TRUTH

**JUSTICE** 

RIGHT

## THE PARSEE VOICE

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# VOTERS! BEWARE OF AFP'S FALSE PROPAGANDA & GIMMICKS!

Tall claims and ridiculous promises being made in a DESPERATE bid to enter BPP!

Objective is to pursue a deformed agenda of destroying all that the Parsee community has held sacred for the last 1,300 years!

Arrogance and Superciliousness already manifesting itself in their behaviour! Haphazard answers and half-hearted responses to queries at meetings.

Not a cheep about how they will preserve and protect our Dakhmas

DEFEAT THE ANTI-PARSEE, ANTI-ZOROASTRIAN AGENDA OF THE AFP. DO NOT VOTE THEM INTO THE BPP! However, all is not lost. There is hope on the Horizon.

Vote For The WAPIZ Panel + Some Worthy Independents

## THINK FOR YOURSELF, LADIES & GENTLEMEN!

(1) How many of AFP's 7 candidates, though individually well-versed in their professions and vocations, are competent and qualified enough to be trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet? How many of these seven are fully acquainted with Parsee affairs and matters? Until yesterday, most of them were thoroughly preoccupied with their own social and professional worlds. How on earth can

such detachment from Parsee public life, make them conscious overnight of the duties and responsibilities of a BPP trustee?

From our 3 decades of experience in dealing with the socio-religious obligations of the BPP, it can safely be said that one requires at least 5-6 years of **regular expose** to all Parsee problems vis-a-vis the working of the BPP. In that respect, most of the AFP candidates are absolute greenhorns and novices. What right do they, who have been summarily looped inside the AFP panel, have to

## preside over the destinies of the Parsee community for 7 long years?

They have never studied the Dokhmenashini issue in its entirety. They have absolutely no inkling of how Dakhmas function and, therefore, how the practical problems faced by the Mumbai Dakhmas can be satisfactorily resolved.

As said above, they have never bothered to come down to the grass-root level and tackle the various problems of the middle-class and poor Parsees. They are blissfully unaware of the intricacies of the merit-rating housing scheme, since they have, so far, lived in their own hi-fi world...

How do you expect such persons to become efficient, pro-active BPP trustees, who can faithfully administer and manage the immoveable properties, including the Dakhmas, that form the very crux of the BPP trust?

- (2) Ever since the AFP paraded its seven candidates at their public meeting on 9 August, 2008, have you heard any of these candidates interact freely with members of the Parsee community, which they would have otherwise done, had they not been issued a veritable whip by the Big Boss of the AFP, to restrict their utterances only to their personal or professional activities. Any loaded question, however, would be left to the AFP guys, whether to answer or keep mum.
- (3) Have you, dear reader, tried asking any of these AFP candidates, just one simple but pointed question: "If you become a BPP trustee, will you allow a Doongerwadi bungli or any spot inside the Doongerwadi complex to be used for ceremonies relating to those Parsees who opt for cremation or burial?" The answer from each one of the AFP candidates will be either, "I see no harm in it" or a vague one, "I will have to study all the angles before giving a reply".

None of these worthies will have the guts to assert that no bungli or any place in Doongerwadi can be given for any other purpose, except for rituals relating to those Parsee bodies which will be consigned to the Dakhmas. Why will they not commit

### themselves? Because, they have been hand-picked for this very purpose!

You are aware that there is an Originating Summons, also masterminded by Berjis Desai, the man who is cunningly manouvering the AFP panel, and which has been hanging like the Sword of Damocles over the heads of all of us for more than a year in the Bombay High Court. The moment the AFP panel gets elected (absit omen!), that Summons would be withdrawn. For, the new AFP remotecontrolled trustees would then give them on a silver platter, what the AFP has been asking for, without bothering about any litigation!

#### THE FATAL MISTAKE

This, then, is the ghastly but true scenario before you dear voter. If you make the fatal mistake of voting any of the AFP candidates, your fate is sealed! You will be responsible for the most heinous irreligious act – that of ultimately closing down the Dakhmas, under one pretext or the other!

Remember, you have the ultimate weapon in your hand – your precious vote! If you blunder this time, there will be no second chance! The AFP and its panel are desperate – to get inside the BPP and begin their nefarious agenda. You can stop them! Do not be carried away by any fancy power-point presentations or videos, etc. They are there only to hoodwink you! You owe it to yourself and to posterity.

#### THE ONLY RAY OF HOPE - WAPIZ

If one doesn't vote for any of the AFP candidates, is there any other panel or independents who can be fully relied upon to preserve and protect our Dakhmas?

The answer is an emphatic 'Yes'! For days, we have been cogitating on the role that an organisation, which has for the last nearly 3 1/2 years, applied the brakes at the appropriate time to the wild, wayward shenanigans of those radicals and heterodox, who have done their utmost to step on the accelerator of the community wagon, to fulfil their despicable ends! That organisation is none other than WAPIZ! Fortunately for the community, WAPIZ has set up a panel

of four, which we very strongly feel must get inside the BPP, to thwart the designs and machinations of the AFP.

We urge each and every Parsee/Irani Zoroastrian voter, to unhesitatingly vote for the WAPIZ panel of four, so that our sacred Dakhmas and the entire Doongerwadi land will at least be preserved for Zoroastrian souls, who pass away in Mumbai.

[In our Next and Final Issue on Elections: (1) The Case of the Confused Voter; (2) Besides the WAPIZ Panel, Who should be the other 3 candidates you should vote for; and (3) "The Man on The Spot" – The Irrepressible Dinshaw R. Mehta].

#### THE REMAINING FOUR OF THE AFP PANEL

In our last issue, we had talked about the three of the seven AFP panel candidates, and why they don't deserve the votes of the faithful, for the BPP elections.

We now take up the remaining four briefly. This is the quartet alluded to in the earlier pages, who, before they were pitchforked into prominence by AFP, were comfy in their own worlds, without bothering about or taking part in the nitty-gritty of Parsee problems and day-to-day affairs.

Byram Jeejeebhoy: Remember Tartini's "The Devil's Trill" Sonata, mentioned in our last issue? Well, Tartini was a violinist. So is Byram Jeejeebhoy, among other things. But the connection with the "Devil" comes up when one realises that it was the same Jeejeebhoy who graced the dais on 2nd February, 2008, when under the auspices of the ARZ, Kersey Antia had come down from the USA, to lecture to the Mumbai Parsees on "Conversion". How he was hooted out is recent history. But the fact remains that Byram Jeejeebhoy fully endorses conversion from one religion to another. In this case "converting" any Tom, Dick and Harry to Zoroastrianism!!

Not only that, Jeejeebhoy had to show that he is the scion of the illustrated Jeejeebhoy family. So, in this topsyturvied world, the man went out of his way to shamefully "donate" a part of his ancestral property in Malad to ARZ for the construction of a pseudo fire temple! O, what a fall! And they want us to vote for such specimens!

Sohrab Dastur: Until yesterday, whenever there was a vacancy for one trustee's seat in the BPP, Parsees of eminence like Soli Dastur, would run for their lives, as if they were training for the Olympics. "Who'd want to enter the dirty cesspool of Parsi politics?" they would say. One wonders what sleight of hand was performed by circus master Berjis Desai, that even such a renowned tax expert succumbed to his charms! Anyway, voters should be warned that it is the likes of Sohrab Dastur, who are reported to have said that they don't see any harm in allowing cremationists a toe-hold inside the Doongerwadi.

**Dr. K. Dinshaw & Keki Mistry:** We have nothing much to report on these two candidates, except that their coming on the platform of AFP, in itself means a complete disqualifier for BPP trustees' seats. As for Dr. Dinshaw, who says she'll be retiring from the Tata Memorial, this year end, it should be emphasised that the BPP boardroom is not a 'parking slot' for super- annuated professionals!

To parody the poet, regarding AFP candidates:

The candidates are all a fleeting show, To Voters' attraction given.
Their promises of joy,
Their laments of woe,
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow.
There's not one true in seven!

\* \* \*

#### THE LIVING Vs. THE DEAD

Among the many gimmicks employed by the AFP mandarins and their satellite, AZA, to hoodwink Parsee voters, is to change the tack from the BPP being the custodians of vast immovable properties, including the Dakhmas and Doongerwadi, to their new pet subject of 'Housing' and 'Amelioration of the Poor', etc., by making glib statements like, "We should care more for the living than the dead". This complete twist given to the obligations and responsibilities of the BPP trustees, suits AFP's own agenda, so as to completely obliterate the main duty of the BPP trustees of managing the vast Doongerwadi land.

Consider the following facts:

- (1) Today, out of the say 45,000 Parsees of Mumbai, less than a 1000+ are without a roof over their heads. In other words, the vast majority of Parsees of Mumbai are not at all in need of flats!
- (2) All the Wadia baugs and colonies are even today jointly managed by the N.M. Wadia trust and the Bombay Parsi Punchayet. Thus, though the BPP may claim today, as it does in every BPP Review, that it "provides economical housing and rent subsidies to the deserving in its vast housing colonies", the fact remains that BPP **alone** is responsible only for housing projects in, say Panthaki baug or Nirlon project at Goregaon, etc.

(3) If the kind of warped thinking that prevails today, had afflicted our forefathers, they would never have given topmost priority to the Dakhmas at Malabar Hill, as they actually did.

When during the Portuguese rule over Bombay, Parsees first came to settle there in the 1650s, their first thought was, what would hapen to our souls after death, when we do not have any Dakhma in the vicinity, as enjoined by our scriptures, the Vendidad?

That is why in 1669, Modi Hirji Vatcha Gandhy obtained permission from the then English government (Bombay island was by then given over in dowry by the Portuguese) "to dedicate and enclose, as a receptacle for the defunct of his own community and for the performance of other religious rites and ceremonies, a part of his Estate situate at Malabar Hill". That is how the first Dakhma Vatcha Gandhy came about on Doongerwadi. If he or any other Parsee in those days had thought first about the living than the dead, they could have asked for consecration of a fire temple, than a Dakhma. But our wise ancestors knew very well that in the progress and evolution of the soul itself lies the final destiny of the Zoroastrians. That is the only aim and goal of Nature, and to achieve that, giving top priority to a Dakhma is a must!

## SHAMELESS WAPIZ-BASHING BY MUMBAI SAMACHAR'S NEW GUJARATI COLUMN

From the 10th September, The Bombay Samachar has started a daily column in Gujarati, "Maha Jung" by one "Chanakya". Since both the Chairman of Bombay Samachar, Muncherji Cama and its PTA columnist are in the election fray, and since Jame Weekly, etc. can only unleash their vicious propaganda after seven days, this new daily column, right from day one, has begun its hopelessly partisan and biased "reporting" on the BPP elections. Its main

aim is to take vituperative swipes at WAPIZ, showing it in poor light! It shamelessly promotes the AFP candidates, while belittling WAPIZ candidates, without a jot of evidence!

We sincerely urge our readers not to fall for the hopelessly one-sided propaganda of "Maha Jung". It's nothing but the AFP-AZA combine in disguise! Surely a blot on the escutcheon of the 176-year-old Bombay Samachar, which has so far been known for its credibility and integrity!!

## हमदीन भतदारो, सापधान!

## એ.એફ.પી. અને તેના ઉમેદવારોની કાઠી કાઠી વાતો અને ખોટી ખાત્રીઓથી છેતરાશો નહિં!

એ.એફ્ર.પી. કોઈ પણ રવેશે પોતાનાંજ ઉમેદવારોને મુંબઈની પારસી પંચાયત નાં ત્રસ્ટીઓ તરીકે ધૂસાકવાનાં ધૂમપછાકા મારી રદી છે!

એ.એફ.પી. નાં બદઈરાદાઓનો પર્દાફાશ!

મુંબઈ સમાચાર નો નવો પેંતરો! એ.એફ.પી. તરફી નવી કટાર, "મહા જંગ", મતદારોને ખોટી બાતમી આપી, મોટી ગેરદોરવણી કરી રહી છે!

અત્યાર સુધીમાં મુંબઈની પારસી પંચાયતનાં ૭ ત્રસ્ટીઓ માટેનું ચૂંટણી જંગ ખોટી દિશા તરફ ઘસી રહ્યું છે. છેલા ૨-૩ અઠવાડિયાંઓ થયાં, પારસી બાગો અને કોલોનીઓમાં, જુદી જુદી સંસ્થાઓ અને વ્યક્તિઓ, જેઓએ ચૂંટણીમાં ઝીંપ્ળાવ્યું છે, તેઓએ પોતાના પ્રચારો શરૂ કરી દીઘા છે. આમાં કાંઈ ખોટું નથી. પરંતુ, જે ઘમંડી અને દંભી રીતે એ.એફ.પી. ("એકલ્ટ ફ્રેન્ચાઈઝ ફોર પોતાનાં જ ૭ ઉમેદવારોને પંચાયતમાં ઘૂસાકવાનો ઈજારો લીધો છે, એ ખરેજ વખોકવાજોગ છે. સો પ્રથમ તો એ.એફ.પી. પાસે તમામ પારસી "મીડિયા" છે જેમકે, "જામે વીકલી", "મુંબઈ સમાચાર" અને "પારસીઆના", કે જેમાં દર અઠવાડિયે પોતાનીજ થાળી પીટાય છે, અને એક બીજો માણીતો જુથ, "વાપિઝ"ની મશ્કેરી કરાય છે.

બીજું કે એ.એફ.પી. નાં કાર્ચકર્તાઓ અને તેઓનાં વિષેકો ખોટી દાદાગીરી અને ધાકધમકી કે પછી વધુ પડતા મિઠાશથી મતદારોને જુદી જુદી રીતે છેતરવાનું કામ ચાલુ રાખ્યું છે! આ એ.એફ.પી. नी डोलोनी मीटिंगोमां, ઉमेदवारो पासे जपकोगु जोलावी, तेनां संचालडो डां तो लोडोनां प्रश्लोनां पूरा क्वाजो आपता नथी, डे डांतो पछी मार्भिंड यूपडीटी सहेवे छे.

મતદાર વાંચકોનું ખાસ દયાન ખેંચવાની જરૂર છે કે તમો એઓનાં કોઈપણ એક ઉમેદવારને જે સૌથી અગત્યનો પશ્ન છે, તે પૂછી જુઓ: "તમો કુંગરવાડી ઉપરની કોઈ પણ બંગલી યા જગા, જેઓ ક્રીમેટ યા ભૂમીદાદ થવા માંગતા દોય, તેઓની ક્રિયાઓ માટે આપો કે?" તો તમને જવાબ કાં તો મળશે કે "દા, એમાં કશું ખોટું નથી" યા તો બદાનાંઓ કાઢી કદેશે, "એ તો આગળ ચાલતાં અભ્યાસ કરવો પડશે", અમો તમને ભારપૂર્વક કદીએ છીએ કે એ.એફ.પી. નાં એક પણ ઉમેદવારમાં નૈતિક દિંમત એમ કદેવાની નથી, કે "આવી બંગલી યા જગ્યા, દોખ્મેનશીની થતી જરથોશ્તી લાશોની ક્રિયાઓ માટેજ કદત વાપરી શકાય છે!"

વિચાર કરો હમદીનો, કે જે મૂળ મુદ્દો આ એ.એફ.પી. વાળાઓનો છે, તે એજ છે, કે મુંબઈની પારસી પંચાયતની સૌથી મોટી અસ્કયામત, કે જે કુંગરવાડીની જમીન છે, તેની અંદર કોઈ પણ રવેશે અને કોઈ પણ ભોગે, પગપેસારો, પોતાના માનીતા ઉમેદવારોને પંચાયતમાં પ્રવેશ કરાવી, કરવો, કે કોઈ દરબારમાં જવાની જરૂરજ નહિં. આપમેળે કીમેટ કે ભૂમીદાદ થનારાઓ માટે બંગલી મળીજ ગઈ!

આ દકીકત એ.એફ.પી. અને એના મળતિયાઓ તમો મતદારોથી ખાસ છૂપાવે છે. તેને બદલે એઓ "દાઉસિંગ" યાને કે ઘરોની તંગી, ગરીબ જરથોશ્તીઓને રહેઠાણો અપાવવાની વાતો કર્યા કરે છે, કે જેથી ભોલા મતદારો છેતરાય! આ અગત્યનો મુદ્દો ખાસ ધ્યાનમાં રાખવાની જરૂર છેજ!

બીજો બદઈરાદો આપણને ઉદ્ધુ બનાવનારા આ ભાઈઓનો છે તે એ કે, "તમે અમારા ૭ ઉમેદવારોને પંચાયતમાં લાવશો તો તેઓ તમારૂં દરેકરીતે ભલું કરશે!" આ એક સરાસર જુઠાણું છે. આ ભાનભૂલેલા ભાઈઓને દાવપેચ કેમ રમવા, એ સિવાય બીજાં કશાનીએ ખબર છેજ નહિં!

એક વાત જરૂર યાદ રાખજો કે અગર તમો મતદારો કોઈ ગંભીર ભૂલ કરી એ.એફ.પી.નાં એક પણ ઉમેદવારને બદુમતીથી ચૂંટી કઢાવશો, તો થોડાજ વખતમાં પારસી જરથોશ્તીઓનાં રવાનો રખડવાનોજ સમય આવીને ઊભો રહેશે.

को तमने तमारी माक्ष्टयस्नी क्रस्थोश्ती टीननी अक्षमती संस्थाओ सायपपी होय, को तमने अने तमारां इरऊंटोनुं लिपेष्य (अपण जनापपुं होय तो महेरजानी हरी, अ.अइ.पी. नां (अमेटपारने सो गांप दूरक राजकी!

#### મુંબઈ સમાચારનાં નવા પેંતરા!

તા. ૧૦મી સપ્ટેમ્બર, ૨૦૦૮ નાં દીને "મુંબઈ સમાચાર"નાં મેનેજમેંટ અને તેના તંત્રીએ એક નવી કોલમ, "મહા જંગ"શરૂ કરી છે, જેમાં એક બનાવતી તખલુસ, "ચાણક્ય" દેઠળ, એ.એફ.પી. એ પારસી વાંચકોને છેતરવાની બીજી બેહુંદી કોશશિ કરી છે. ચાદ રાખવું કે "મુંબઈ સમાચાર"ની "પારસી તારી આરસી"નાં અંગ્રેજી કટાર લેખક, બરજિસ દેસાઈ, તેમજ મુંબઈ સમાચાર નાં ચેરમેન, મંચેરજી કામા આ એ.એફ.પી. જુથ સાથે સંકળાચેલા હોવાથી, આ કોઈ "ચાણકય" એઓનાંજ ઉમેદવારોનુંજ રણશિંગું આખો વખત ફૂંકે એમાં નવાઈ શી?

પહેલાજ અંકમાં, "દાંક સુલેમાન ગાલી"નાં નિયમ અનુસાર, આ કટારમાં લખ્યું કેકે, "અમારી માહિતી પ્રમાણે એ.એફ.પી. નાં આઠ(?) ઉમેદવારો અને પી.આર.જી. (પારસી રિસોર્સ ગ્રુપ)ના યુવાન ઉમેદવાર શ્રી જીમી મિસ્ત્રીનો ઘોડો આગળ છે. વાપિઝ નામની અતયંત રઢી યુસ્ત સંસ્થાના ચાર ઉમેદવારોમાંથી એકાદ ઉમેદવાર છોડીને (આટલી બઘી મહેરબાની?!) બીજા ઉમેદવારો વિજરી થવાની સંભાવના સાવ ઓછી લાગે છે."

વાહ! ૧૭૬માં વર્ષમાં પ્રવેશેલું, એશિયાનું સૌથી પ્રતિષ્ઠિત અખ્બાર, જ્યારે આવી હલકી પંક્તી પર ઉતરી પડે ત્યારે અમારૂં સર શરમથી ઝૂકી જાય છે.

તા. ૧૦ સપ્ટેમ્બર, ૨૦૦૮! જ્યારે હજી ચૂંટણી પૂરી થવાને ૩ અઠવાડિયાં બાકી છે, તેટલામાં આ કોઈ બનાવટખોર "ચાણકય", કોઈ પણ પ્રકારનાં opinion poll વિનાજ સાવ ખોટી અને બેઠુંદી વાતો રજુ કરે, ત્યારે અમોએ અમારા વાંચકોનું ખાસ દયાન ખેંચવાનું કે "મુંબઈ સમાચાર"ની આ નવી કટારમાં નથી કોઈ તથ્ય કે નથી કોઈપણ પ્રકારની નિષ્પક્ષતા. એ તો એ.એફ.પી. ની એક બીજી ચાલબાઝી છે. હોશિયાર રહેજો!

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