

My Dear Voters of the B.P.P.,

This is the first of a series of mails which depict my hopes and aspirations, a manifesto of sorts which puts my thoughts to print.

Please feel free to circulate it to as many Parsi Irani Zoroastrians, who may be on your network.

I welcome as many comments as I can receive, so that my thinking can be refined and thoughts further crystallized.

Refurbish the Sagging Image of the B.P.P.

Over the past decade and a half, whole shades of alphabetical groups have cropped up in the community with the one point agenda of reducing the B.P.P. to the status of their favourite flogging horse and the Trustees of this once powerful and revered institution into their punching bags.

The trust has been lucky to acquire the services of Mr. Godrej Dotivala, a veteran writer and author of Mumbai, who has been rendering yeomen service as a P.R.O. and editor of the B.P.P. Review. Yet much more needs to be done, if the sullied image of this Apex Institution of Parsidom is to be restored to its Pristine Glory.

It is my conviction that, if the image of the B.P.P. and its trustees is sullied, then the whole community goes down in the eyes of the World. A society is known by the heroes it worships.

It will be my endeavour to formulate along with my fellow trustees a Mission Statement, a Blueprint of sorts for the common Parsi Irani Zoroastrians to abide by. This is the first exercise which will occupy my attention, so that the sagging image of the community will once again rise in the minds and hearts of the general public.

The spark of the Parsees which had lighted up the whole of India and which now appears to have dimmed, needs to be reignited so that we may continue to be the torch bearers and leaders of society.

**I shall deal with the Youth in a slightly longer
desertation in the next part.**

With warm regards to one and all, I remain, in the service of the community,
Very Sincerely Yours,

Rustom Tirandaz

Tel. # +9122 24127209 / +9122 65728279

Fax. # +9122 4164642

Mob. # +91 9870361188

E-Mail <rustom.tirandaz@gmail.com>

My Dear Voters of the B.P.P.,

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Parsee Youth.

It has been said that Child is the father of man and today's youth is the community's torch bearer of the future. Life is becoming more competitive by the day and there is a quantum leap in knowledge which doubles every five years. So we either advance or we perish, there is no stagnation.

Over the years, thanks to the leadership and inspiration offered by the former Trustee and Vice Chancellor of the Bombay University, Dr. Ms. Mehroo Bengalee and project Co-coordinator Ms. Diana Marfatia, the B.P.P. evolved a vocational guidance bureau to help school going children to identify their career options later in life and for the post S.S.C. students, the annual vacation H.P.Y. "Holiday Programme for Youth", to expose them to successful entrepreneurs in various fields, who share their experiences and prepare them as far as possible in the short span of one session for the life's battle ahead. Nearly 200 students take the benefit of this programme every year for well over two decades.

Every young man and woman has a unique spark in his or her personality, which is required to be regularly reignited every time they hit the road blocks in their lives. Therefore we must ensure a greater exposure of our youth to the real world around, to enable them to face the world at large.

Whereas the academically inclined youth may get their finishing in the university or colleges abroad, it is also necessary to constantly upgrade the average middle class youngster to keep up with the changing times.

It has now become imperative to lay the ground for their acquisition of non academic skills such as **Personality Development, Public Speaking, Marketing and Salesmanship, Interpersonal Behavioral Skills, Time Management, Neuro Linguistic Programming, Etc.** through intensive day long or weekend programmes. This will certainly increase their three dimensional development and prepare them for better employment and entrepreneurial careers ahead.

I had made it a point to personally train two batches of the Gamadia Hostel students in Public Speaking during the last two years of my first term in office as a Trustee of the B.P.P.

Such a programme will heighten their ambitions, personal values and principles, broaden their outlook and exposure to life, widen their horizons and spectrum of versatility and deepen their convictions and the strength of their Beliefs.

The B.P.P. and the trustees have a commanding status in society and there is great potential for **a placement service** which can catalyze the future of the youth with an initial hand holding, which is so necessary in today's competitive environment.

A very pleasant fall out of this all round development, will be that success will bring with it enthusiasm and increased compatibility which will encourage relationships by making the Parsi boys and girls more eligible and prevent them from marrying outside the community.

Being associated with trade bodies and Corporates, I am in a position to look for the best trainers / speakers and utilize their services for the benefit of the youth.

Education Abroad, especially in the U.S.A. is becoming frightfully expensive and the Indian Parsi Charities with their limited resources are only able to touch the tip of the iceberg. Our outstanding and not so outstanding students can get the necessary funds at almost 5% per annum interest for a duration of twenty years from the American Banks, upon one individual's guarantee in the U.S.A. I shall set up a system of roping in U.S. Parsees to bail the students out. The first batch of students can then help the subsequent lot.

While we talk of the mind, let us not forget the body. We shall explore the encouragement of our sportsmen to go out into the world and not just restrict themselves to Parsi Sports.

The thrust of my next presentation shall be directed at the B.P.P.'s housing Policy.

With warm regards, to one and all, I remain,
Very Sincerely Yours,

Rustom Tirandaz
Tel. # +9122 24127209 / +9122 65728279
Fax. # +9122 4164642
Mob. # +91 9870361188
E-Mail rustom.tirandaz@ gmail.com
Skype: rustom1943

My Dear Voters of the B.P.P.,

This is the third of a series of mails which project my hopes and aspirations, a manifesto of sorts putting my thoughts to print.

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B.P.P.'s Housing Policy.

Every man / woman's house is his or her castle, aspiring to have one which he can call his den and where he is the monarch of all he surveys. Every aspect of the B.P.P.'s raison d'etre has been built around the Houses and Baugs which it administers and around which also mostly revolve the disputes in the community as well as the controversies in the press.

As the Apex Body of the Parsi Irani Zoroastrians of the World, Housing has automatically devolved upon it. Also on account of the Five Wadia Baugs being added to those of the B.P.P. over half a century ago, by a rough guesstimate six out of ten Parsees reside in them.

When we refer to the Tokhme Kyani and insist on the children being born to both Parsi parents and when we talk of early marriages and third child etc., we are stumped by the fact that the Parsees opt for Nuclear families as against Joint families.

What we must realize and implement, rather on a war footing is that delayed marriages in the absence of nuclear houses is playing with the Biological Clocks of our youth who are hopelessly frustrated by the delay either on their part or the compulsions of fate.

The B.P.P. has a never reducing waiting list and because of a perennial shortage of new homes, a high level of frustration has crept in the community and the B.P.P. has become the flogging horse of those on the residual list. Not surprising that controversies and litigations generally owe their origins to these frustrations.

The fact that the B.P.P. over the years has adopted a very convoluted system of allotting points for evaluating the relative levels of deserving cases, was authored by a retired High Court Judge many decades ago and the transfer of a parent's long standing application in the names of their progeny have added to the agony.

The present system of allotting flats on leave and license basis has attracted even greater flack and added to the already elevated level of frustration. Legal heirs are also presently required to execute the L & L agreements and the payment of the periodical registration fees adds no end to the additional expenditure being incurred apart from the rent increase.

Parsees by and large seek to be accommodated in **South Mumbai** and save and except for the **redevelopment** of the old and dilapidated buildings in **THE DADAR PARSI COLONY AND NAVROZE BAUG** under the **extra FSI scheme of MHADA**, there is not much scope for bringing in Parsees in the main City proper.

Therefore, **A Brand New Housing Policy** is the need of the hour and that will be undertaken on a priority basis.

We also need a review of the L / L policy and as far as possible replace it with a Tenancy policy at least for the Legal Heirs.

However, this system of giving homes is sapping the resource potential of our community youth who needs to be initiated into Housing beyond the B.P.P. and explore Ownership Flats in the Market Place. We should also explore the **venture capital** route for those who seek to furrow their fields independently.

The latest addition to the B.P.P.'s housing is the Bhabha Sanatorium which has been the festering sore and the subject of great conflict and an immense drain on its resources. A speedy and decisive decision needs to be taken on this issue ASAP.

The thrust of my next presentation shall be directed at **Introduction of an Arbitration Cell & The Appointment of an Ombudsman.**

With warm regards, to one and all, awaiting your responses, I remain,

Very Sincerely Yours,

Rustom Tirandaz
Tel. # +9122 24127209 / +9122 65728279
Fax. # +9122 4164642
Mob. # +91 9870361188
E-Mail rustom.tirandaz@gmail.com
Skype: rustom1943

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Rustom Tirandaz C.E.O.
Croesus Finance Company Limited
1, Irani Mansion, 18, G. S. Road,
Parel, Mumbai 400 012, INDIA

Tel. # +9122 24127209 / +9122 65728279
Fax. # +9122 4164642
Mob. # +91 9870361188
E-Mail <rustom.tirandaz@gmail.com>
<croesus@vsnl.com>
Skype: rustom1943