

Parsi
Junction

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PARSI JUNCTION

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

PRESS NI BOLTI BANDH ?



Media Bol, please, Sachchu Bol

It has been more than 7 years now that the intellectual discussions and press communicate have become one sided and the community only hears a narrative that one of the sitting trustees wants the community to hear for which purpose he acquired rights over one of the oldest Parsi Weekly paper. The healthy discussions of a democratic body with a view and a counterview has been gagged, **the press has been gagged** and the community has been taken to ransom. In essenc, **Press Ni Bolti Bandh**.

In the past, you would only read about the great things done in the BPP in the Parsi Times. This paper as everyone is aware is owned by Kersi Randeria and hence every news reported was a version which Parsi Times wished to portray.

The other community newspaper Jame Jamshed has been non-committal for years on end since the editorial rights were bought over by Kersi Randeria. Even if the other side wanted to give their say in the Jame, they were refused. This was nothing but a very well-planned design to ensure that the truth from the other side never came out.

The Parsi Times week after week only portrayed one side of the story. In reality, there was always another side to the story which never reached the public domain. Many times people were curious why the 'other side' was not disclosing its version of any story. But some community elements thought that the media coverage must be their communicate and not the truth.

The truth is: **THERE WAS NO PLACE or MEDIUM TO PUBLISH ARTICLES** to spell the falsehood which the community was hoodwinked to believe. There was no medium available to any person to set the record straight or to state facts which were contrary to the what the so called Parsi media published which was far from the truth. However, the news in the Parsi Times was never plain fact but always a convoluted half-truth with the intent to create a divide within the community.

“The days of gagging the press are over !”

Today, with this minuscule editorial of **Parsi Junction**, the community is made aware of the facts that dominate the current affairs and controversies. We like to publish article after article on affairs the community needs to know of. We disclose facts many are not even aware of because they only read on side of the story. We disclose figures so that people know what we state is not made up to create disharmony of any kind. Many people don't like what we say because the truth affects them for they are not used to reading it in the press which was gagged for far so many years.

We once again urge the community to ensure that our Parsi press is a free bird and not a caged one. Remember **“Tali ek hath thin nai vage”** both sides have a story, here us, before you disregard our point of view that's all we request.

We are still babies in the game of editorials however we thank you all for your patronage and support. With the assurance of the community we will grow stronger and continue with our commitment of transparency and honesty. We will strive to provide the correct side of the facts and the rest we will leave for the community to decide.



BRINGING THE CHANGE, WE WANT TO SEE

You've got a friend in me
You've got a friend in me
You got troubles, I've got 'em too
There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you
We stick together and see it through
'Cause you've got a friend in me...

The above stanza from the theme song of the much-loved Toy Story franchise holds very true for the kind of person that is Rummy.

Rummy and I grew up in the same neighbourhood and he has always shown a sense of ethics and integrity from early on.

Rummy has an amiable personality and exudes a sense of comfort and willingness to help no matter the circumstances.

At the time when a close family member was critically ill and there being a need of just that extra hand, it was Rummy who was one of the first to show up to assist and stood by like a rock. Be it night or day he has never refused to help or ever show the slightest hesitation. Even if it meant just silently standing as moral support or running around to help with the administrative formalities every time we needed to rush to the hospital.

He insisted that we should never hesitate to call no matter what the hour he would always be there to help and, indeed he was, always there as promised. Through this personally traumatic time Rummy was someone we really trusted and counted on. He was around not only to provide support but also show the



RUMMY ZARIR

empathetic understanding of going through loss and grief. We are truly grateful for the literal pillar of strength that Rummy has been for us through our harrowing ordeal.

Having come from a humble background, Rummy has been a people's person and understood the needs and challenges faced by the community members. This was well witnessed during the pandemic when Rummy served the members of the Zoroastrian Colony and the wider community relentlessly. He helped to procure essentials, deliver them, and manage the administration matters. At a time when most people dreaded to go out, Rummy risking his own health stepped up to volunteer his services to the community and worked tirelessly throughout the lockdown, continuing to still do so.

Rummy has over the years been part of multiple projects to serve our community. He fights for what is right and never waivers. He fearlessly stands up for what is just and dives in headlong to achieve the ethical outcome to any problem.

He has been working at the grass root level and does so quietly, never drawing attention to his good deeds.

Rummy's kind heart and 'service-to-all' motto not only benefits people within the Zoroastrian community but also those outside the community who seek his help.

While most of us have the wherewithal, there are many who require assistance and Rummy is the ideal candidate whose patient ear and helping hand can be the voice of those who do not share the same advantages.

Our community needs a person like Rummy who shows unwavering dedication to be at service with a smile and without the need for recognition or laurels. He has strongly lived up to our Zoroastrian tenet of good deeds.

Rummy will help infuse the much-needed boost and energy within BPP. We need the younger generation from the Zoroastrian community to start learning the ropes and prepare the foundation for the future leaders to come.

Through all the various services Rummy has given to the community so far, it is evident that he is willing to devote his time to causes of the common man / community, which is the need of the hour at BPP.

Wishing him all the very best, always.

Benaifar

Tardeo

AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS

- Fund Raising for BPP. Augmenting the BPP accounts by auctioning high value flats and working on redevelopment of stalled projects.
- To empower various baug/Colony associations to look after the welfare of their residents so that every baug /colony is self sufficient and can take immediate action without intervention of BPP.
- Creating job opportunities by setting up an online placement portal for our Community members for easy access and better job opportunities for the deserving.
- Encouraging our youth for Entrepreneurship by restarting Venture Capital Fund. Our competent and talented youth requires a little boost in form of financial help which can encourage them to start their

own small businesses.

- Preserving and protecting our Doongerwadi and Dokhmenashini system which is continuing ever since and has immense sentimental value for the community.
- Empowering our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow by organizing seminars and inviting stalwarts of various industries to enlighten our youth in diverse fields.

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE

- Currently CEO of The Zoroastrian Building Fund
- Currently Managing Partner of Big Bang Productions
- Former Franchise owner of Mickey Mehta's 360 Degrees Gym at Haji Ali.
- Former Assistant Manager – Sales at Hermes iTickets Pvt. Ltd.
- Former Sales Executive at Amadeus India.

- Former Reservations Officer- International Ticketing Counter at Pheroze Framroze & Co. Pvt. Ltd.
- Former On Board Courier with In -Flight Couriers.
- Certified Personal Trainer from Gold's Gym University
- Diploma in International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- Committee Member of Zoroastrian Colony Youth Welfare Association
- Committee Member & Sports Secretary of Nowroze Baug Play Centre
- Past President and Past Director of The Lions Club of (Bombay) South Hill
- Honorary instructor of 41st East Bombay- St. Mary's SSC Scout Group.
- Former Committee Member in Ex-students Alumni of St. Mary's SSC.



XERXES & VIRAF – MEN OF THEIR WORD!

During the 2018 elections, Xerxes & Viraf made several commitments to the Community and today we can proudly say that they have fulfilled them.

To Convert All Leave & Licences to Tenancy

FULFILLED

Xerxes steps down in 2022 with the Rest of the Trustees to ensure he saves the Community Rs. 40 lakhs in election cost by having elections for all 7 seats together

FULFILLED



To Reduce the term of a Trustee from 7 years to 5 years

FULFILLED

To Create a Consultative Committee of Stalwarts and Experts from within our Community to provide advice to the BPP

FULFILLED

To Remove the Rs. 750 increase in Service Charges that was forcefully imposed on beneficiaries

FULFILLED

To Restart the Auction of Flats under the Refundable Deposit Scheme to generate Revenue for the BPP

FULFILLED

To Ensure we have an Independent Election Commission at our BPP elections

FULFILLED

COMMUNITY SERVICE BEFORE SELF SERVICE



Armaity Tirandaz and Xerxes Dastur lead the way

Some lead by instilling fear, threats, intimidation and blackmail. Others lead by compassion and by setting an example!



Today, we have certain Trustees recontesting who have set a benchmark on service for the community before self-service who deal with beneficiaries compassionately and without any kind of threat or blackmail. The community is blessed to have candidates like Armaity Tirandaz and Xerxes Dastur.

You will recall that in 2022, Viraf Mehta sought that if elections are to be held for any vacancy, first the outdated Scheme of Elections should be first amended. Armaity, Viraf and Xerxes burnt the midnight oil for weeks on end and made fundamental changes to a scheme which was initially proposed by Berjis Desai. A review of the scheme proposed by Berjis Desai and the final sanctioned scheme will show the magnitude of changes undertaken by the Trustees and concerned beneficiaries.

Moreso, an unspoken sacrifice was made by Trustees Armaity Tirandaz and Xerxes Dastur for the betterment of the community. Whilst elections for the seat of 5 Trustees should have been held in October 2022, the same was preponed with the consent of all Trustees to 29th May 2022. This meant that:

ARMAITY TIRANDAZ has sacrificed almost a year of her term which would have come to an end on April 2023 and

XERXES DASTUR has sacrificed over three years of his term which would have come to an end in July 2025.

The sacrifice made by the two Trustees to hold elections simultaneously for all seven seats shows that they care for the community. By resigning earlier they have:

- i. saved the community with mid-term elections.
- ii. They have saved the community with costs of Rs. 40 Lakhs of holding mid-term elections.
- iii. They have saved the community from another election which we have seen brings about the worse in people.

Their actions have saved the community cumulatively over Rs. 80 lakhs and a lot of unpleasantness that creeps in at election time.

Actions of Armaity Tirandaz and Xerxes Dastur show that they indeed care for the community over all else.



THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT POLICY & ONLY POLICY!

We are well into electioneering with elections 3 weeks away. There are two very clear groups contesting the election with the rest as independents.

There is a group led by Kersi Randeria who has a panel with him consisting of Hoshi Jal, Adil Malia and Dara Patel. A couple of others are also a part of this group at meetings such as Farhad Hozdar and Yasmin Mistry. Yasmin Mistry is a candidate contesting whose news was spread last week for filing a complaint against Zuleika Homavazir for complaining against Yasmin that should not be allowed to contest as she is married to a Muslim.

There is then the team of five, a tried and tested team who have the reputation of fulfilling their promises. This team, led by Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz has Viraf Mehta, Xerxes Dastur, Maharukh Noble and Rummy Zarir.

At every election, the electorate first see whether the candidate/s seeking to be elected have the right intentions to protect and safeguard the community. It is for this reason that the electorate has time and again elected for most times traditionalist Trustees (barring a few reformist Trustees elected along the way). Candidates with liberal views on opening up the religion to outsiders or candidates who are married out of the community have not been elected. This shows the community sentiment remains as large as traditional. We are certain that the community electorate's views stay the same at the forthcoming election as well.

Having said the above, with the two groups in place, this election is clearly to be fought on POLICY and POLICY alone. It will be for the electorate to finally decide what team they wish to elect and with that what policies they want implemented for the next 5 years:

1. ENCASHMENT OF TENANCY RIGHTS

TEAM RANDERIA: The view is that since the beneficiary was given the flat for free (in whatever year), the current occupant should return the key to the BPP free of cost at the time of vacating the flat. A utopian view but not practical. In the last decade, under five flats have been returned to the BPP for free of cost primarily because the person transferring the flat back to the BPP had no legal heirs to assign the flat to.

TEAM TIRANDAZ: It is the view of this team that if a beneficiary wishes to migrate out

of Mumbai or is in need of funds or needs to move out for any reason, they should be given the right to encash their tenancy.

A percentage of around 40-50% is given to the tenant and the rest is retained by the BPP as transfer fee. This system is legal and in fact encourages people to vacate the flat instead of trying to illegally induct a third party (as was the case before pughree was legalized). This method also encourages people with locked flats to earn off them rather than enter into litigation. This way (a) the outgoing tenant earns (b) a deserving person is allotted a flat and (c) the BPP does not spend on legal fees.

2. REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT SCHEME TO RAISE FUNDS

Under this scheme certain high value flats will be auctioned to bidders in a fair and transparent manner. This way, the BPP earns revenue by way of interest on the deposits and through the funds earned pay salaries and undertake welfare activities

TEAM RANDERIA: They are strictly against this policy. Kersi Randeria has published his dissent for every auction published under this Scheme. Kersi Randeria is of the view that every flat, no matter the size (including a 4 bedroom flat in Cusrow Baug) should be given free even if that means making the BPP bankrupt.

TEAM TIRANDAZ: They realise that the BPP is broke. Broke because from 2015-2019 no steps were taken the then majority Trustees to generate funds. Today, the primary way to raise funds is through this method of refundable security. The BPP is not flushed with funds and earning deposits and interest therefrom is the current source of revenue.

3. INCREASE OF SERVICE CHARGES

TEAM RANDERIA: As we have seen in 2017, the BPP arbitrarily increased service charges to Rs. 750 per household. There was no rationale or logic behind this increase. However, this increase was done as a way to raise funds as the BPP had stopped the auction of flats. The increase to Rs. 750 was a blanket increase for every flat in every colony. This way, a one room kitchen flat at Nirlon was made to pay the same increased service charges as that of a 4 room kitchen flat at Kharegat Colony.

We are given to understand from beneficiaries that in the event increased service charges

were not paid, the Baug custodians were directed not to collect rent and inform the beneficiaries that if the service charges were not paid, eviction suits would be filed against them thereby forcing the beneficiaries (including the poor of the poor) to pay these increased charges.

TEAM TIRANDAZ: Upon being elected, Xerxes kept to his election commitment and abolished service charges of Rs. 750 that were being levied on beneficiaries. The policy of Team Tirandaz is simple, the beneficiaries should not be illogically burdened. If the BPP's coffers were getting empty due to their poor decision making, the beneficiaries should not be made to pay for it. So Instead, a logical plan be put in place whereby a staggered increase depending on the size and location of the colony be proposed after consulting the residents of each colony. No beneficiary should ever be threatened with eviction and their leave and license misused.

4. CONVERSION OF LEAVE & LICENSES TO TENANCY

TEAM RANDERIA: Kersi Randeria has personally opposed the conversion of all leave and license to tenancy. An attempt to oppose the conversion was initially made before Hon'ble Justice Kathawala however was directed to file a challenge before the appropriate bench of the High Court. Thereafter, Kersi Randeria filed a complaint with the Election Commission and since then obtained a stay from the Election Commission on any further conversions of leave and licenses to tenancies.

TEAM TIRANDAZ: Viraf Mehta in his manifesto of 2015 committed to convert all leave and licenses to tenancy. This has been a promise of nearly every candidate contesting elections. This team has kept to its commitment and passed a resolution to convert all applicable leave and licenses to tenancies. This positive step is for the wellbeing and benefit of the community. This ensures that no person is under the sword of the Trustees and cannot be threatened and blackmailed by them because they are protected as tenants rather than licensees. Viraf Mehta obtained legal opinions and safeguards by which the Parsi only covenant is protected and the Trustees get an opportunity to drastically reduce its liabilities.



Maharukh Noble

Others will make promises which will mostly be difficult to fulfil. However, if elected I have a point agenda. To deal with the affairs of the BPP in complete transparency.

- **Minutes of the Meeting:** There is no reasons why minutes of every board meeting should not be made public for their review and scrutiny. A charitable trust should have nothing to hide and hence all minutes of the meeting should be made public. Let the community openly see for themselves the discussion and objections raised by Trustees and the rationale behind such decisions.
- **Merit Rating Scheme:** The much-famed merit rating scheme (which needs a revamp) should be made available online so

WHY FEAR TRANSPARENCY?

that everyone can see what rank they stand on the list. This will ensure there are no out of turn or special allotments to friends and family and every allotment is as per the Scheme.

- **Books of accounts:** whilst the books of the accounts of the BPP are audited and made available at the office of the BPP, the BPP should also publish its account statements online on its website so that the community know the income earned vs expenses incurred.
- **BPP Website:** A comprehensive website for the BPP should be created which contains all vital information including the contact details of all the Trustees and senior management of the Trust.
- **Anjuman Meeting:** There needs to be accountability of the Trustees and the staff. For this there must be Anjuman meetings for the whole community as well as colony meetings on regular basis where the colony/community members can raise pointed questions to the Trustees on their accomplishments and failures
- **Helpline:** We have seen the introduction of a COVID helpline by the BPP during the pandemic. A similar helpline should be created in each colony so that if there is any person in

need, there is always some assistance for them

- **Whistleblower portal:** The BPP should create a confidential portal whereby people can let raise issues that they are facing and seek help from the BPP on them. Details of the complainant are kept confidential. Beneficiaries can raise issues of harassment by the Trustees or by custodians or any issue being faced by any person which needs the BPP's attention

The BPP's affairs need to be made transparent so that there is no secrecy. People think there is monetary gain in becoming a Trustee. By ensuring there is transparency in the affairs, the claim of corruption is entirely eliminated.

Newspapers will continue to give news. However, the BPP should disclose facts. Taking up an honorary position requires perseverance especially when it is an institution like the BPP. A joint effort needs to be made to create confidence so that the beneficiary can trust its Trustees and for this the BPP needs to be made TRANSPARENT.

DOES THE COMMUNITY SUFFER FROM SHORT-TERM MEMORY

It was not long ago that the community was made to suffer with an imposition of service charges of Rs. 750 per month. This may not be a large sum for a few but for many, to suddenly have to pay this amount became a struggle.

To make matters worse, Custodians were directed not to collect rent unless service charges were paid. Licensees and beneficiaries were told eviction cases would be filed against them if they didn't pay these charges - **THIS WAS NOT APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. ONE TRUSTEE HAD UNILATERALLY GIVEN THIS DICTAT TO THE STAFF!**

All this changed when Xerxes was elected in 2018 and along with the support of Chairman Armaity Tirandaz and Trustee Viraf Mehta he pushed for this forceful imposition to be reversed.

People seem to have forgotten the struggles the community has faced from 2015-2020 and the efforts of certain Trustees in remedying the wrongs done.

The community needs to recall that:

- Service charges were increased by Rs. 750

per BPP to households irrespective of if the colony provided facilities or even if they lived in a stand along building. Even the size of the flats was not considered. Hence, those living in a 1RK flat were charged the same increase of Rs. 750 as those living in a 4RK.

- Refundable Security Deposit Scheme was abandoned along with the auction of high value flats making the BPP penny less.
- Zero steps taken to convert leave and licenses to tenancies. In fact, when proposals were placed before the Board earlier this year, the same was opposed by Kersi Randeria, eventually bringing about a stay on conversions
- Flats were allotted to close friends of Trustees. The prime example is the flat allotted at a substantial subsidy to the relative of Kersi Randeria's business partner (costing the BPP lakhs in loss of revenue) as well as the flat allotted out of turn to Kaikashru Irani, on Kersi Randeria's behest, at a cost of Rs.40 lakhs to the BPP.
- Trustees Armaity Tirandaz and Viraf Mehta were denied their basic rights as Trustees and were not given any minutes or documents of the Trust for almost one year forcing them to

move the Bombay High Court to get justice using their own funds.

- The then majority Trustees, including Kersi Randeria made the BPP pay Rs. 70,00,000 (Rupees Seventy Lakhs) of their legal fees in a dispute between the Trustees. Viraf Mehta and Armaity Tirandaz paid for all fees themselves.
- Revenue generating schemes for colonies were stopped. Such as movie shooting at colonies and baugs which would have generated funds for the colony associations and the BPP
- Youth body ZYNG was disbanded. This is the single largest Parsi-Irani youth body in the world consisting of over 5000 members and was disbanded as Trustees wanted control over the database

The community needs to remember the past and they will immediately realise that the people who had been in charge of the BPP from 2015-2020 may be good individuals but unfortunately as majority Trustees they did not do good for the community. The Trustees are the servants of the beneficiaries and are elected to serve them and not the other way around.



OPEN INTERVIEW WITH TRUSTEES VIRAF D. MEHTA AND XERXES V. DASTUR



Xerxes Dastur



Viraf Mehta

Q. What has made you seek to contest these elections and why as a team?

Ans: As you will see, over the last 2 years when in majority the two of us along with Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz have worked extremely well as a team. We have taken decisions which other Trustees did not like but for us these were in the interest of the community. We reduced service charges, we converted all leave and licenses to tenancies, we made transmissions of flats a role of the BPP staff rather than have the families come and meet with us and plead their case. There is a lot that needs to be done still and we know that we can work together as a team provided there is no interference from elements who don't wish to see progress. We have other likeminded individuals like Maharukh Noble and Rummy Zarir who are also in the fray and we know that our ideologies on policy are aligned.

Q. The BPP has no funds. What steps are you going to take to change this?

Ans: We have a lot planned including the redevelopment projects of various buildings. However, all these projects will take time and require infusion of capital (which the BPP does not have).

The previous majority Trustees thought it fit to stop the auctioning of high value flats. This led to an absolute collapse of the finances at the BPP. The BPP came to the brink of bankruptcy and was struggling to pay salaries. We had no choice but to restart the auctioning of high value flats by which the BPP earned deposits and could enjoy the interest from the deposits. This has brought about some income into the BPP.

The Godrej Baug ownership building has been stuck for years. If we have a like-minded board in place, we are certain that will get this project restarted within 12 months through which the BPP will be able to raise funds for welfare schemes.

Q. In the Parsi Times edition of May 7, 2022, your colleague Trustee Kersi Randeria has made several claims including the fact that he has secured donations for the BPP and hence there is no need for schemes

such as Refundable Security Deposit and Encashment of Tenancy Rights.

Ans: Kersi is a candidate and we wish him all the best. On policy, our team is not aligned to his views as we have seen him oppose them time and again. If he wishes to stake claim to the donors who came forward after seeing an ad in the newspapers then that is his prerogative. We want to work as a team, and not always talk about "I" or "me". It was the Board that decided to put an ad in the paper asking for donations and subsequently acted on it in along with the donors.

We believe the beneficiary comes first. We feel all licensees need to be converted to tenancies so that there is no misuse or threat on the licensees from Trustees. We believe that due to lack of funds because of poor management, our beneficiaries should not be made to suffer. This move always helps the BPP reduce its liabilities. How anyone can find fault in that is beyond us.

We, including Mrs. Tirandaz, are certain of the fact that that we work well as a team. No one Trustee can do anything on the BPP Board. Every decision is taken by the Board after collective discussion and decision making. Hence for any person to make singular claims is actually insulting his colleague Trustees and attempting to make a fool of the community.

Q. If elected, what is your goal for the BPP?

When we contested last time around, we both made promises to the community whilst campaigning. We are proud to say that in a short span in majority we have fulfilled many of the those promises including – removal of service charges, conversion of leave and licenses to tenancy (this has been stayed because of the

complaint made by Kersi Randeria but if elected we will most definitely ensure it is enforced), granting more power to Baug associations, stopping mindless litigation and legal expenses etc.

The next 5 years will be crucial because we will have to play a fine line between community welfare and generating funds. We have to push for the completion of the Godrej Baug ownership building, Dhunbai Wadi & Navroze Baug redevelopment and at the same time reach out to more donors to take up projects to maintain and upkeep our assets. We have other projects in the pipeline for which we need like-minded individuals to come together and work together rather than stall and create hurdles.

Q. Finally, what is the one thing you would like to see changed in the community?

Ans: To be frank, the image of the community and the BPP have taken a beating. This has happened for no reason except because of the infighting within the BPP. Every time we make the effort to bring about change, our own Trustees ensure we are pulled down.

Today, people in our community are instilled with a sense of fear. Fear to speak against the Trustees as if they do, they will be targeted or removed from their homes. We need to bring about a change to this mindset! No beneficiaries must be targeted for any reason – no matter who the person may be. A Trustee must deal with issues objectively. They must make decisions based on facts and not emotions and past enmities.

We proudly state that we deal with each beneficiary with compassion. We do not threaten anyone. Every person has the freedom to criticize and share their point of view and we are entitled to share ours.

We respect our elders and try to serve them to the best of our ability. We wish to inculcate values of good thoughts good words and good deeds to our youth as they are our future.

We need unity within the Board. Today, we seek an opportunity to serve the community to bring about a change that is so badly needed and we hope we are able to serve the community to complete the unfinished commitments.



**Women To The Fore:
Armaity Tirandaz Gets
Unprecedented Support from
Leading Parsi Women**

Parsi women are second to none and Armaity Tirandaz is the perfect role model for the community's women to scale higher and higher heights with dignity, grace, acumen and ability.

Your vote for Armaity Tirandaz is a vote for peace, progress and prosperity, tempered by womanly wisdom and care.

My dear community members, I being the granddaughter of the late Muncherji Edulji Joshi the founder of the Dadar Parsi Colony have known Armaity Rustom Tirandaz and her late husband for over 5 decades. The Parsi Irani Zoroastrian community is in dire need of a person with good character and values to lead the BPP. I have great respect for Armaity as she has worked most of her adult life as a humanitarian. She has great integrity and she can be relied on to take the honorable path. I believe that the Bombay Parsi Punchayet needs her as a pillar to bring about stability to the trust



Zarine Engineer

I'm happy to be proposing Armaity for the BPP election. I have known her for many years. Her selfless dedication and untiring efforts towards the community is commendable. She is an asset in every way. I wish her the very best for the upcoming elections.



**Zarine Daruvala
Managing Director
Sterling and Wilson**

I have known Armaity Tirandaz, my sister-in-law, since my marriage into this family. She is not impulsive in her thoughts nor actions. She is focused and without prejudice to anyone. I have seen her work alongside Rustom and independently as well for the peace and well being of the community. I have seen her actively involved in the activities at Parakh Dharamshala, B.J. Home, Dongerwadi to name a few.



We work closely in the Senior Citizens Association. I have realised that her focus and intentions are always dedicated to that particular cause.

I strongly feel Armaity deserves to be re-elected as the trustee of the BPP to continue the good work for the Community.

**Roshan Tirandaz
Theatre Personality, Sec. Of Sen. Cit. Assos.**

Armaity Tirandaz is a sober and a level headed person.

The Parsee community needs a person who is completely devoted towards the good of our community.

Armaity Tirandaz is approachable and friendly which is very vital to have a free and amicable solution to our community problems in general.

Good luck n God bless

**Armaity Khushrushahi
Lawyer Bombay High court**

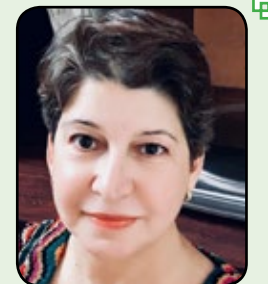


There are two kinds of people; those who do the work and those who like to take credit.

Armaity Tirandaz belongs to the first group.

She has done her best to bring the community together & I wish her every success in the forthcoming elections.

Roxane Behram Khodaiji



I have worked with Armaity Tirandaz in the Society for the Education of the Challenged. She is a sincere and dedicated person and espouses the cause faithfully. She will carry out her duties wholeheartedly. Wish her every success

**Yasmin Dhunjishah
President SEC school.**

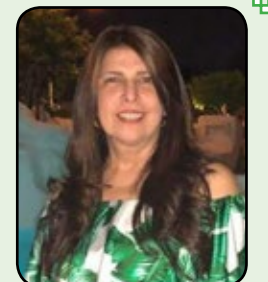


Armaity Tirandaz the lady who destiny & the community chose to be Chairman of the BPP. I, Roshni Damania having had the honour of working closely with her on another NGO committee for about 7 years am happy to share my honest & unbiased views of my experience with her.

Armaity is dependable, a woman of her word. She is empathetic & accessible at all times. She is extremely energetic & ready to respond to any kind of problems it's quick resolutions.

In these tumultuous times she is calm & like a solid rock unglazed by the turmoil around her.

**Roshni Damania
Vice president BJ home**



SPENTA ARMAITY THE EARTH

Her name ARMAITY itself, her earthy quality reveals

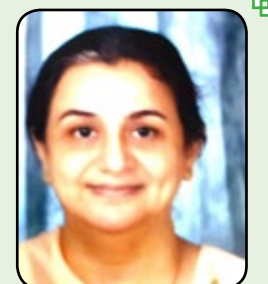
To others help, ready she is, always on her heels

Patience she has n concern for others too, with whom she deals

Even if directly help she cannot, their sentiments she does feels.

May there be more kind people like her; to the Lord I appeal.

Armin Dutia Motashaw





THE TRUTH BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE RECENT POLITICAL SAGA!! The If's, The But's and The We's !!

Parsi Junction interviews Dr. Zuleika Homavazir, a Parsi woman of age 40 years, born to both Zarthushti Parents and married into the Zoroastrian fold. Here is one of the most educated woman in the journey of contesting for BPP Trusteeship, who has national and international awards to her credit, for her magnanimous contribution to the field of education and nation building through community service, and we are glad she is contesting the BPP elections.

Q. Dr. Zuleika we've always found you in the eye of a storm. Can you elaborate on the recent happenings, especially a special supplement being supplied to the Community free of cost in an attempt to attack and humiliate you, due to your growing popularity?

I can sense the need of many people to get me out of their way of contesting the forthcoming elections, the ones who fear of confronting me on the Board, hence in all circumstances they don't want the electorate to have an opportunity to elect me. So I'd like to believe that I AM THE STORM for them, which will revamp the administration of the BPP and bring back our past glory.

Last year we had witnessed the disqualification saga where Justice Shahrukh Jimi Kathawalla, issued orders in my favour and against the BPP, today under the re-defined meaning of Parsi we have inter-married Parsis who are throwing their hats into the ring.

During April this year, there seemed to be an uproar in the Community when one candidate married to a Muslim decides to contest the Bombay Parsi Panchayat elections.

I did receive numerous messages on the said matter to stop such a sacrilegious act of a Muslim married lady contesting to become a Trustee of the apex Trust of our Community, hence decided to voice our Community's sentiments. It is a travesty that the Parsi lady married outside the fold is ineligible to be allotted a flat in a BPP Baug but she is eligible to contest the Trustee election. I did write to the EC requesting him to seek clarification by way of documents and that she be disqualified to contest the elections. It is indeed pertinent to note the line of events:

1. The CEC in its reply dated 19/04/2022 to



Dr. Zuleika Homavazir

my query of an Affidavit required to be given by Mrs. Yasmin Mistry of following and practicing the Zoroastrian Religion, the CEC insisted no affidavit of the nature nor any documents were submitted upto 19/04/2022.

2. Whereas, the CEC in its order dated 30th April, para 10, specifies of such an affidavit dated 04/04/2022 submitted along with the Nomination Form, the last day of filing Nomination being 04/04/2022 at 5 pm.

Why was the same not shared with me before the hearing? Where is the transparency? or was this information deliberately not disclosed to mislead me into wrong conclusions?

3. She was indeed provided a period of 4 days to provide the requested documents. She failed to submit the requested documents on email with copy to me as instructed by EC. In spite of not providing the documents on email, the EC felt appropriate to conduct the scheduled hearing.

If such an affidavit was indeed submitted during the time of filing the Nomination why did the CEC not present the fact in his reply of 19/04/2022 and closed the case, which eventually led to a frivolously staged hearing on 26th April 2022 at 2.30pm.

4. I did voice my opinion that there were instances that women who were married under the Special Marriage Act eventually did their Nikaah as they would be eligible to many legal rights.

It's pertinent to note, the affidavit that the nikah has never been performed was solicited from the candidate only after I had requested the EC to do so during the time of hearing!

5. During the hearing I had publicly mentioned that I had no animosity for anyone and in the light of transparency the Community did have

the right to know and seek clarification. I believe you first have to be sensible enough to listen to your voter before you go around asking for their votes! We need more commitment to transparency than ever. We have had enough of lip talk, it's time for action.

I do believe the very definition of Parsi whereby a person married outside the fold is allowed to contest elections, is much against many rules practiced by the Bombay Parsi Panchayat, for instance if such a person is allowed to contest the elections then why are inter-married couples hackled legally, whereby non Parsi spouse is not allowed to stay in any of our Parsi baugs. Why are legal cases being put against them? This is absolute hypocrisy and rules of convenience by the same Trust. Or may be now it's a back-door entry to open our colonies for non-Zoroastrians. Hence in all circumstances, this definition of Parsi must be changed by the incoming Trustees to ensure that our identity is preserved at all cost.

Q. What was the issue of the messages issued by your father and yourself? Your thoughts.

Well since the uproar in the Community regarding the candidature, my father did send out a message calling her marriage a blunder whereby in spite of being married to a Muslim she wanted to contest the Parsi Panchayat elections, to which Mr. Kersi Randeria decided to reply to, in the negative, after which my message followed the same day on 6th April.

It is pertinent to note that these messages were issued on 5th and 6th April respectively much before the official list of candidates were announced. The list of candidates was published by the Parsi media only on the 17th of April. This was specifically mentioned in the EC hearing, however the order does not mention this fact at all.

Hence if the Candidate's list is not published how is one certain of the candidature and how does the Code of Conduct come into effect. Needless to mention the EC's order can always be challenged in the Court of Law.

THE HASTY FORMULATION OF THE NEW SCHEME OF ELECTIONS CANNOT OVERRULE THE LAW OF THE LAND.

NO WHERE IN THE WORLD OR UNDER



ANY LAW CAN THE DAUGHTER BE DEFAULTED FOR ANY WHATSAPP POST BY A FAMILY MEMBER.

My father, not being the prime initiator of the what's app never detracted from his abundantly clear statements, yet was never called upon during the hearing. Why? The CEC failed to cross examine his version before pronouncement of the Order. Gross violations of the law of the land have been exercised.

Q. What are your thoughts on the letter from our Khandiyas calling your life vile and sordid?

Well there have been many ghost messages being sent out in my name, these have never been issued by me. This is yet another effort to malign me. Infact I had emphasised on the fact that our Khandiyas who are only 18 in number should be given 35% -40% hike compared to other Non- Zoroastrians who comprise over 200 Class IV workers. However the agreement was signed and none of the Trustees have ever shed any light on the matter. So much for Transparency that they so boast about! More so the Parsi Times had printed this letter under Letters to the Editor, and only the editor of the Kersi Randeria's owned newspaper Parsi Times was heavily reprimanded and warned for printing the same, but no warning given to the Owner of Parsi Times who is contesting the elections.

Q. Why is your name being dragged into the apology made by Dr. Viraf Kapadia to Yasmin Mistry?

I must commend the master mind. On 22nd April, I did receive a frantic call for help from Dr. Kapadia that the police were forcing him to sign certain documents. I did tell him to not sign any till I reached the police station. Once I reached there, I did argue with the Police that as per new laws, the Police had no right to call upon a senior citizen at the Police station for questioning. I did mention to the officer that the picture posted by Dr. Kapadia did not in any way, amount to any kind of molestation. However it was unfortunate that Dr. Kapadia succumbed to the pressure and had already apologised, out of sheer fear of being detained at the police station. However I ensured we moved out of the police station together. The next day I was informed by Dr. Kapadia that he was assured telephonically that if he publicly apologised for his doing, the case would be closed, after which, as we all are aware the apology was rendered and the apology was cleverly drafted with a mention of my name

as the person who instigated him after which an audio was circulated by me clarifying my stand once and for all. Simply put, Dr. Kapadia wanted to get off the hook and it was a brilliant opportunity to use him to malign the person who tried to help him out of sheer concern for the 64 year old man with a mother of over 90 years of age at home waiting for him. Karma never misses an address and always has its way back!

Q. What do you bring on the table for the Electorate?

Well my rigorous Corporate record with multi-national Giants magnifies my accomplishments in policy making and establishing standard operating procedures. One Trust, One Policy will shelf out subjectivity, favouritism and discrimination on the Board once and for all. The BPP has lost its glory and credibility only because all its decisions are based on subjectivity. I do have an actionable 5 point agenda which can drive the Board to take care of its beneficiaries and uplift the BPP financially. I am passionate and determined about implementing performance oriented governance, with Transparency and Accountability at the core of all decisions taken by the Board.

Q. Who are the like-minded people you would want to see on the board?

A board with women in majority, I believe would make a good Board.

Q. Would you please elaborate on your own case, filed by you against the BPP?

Yes, I had bought my flat in the auction in the year 2011. Since the auction notice of 2011 had used the word auction sale of a flat I am well aware of legal laws governing an auction sale. However ever since in an exactly similar case of 2010 where now one of the contesting candidates was given Tenancy after 11 years of denial by converting his Rs.1.24 crores Deposit to Donation, I had also offered for the same, needless to state that I would give up my claim of Ownership on the same flat, but I strongly believe that **if I am granted tenancy, all members of the Community should be given tenancy first. One Policy For All!! A LEADER ALWAYS PUTS ITS MEMBERS FIRST!!**

Q. The Community wants to know about your personal life.

My world revolves around my son, my siblings, my parents, my job and community

engagements which I am very passionate about. It's been seven years since I have separated from my Zoroastrian husband and his family. The disrespectful atmosphere, the insecurity of the mother in law, her creepy, emotionally manipulative behaviour and her rage towards my father in law who would get beaten up almost everyday, forced me to take this bold step while I was seven months pregnant, to ensure that my son has a brighter future, away from this viscous circle of negativity, toxicity and narcissistic abuse.

I am a determined courageous parent who believes in walking the talk and walking on the path of righteousness, no matter the consequences. I have always believed strong parents can bring up stronger determined children.

Q. Any final words

Our electorate is intelligent and smart. They did see through all the politics that has charred out to keep me away from the BPP. It is more than ever important that people who can blatantly defy the wrong decisions of the Board, and the ones who can administer a performance oriented working culture of the Board, are inducted to the BPP by the electorate. We do not want henchmen and political thieves who use fear to get their way through.

A political thief steals your future, your home and your identity. The hilarious part is that the political thief is someone we choose to rob us because we choose them, we vote them. The ridiculous part of the whole issue is that we will fight to defend our belongings from the ordinary thief but we fight each other to defend and protect the political thief because some of us have our own personal agendas. What a travesty!

Currently the Panchayet is a sinking ship, we need administrators and policy makers to stop the further downfall of this august institution. We don't need politicians, we don't need goons, we need Trustees who can bring back the glory to the apex body of our Community.

With the number of encouraging messages, I receive on social media from our Community members residing in India and abroad and the kind of support I have garnered from the electorate is certainly overwhelming. This only goes to prove that inspite of being provided with contradicting information, we have the power and capability to evaluate the right picture and see through all the games and politics played by these political thieves!



PARSI CELEBRITIES SUPPORT INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE



TEHMTAN JAMSHEDJI DUMASIA

“
BPP
CANDIDATE
”

Hi,

From what I have observed over the years, **Tehmtan Dumasia** is a grassroot worker.

I am aware that he has been doing community service for many years. However, it was during the Pandemic that his selfless spirit came to the fore. From the early hours of the morning, he would be present at the Parsee General Hospital coordinating the tedious vaccination process for one and all. I know this from various quarters and his name would keep cropping up during conversations. He would constantly be on the phone fixing appointments, timings, dates and groups, non-stop.

His hands on approach to understanding common folk would be a great boon if he would be a Trustee of the Bombay Parsi Panchayat. So do vote for him in the upcoming elections of the BPP.

His service warrants our support.

Regards

Boman Irani.(Actor)



Schedule for the Election Campaign of Tehmtan Dumasia (Meet your Candidate)

Date	Place	Time
7TH May	GODREJ BAUG	7.00 P.M
13TH May	SALSETTE COLONY (Andheri)	7.00 P.M
14th May	NIRLON PARSİ COLONY (Goregoan)	6.30.PM
16th May	KHAREGHAT COLONY	
21st May	BHARUCHA BAUG (Andheri)	7.00 P.M
22nd May	CUSROW BAUG PAVILLION HALL	7.00 P.M.

This is to state that I Tehmtan Dumasia, an independent candidate for the BPP Elections am not affiliated with any group or any past or present Trustees which please note.

Also, I am independent candidate, am very Thankful to the team of Parsi Junction for printing our election articles free of cost.

Hi guys Tehmtan Dumasia is known as a daredevil who is always there to help our community. In fact he has been helpful to my family also and is an honest and dependable person who should be elected as a Trustee of the Bombay Parsi Panchayat.

We need a person like him who is available 24x7 and always helps you with a smile never says no. Let's all vote for him and ensure he shall be elected.

Cyrus Broacha (Actor)



My dearest Tehmtan,

Have seen you come up the hard way.

Have seen you serve our community senior citizens during the vaccination drive.

I wish you all the best for your candidature.

May God bless you with success!

**Mickey Mehta
(Global Healing Holistic Guru)**



Hi,

This is Rushad Rana here. I have know Tehmtan uncle since the last few years now...what started as a professional relationship has turned into a friendship over the years. I don't understand community politics to be very honest, but what i do know that he is someone who truly wants to help people. I know how single handedly he organised vaccination drives at the parsi general hospital last year when everyone was running helter skelter without a clue what needs to be done. I think the need of the hour is to elect someone who genuinely understands the needs of the people and wants to help them.

RUSHAD RANA (ACTOR)





MY SUPPORT TO YOUR CANDIDATURE.

I have been forwarded a video purportedly of a meeting addressed by you at Navroze Baug on or around May, 3, 2022 in which, while referring to my article in the Parsi Junction of Sunday May 1, 2022, you have expressed your concern at “the mischievous way of putting things” and **stressing that you are an independent candidate.**

Earlier there was an impression that you had aligned with the Randeria faction and I was a bit surprised given the ideological and Religious differences, but after noticing a slight change in the equation I did hope that you are independent. That along with other reasons which I will now spell out have made me come out in your support.

Incidentally my attention has just been drawn to a whatsapp message which suggests to voters to “casting your precious votes for” with your name in the lead at number 1, Anahita Desai, followed by 2. Kersi Randeria 3. Hoshang Jal 4. Adil Malia 5 Dara Patel 6 Yasmin Mistry 7 Farhad Hozdar. Are you comfortable with that message? I ask this because I believe your views on some major issues are at a big variance from at least two of the candidates in that list.

Please allow me to clarify any misconception:

Prior to the article under reference, I had written two on the same subject and the one earlier than the present one also mentioned you when I referred to “Four Formidable Feminine Power” which also included two other Independent ladies Ms. Maharukh Noble and Ms. Zuleika Homavazir besides Chairman Mrs. Armaity Tirandaz. I had stated therein that «This column is based on my personal past experiences and views supported by documents, recordings, emails and messages and is limited due to the guidelines and framework laid down by Justice Kathawala.»

Even that article carried your photo alongside of the other ladies. You four ladies are indeed formidable and without any religious controversy surrounding you! The point I was stressing was that the community had a rare opportunity to vote in Woman Power and hopefully restore peace in the Boardroom. To my mind women are more sympathetic towards the weaker sections of society and tend to sympathize with their cause. My effort is only directed towards having a team which can work in harmony. Perhaps the printing of your photo has made you believe that this is the team promoted by Dinshaw Mehta which was not my intention.

My request for your USP was to elaborate the reasons for supporting you along with the others in my appeal to the voters. The medium is the Parsi Junction, as you will agree the only other alternative community weekly. The Parsi Times would not have



Phiroze Amroliwalla



Anahita Desai

carried my write-up or even a letter.

Anahita you may recall, Yazdi and you have always had a very cordial relationship with me long before Randeria appeared on the scene. Even in 2011, I had just arrived in Toronto when Randeria approached me to oppose you as his candidate, **I had told him in clear terms that I was not inclined to but when he mentioned that a vast majority in the community did not approve a husband-wife duo on the board I told him that I wished to be with my family and knowing Randeria and how he can manipulate people, I mentioned to Randeria that if he was serious, then he should give me a return ticket to prove his intentions and that he would not change his mind, which was very likely if he found a better alternative. He agreed immediately to send me the ticket but later he came to know that Dinshaw Mehta was also supporting my candidature and therefore withdrew the offer. The rest is history as they both decided to support Munchi Cama!**

In 2015, Randeria came to the very doors of my two flats, which he now quotes ad-nauseum, and told me that my friends Noshir and late Zarir Bhathena were waiting down and that since I had also filed my nomination, I should join their panel ‘The Terrific Trio’ and that would help change the panel to ‘Fantastic Four’.

Knowing how he manipulates people I not only turned down his offer but also withdrew my nomination as I anticipated that he would use his paper to malign me. You may remember that while campaigning in Contractor Baug in your presence I had appealed to the audience in your and Khojeste Mistree's presence to vote for Yazdi for the sake of continuity in the board.

In the new board, Yazdi being the seniormost was naturally appointed Chairman. Randeria did not approve of my closeness to Yazdi and managed to poison Yazdi's ears. This was done as he ultimately started to function as the de-facto Chairman. To prove his loyalty he shifted his stance and supported you for the contest whereas I continued to maintain my stand and did not feel that a wife should be voted as a trustee with the husband as Chairman/trustee. Dinshaw and I have both maintained that till today

and that was one of the reasons I supported Xerxes Dastur.

After Yazdi's untimely passing away the community was sure that you would stand for trusteeship. **However for obvious reasons, some including me, were disappointed to observe your leaning towards the Randeria faction. It was only recently when it became clear that Randeria was also firmly supporting his lady partner Yasmin that there is a perception that you are trying to distance yourself from that group.** Sorry for the lavaro bakaro!

Now I will come to why I support you in 2022.

Anahita, please believe me that I had decided to support you unconditionally and wholeheartedly after Yazdi's demise because of your whatsapp message on September 4, 2019 while I was in Toronto. You may recollect that despite my support to Xerxes and your subsequently losing the election then, **Yazdi by a whatsapp message, through you, expressed his desire to pay our Khan estate security guards their wages. This was as per your whatsapp message because Yazdi was not getting the relevant information from the BPP office.**

Can you imagine the Chairman of the BPP not getting this information and I am sure you know the reason why? When you got that figure from me, you informed me that Yazdi had set out to pay the wages to the Khan estate security guards in the thick of the heavy rainfall that evening. I admired that gesture and called you back to persuade Yazdi to return as the roads were flooded and that I would ask the guards to collect their overdues from your residence at Rustom Baug the next day. Their wages were not paid for nearly 5 months and another day would not matter. Accordingly the guards collected the dues from your residence the next day. This kind gesture of Yazdi, I will NEVER FORGET.

In Yazdi the community had a humane person, who despite having differences with me, volunteered to go out in the rain to pay the guards their overdue wages. On the other hand there is Randeria who was responsible for attempting to sack those same men, who in the first place were appointed by the residents and NOT by the BPP! This same person also denied a free meal from the BPP kitchen set up during the pandemic to help senior parsis in distress. Oh! what a difference between Yazdi and Randeria!

My support for you was out of a genuine sense of gratitude to Yazdi and you.

I wish you well,

Phiroze Amroliwalla

KOM-ni-UNITY

Aapri Priority !



XERXES DASTUR



VIRAF MEHTA



ARMAITY TIRANDAZ



MAHARUKH NOBLE



RUMY ZARIR

WHATS IN COMMON

- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Track record of fulfilling promises
- ✓ Compassionate & caring
- ✓ Dedicated community service
- ✓ Always available

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ No False promises.
- ✓ Protection from Vindictive Litigation
- ✓ Transparency in affairs
- ✓ Commitment to convert lawful L&L to Tenancy

BPP TRUSTEE MEET

9-May	Mon	730pm	TATA MILLS SOCIETY PAREL
11-May	WED	730pm	CAMA PARK
12-May	THU	730pm	TATA BLOCKS BANDRA
13-May	FRI	730pm	GAMADIA COLONY
14-May	SAT	530pm	KHAN ESTATE
14-May	SAT	730pm	NC BAUG
15-May	SUN	11am	PANTHAKY BAUG
15-May	SUN	7pm	CUSROW BAUG