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# PARSI JUNCTION

Sunday, 14 March 2021

▶ Volume 1 ▶ Issue 73  
▶ Year 2 ▶ Copy 73 ▶ Pages 20

**Committed to Transparency and Accountability**



## **BPP Elections Postponed To May 23 As A Result of Covid 19**

**A Big Thank You to Chairman Armaity Tirandaz,  
Trustee Viraf Mehta & Trustee Xerxes Dastur.**

On March 9, these three Trustees passed a resolution to postpone the elections by 2-3 months citing the rise of COVID cases.

This decision to postpone the elections was challenged by the two dissenting Trustees in the High Court but was denied by the Hon'ble Justice Menon on March 11.

The two dissenting Trustees then went into appeal, on Friday March 12, and the Appealate Bench of the Hon'ble Justice Kathawala and Hon'ble Justice Joshi, passed an order by consent to postpone the elections to May 23.



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### APPEALATE BENCH OF THE BOMBAY HIGH COURT SETS FRESH DATE OF MAY 23, 2021

We Trustees of the Bombay Parsi Panchayat had postponed the elections scheduled to take place on March 14, 2021, given the heightened COVID-19 pandemic situation in Mumbai.

As promised to the community, we had sought for an extension for two months as a result of the rising COVID-19 cases so as to enable our elderly members of the community to get vaccinated. We urge all senior members of the community to take advantage on the vaccine drive and get duly vaccinated.

The Order passed by Hon'ble Justice Menon dated March 11, 2021 in the petitions filed by Trustees Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrewala and candidates Mrs. Anahita Desai and Kaikushroo Irani clearly states that the decision of postponing the elections by us has been taken in right earnest and in the interest of the voter electorate at large.

Hon'ble Justice Menon has further held that it was important to ensure that the community members were protected and postponement of the elections by a few months was the only option. To conclude Hon'ble Justice Menon has held *"Save and except for assurance that all measures to ensure safe distancing will be followed, in practical terms, as we have noticed, even in public places where these controls are sought to be imposed, safe distancing is still very difficult and, in these circumstances,, there is no reason to interfere with the decision of the trust to postpone the elections, which is prima facie appears to be for the benefit of members of community."*

At the hearing of the Appeal filed by Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrewala before the Hon'ble Division Bench of the Bombay High Court, the Hon'ble Court asked the Trustees if they would be unanimously willing to agree to fresh elections being held. With a view to putting an end to the entire dispute, all the Trustees agreed to holding fresh elections on May 23, 2020, allowing our elderly members to take advantage to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Upon arriving at this agreement, the court accepted the unanimous decision of the Trustees and disposed the appeal by consent.

Despite the false messages floating that postponing elections is to hold on to an imaginary majority on the Board of Trustees, we have kept our commitment to the community to postpone the elections by two months. We thank all the members of the community who have stood by our decision to delay the elections due to rising cases of COVID-19. We would like to thank our legal team for supporting us in this endeavour to ensure that we have not held elections when COVID-19 cases are on a rampant rise. We will shortly be announcing the schedule for fresh election which will now take place on May 23, 2021.

A.R. Tirandaz  
ARMAITY TIRANDAZ  
CHAIRPERSON



Viraf Mehta  
VIRAF MEHTA  
TRUSTEE



Xerxes Dastur  
XERXES DASTUR  
TRUSTEE





# Parsi Junction Interviews Trustee Viraf D. Mehta

## Was the decision to postpone the elections a knee-jerk one ?

Absolutely not. We have been talking about this for over three weeks. When we announced the elections in Jan '21, the covid situation in Mumbai was under control. But as number increased in Feb we got more cautious. In fact on Feb 23, the Trustees UNANIMOUSLY resolved to stop campaigning in all colonies and informed the all the candidates and each colony associations of its decision. For a while Xerxes and myself have been asking the Board to reconsider the date for elections given the daily rise in COVID-19 cases but Noshir and Kersi kept saying let's take each day as it comes. Noshir even said let us asses in a weeks' time i.e. the first week of March.

We realized matters were getting worse when on Feb 24, the Cusrow Baug League wrote to us raising their concerns given that Cusrow Baug was a voting center. Do not forget that there are currently approximately 8-10 active COVID-19 cases in Cusrow Baug

Then, DPC Gym wrote to us on March 1 informing us of a letter issued to them by the BMC stating that due to the rise in COVID-19 cases all mass gatherings are banned and if found violating the rule (of more than 50 people) criminal prosecution will be initiated against the management.

By March 7, things were getting very bad and on the evening of March 8, the 5 Trustees got onto a conference call and Mrs. Tirandaz, Xerxes and myself raised our concerns about the rising number of COVID-19 cases and stated that the elections need to be postponed. Noshir and Kersi immediately objected. Moreover, Noshir was adamant we discuss this at length at our Board meeting on Tuesday evening, March 9.

There was a candidate EVM demonstration scheduled for 430pm on March 9 after which our Board meeting was to begin. The entire Board was present for this demo. Also, the demo being given would be useful eventually.

Following the demo, the Trustees met and discussed this issue at length and it was then that the decision to postpone the elections was taken.

Please note, today Nagpur and Pune are back in lockdown. Mumbai is seeing spike of cases each day – greater than the previous



**BPP Trustee Viraf D. Mehta**

day. The risk is not to me but the elderly of our community. Our request was and has always been postpone the elections by 2 months so that this COVID wave can die out and MOST IMPORTANTLY our elders can get vaccinated.

## What were your concerns?

Our primary concern was COVID-19 and the risk to our elderly population. With 31,000 registered voters, and assuming a turnout last like time of 6,000, we can expect over 50% that number being aged voters. Is it worth the risk?

Kersi has already suffered from COVID-19 and hence does not care if others are infected . In fact, since he has had COVID-19 – he has intentionally stopped wearing a mask during our Board meetings despite being frequently reminded, and he sits directly opposite to Mrs. Tirandaz.

Noshir on the other hand brushes off COVID-19 as an enhanced flu and doesn't feel that our concern for our community is warranted.

During the lockdown when members of our community passed away due to COVID-19, their bodies were sealed in zip lock bags and forcefully cremated. At that time, there was an outcry from members of our community to allow their last rites be conducted at Doongerwadi.

We feel the pain felt by members of our community who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. Today with the vaccine available – IS THIS WORTH THE RISK!

60 days is what we had sought for to get everyone vaccinated and protected and seeing merit in our case and cause, the Hon'ble Bombay High Court has granted us the same.

We kept reminding Noshir and Kersi that

there were 7000 new Covid cases in the city of Mumbai in the last week itself. Over 1300 buildings got sealed. All Mrs. Tirandaz, Xerxes and I wanted was to postpone the March 14 day of voting by two to three months. We believed that would give enough time for the numbers to hopefully go down and also time for people to get vaccinated. The vaccination drive for senior citizens started at the beginning of March. From the time of you first shot to final inoculation post your second shot, the process takes 6-8 weeks. We just wanted enough time for our community members, especially our elders, to get vaccinated and be safe. We felt that was top priority over an election. Plus, a successful vaccination drive would mean more people come out to vote. But unfortunately, neither Noshir or Kersi agreed with us.

Another point worth noting is that the BPP still does not have any written permission from the BMC or the Police. This was dangerous because now if you are found in violation of the BMC SOPs, the implications are drastic, criminal charges against the Trustees. Nobody wants that. As per the BMC's latest SOP, no gathering of over 50 is permitted. But at each of the BPP Polling centers, there would be a minimum of 35 BPP and Election staff itself. Which would mean at any given time, only 15 voters would be allowed to be present at the voting center. This was turning out to be highly impractical.

Taking into consideration all the above points, the Trustees by majority, in accordance with clause 16 of the Scheme of Elections, decided to postpone the elections.

## What happened in Court?

On Thursday, March 11, Hon'ble Justice Menon heard the application made by Kersi and Noshir and the application filed by the two candidates, Anahita Desai and Kaikashroo Irani. The only point argued was that this postponement was done with malafide intent but when asked to prove a single count of malafide action, they had no answer.

Noshir, Kersi, Anahita Desai and Irani have harped of our malafides and intentions. Let the community know that it is this very Board that has supplied over 5000 meals to needy during COVID and who has waived off completely the service charges of Rs. 750 per month charged by the BPP from each resident. As



you would have noticed, we have been able to auction high value flats so that we can offset the service charges waived. By doing this the every community resident has benefited by saving nearly Rs. 10,000 a year!

During the hearing before the High Court on March 11, Hon'ble Justice Menon rejected their application and held in our favour. In his Order, The Hon'ble Justice Menon stated that " Save and except for assurances that all measures to ensure safe distancing will be followed, in practical terms, as we have noticed, even in public places where these controls are sought to be imposed, safe distancing is still very 14/15 difficult and in these circumstances, there is no reason to interfere with the decision of the trust to postpone the elections, which is prima facie appears to be for the benefit of members of the community."

This clearly shows that the prayers of Anahita Desai and Kersi Randeria to force elections upon the community during COVID-19 was NOT in the interest of the community.

The next day, i.e. Friday March 12, Kersi and

Noshir went into appeal before Hon'ble Justice Kathawala and Hon'ble Justice Joshi. So eager to continue with the elections in the heat of the pandemic, the appeal was filed without even having a copy of Hon'ble Justice Menon's Order. Anahita Desai and Kaikashroo Irani did not appeal Hon'ble Justice Menon's decision having realized the backlash if they were to fail in Court again and looking desperate to try any way to get into the BPP.

Given the acrimony surrounding this postponement, the Division Bench asked if we would be open to the idea to fresh elections. This was agreed to by both sides. The Bench then asked all the Trustees present, i.e. Mrs. Tirandaz, Mr. Dastur, Mr. Mehta and Mr. Randeria to come up with a consensus date. Finally May 23, 2021 was fixed. Noshir was conspicuous and absent on both days. Funnily, Kaikashroo Irani was in Court on both days!

#### What was achieved by all of this?

Unfortunately, nothing but waste of time and money and bad blood. On Tuesday Mrs. Tirandaz, Xerxes and I constantly requested

Kersi and Noshir to listen to reason. It would have been a strong message to the community if the Board has unanimously decided to postpone the elections just as we had unanimously decided to stop campaigning on Feb 23.

We need to show our community members that we can rise above our differences and unite against this deadly virus. But sadly Noshir and Kersi did not agree and left the meeting stating that they would take us to Court. The resolution passed on March 9 clearly states that we only wanted 2-3 months for a safer environment and more individuals vaccinated. And that what we were ultimately able to achieve.

#### What happens now?

The Trustees will be moving the High Court next week seeking an extension after which a new election schedule will be published next weekend. Voting Day May 23, 2021.

Our paramount interest in the safety of the community. We urge every member of the community over the age of 60 to please get vaccinated. It is important for their own safety and wellbeing.

## Chronology of Events leading to Postponement:

**Feb 23** – Trustees UNANIMOUSLY agree to stop campaigning in all colonies citing a rise in Covid cases

The BPP still did not have any written BMC or Police permission to hold the elections

**Feb 24** – Cusrow Baug Sports & Welfare League wrote to the BPP Trustees raising strong concerns about Cusrow Baug being used as an election center

**Feb 26** – Bharucha Baug cancelled their own elections citing Covid increase

**March 1** – DPC Gymkhana wrote to the BPP denying them permission to use their premises as a voting center.

The BPP still did not have any written BMC or Police permission to hold the elections

**March 1-8** – Xerxes and Viraf constantly share information on increasing cases of Covid in Mumbai and Maharashtra. Noshir and Kersi keep saying give it more time till thing get really bad.

**March 8 evening** – Trustees had a conf call where Armaity, Viraf and Xerxes raised grave concern due to the spike in covid cases in the last 10 days and wanted to postpone. Kersi and Noshir immediately dissented. Noshir very emphatically stated that this decision had to be taken at the Board meeting of Feb 9 and not on a conf call.

The BPP still did not have any written BMC or Police permission to hold the elections

**March 9** – Trustees by majority decided to postpone the elections by 2-3 months till the covid number drops again and more of our community members get vaccinated. The resolution passed is as under:

**March 10** – Kersi and Noshir move the High Court against this resolution.

The BPP still did not have any written BMC or Police permission to hold the elections

**March 11** – the case was heard and the court denied their application

The BPP still did not have any written BMC or Police permission to hold the elections

March 12: Kersi and Noshir went into appeal to a division bench

Both parties were asked to fix a new date of elections by consent, which was finalized as May 23, 2021.

This is exactly what the majority Trustees had resolved to do on Tuesday itself.

What did Noshir and Kersi achieve by this bruised-ego dance of theirs? They've made a mockery of the institution and themselves. At a time when the BPP is strapped for cash, it was tragic that two minority Trustees took the BPP to court and to made them waste charity fund.

Noshir is a proposer to a candidate. He should not have joined Kersi in his appeal in the High Court to stay the majority decision. It is direct conflict of interest. But alas!



## Letters to the Editor



### Politics over Safety

Dear Sir,

It is with deep regret that I pen this letter to you. I am not one to interfere in Parsi affairs but this has gone on far enough. I am quite appalled by the clandestine behavior of Noshir Dadrawala and Kersi Randeria. Their thirst for power seems to have triumphed all common sense. How can they be so blind to what is happening around them. The city of Mumbai has had its highest number of COVID cases since October 2020 and buildings are getting sealed left right and center. I cannot believe I voted for them in 2015. They were supposed to protect our community instead they are risking all our lives to get their own candidates in. Shame on you.

Noshir, I believe you have proposed a candidate in this election. Is his victory more important to you to our health? I am 72 years old and am getting my first vaccination shot next week. In a few months almost all of us would be vaccinated. Why couldn't we have just waited till we were all protected? I am glad the courts ruled in favour of pushing the elections forward, but is two and a half months enough? I pray to Ahura Mazda that it is.

Sincerely,

**Eruch S. Panthaky**

### DON'T TAKE COVID FOR GRANTED

Dear members of the Parsi Irani community,

I am not sure if this is my place to write but I hope you will give me a few minutes of your valuable time. My name is Sharon Merchant and I live in Santa Cruz. I have a lot of bawa friends in the Andheri area and through them I got to know about the elections and arguments over COVID. Friends, it saddens me to say but please do not take COVID lightly. It only takes one mistaken or lapse in judgement and your life can change forever.

My brother and I lived with my parents in a private co-op society. Throughout the entire lockdown till last December we were able to keep my parents indoors and safe. This January the society called for an AGM. My brother thought it would be ok for him to take my parents to attend as the meeting was being held in the open air lobby of our building. My parents, frustrated by being house bound for so long thought the same. I did not agree and had a big argument with my family but I was not able to convince them otherwise. Two days after attending the meeting my mother begun feeling ill. We got her tested immediately and her results came back positive. I couldn't understand how because each chair at the AGM

was placed a few feet apart from the other and also masks were worn and sanitizer used. Turns out, one of the committee members present, a 36 year old man had recently attended a friend's wedding a few days ago. He had gotten himself tested the day after the AGM and it was tested positive. But he was asymptomatic. Unfortunately my mother begun showing all the symptoms and we immediately rushed her to hospital. It's been 13 days now and my mother is still in the ICU on a ventilator. Every day I cry and pray and blame myself for not being more assertive with my brother and stopping my parents from going down. Last evening the doctors told us it's not looking good and we should be prepared for the worst. Believe you me, the thought of losing you love is devastating. I cannot express the pain I am feeling right now. The anger mixed with grief has left me numb. I never thought it would happen to me or anyone I love. But it did. How I wish I could turn back time and taken more care.

You never know where the person next to you or even around you has been. Whether they were careful or not. Whether they unknowingly met someone who was positive or whether they are a carrier and not even know it. Friends, I write to you today to please take care of yourselves and your parents. Do not listen to others when they dismiss the dangers of COVID. This disease is lurking everywhere and you or someone you love could be next. Please stay safe, stay indoors and avoid huge gathering. When my friends told me about the elections that your community was going to hold, it really shook me. I asked for the contact of the editor of a Parsi publication where I could share my story and hopefully raise awareness amongst others. I hope and pray for the safety of all. Before you decide to attend any big function or go to an election hall with hundreds of people, ask yourselves, "IS IT REALLY WORTH IT?"

Regards,

**Sharon Merchant**

### COVID be Dammed! I want to be a Trustee

Dear Editor,

I specifically chose the above title because I think it is apt to describe Anahita Desai's current attitude. I read a Whatsapp message she sent out a couple of days ago after elections were postponed and I was shocked that this is the same Anahita who I used to see as a doting wife to Yazdi. I know that Anahita has fought two elections to try and become a Trustee of the BPP and has lost both. But such desperation on her part really took me by surprise. If I am not mistaken, the term of a Trustee starts after they get elected, so if and when Anahita wins, her term would start from then. So why make

such a hue and cry for a delay of a few months especially when the virus has come back. Since vaccinations have started wouldn't the right thing to do be to wait for everyone to get their shots. What upsets me are the double standards people so brazenly flaunt today. Anahita accuses the three Trustees of high-handedness for the last minute postponement of the elections citing Covid concerns but I wonder if it is really Anahita's ego that is bruised by this delay. As a lady, I was always taught to be humble, modest and sincere but I feel these qualities are lacking today. I do remember reading in your paper that Yazdi wanted to move Court for the removal of Kersi Randeria and now I see pictures of Kersi and Anahita together at various functions. In fact the Parsi Times seems to carry adverts only for Anahita and no one else. No wonder the both of them went to Court. What a waste of money on both sides, not to mention spoiling the name of the BPP. A travesty if you ask me.

Hoping better sense prevails,

**Mrs. Aloo P. Wadia**

### Thank you Mrs. Tirandaz

It has come to our attention that our Chairperson Tirandaz was present in Court on both days. Despite her young age of 77, Mrs. Tirandaz stood from 1030am to 5pm outside the Court talking to her colleagues and legal team. She did not eat nor even have a cup of tea during this entire period.

Hats off to you Madam! You truly are an inspiration to us all.

Being the first lady Chairman in over four decades, you have not only managed to hold strong the reins of your resolve but you have also been able to withstand your detractors with mighty strength in the courts of law.

It is so sad to see that your efforts to protect us are being dismissed by a bunch of politically motivated Trustees. Mr. Randeria's Parsi Times only promoted Mrs. Anahita Desai and Mr. Dadrawala proposed Mr. Berjis Desai. No wonder they went to court to oppose your decision for postponement.

Most people your age are enjoying the fruits of retirement and benefits of our benevolent forefathers but you Ma'am, are steadfast in your approach to doing what is right for the health and safety of our community and for that WE SALUTE YOU!

You truly are the Florence Nightingale of our community.

Best wishes

**Eduljee Katrak**



# TYRANNY OF THE MINORITY

When the elections for two vacant seats was announced by Public Notice on Sunday 3rd January 2021 and in response thereto by Consensus of all the warring factions of the BPP, two candidates who were the first to file their nominations on 18/19th January 2021 were—Advocate and Author Berjis Desai and the wife of resigned Chairman, Anahita Yazdi Desai—and as genuine front runners were ensured of 100% victory, the community heaved a huge sigh of gratitude that at last there would be peace on the BPP Boardroom and issues involving the community at large would get resolved.

Berjis Desai was proposed by SITTING Trustee Noshir Dadrawala and Anahita Desai by her still ailing husband. We reproduce below the mail of Noshir Dadrawala published in the Parsi Junction of Sunday 24TH January extolling the virtues of his proposed Trustee candidate Berjis Desai and the reason for his breaking and going back on his avowed principle that a sitting Trustee should not involve himself with Trustee elections.

## BPP ELECTIONS 2021 NOSHIR JUSTIFIES HIS PROPOSING BERJIS DESAI

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

Subject: BPP elections 2021

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

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

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

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

I have known Berjis since several decades.

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

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

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

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

Anahita Desai too will be a good for the BPP.

It would be best if these two could be allowed by the community to come in as consensus candidates and save BPP election expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs as also laundry expenditure of washing dirty linen. Yes, I have broken the balance of my own self imposed discipline and as Sitting BPP trustee I am actively rooting for Berjis because more than anything else I wish to see balance and discipline on the BPP Board.

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

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

**Noshir H Dadrawala**  
Trustee - BPP



*Noshir Dadrawala*

## BPP ELECTIONS 2021

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



*Anahita Desai*



*Berjis Desai*



However the euphoria of their becoming Trustees on 14th March 2021 was short lived and the egos of the genuine swinging Pendulum on the Board—Noshir Dadrawala and the one and only FIR facing accused in the BPP Board Kersi Randeria—along with the immense ambitions of the long waiting Trustee (since 2011) to be so crowned—Anahita Desai—came to the forefront to the detriment of the Trust and the community.

**What changed in a matter of a few days?**

Anahita Desai started her campaign from February 2021 and in two weekends had five BPP Baugs covered in her campaigning process with meetings in each colony with the residents, the photographs of which show no distancing nor mandatory mask use was followed.

By end January 2021, the covid pandemic had suddenly started to increase and by Middle of February alarming members of the Mumbai Population were increasingly being affected by the Covid Pandemic. At the Board meeting of 23rd February 2021, all the Trustees **unanimously** decided to inform all candidates to immediately stop Campaigning in all BPP Baugs for Election 2021 to avoid spike of our community members being affected by Covid.

We reproduce below the Minutes of Board meeting of 23rd February 2021, which has been filed in the High Court whereby the Trustees requested all the candidates not to carry out any campaigning activity till further notice.

**“Extract of Minutes of Feb 23rd 2021 • FINAL MINUTES OF MEETING 23-02-2021 AT BPP.doc(~193 KB) 41a.) Campaigning for Election 2021.**

**Looking at the current Covid situation the Trustees have also resolved to inform all the candidates by an email requesting them not to carry out any campaigning activities till further notice.**

Mr. Mehta and Mr. Dastur suggested postponing the Election for sometime with a suggestion that at a later date the elections could be held considering the same

nomination received. **Mr. Dastur stated that as it is the voter’s attendance is low and in the present situation it will still be less. Mr. Dastur further added that I am for postponing the elections for atleast two months. God forbid if someone is infected who would be responsible. Mr. Randeria informed not to hurry in this matter and wait till further notification is received from the Government authorities, as this would help us if need be. Mr. Dadrawala suggested to restrict ourselves at present and may be the matter be reviewed again next week after the Government directions.**

Mr. Dastur inquired whether specific permissions from the authorities are necessary for conducting the Elections in this current situation. Mr. Randeria informed that if required we will go through it and obtain the same.”

Thus contrary to their arguments in the High Court, the Trustees on 23rd Feb 21 were considering postponing the elections by at least two months. Thereafter at the Zoom calls between the Trustees the Majority Trustees advised postponing the elections but Noshir and Kersi continuously advised to await a few days to see if things improve. At the Zoom meeting on 8th March 21 the Trustees wanted to postpone the elections but once again Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala insisted that such a decision should be taken only in the Board meeting on 9th March 2021 and not on a Zoom call. The Trustees conceded to this request but before the Board meeting could convene the Election President with his band of colleagues, the candidates, the EVM operators and others were already in the Board room at 5pm on 9th March 21 and hence their operating procedures were allowed to be discussed with the candidates and once they left and Board Meeting started the Trustees Resolved to postpone the Elections and passed the following Resolution:

**“ EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING DATED MARCH 09, 2021**

**RESOLVED THAT THE TRUSTEES**

HAVE BY MAJORITY HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE ELECTION BY 2 / 3 MONTHS, WHICH IS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 14TH MARCH 2021, DUE TO THE ESCALATED COVID-19 SITUATION IN THE CITY OF MUMBAI.

**FURTHER, RESOLVED THAT MR. DANDIWALLA ADVOCATE APPEARING FOR THE BOMBAY PARSİ PANCHAYAT IS APPOINTED TO MOVE AN APPROPRIATE APPLICATION BEFORE THE HON’BLE BOMBAY HIGH COURT IN CHAMBERS AS PER ARTICLE 16 OF THE ELECTION SCHEME, GOVERNING THE TRUST.”**

As soon as the above decision was taken, Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala walked away in a huff and a puff around 7pm ignoring all the beneficiaries waiting to meet the Trustees and straight to their lawyers chambers.

The community has to realize that the vaccination process of Seniors has just started and the Trustees took the postponing decision by two-three months so that our Senior members get adequate protection of vaccination before they come out to vote in May-June 2021.

Their charge of malafides is not understandable as from October 2015 to July 2018 only six Trustees were attending, with Mr. Cama absent except for one meeting. After Xerxes was elected in July 2018 there were seven Trustees attending but only upto June 2019 and in which period Zarir Bhathena would leave by 8pm even if he attended. From June 2019 he was confined to the Hospital and till his unfortunate demise on 24th June 2020 he did not attend a single Board Meeting.

Chairman Yazdi Desai suffered a brain stroke in April 2020 and though he resigned only on 23rd December 2020, effectively there were only five Trustees from April 2020 till 14th March 2021. Hence another two months would have made hardly any difference to the Board functioning but the failed businessman EGO of the hitherto Defacto Chairman Kersi Randeria is so huge that he wanted his control back at the earliest. In two to three months at least most of the Seniors will get vaccinated and



hence the postponement was only to save their lives.

But Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala filed Their Miscellaneous Petition (L) No. 7007 of 2021.

Randeria is a dictator. He hates dissent. He is a master manipulator of the Truth. Yesterday enemy is today friend and vice versa. In 2008 Yazdi Desai was his Enemy number 1. Today his wife is his best friend. In Munchi Cama election he fought Anahita tooth and nail. Today she is the best candidate available. He desperately wants majority back. Pendulum Dadrawalahas to be just given a push and he will swing from side to side. Not long ago, he passed a no confidence motion against Yazdi, today he wants Anahita in the Board. By now he has threatened to resign from the Board on more than 5 occasions. He decides to resign at night and next morning he says what resignation. Randeria knows how to manipulate poor simpleton Noshir.

Both say we won the Court appeal. They wanted to hold elections on 14 March, Court said hold on 23 May, after two and a half months. Is this a victory? Damn COVID, damn health of our aging population, We desperately want Our majority back. If a few elderly fall very sick or even die, so what? Majority back.

Randeria wants to punish anyone on the Board who does not agree with him. Same goes for BPP tenants and licensees and those who support the other trustees. Same for staff members. He is a tyrant. He can only be a tyrant in BPP and nowhere else anymore.

But Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala filed Their Miscellaneous Petition (L) No. 7007 of 2021 on 10th March 2021 before the High Court, to cancel the proposed postponement and force the majority Trustees to conduct the elections as scheduled on 14th March 2021. The Trustee in waiting since 2011 Anahita Desai furious that her right to at last become a Trustee was being delayed also filed another Misc. Petition (L) No. 7039 of 2021 along with the above Petition

of the two Dissenting Trustees. It is thus obvious that the three of them are working in tandem as a team to take over the BPP.

Now we come to another sad chapter in the working of the two minority Trustees. On 9th March 2021 they phoned up Berjis Desai by far the most learned candidate of the seven who had filed their valid nominations and told him to join Anahita Desai as a co-Petitioner in her Petition. Not aware of the consequences, Berjis Desai declined that as a candidate he accepts the right of the Trustees to postpone the elections by two months to enable vaccination of most Seniors.

This denial to obey Kersi Randeria so upset both Kersi Randeria and Noshir Dadrawala that they cursed Berjis Desai in the vilest names and threatened him that they would not only not support him but instead they would work against him and ensure that he would never win an election. After all the praises conferred on Berjis Desai by Noshir Dadrawala, the sudden change in Noshir's attitude is nothing short of shameful.

To treat his own candidate in this disgusting way and threaten him that they will ensure his defeat for his remaining neutral in this episode is no loss to Berjis Desai but to the community at large for all of us will lose an honest Trustee capable of turning the BPP around.

In fact since Dadrawala was the Proposer of Berjis Desai he should forthwith resign as a Trustee especially since the elections are now scheduled for 23rd May 2021 and hence his resigning would cause no loss of charity funds and if he is half a man of Honor he claims to be then it is time for this pendulum to stop swinging and let a better man take his place as a Trustee.

But whether his mentor financier will allow him to go honorably is a moot question as Kersi Randeria with two set backs cannot allow a third Trustee to desert him and hence he will move heaven and earth to stop him from resigning. COME ON Noshir we wait for your Resignation to stop the swinging Pendulum.

Coming back to the two Petitions filed by them, the same were heard in great detail by his honor Judge A. K. Menon sitting in Court Room No. 21 on 10th March 2021 and by his Order dated 11th March 2021 refused any ad-interim relief. Whilst we are reproducing both the Orders, some observations of the Hon'ble Judge are worth high lighting:

16. Having heard the learned counsel for the parties, I am of the view that no interference is called for at this stage. The decision to postpone the elections appears to have been taken in right earnest and in the interest of the voters electorate at large. Quite apart from the fact that there has been a spike in the number of covid-19 infections in the past few days and weeks. I am told that even today there are about 14 live covid-19 cases in Cusrow Baug itself. Rustom Baug Association is also said to have informed the trustees of their concern that the elections are proposed to be held. In Bharucha Baug there are 4 active cases of covid-19 and the association's meetings have also been cancelled as a safety measure to prevent spread of infection. Candidates have also raised their concerns in elections being held.

21. There is merit in the respondents' contention that holding of the elections during the pandemic does not appear to be advisable considering the various news reports and the data that has been published by the Municipal Corporation. Save and except for assurances that all measures to ensure safe distancing will be followed, in practical terms, as we have noticed, even in public places where these controls are sought to be imposed, safe distancing is still difficult and in these circumstances, there is no reason to interfere with the decision of the trust to postpone the elections, which is prima facie appears to be for the benefit of members of the community.

2. For the aforesaid reasons, I do not find that this is a fit case for grant of any ad-interim relief. The elections can be held at such extended date as may be permitted in a better and safer environment and circumstances.





Misc Petition (L) No. 7007 of 2021 - Order passed by J. Menon - March 11, 2021.pdf postponing elections

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION**

**MISCELLANEOUS PETITION (L) NO.7007 OF 2021**

Kersi Randeria & Anr. .. Petitioners  
v/s.  
Armaity Tirandaz & Ors. .. Respondents

Mr. Karl Tamboly a/w Kausar Banatwala, Tanishka Desai i/b. Tushar Goradia for the petitioners.

Mr. Firoz Bharucha a/w Hormoz Mehta, Jash Shah i/b. J. Sagar & Partners for respondent nos.1 to 3.

Mr. Sagar Patil for MCGM.

**CORAM : A. K. MENON, J.  
DATED : 11TH MARCH, 2021.**

**P.C. :**

Called for urgent ad-interim reliefs.

1. By this miscellaneous petition, the petitioners both trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet seek quashing and setting aside of a resolution passed by the Punchayet on 9th March 2021, whereby elections scheduled to be held on 14th March 2021 have been postponed. Pending the disposal of the petition, the petitioners seek injunctions restraining the respondent-trustees and the Punchayet from acting in furtherance of the resolution postponing the elections and directing the respondents to inform the public at large that the elections would take place as originally scheduled on 14th March 2021. The petitioners also seek a direction against the Punchayet to proceed with the timelines mentioned in the Bombay Parsi Punchayet Public Notice dated 2nd January 2021. A brief factual background will be required prior to dealing with the application.

2. The petitioners and respondents 1 to 3 are the present trustees of the Punchayet. The Punchayet originally consisted of 7 trustees, of whom one Zarir M. Bhatena expired on 24th June 2020 and one Yazdi Hosi Desai, the then Chairman submitted his resignation on 23rd December 2020. Thus, of the original 7 trustees, only 5 trustees are presently acting as such. The Punchayet has published a scheme for holding elections of the trustees. The Scheme for election of trustees of the funds and immovable properties of the Parsi Punchayet of Bombay ("the Scheme") was sanctioned by this court in Suit No.689 of 1906 on or about 18th June 1910. Thereafter, by orders amending the scheme dated 27th July 1931, 7th February 1935 and 2nd April 1970, the scheme came to be amended. Further amendments took place between 1992 and 2007.

3. The Scheme as it currently exists contains a provision in clause 16, which provides that whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of a trustee, due to any reason other than a efflux of time, the trustees shall appoint a day for holding an election to fill such vacancy. The election shall be held not less than 28 days and not more than 3 months from the date when the vacancy occurs. Clause 16 further provides that in the event a day is not fixed for the elections within three months aforesaid or for good reasons, the trustees deem it desirable that the day for an election should be fixed beyond 3 months after the date the vacancy occurs, the trustees are required to apply to the Judge

of the High Court in Chambers after 4 clear days' notice in writing of such an application to the Charity Commissioner seeking sanction of such extension of time, as may be required in the circumstances. Upon the Judge in chambers granting such extension, the election shall take place on the day within the time extended, subject to conditions mentioned in the scheme.

4. Clause 21 of the scheme provides for the rules that would apply for an election of a trustee to fill the vacancy in the offices of trustees. In accordance with clause 16 and in view of the fact that the elections to fill in the vacancies was not held within 3 months of the post falling vacant, the trustees were required to and did move this court by filing Miscellaneous Petition (Lodging) No.3064 of 2020. On 21st September 2020, this court granted an extension of six months from 23rd September 2020. The period of six months thus is scheduled to expire on 23rd March 2021 and in accordance with clause 16 of the scheme, time to hold elections would also expire. On 2nd January 2021, the present trustees of the Punchayet issued a public notice thereby announcing the elections for the post of two trustees. The date for the election was fixed on 14th March 2021. Exhibit-B to the present petition is a copy of the said public notice.

5. According to Mr. Tamboly, after the date for the election was fixed and the public notice issued, the trustees commenced preparations for the elections to be conducted. Election centres were identified; five of them were notified as Cusrow Baug at Colaba, Khareghat Colony at Fuges Road, Dadar Parsi Colony, Rustam Baug and Shapoorji Bharucha Baug. According to the learned counsel, all precautions were taken to ensure the elections take place in a safe and sound manner. He submitted that electronic voting machines were also ordered, mandaps were in the process of being erected and all standard operating procedures relating to the pandemic, social distancing and sanitizing were being provided for.

6. Admittedly the trustees and other members devoted a lot of time in order to prepare for the election and to hold the election as scheduled. The gravamen of the petitioners' case is that on 9th March 2021 at about 4:30 pm and in expectation of holding elections, a demonstration and a mock drill of the entire process was organized at the office of the trust by the trustees. The candidates and the Election Commissioner appointed for the purpose and his team were also present. A Board of Trustees meeting was scheduled thereafter and till such time, there was no proposal to postpone the election. However, on 9th March 2021, at the meeting of the Board of Trustees, a resolution came to be passed at about 7:30 pm, whereby the respondents who are in the majority resolved to postpone the elections despite dissent expressed by the petitioners. The only ground for postponing the elections was increase in the number of Covid-19 infections.

7. The petitioners it is contended objected to the sudden and abrupt decision to postpone the election and pointed out that the election was only a few days away and it was not appropriate to postpone it at such short notice. According to the petitioners, a resolution passed on the evening of March 2021 was illegal, null and void since the respondents did not have the authority to pass such a resolution without the sanction of this court.



8. Mr. Tamboly submitted that elections were held pursuant to the extension of time granted by this court. Time expires on 23rd March 2021 and if the trustees were desirous of postponing the election, it would entail further extension of time, which had not been sought. In these circumstances, Mr. Tamboly contended that the respondents should go ahead with the elections. He questioned the conduct of the respondents in seeking to cancel elections at the very last minute. He submitted that it smacks of malafides and was clearly designed in order to enable the present trustees who are in a majority to continue to administer the affairs of the trust and avoid fresh trustees from being inducted. According to Mr. Tamboly, the pandemic was very much under control. All public gatherings were permissible within the limits specified by the standard operating procedures. He submitted that the respondents having cited the increase in number of Covid infections is not a genuine reason for postponing the elections. According to him, Covid-19 cases were on the rise since February, 2021; however, till the evening of 9th March, 2021, the trustees were all set to hold the elections on Sunday, the 14th March 2021.
9. At the very last minute the petitioners and those who are supporting the holding of elections were presented with a fait accompli when the respondents passed a resolution to postpone the elections. According to him the resolution could not have been passed in the manner it has been. That the elections scheduled for 14th March 2021 must be held because it was much anticipated and much delayed. That the decision to postpone the elections will also result in enormous waste of money since elaborate arrangements have been made to stage the elections.
10. Inviting my attention to Exhibit-C to the petition Mr. Tamboly pointed out that the resolution passed effectively postpones the election by 2 to 3 months; however, there is no certainty even after the expiry of two or three months that the infections would reduce or that the pandemic would subside. He also relied upon the circular published by the Election Commissioner, wherein the Election President 2021 had publicized the fact that the electorate should feel confident and safe while exercising their franchise since adequate steps had been taken at all such centres to ensure that the social distancing is maintained and not more than ten people would be allowed in the voting queue at any time. The area would be appropriately arranged with a holding area, waiting area, registration area and voting area. All of these would be regularly sanitized. Those voters who did not have mask would be provided masks. temperature meters and oximeters would also be available to check and monitor temperature levels of persons coming to vote. There is no justification in abruptly postponing the elections. In this backdrop, Mr. Tamboly submitted that the balance of convenience is clearly in favour of holding elections and he submitted that the court grant appropriate relief to restrain the respondents from acting upon the resolution passed on 9th March, 2021 postponing the election.
11. To a query from the court as to whether any permissions had been sought for sanctions of NOC from the Mumbai Municipal Corporation or the police authorities, Mr. Tamboly submitted that the trustees had written to the Joint Municipal Commissioner on 8th March 2021 informing the Commissioner that in accordance with the scheme approved by the High Court, the trust proposes to hold elections for the post of two trustees of the Panchayet on Sunday, the 14th March 2021 between 10 am and 6 pm at five different centres. The addresses of the centres were also provided in the letter. The corporation was informed that on election day, members of the community would assemble at the five venues in a staggered manner and that about 25 people were expected at a time. The trustees further submitted that all precautions would be taken at the venues to ensure that social distancing was maintained and that the venue was suitably arranged to ensure proper social distancing and sanitization. Copies of this communication was also addressed to the Senior Inspectors in-charge of the five police stations within whose jurisdictions the voting centres were located. Additionally a letter was also filed with the office of the Joint Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, Mumbai. On this basis that Mr. Tamboly pitched for an injunction to be granted.
12. Opposing the ad-interim application, Mr. Bharucha on behalf of the respondents submitted that the petitioners suspicions are unfounded. He sought to assure the court that the only reason for postponement of the elections is the rising number of covid infections in the city. He relies upon an affidavit-in-reply filed by the 2nd respondent on behalf of all respondents including the Panchayet. He submitted that since early February 2021, there has been a increase in number of covid infections reported in the city. Relying on figures published by the State authorities and the Municipal Corporation, it was submitted that as of 10th March 2021 at 6:00 pm the total number of covid positive patients within the Corporation limits was 3,13,346. The increase in the day was 1539 cases with 5 deaths. Although the recovery rate in Mumbai District is said to be 93%, it is submitted that number of active sealed buildings are 229. 8855 people who have been traced through contact tracing since they were in the higher risk category. He submitted that the members of the Parsi community are fairly aged. About 31% of the members are those who are over 60 years of age and a large percentage of persons are retired. There is a strong dependency of the aged persons on younger generations. He relied upon a report published in this respect on behalf of UNESCO on the aspect of demographics.
13. Mr. Bharucha further submitted that in the last 24 hours the increase in number of covid-19 cases is about 27.5% higher than the previous 24 hours. That in the Thane District a lockdown has been imposed on 11th March 2021. Today's report indicates that Nagpur is also likely to be placed under lockdown. At present several buildings had already been sealed. Relying upon the UNSECO Parzor Project Report, it is submitted that it is necessary to ensure that the beneficiaries of the Panchayet and the members of the community are protected and the postponement of the election is one such step to ensure that the community members are not exposed to the risk of infection.
14. Mr. Bharucha submitted that the trustees were all along in favour of holding the election and in this respect, all steps had been taken to ensure conduct of election. However in the developments of the past few weeks has caused the trustees to re-think the risk element involved in going ahead with the elections since the majority of the voters who cast their votes are predominantly from the age group of 50 and above. I find substance in Mr. Bharucha's submission that in certain centres there will be in excess of 300 persons who would be expected at any given time since it is not possible to ensure that persons come in group and at staggered intervals. It is submitted that on 23rd February 2021, considering the rise in the



number of covid positive cases, the trustees unanimously resolved that the candidates must be informed by email requesting them not to carry out any campaign activities till further notice. Thus, as early as February 23, 2021, trustees of the respondent no.4 had taken cognizance of the fact that there was an increase in the number of covid-19 cases that it was necessary to avoid undue risk to the members of the Parsi Irani community at large.

15. Thus all campaigning was stopped across all the colonies and the current decision to postpone elections was unanimously taken in line with the decision to curtail campaign activities. He assailed the minority trustees' attempt to challenge the resolution and to restore the election to 14th March 2021. According to Mr. Bharucha, the petitioners have intentionally suppressed facts from this court inasmuch as at the meeting of the trustees on 23rd February 2021 a discussion on postponing the elections had ensued. He invited my attention to an extract of what had transpired at the said meeting. He invited my attention to the relevant portion of the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021 at Exhibit-3. He further submitted that in February 2021, many community activist and stalwarts and one candidate requested the trustees to postpone the elections. That the parsis are in aging population and out of 31000 voters, 60% are above the age of 60 and 20% are above the age of 70.

16. Having heard the learned counsel for the parties, I am of the view that no interference is called for at this stage. The decision to postpone the elections appears to have been taken in right earnest and in the interest of the voters electorate at large. Quite apart from the fact that there has been a spike in the number of covid-19 infections in the past few days and weeks. I am told that even today there are about 14 live covid-19 cases in Cusrow Baug itself. Rustom Baug Association is also said to have informed the trustees of their concern that the elections are proposed to be held. In Bharucha Baug there are 4 active cases of covid-19 and the association's meetings have also been cancelled as a safety measure to prevent spread of infection. Candidates have also raised their concerns in elections being held.

17. At the hearing of the application today, I enquired of learned counsel for the parties as to the stand of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation on the issue. Accordingly, a notice was served on the Corporation, which was represented today by Mr. Patil, who submitted that the Corporation had not issued any specific permissions in respect of the proposed elections; however, confirmed that on 1st March 2021, the Corporation through its "FN" Ward Office had informed the Parsi Gymkhana at Dadar Parsi Colony of the fact that no functions should be held in violation of the Standard Operating Procedure that if any wedding ceremony is found to be held in breach of such SOP, the organizers of the wedding and the parents of the bride and bride groom are concerned would face penal action under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code. These directives hold good today and would apparently also apply to the other venues such as Palamkote Hall since I find that the Dadar Parsi Gymkhana has declined to allow the venue to be used for the purposes of elections.

18. Mr. Bharucha assured the court that it is only postponement of the election and not a cancellation. That the election will be held on the postponed date in the very same configuration and that it was now proposed to be held on 14th March 2021. The status-quo in relation

to the elections and the election process would be maintained and there would be no changes in that respect. Mr. Bharucha further contended that the trust had now instructed their Solicitors to write to the Charity Commissioner and process seeking extension of time from the court. According to Mr. Bharucha the well-being of the community members was of paramount importance and although certain members of the community were unhappy about the postponement of the elections, it was important to ensure that safety of all is the prime consideration and in this respect it was the trustees duty to ensure that the community members were protected and postponement of the elections by few months was the only option in the circumstances.

19. According to Mr. Bharucha, the legal department of the Bombay Municipal Corporation had also been informed of the fact that they intend to apply to court for postponement of the elections and that they would be moving court seeking extension of time. There is no dispute about the fact that the community is an ageing community and a large number of community members are senior citizens.

20. Quite apart from the fact that the request made included suggestions that the elections be postponed, I find merit in the respondents' contention that since candidates will be required to carry out door to door campaigning in various parsi colonies and hold meetings, social distancing norms would be extremely difficult. It is further requested that the elections be adjourned after the vaccination process is completed since by then a majority of the voters would have secured the vaccine. It is further submitted by Mr. Bharucha that in the Cusrow Baug centre, several members of the community had protested the proposal to hold elections within the complex specially in view of the rapidly rising cases of covid-19 in the Colaba area. They were seriously concerned about the safety of the 2000 odd residents of the colony, many of whom are said to be senior citizens.

21. There is merit in the respondents' contention that holding of the elections during the pandemic does not appear to be advisable considering the various news reports and the data that has been published by the Municipal Corporation. Save and except for assurances that all measures to ensure safe distancing will be followed, in practical terms, as we have noticed, even in public places where these controls are sought to be imposed, safe distancing is still very difficult and in these circumstances, there is no reason to interfere with the decision of the trust to postpone the elections, which is prima facie appears to be for the benefit of members of the community.

22. For the aforesaid reasons, I do not find that this is a fit case for grant of any ad-interim relief. The elections can be held at such extended date as may be permitted in a better and safer environment and circumstances. Accordingly, I decline to grant any ad-interim reliefs and I pass the following order :-  
(i) Ad-interim reliefs refused.  
(ii) List the petition for final disposal upon being numbered.  
(iii) All office objections to be complied within six weeks from today.

(A. K. MENON, J.)



Similarly the Petition of Anahita Desai was also heard and also dismissed by the learned Judge by his Order dated 11th March 2021 as under:

**Misc Petition (L) No. 7039 of 2021 - Order passed by J. Menon - March 11, 2021.pdf. for Anahita Desai**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION**

**MISCELLANEOUS PETITION (L) NO.7039 OF 2021**

Anahita Yazdi Desai & Anr. .. Petitioners  
v/s.  
Funds And Immovable Properties "  
of Parsi Panchayat of Bombay  
& Ors. .. Respondents

Mr. Sarosh Bharucha a/w Hrushhi Narvekar, Ativ Patel i/b. AVP Partners  
for the petitioners.  
Mr. Cyrus Ardeshir a/w Hormoz Mehta, Yohaann Limathwala, Jash  
Shah for the respondents.  
Mr. Sagar Patil for MCGM.

**CORAM : A. K. MENON, J.  
DATED : 11TH MARCH, 2021.**

**P.C. :**

1. This Petition seeks an order quashing and setting aside a  
resolution dated 9th March 2021 passed by the Bombay Parsee

Punchayet postponing the elections of trustees slated to be  
held on 14th March 2021. The petition also seeks an injunction  
restraining the respondent-trustees and the Punchayet from  
acting in furtherance of the resolution posting the elections.

- The petitioners in this petition are two candidates who are  
contesting the elections under the scheme of election of trustees  
of the funds and immovable properties of the Parsee Punchayet  
of Bombay. The learned counsel for both sides have adopted  
the submissions made in the companion Miscellaneous Petition  
(Lodging) No.7007 of 2021.
- In the companion petition, by a separate order passed today,  
I have declined to grant ad-interim reliefs. Accordingly, in the  
above matter and for the reasons recorded in Miscellaneous  
Petition (Lodging) No.7007 of 2021, I pass the following order :-  
(i) Ad-interim reliefs refused.  
(ii) List the petition for final disposal upon being numbered.  
(iii) All office objections to be complied within six weeks from  
today.

**(A. K. MENON, J.)**

**The next day Kersi Randeria went in appeal against the order before his Honor Judge Kathawala and Joshi who whilst not going into the merits of the postponement got both sides to agree to Consent Terms and fixed the next date OF Elections as 23rd May 2021 and hence what the majority Trustees wanted of postponing the elections by two months has been given by this Consent Terms.**

## Racism Discrimination Bigotry

Very few feedbacks  
It seems are trickling in  
May be may have  
Tickled or pinched some nerves  
I do not answer to anybody  
Only to one whom  
I am born to serve

Society can yak away  
As much as they want  
I have my prayers to  
Help me stand tall  
"Cause in the end  
I know for sure  
He will be there  
When the last teardrop falls

Queen Mary High school  
Was an all girl's school  
Rules were such  
Nobody dare play the fool

Were instilled with qualities  
Along the lines of Cyrus Cylinder  
"Not to treat and be treated like  
A slave who is poked and prodded  
Waiting to be bought"

There was no racism discrimination  
Segregation or Bigotry  
As there were of different  
Colour Caste or Creed  
Came from different  
Walks of life  
But stayed united  
"Vive la difference  
C'est la vie  
Feedback please

### Choicest Happiness

**Farida Bamji  
June 12th 2020**

## The Diamond Mark

As the sun goes down,  
And the light becomes dark,  
You can see something bright,  
Like a shining diamond mark.

"Its the stars!" the children cry,  
Gleaming beautifully in the sky.  
But the same way that the light becomes  
dark,  
The dark becomes light and swallows  
the mark.

**Myra Dubash.**



# A few stray thoughts and a few general observations for week ending March 13, 2021

The week started off with International Women's Day, though I wonder why should there be only one day to celebrate almost half the world's population when women play a very important role in our lives every single day?



**Phiroze Amroliwalla**

This week for at least three of our Parsi ladies it was a milestone: For the feisty Dr. Zuleika Homavazir she proved that she will not go down easily when she made her point before the Mumbai High Court and obtained an order in her favour. Earlier she was disqualified for no fault of hers based on the affidavit of one of the trustees Noshir Dadrawala, in support of the trustee's opposition to her candidature. For Anahita Desai it was one more attempt at Trusteeship which has been delayed if not denied. And Armaity Tirandaz, the confirmed Chairperson not the 'Acting Chair person', won her first legal battle! Congrats!

On another front on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organisation had declared the Corona Virus as a pandemic. It has been a year and while the world was putting on a fight against this virus, with our own Poonawallas developing and supplying vaccines to the country and the rest of the world, we Parsis in Mumbai were fighting another Virus! The Virus of one-upmanship and infighting that is embodied in Kersi Randeria. Would it not have been better had we combined our resources to fight the Virus by helping our community get vaccinated instead of wasting our limited resources in court battles.

After suffering a defeat in the petition filed before Hon'ble Justice Menon, was it necessary for Randeria and Dadrawala to file an appeal the very next morning before the Hon'ble Justices Shahrukh Kathawala and Vinay Joshi? However, Justices Kathawala and Joshi came to the rescue of the community and saw through the game being played by these two. While granting that elections had to be postponed at the last hour since most of the permissions were not in place, the bench ensured that consent terms were arrived at within the court premises with the same result, that elections must be held by May 23, 2021. This is what the majority trustees had suggested in the first place: postpone the elections by two to three months due to the surge and hold them a couple of months later!

This brings me to another more relevant issue: I have observed that some Counsel appearing for the minority Trustees are the same who appear defending at least one of them in his personal/professional/ business cases. A clear case of conflict of interest! An audit of such payments is called for to determine if there exists a quid pro quo. One hopes the BPP is not paying for such legal services for if that be the case no amount of increased service charges will be sufficient to help build the finances of BPP.

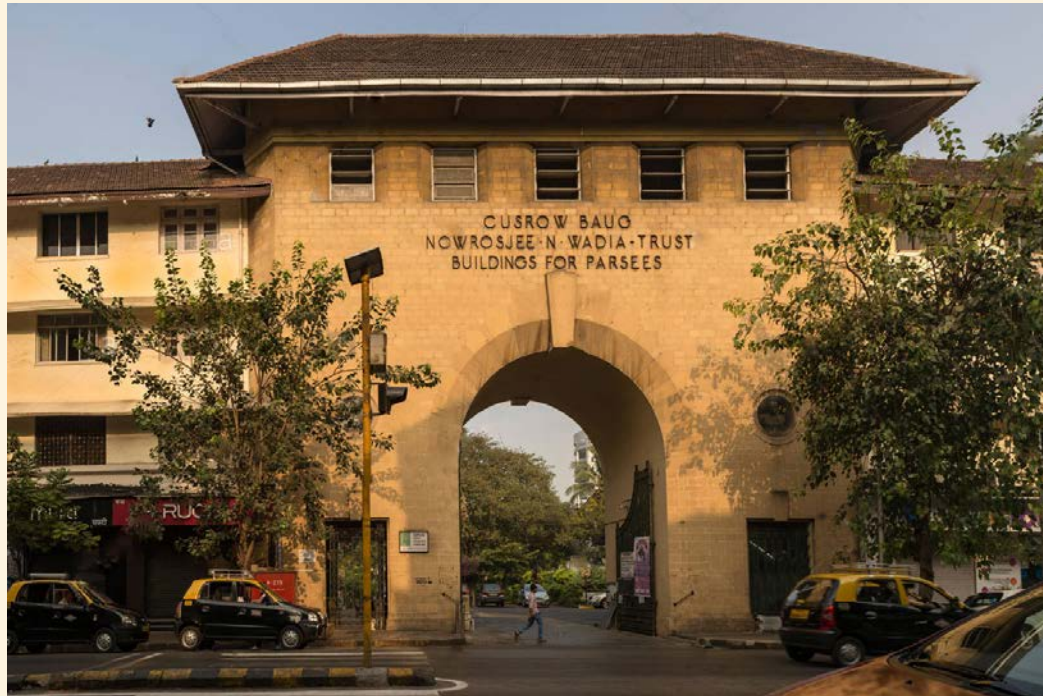
With the postponement it is hoped that the BPP will be able to update the voters list though the time available is too short to undertake this massive task.

With all this infighting the community hopes that we don't lose out on good candidates who can contribute positively towards progress of our community without fear or favour.

**Phiroze Amroliwalla**



## PUBLIC NOTICE



The BPP N.N & R.N Wadia Baugs are in possession of a **3 Rooms+ Kitchen flat** admeasuring **about 900 Square Feet Carpet area on the Third Floor, being Flat No 24, Building "Block- A" in Cusrow Baug, Colaba** which has reverted to the Trust. The said flat is proposed to be offered on Leave & License basis to prospective offerers who give the highest quantum of Refundable Deposit. **(Kindly contact Neville House 022 22618071 or M: 9833964746 for Base Price)**

Those interested to inspect the flat are requested to contact the Custodian at Cusrow Baug (Contact No **022 2204 7521** or (M: **9322825716**) - Monday to Saturday 10 am to 1 pm.

1. Those interested are requested to attend the Auction to be held (Zoom Meeting) at the Neville House Office on **Thursday 25th March 2021 at 6.00 p.m.**, and submit their proposal in a sealed envelope @ Neville House ( Tel: 22821906/22618071 or (M) **9833964746**, with a separate **Demand Draft of Rs. 1 Lakh** in the name of **"Funds & Properties of the Parsi Punchayet Bombay"** as Earnest Money Deposit which will be returned if their proposal is not accepted. Please do not put the Demand Draft in the sealed envelope but hand it over separately.
2. Interested buyers must quote value of the flat in excess of (Reserve Security Deposit amount), exclusive of Stamp Duty and Registration Charges, as applicable for registration of Leave & License Agreement.
3. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of all the applicants on the same day **(Thursday on 25th March, 2021) at 6.00 p.m.**
4. The highest offer will be taken as the Second Reserve Security Deposit amount and the applicants will be requested to make

an Open offer in excess of this Second Reserve Security Deposit amount.

5. The highest Open Offer will be taken as the Third Reserve Security Deposit amount.
6. The Bid member - Buyer will be guided beforehand by the **Presiding Chairperson- BPP Trustee** for all 3 Round Bidding process. Final Round will be conducted on One-to One basis on direct Phone confirmation for bid in excess of 2nd Round final figure.
7. The flat will be allotted to the highest bidder in this Third & Final round. (If any tie it may occur, one more round will be conducted on same pattern of Third & Final round for Final Highest Figure)
8. 50% of the full Security Deposit amount of the flat must be deposited by the Buyer within **15 days** of the auction and the **balance 50% within one month** of the auction. Failure to make payments on the Due date will lead to cancellation of their offer and the forfeiture of the Earnest Money Deposit. The flat may again be re-auctioned, or offered to the second highest bidder, as decided by the Trustees.
9. The Leave & license Agreement will be registered after the full Security Deposit amount is received by the Trust.
10. The Trustees reserve the right to refuse any or all offers at their discretion without assigning any reason.

**By the order of  
BPP Trustees**

**P. N. Siganporia  
SECRETARY**

# Photography

## Calm before the Storm



Spiti in Himachal Pradesh is a harsh terrain with winding streams, fascinating valleys, desolate landscapes and clouds looming over you. Lights and shadows play an important part here and you can only wonder as to what view you will next get a glimpse of.



Ruby B. Aderbad

**Ruby B. Aderbad** works with an MMC in Mumbai and is an avid traveler who likes to digitally capture memories. She quotes that traveling is her drug of choice and is happily addicted to it. The mountains and jungles are her go-to places to detoxify, anything that connects her with nature.

# Jiyo Parsi Counsellor Pearl Mistry felicitated by National Council For Minorities

**National Commission for Minorities**  
is honouring those Women who have made extraordinary contribution to the society on the occasion of

## WOMEN'S DAY

Chief Guest  
**Shri Manoj Tiwari**  
Member of Parliament

Presided by  
**Shri Atif Rasheed**  
Vice Chairman National Commission For Minorities

We announce with pride and happiness that our Jiyo Parsi Counsellor Pearl Mistry has been Awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Minorities Women Award by the Government. She was felicitated in Delhi on 8 March, 2021, Women's Day.



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

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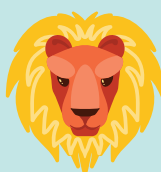
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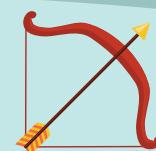
## Aries (Mesh Raashi-a l e)

A good week on the romance front. For a few of you this week could bring in a past lover. On the career front things look good as well. Rewards and accolades are in store. Overall a week filled with happiness and achievement. The advice is to focus on communication.



## Leo (Simha Raashi-m tt)

In this week you are seen planning finances with your better half. For a few this won't be a good week. Separation may be in store. Career wise do not make any moves as time is not favourable for you this week. There is chance you let your emotions overpower your brain.



## Sagittarius (Dhanu Raashi-bh f dh)

Fun filled week with your better half. For a few of you more than one relationship may be on the cards. Career wise it's a week which promises happiness to those in a creative field. For the rest it's a slow week. Overall you seem to be tied up with things and unable to do what you really want. Hang in there Sagittarius moon.



## Taurus (Vrishabh Raashi-b v u)

You may spend this week with your better half by diving into new and exciting projects. For a few of you new love is on the horizon. Career wise it's a good week. Success and merriment at work is seen. This week will bring in the much needed changes you were waiting for. Moving to better days.. Taurus moon.



## Virgo (Kanya Raashi-p tthh)

You are seen seeking attention from your loved one. And you will receive it. However try to balance the affections. Career wise advancement is seen. Financially things are on an up swing. Great time to invest. Overall this week promises change which will bring in progress.



## Capricorn (Makar Raashi-kh j)

Superb week ahead. New love, new passion is seen on the love front. Career wise also new beginnings that promise growth lie ahead. Good news like promotions are likely. Your patience will be rewarded. Slow and steady wins the race.



## Gemini (Mithun Raashi-k chh gha)

Distance or simply contemplation about a rough situation in your love life will keep you low. Career wise it's not a good week. Do not make any impulsive decisions. New energies will come in. Change may be painful. You are seen dwelling in the past. Won't do you any good. Move on.



## Libra (Tula raashi-r t)

Conflicts for a few of you are in-store in matters of love. For the rest it's a good week as logical conclusions to certain relationships shall be reached at. Career wise it's an awesome week.. as you have full control to manifest whatever you want. Clarity and communication will help you a lot. Moderation is the key to happiness this week.



## Aquarius (Kumbha Raashi-g s sh)

Your heart is fluttering for someone this week. The butterflies in your stomach are quiet real & you seem positively smitten. Career wise you will be confused with things around you. Small issues with colleagues might pop up. Overall it's a good week to plan your finances and think about a secure future,



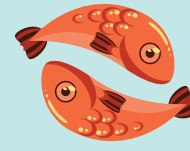
## Cancer (Karaka Raashi-dd h)

For a few of you unresolved past issues will get resolved this week with regards to matters of love. And for a few arguments and ego issues with loved ones is seen. Not a good week career wise. You may feel lost and dejected by things not moving your way. It is advisable to look at new ways of doing things.



## Scorpio (Vrishchik Raashi-n y)

An excellent week overall. Happy conclusions are derived in matters of love. Good news is in store. Career wise also progress and promotions are in store. Some of you could even have luck from more than one source of income. Balance in all areas of life is essential this week.



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

Love life will be smooth and romantic. Quality time will be spent with your better half. Career wise it's a good week with just few issues lurking. For those who have a court case running this could be a deciding week. Overall the week is average as struggles in general are seen. But you have an advantage in most areas.





JIYO PARSI FRIDAY FORUM

**BORN TO SERVE**

**The Life and Times of Firoze K. Sholapurwala  
1920-2003**



The Parsi Community is known all over for their magnanimity. Their hospitality, entrepreneurship and *Joi de Vivre* is widely known and appreciated. They always believe giving back to Society..... it could be through

housing, education, entertainment, and other intangible ways as well.

There are many names that come to mind when you think of these characteristic traits, but there are also those who have not become a public figure, but yet go on doing what they believe in, for humanity at large.

In JiyoParsi, I have had the fortune of coming across many fascinating people, personally as well as virtually, and always marveled by their philosophy and how strongly they believed in giving back to society.

Every drop in the ocean counts, and this is where I would like to name one person, who has done his bit and more, for the people in general.

Firoze Kaikhushru Sholapurwala was born on 24th December 1920, at Dohad, a small town in Gujarat state. According to rashi, he was named Boman, but his parents preferred to call him FIROZE, the victorious.

Firoze lived up to his name and excelled in sports and academics and later on went to become the youngest Police Officer in the then Bombay Province. After an illustrious stint in the force, he had many encounters with death. To mention one, he was attacked with a sickle which was supposed to kill him, but the blow fractured his skull into small fragments. This started a series of medical interventions, over an extended period of time, eventually costing him his job in the police force.

Not one to sit around idle and mope, Firoze did a lot of things like working as an Insurance

Agent, a Medical Representative and in this he was supported by his wife, Mrs. Roshan F. Sholapurwala. She came to be known as the first Woman Medical Representative.

Firoze, with the encouragement and help of the well wishers and doctors, set up a Pharmaceutical company in 1956, by the name ROC PHARMACEUTICALS.

His interest in Social Work was piqued when a few Parsis persuaded him to join their organization which was working for the upliftment of the Parsi community. Slowly and steadily he joined various social organizations of Dadar, and also became the President in several of these associations.



On 5th February, 1983, Firoze and Roshan started a trust under the name of "F K S Foundation" with **'SERVICETO HUMANITY IS SERVICE TO GOD'** as the motto, as this was what he firmly believed in. After a lot of hard work, along with other committee members, he succeeded in bringing the Foundation on a firm footing, financially. The foundation gives Medical and Educational Aids to the needy, Sponsors Sports, gives Merit Prizes and runs a Charitable Homeopathic Clinic. The Foundation adopts certain children for their entire school education.

He took interest in the affairs of the society. Being handicapped himself, he became a patron member of the Physically Handicapped and encouraged people as disadvantaged as himself, to lead a fulfilling life.

He wore many caps.....From becoming an active member of the Forum of Free enterprise along with Mr. M.R.Pai, to fight for the rights of enterprising people, to the Consumer Guidance Society of India, to safeguard the interests of the consumer. He also joined the organization "Beauty Without Cruelty" and forbade and educated people from using cosmetics made from animal products.

In recognition of his social Work, he was appointed a Special Executive Magistrate, which provided him with further opportunity to serve his chosen cause of helping the needy. He won several awards for his dedicated work. Firstly, he was awarded the Police Medal in 1949 for his Meritorious Services to the Police Force at a very tender age of 28 years by the then Governor General of Bombay. Later on in recognition of his social work many trophies were given to him by different organizations. To mention a few, by Mancherji Edulji Joshi Memorial Trust, Parvez Katrak Foundation Trophy and then by the Indian Council of Management Executives Trophy.

A true Zoroastrian, he firmly believed in **"Humata, Hukhta and Huvarshta"**, i.e. Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds, although he resisted from indulging in religious rituals and a public display of his faith.

A man, who conscientiously practiced the art of reaching out to others and giving from the heart, thereby giving credence to the proverb, **'Parsi Thy Name Is Charity'**.





## Crown Vet - New Clinic Launch

Crown Vet is one of India's newest veterinary health care company's dedicated to providing quality medical care for small animals. Crown Vet clinics are equipped with good infrastructure, modern equipment, and a cadre of trained, and compassionate, and proficient veterinary staff that ensure pets are treated with love and respect.

The company is the brainchild of Pratapsinh Gaekwad and lead by Its CEO Sheroy Wadia. Pratapsinh's intent was to create a platform to support the development of veterinary medicine in India and establish veterinary clinics across the country that focus on providing better quality care to pet owners. Through this endeavor Crown Vet hopes to raise the bar in the field of pet care.

The company launched its first clinic in April 2016 in Mumbai with the aim to provide end-to-end medical services under one roof. Since inception it has grown to 4 clinics in Mumbai and Pune and is now proud to announce the launch of its fifth clinic in Lajpat Nagar Delhi on 8th March 2021.

Within each territory the clinics provide 24-hour emergency care to ensure there



is always a place to go if a pet owner is in need of overnight care. Every clinic is fully equipped with diagnostic services including Xrays and in-house Pathology equipment. All the clinics are well planned with consultation rooms, an in-house pharmacy and dedicated Operation Theatres. The clinics are also well equipped with separate dog and cat wards

and isolation wards that are planned to support critical care.

To find your nearest Crown Vet Clinic you can visit their website on [www.crown.vet](http://www.crown.vet) or Facebook and Instagram handles [www.facebook.com/thecrownvet](https://www.facebook.com/thecrownvet) [www.instagram.com/thecrownvet](https://www.instagram.com/thecrownvet)







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