious day, with blessings from Ahura Mazda.

**Saturday March 20, 2021, at 11.00 a.m. EST | 8:00 a.m. PST | 4:00 p.m. UK | 9:30 p.m. India**

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93292295718?pwd=VTlKVjNSaGZLQXJSYW1Eb0kzMXAvdz09>

**Meeting ID: 932 9229 5718**

**Passcode: WZC2022**



WWW.WZC2022.NYC



12TH WORLD ZOROASTRIAN  
CONGRESS 2022 NYC

INAUGURATION  
JASHAN

TO CELEBRATE  
NAVROZE 2021

ON

MARCH 20, 2021

11 am EST | 8 am PST | 9:30 PM IST

THE TONE FOR THE WZC IS SET BY ITS THEME:

**"BRIDGING THE GLOBAL  
ZARATHUSHTI EXISTENCE"**

IN KEEPING WITH THIS THEME, WE ARE INVITING MOBES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO JOIN US IN PRAYER, AS WELL AS ZARATHUSHTIS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO JOIN US TO CELEBRATE NAVROZE 2021

ZOOM MEETING ID

932 9229 5718

PASSCODE: WZC2022

LIVE FROM  
THE NEW YORK DAR-E-MEHR





## 'We took a huge risk': the Indian firm making more Covid jobs than anyone



**Adar Poonawalla**, chief executive of the Serum Institute of India, on vaccines, regulation and what comes next

Adar Poonawalla, 40, is the chief executive of the Serum Institute of India (SII), the Pune-based, family-owned vaccine manufacturer that is producing more Covid-19 vaccines by dose than any other in the world. For now it's the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine rolling off its production lines, but SII has signed contracts with three other developers – Novavax, Codagenix and SpyBiotech – all of which have candidates in the works.

### **Did you ever imagine you would be making vaccines for a global pandemic?**

Nobody wishes for a pandemic, but we were almost designed for one. We produce a billion and a half vaccine doses each year, for around 170 low- and middle-income countries. It's true we never imagined the whole world being so dependent on us, but nobody else has our capacity to scale up.

### **What has scaling up involved, practically speaking?**

We committed ourselves to Covid-19 in March. We took a huge risk, because nobody knew then that any vaccine was going to work. Of the \$800m (£579m) we needed, we put in \$270m and the rest we raised from the Gates Foundation and various countries. We dedicated about 1,000 employees to the programme and deferred all product launches planned for 2020 for two to three years, so that we could requisition the facilities allocated to them. Then it was a question of equipping those facilities and getting them validated for use, which we did in record time. By August we were manufacturing and stockpiling a vaccine that we predicted, correctly, would be approved around December. The first doses were shipped in January, and we've dispatched 30m to date.

### **When will you reach full capacity?**

Right now our production is around 70m

doses a month. By the end of March, when we'll have a third Covid-19 facility up and running, it will be 100m and it could go higher by the end of the year, if we can optimise our processes. Among others we supply the Covax scheme, whose goal is to distribute Covid-19 vaccines fairly around the world. It aims to send out 2bn doses by the end of 2021. I think realistically that could take 18 months, since if we're lucky we'll have produced 400m by the end of the year.

### **If the vaccines need to be adjusted to protect against future emerging variants, how much of a challenge will that be?**

It would be simple now that the processes are up and running. We grow the virus in living cells, so we would simply change the master clone – the virus with which we infect those cells – and that then propagates through them. It would take us two to three months to start producing the new vaccine at capacity.

### **Some people think the reason that rollout has been slow in many countries is because the developers who hold the patents on the vaccines have licensed too few manufacturers to make them. Do you agree?**

No. There are enough manufacturers, it just takes time to scale up. And by the way, I have been blown away by the cooperation between the public and private sectors in the last year, in developing these vaccines. What I find really disappointing, what has added a few months to vaccine delivery – not just ours – is the lack of global regulatory harmonisation. Over the last seven months, while I've been busy making vaccines, what have the US, UK and European regulators been doing? How hard would it have been to get together with the World Health Organization and agree that if a vaccine is approved in the half-dozen or so major manufacturing countries, it is approved to send anywhere on the planet? Instead we have a patchwork of approvals and I have 70m doses that I can't ship because they have been purchased but not approved. They have a shelf life of six months; these expire in April.

### **What do you think when you see rich countries squabbling over vaccine supplies?**

I think manufacturers overpromised and didn't manage expectations well. I underpromised. I said I'd make 50m doses from day one. If everyone had said, 'Don't expect

large volumes until May or June,' I think all this could have been avoided.

### **There are reports that in some countries, rich people are finding ways to get vaccinated before poorer people. Is that happening in India too?**

It's the reverse here. SII is legally obliged to supply the Indian government and the government is prioritising the poor, the vulnerable and frontline workers. That means everyone else, unless they are elderly or meet other specific criteria, goes to the back of the queue. Don't forget that the population of India is so large that 200m Indians qualify as vulnerable. That's 400 million doses already.

### **Can you explain the situation in India over compensation in case of vaccine injury?**

In many countries, the government indemnifies the manufacturer for costs related to vaccine injury, but here the manufacturer is responsible. I have no problem paying compensation if an injury turns out to be vaccine-related, but at the moment it is possible for the Indian courts to place an injunction on my vaccine production pending investigation of such a case, whether the injury turns out to be vaccine-related or not. I have petitioned the government saying this should not be possible in a pandemic, because it means one such claim could put a halt to our global rollout. We have already had such a case, in fact, and the health ministry had to step in to prevent us being shut down.

### **Do you think the way vaccines are made will change for ever as a result of Covid-19?**

Yes. Almost every country now wants to set up local manufacturing so that it never has to scramble for vaccine again. They may not all succeed, but for now it looks as if the political will and the capital is there. A lot of pharmaceutical companies and generic manufacturers have also realised that there's room for new players in the vaccine field. I predict the landscape will be transformed over the next five years.

### **From startup in 1966 to world's largest vaccine producer in 2021 is quite a journey. How did it start?**

The Haffkine Institute, a government institute in Mumbai, used to produce anti-snakebite and -tetanus serums by injecting the venom or bacterium into horses and mules, then pulling their blood a few days later and extracting the antibodies. Mine is a family of farmers and horse breeders and my father, Cyrus, used to sell animals to the institute. Eventually he thought, "Why not cut out the middle man and make the serums – later vaccines – myself?"



# IS TRUSTEESHIP A PERMANENT POST IN OUR ATASH ABODES?

Trusts were created here, way back during the British era in the 17th century, mainly to help the poor and downtrodden. Our forefathers also created various trusts to help our poor for better living conditions. The trusts were also created to help in housing and some philanthropic and pious minds created religious places with trust deeds so also private fires e.g. Aslaji Bhikaji and Soonawalla etc. These private fires and some more found its way into Adarans and Dadgahs and became a public trust with trust deeds "only for Parsees". The term Parsees, Iranis or Faslis were created but we are Mazdayasni Zarthostis.

Over the years, family members of private fires nominated themselves as trustees, which also continues today. Whilst today in the change circumstances such self-appointed trusteeship except as a family member must be done away as all our fire abodes fall under Public Trust Act 1950. Some of our fire abodes are part of residential colonies or baugs e.g. Cusrow Baug, Godrej Baug, Kappawalla and Soonawallas. Therefore, local elections must be held every 5 years. Change reports cannot be filed without proper legal elections. It is found trustees have installed themselves as a permanent position whereby they do what they like which includes guiding or pressurizing the mobedism to do their bidding.

Pandemic was and is a bad omen, which has opened up thought process. Whether the pandemic will end soon is another matter (in all probabilities post April 2021). The fear of death will loom and continue to rule our minds for a long time to come. We are now in the midst of a new normal.

In contrast, it is the world of mobedism and dasturism who should have guided us rather than ill informed (in religious matters) trustees who didn't know (or knowingly ignored it) the importance of 24-hours rituals in our Atash Padshah's abode. Some trustees may have shown their authority to the panthakis or managers of our Atash abodes. The police may have requested the panthakis not to allow anyone during the peak months from March to September 2020. Instead of locking, the outside gates were kept open. Some Zarthostis did find their way into the

premises through the baug back doors. This probably must have prompted some trustees to block the gumbad (kebla) like it was found in Mahim's Soonawala Dar-e-Mehr. This was wrong. One cannot use their ill-informed religious knowledge and tenets to imprison Atash Kedeh. On enquiries I found that the friends and family members of such trustees were quietly visiting. What followed was that mobedism started the rituals quietly by accepting machis, flowers, fruits and Ashodads without the presence of concerned individuals except during Mukhtad with restrictions. Could a panthaki have conducted such a ritual when the gumbad (kebla) was out of bounds and blocked by benches not to allow any Zarthosti near it or rather imprisoned.

How does one trust that rituals were actually conducted? Is money paid and accepted important or proper conduction of rituals? Are religious tenets and established rituals like a prehensile chameleon? Swami Vivekanad in one of his religious sermons in Chicago in September 1893 said, "all atrocities are conducted in the name of religion". It appears his words were true. This must have happened in all our religious places. The scary issue of arrest and fine must have kept the mobedism from opposing the trusteeship or was there any other reason? In fact, guidance should have been obtained from our learned dasturs, e.g. Bisni Dokhma where prayers and jashans were conducted after repairing on instructions from Dastur Dr. Pheroze Kotwal.

Now that pandemic may end (which maybe post April 2021) will the world of mobedism and dasturism restore the status of Atash Padshas by conducting ijastnes or still keep on fooling the laity to believe that what was done by blocking and imprisoning the Atash Padshahs was right.

One more example, for years together since my childhood I was informed that first 4 days upto cherum dahoom rituals cannot be performed if a Zarthosti dead body has been disposed of other than Dokhmenashin. This actually happened that the first 4 days rituals were conducted as BMC could not handover a covid body to the relatives but taken directly from the hospital to the

crematorium. The relatives had no choice. I am in the knowhow of cases where the bodies were directly carted to crematoriums and showing cremation by a video to the relatives. In such cases, first 4 days rituals were conducted in our fire abodes. I am sure the world of mobedism and dasturism will show us some reasons or the other for their act, E.g. in the matter where the Zarthosti dies without a facility of a dokhma, such rituals are conducted. But here in Mumbai, facility of dokhmas are available at Doongerwadi.

I have discontinued going to Atash kadeh and instead I have started praying at home directly to the sun (Surya) for mental peace rather than going to artificial fire abodes where I am not sure whether my prayers and machis will help me to have mental satisfaction or reach spiritualism. I am also not sure whether our atash padshas are really consecrated or we are only made to believe by mobedism and dasturism, or by some Zarthostis who themselves lack in spiritualism. Even entering keblas or conducting Bois by laities who have the knowledge of rituals are out of bounds. The early history practically of Parsees is uncertain. We are also not sure of our exact origin except that we are Mazdayasni Zarthostis and this much can be said that we are Parsees to the Aryans stock having lived in Persia, or in some other places north of Iran. The history of Parsees deals with Peshaedadian, Kyanian, Achaenedians, Parthian and Sassanian dynasties. In the seventh century, the loss of our empire in Iran drifted us in 641 AD. We were subjected to religious persecution. In spite of hardships some of us stuck to our ancestral religion. Today (I am sorry to say) we are drifting once again due to lack of guidance and our own knowledge that we are not Parsees, Iranis or Faslis but Mazdayasni Zarthostis. Therefore, I request once again amalgamate all our trust funds and properties into one "World Alliance of Mazdayasni Zarthostis". The time is ripe now for "Universal Common Code" is coming. Maybe charitable institutions will be disbanded.

In the service of my Lord,

**Dr. Syrus D. Irani**  
Mahim





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

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

All consultations and workshops will be held online only.

Kermeez Shroff Ghadiali

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**Aries**  
(Mesh Raashi-a l e)

With regards to your love life things are looking good. For a few of you discussions of marriage are on the cards. Careerwise also this week is good. Opportunities will arise. Overall a good week especially financially.



**Leo**  
(Simha Raashi-m tt)

For those of you who were experiencing heartbreak things look much better as positive growth and movement is seen in your love life. Career wise for those exploring creative pursuits it's a good week. Overall it's a time of planning and laying down foundation for the future.



**Sagittarius**  
(Dhanu Raashi-bh f dh)

Sudden transformation and endings are seen on a personal front. Long lasting relationships that were not serving a purpose will come to an end. Careerwise new opportunities are on the horizon. And overall this week promises good financial returns so it's an excellent week for investing.



**Taurus**  
(Vrishabh Raashi-b v u)

A few minor disputes are seen with a loved one. Do not let ego come in the way. Careerwise this is an excellent week. Chances of a raise or promotion as seen. A week filled with love and support of family as well.



**Virgo**  
(Kanya Raashi-p tthh)

Arguments and misunderstandings are seen with a loved one. Try your best to avoid these minor disputes. Careerwise you will be provided with a choice. This could be two options between two jobs or two career paths as well. Overall it's a week which promises romance and love.



**Capricorn**  
(Makar Raashi-kh j)

Heartbreak or sadness looms on the horizon with regards to your love life. Careerwise it's a good week as abundance will follow you. It is a good week to manifest your wishes as that energy is available for you so remember to make a wish that you actually would like when it manifested.



**Gemini**  
(Mithun Raashi-k chh gha)

Things will improve if they were low with regards to your love life. Moderation is the key word for you. Careerwise planning and laying down foundations is seen this week. Overall it's a time of honing your skills and you will see that you will receive appreciation from others as well.



**Libra**  
(Tula raashi-r t)

Things on the personal front look a bit tough. You could be feeling dominated or not being heard. Careerwise it's a great week for those looking out for a new job this is a good week for that. Overall this week will bring in a lot of changes and sudden transformations which will always work out for the better.



**Aquarius**  
(Kumbha Raashi-g s sh)

A tough week overall. You will try to work towards clarity and communication with regards to your love life. Career wise it is best that you lay low and do not make any decisions. A week that will bring in certain energies that will require you to sacrifice for a higher cause.



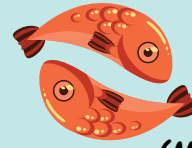
**Cancer**  
(Karaka Raashi-dd h)

A sudden chance encounter or a sudden turn of luck is seen with regards to your love life. Even careerwise a good name and accolades are seen. The advice for you is to leave behind toxic situations as changes will bring about good things.



**Scorpio**  
(Vrishchik Raashi-n y)

An excellent week overall. Progress in your love life and betterment in your career is seen. A week which promises fun and merriment while at the same time opportunities and growth spurt's in your career. A week filled with movement and action.



**Pisces**  
(Meena Raashi-d ch z th)

Arguments and misunderstandings rule over your personal life this week. This is not the right time to solve matters as energies are chaotic. Career wise you remain confused and are seen making a tough decision. There is a chance of improving your love life by inviting romance into it this week.



## Spotted!

## Photography



The sun was about to set and we had less than an hour of safari time left, when our guide was told there was a Leopard sighted close by. We drove over and saw this handsome guy lounging on a tree branch as one would on a recliner back home. He was basking in the attention that he was getting from us gawking humans, but was not interested in coming down and obliging us with a cat walk. We left him on his perch to enjoy the sunset, while we headed back to our resort to enjoy sundowners. This image is from my trip to Masai Mara in Kenya, the Mecca of Wildlife.



**Behram R. Aderbad** works as a professional in a reputed private company, and is also a passionate wildlife lover which got him interested in pursuing wildlife photography. He wants to promote and showcase the wild and wonderful side of Planet Earth through his images. He has travelled to the wild jungles of India and Africa to pursue photography, and any spare time that he finds back home in the concrete jungle is spent photographing different species of birds in and around his house.

### Service Before Self

I am not talking  
About Batman  
Or Superman  
Who go flying around  
But ordinary people  
Who go above  
And beyond  
Disregarding  
Their own safety  
As well sacrificing the  
Lives of their families  
Always ready to  
Save humanity  
They care not where  
One comes from  
Or what colour caste  
Creed or religion  
Always willing to  
Lend a helping hand  
Cause they are  
Only human

"A hero is someone who  
Steps up when everyone  
Else backs down!"

This teeny tiny virus  
Devoid of any senses  
Has given a severe jolt  
It has leveled  
The playing field  
Cause it refuses to concede

Lastly I quote:  
" A man does what he must  
In spite of personal consequences  
In spite of Obstacles,dangers  
and pressures  
That is the basis of  
All human morality"  
Sir Winston Churchill

**Choicest Happiness**  
**Farida**

### Integrity Is Everything!

We made a  
Big Hoopla  
When the  
Cyrus Cylinder  
Was showcased  
A tiny little  
Earthen cylinder  
But on it was inscribed  
A very simple  
But a potent  
Powerful electrifying message  
No matter how educated  
Talented rich or cool  
One believes one is  
How one treats people  
Ultimately tells all  
As Integrity is everything!  
We may be of  
Any colour caste or creed  
By "flashing one's credit card"  
Doesn't secure one a "Seat"

He cares not for the  
Earthly wealth one holds  
But how many "Plus Points"  
In one's Gareban one holds

Last but not the least:  
Never Judge someone by  
The opinion of others

This brings me to the conclusion  
(if I may repeat):  
Rumours are spread by Haters  
Spread by Fools  
Accepted by Idiots

Lastly:  
Don't be impressed by by money  
followers degrees and titles  
Be impressed by humility integrity  
generosity & kindness: Collective  
Evolution