



# Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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## Babu Jagjivan Ram Former Deputy PM A True Democrat and Savior of Downtrodden

**Prem K. Chumber Editor-In-Chief:  
Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba**

Babu Jagjivan Ram (April 5, 1908 – July 6, 1986) was known for his patriotism, straightforwardness, and concern for lower castes and poor. When in 1937, the Britishers wanted to set up a puppet government in Bihar, Babuji was approached with an offer of a large sum of money and a Ministerial berth and many other similar benefits to shake hand with them, but he simply refused to be on their side. Rather, he stood like a rock with his people who were to tally committed to lay their lives for the liberation of the motherland. He earned the love of the people and leaders of the Indian freedom movement for his patriotism and integrity. Showering praises on Babu Jagjivan Ram for his bold stand on to be remained with his people, Gandhiji said that he 'had emerged as pure as gold in the test of fire'.

Babuji was a born fighter and a crusader for freedom, dignity and social justice. During his middle school education, he refused to avail scholarship meant for Scheduled Castes students and earned it by appearing in open competition and becoming successful on the basis of his meritorious academic performance. It was also during his Arrah Town School days that he smashed twice separate pitcher meant drinking water for Scheduled Castes students and forced the principal to withdraw his discriminatory decision of segregated water arrangement at the premises of the school. He proved his exceptional talent by excelling in studies despite extreme poverty at home as his father (Sobhi Ram) passed away (1914) while Babu Jagjivan Ram was still in his village primary school. He and his mother (Vasanti Devi) fought boldly against poverty and social exclusion all around.

Despite such an oppressive social environment and poor economic conditions at home, Babuji acquired proficiency in Hindi, Bengali, English and Sanskrit besides Bhojpur – his native Bhasha. It was his command over Hindi and English that attracted the attention of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya during the welcome address by him that finally took him to study at the prestigious Banaras Hindu University. It was at the Banaras Hindu University that Babuji organized, for the first time, Scheduled Castes students to protest against the denial of basic services like meals for Scheduled Castes students in the hostel and haircuts by local barbers. After qualifying his Inter Science examination at BHU, Babuji left BHU and completed B. SC. degree from the Calcutta University in 1931. It was during his stint at Calcutta University, Babuji organized Mazdoor Rally at Wellington Square in 1928. This mammoth rally in which approximately 50,000 people participated brought Babu Jagjivan Ram closer to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose who got convinced of his organizing skills and political acumen.

Babu Jagjivan Ram devoted his entire life strengthening India and empowering poor and lower castes. He was a great inspirer and organizer of people against oppression. He was an eloquent orator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a talented administrator. From his school days to the celebration of freedom at midnight, he remained in the forefront of various struggles (including the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and the Quit India Movement in 1942) launched during the historic freedom movement of India. On the national political platform, he established himself as the savior of lower castes and poor people. He became the youngest minister in the interim government of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946, Labor Minister in the first cabinet of India as well as member of the Constituent Assembly of India. He played a constructed role in the meeting of the Constituent Assembly of India for promoting the cause of the Scheduled Castes and poor people. He served as a minister of various portfolios at the level of Central Government exceptionally for more than forty years as a member of the Indian National Congress. In 1977 and joined the Janata Party alliance, along with his Congress for Democracy. He also served as Deputy Prime Minister of India (1977-79). In 1981, Babuji formed Congress (J). Till his passing away in 1986, he remained active in the service of the nation and the downtrodden.

"Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" Weeklies fondly remember Babuji on his 115th Birth Anniversary and pay him floral tribute!

Read more: [www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com)

## Making Sense of Buddha's Dhamma

**B**uddha had explained to his disciples/Bhikkhus that Dhamma is the path of morality and ethics as well as a means of developing social relations. It is the boat which is meant to cross the ocean of the worldly life and not to be carried on the back just like a man carrying a boat gets buried



under its own weight. Dhamma/Dharma is for the man (society), the man (society) is not for Dhamma/Dharma.

Today, religion is no longer for the common people but has become a tool of hypocrisy, futile rituals, unlawful demonstrations, ostentatious donations and uproaring. The books written in the name of religion have been made so sacred that instead of being read, they have been made objects of blind worship like Gods and Goddesses.

Tathagata Buddha did not take refuge in

any invisible power/God as a revelation for his Dhamma, but taught to become our own guides. We should always remember that a true teacher is capable enough to stand to the test of changing times and evolving thoughts and he will never call his disciples for his protection. Are those who roam around with security personnel wearing the robes of religion, the real Teachers...??

When Tathagata Buddha came to know that one of his Bhikkhus got into a tussle with the general public only because they had used derogatory words for Tathagata, then Tathagata explained to him:-

"What is the difference between you and them, neither they know and understand the Tathagata, nor do you try to understand Tathagata while living together. I never gave permission to any of my disciples to involve themselves in an argument, quarrel or scuffle with others or take sides with me over my merits and demerits..."

To understand the importance of religion, it is necessary for our society to accept and adopt the ideology of Baba Sahib for Ambedkarism is the



**Dr Amritpal Kaur**  
(Dental Surgeon)  
Writer on Ambedkarism, Buddhism and Feminism  
Founding Member National Council of Women Leaders

## A UK man of Indian descent sentenced to 18 weeks in jail, and fined £240 for caste related hate speech in Slough

by Arun Kumar

Following a Thames Valley Police investigation, Amrik Singh Bajwa, aged 68, of Bowyer Drive, Slough has been sent to jail for 18 weeks and fined £240 for sending by public communication network offensive/indecent/obscene /menacing message materials.

This conviction relates to a video Amrik Singh Bajwa posted on TikTok on 19 July 2022 which included his casteist, racist, religious and homophobic insults. Amrik Singh Bajwa also threatened to rape women from the Dalit communities that he was insulting, and claimed to have raped their daughters, sisters and mothers in the past with impunity. This successful conviction was as a result of numerous communities getting together and complaining to the police about Bajwa. This included representatives from the Guru Ravidass Sabha UK and Abroad, Valmik organisations, Ambedkarites, and other organisations. The Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance was one of the key organisations to bring the obscene TikTok video to the attention of the Police and during the court proceedings the ACDA's statement was one of the statements read out by the prosecution.



**A spokesperson from**

**the Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance said:**

"We welcome the Amrik Singh Bajwa's conviction today and thank Thames Valley Police for listening to the community. The 18 weeks sentence in jail reflects the severity of the harm Amrik Bajwa's video caused the Dalit community. We understand

the conviction did not specifically refer to 'caste' because caste is not yet a protected characteristic in law. But the Crime Prosecution Service shared at the hearing today the derogatory words 'Choor' and 'Chaamar' that Mr Bajwa used.

The video Amrik Singh Bajwa posted on TikTok in 2022 was highly toxic and casteist in content. The clear threat to rape Dalit women and girls was very menacing and disturbing – especially in light of his boasts of having raped Dalit women in the UK in the past with impunity. We come across regular reports of rapes, and gang rapes of Dalit girls and women - some resulting in murder and death in India by so-called higher caste men. The Hathras gang rape case is an example. Bajwa's social media post threats are in keeping with some so-called high caste men who believe it's ok to discriminate on the basis of caste and to control, rape and de-humanise Dalit girls and women.

This is not the first such case in England. A Mr Luthra was sentenced to 12 weeks in jail (suspended for 5 years) in 2020 after ACDA pursued the case on a similar charge. Caste was not mentioned on the charge sheet in that case either. The Government must outlaw caste discrimination/harassment in the UK to deter others and reduce the pain to the Dalit community. Progress is being made in California and Canada. We need to progress in the UK too. A law is ready and waiting for implementation!"

For more information please contact ACDA on 07902 806342

# 115th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BABU JAGJIVAN RAM

**O**n the auspicious occasion of 114th Birth Anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, we, on behalf of Supreme Council Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas USA, share our hearty congratulations and pay our homage to this dynamic leader. Babu Jagjivan Ram dedicated his entire life for the upliftment of the socially suppressed and exploited segments of society. Some of the glimpses of his struggle and achievements are shared as under.

Babu Jagjivan Ram was born in Chandwa, near Arrah in Bihar State, on April 5th, 1908 in a untouchable (Now Dalit) family. Babu Jagjivan Ram, being a very bright student attained his BSc degree from Banaras Hindu University. He, himself, being a Dalit, grew up in the midst of harsh and severe social disabilities of untouchables at that time. He stood like a rock against social discriminations and segregation. In 1935 he contributed to the establishment of All India Depressed classes' league. Because of his intellect, wisdom and patriotism, Netaji Subhash Chander Bose, was attracted to him and drew him into the field of politics at a very young age. He became an active participant in the

freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi including the Quit India Movement in 1942.

He remained as a distinguished and uninterrupted parliamentarian for fifty years from 1936 to 1986. He was also a member of the Constituent

Revolution in India.

It was during his tenure as Defence Minister that Bangladesh was liberated and established as an independent country with the help of India.

In deference of his adorable accomplishments his birth Anniversary is celebrated as "SAMTA DIWAS" (Equality Day) in India and his cremation place has been made into 'SAMTA STHAL'. The states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana observe regional holidays on his birth Anniversary day.

His illustrious daughter, Shrimati Mira Kumar, a five-time member of parliament, is accredited to be the first woman speaker of Indian parliament during the tenure of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Though Babu Jagjivan Ram was an iconic figure in the entire political spectrum of India with all the deserving qualifications, he, because of in-built caste distinctions and political maneuvers, he was obstructed twice from becoming the Prime Minister of India.

Babu Jagjivan Ram is overwhelmingly remembered as an ardent freedom fighter, an undaunted champion of human rights and crusader for social justice.

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**O.P. Balley**  
(General Secretary)  
Supreme Council,  
Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA

Assembly and advocated impassionately for the rights of the exploited and the voiceless sections of society.

He joined the interim cabinet of Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1946 as the youngest member of his cabinet and held many key portfolios in his long political career.

Due to his astute political acumen and administrative skills he was dear to stalwarts like Jawahar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

As Food and Agriculture Minister, he is best remembered to have successfully led the "Green



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# Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor. District 4



Sue Frost

## Fentanyl - One Pill Can Kill

Rachael King (On left in photo above) was a manager at the Noodles Restaurant in Folsom and was a proud recipient of the September 2018 Sacramento County Food Safety Award of Excellence. Four months later she died after taking a pill that unbeknown to her was laced with Fentanyl.

It's difficult to share this with you and I want you to know that I



talked about it with Rachael's parents who allowed me to share some of her story. Rachael was a valedictorian and an aspiring chef with dreams and a bright future. She was the only daughter, and her death was a devastating blow to her parents, brother and all who loved her. Her parents have tried to advocate for justice and have been an inspiration behind important programs emerging as the increase in Fentanyl deaths cannot be ignored. I am dedicating this newsletter to Rachael. I believe she would want to warn others about "Fentanyl - One Pill Can Kill."

Do you remember "Every 15 Minutes" or "Arrive Alive Drive Sober?" For those who don't know, they are reality-based programs designed to challenge teenage students and parents to think before driving drunk. I recently attended a similar program at Folsom High School that was hosted by Arrive Alive California, Inc. Their program is called "Fentanyl - One Pill Can Kill." I was a proud champion of this program which was funded by Sacramento County's ARPA in response to the growing drug problem in our region. During their program I heard personal testimonies from parents, shocking statistics, and an ambulance professional shared that if someone overdoses and you call 911, the health professionals do not report your drug activities. They talked about the symptoms. If the person is unconscious, small pupils, shallow breathing, vomiting, inability to speak, faint heartbeat, limp arms and legs, or discolored lips or fingernails, call 911.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that comes in many prescription forms. It is similar to morphine, but I am told it is up to 100 times more potent. It is typically used to treat severe or chronic pain

for people who are physically tolerant to other opioids. Since 2020 the use of opioids, especially Fentanyl, has grown exponentially. In the past three years, according to Sacramento District Attorney Thien Ho, there have been 360 Fentanyl poisoning deaths in Sacramento County. That is more than gun-related homicides, he said.

For those who want justice, it is challenging. In general, most Fentanyl deaths are listed as accidental overdoses. They accepted the pill from a friend or paid a dealer for a street drug, not realizing it was laced with Fentanyl. The pills look just like prescription pills. At the crime scene, people may say that the person was fine when they went to bed and there was no indication of a problem, but for law enforcement to pursue a murder investigation

they would need to show intent to kill or reckless disregard or indifference to human life. Further, if the case report lists accidental death, then the case follow-up is under that assumption, and it is not technically a murder investigation. This has been a heartbreaking disappointment for family members who are screaming for justice and want to prevent the future loss of innocent lives.

I recently met with Sacramento D.A. Thien Ho to discuss the justice dilemma. He expressed the seriousness of this matter and shared that he has a four-part plan. Then he told me about how cases are built piece by piece, and he is establishing processes to set the stage for documenting a case on record. Then we talked about the difference between implied malice and express malice. Implied malice refers to a person's intention to cause grievous bodily harm. Express malice murders include killings where the person intended to cause death. In contrast, implied malice includes killings that occurred while a person was committing a felony or when deaths resulted from an action that displayed a depraved indifference.

District Attorney Ho's plan includes a "Watson Warning" which is given to defendants who are found guilty of selling Fentanyl. If they sell Fentanyl again and cause injury or death, they can be charged with a much more serious crime - including murder. He is calling for Regional Response Teams. Sacramento is working with other County's (Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Placer) to learn about how they are building out their response. He is partnering with our Sheriff and other agencies to create Fen-

tanyl Response Teams. There will be a protocol in place to retrieve phones to look at texting and collect evidence. A drug task force would trace dealer connections and when a dealer is associated with several deaths it is possible to begin to build a case on record that shows reckless disregard. Other Partnerships with the U.S. Attorney General and the Eastern District will be pursuing more legal solutions and finally the Education Programs such as the Fentanyl - One Pill Can Kill is a program that is targeting youth in schools to help them understand, "FENTANYL - ONE PILL CAN KILL!"

We cannot bring Rachael back, but her life was a precious gift to our world and it mattered. If you have pain of any kind, buyer beware... One Fentanyl Pill Can Kill. Other drugs and even marijuana vaping have been laced with Fentanyl and killed innocent people! The best advice when considering recreational street drugs is "Just Say NO!"

Thank you for reading - and as always, if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at [SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net](mailto:SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net). Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murieta.

For a complete list of all my past newsletters, which each contain a commentary like this one, click here.

## Resources Available for Sacramento County Parents

Whether you are becoming a parent for the first time or you are welcoming another child into your family this year, there are several resources that can help you in Sacramento County. If you are pregnant and live in Sacramento County, Maternal Child Adolescent Health (MCAH) has a program for you. MCAH has information and education on how to have the best pregnancy outcome possible, information on child health and development, and can assist parents in obtaining an OB provider or pediatrician.

The goals of MCAH programs are to make sure babies are born



healthy and that their mothers are healthy too. The programs aim to provide a safe environment for children and parents of all backgrounds. Those with MCAH also work to make sure all women, children, and their families have equal access to appropriate care.

Because each family is unique, the County has several resources in place to help serve parents and children. Some of the programs available in the County include African American Perinatal Health, Black Infant Health, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Women, Infants, & Children (WIC). Anyone who is pregnant and lives in Sacramento County and is income eligible can enroll in these programs. If you are not sure which resource is best for you, do not worry. The County has workers who will match you to the program or programs you are eligible for.

The process is streamlined to make it easy for parents to reach out. To get help, call (916) 875-BABY. You will need to state that you are pregnant and in need of assistance. That one call is all you need to make. The County will then match you to resources. You can also complete a referral form and email it to [DHSMCAH@saccounty.net](mailto:DHSMCAH@saccounty.net). Click here for the referral form.

Many who have benefited from MCAH programs say the services have made a positive impact on their lives. A mother who is currently in the Black Infant Health program said having the extra support had a big impact on her.

"Knowing this program existed was amazing and the fact that it focused on Black moms was even better. It was great having support whenever I needed it and being in such a comfortable, safe space," the mother said.

Other MCAH programs have also had successful outcomes. 96% of Nurse-Family Partnership clients who chose to breastfeed were able to successfully do so at birth, which is higher than the national rate. The premature birth rate for Nurse-Family Partnership clients is 6.4%, which is lower than the state and national average. The programs also help mothers focus on their mental health. 100% of African American Perinatal Health clients who screened positive for Perinatal or postpartum mood and anxiety disorders were referred to mental health services.

To find out more about MCAH programs, click here.

## Portion of Dry Creek Parkway Trail Renamed

With the blessing of the Board of Supervisors at its Feb. 28 (Contd. on next page)

# Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

**American Cleaners Recognized as Small Business of the Month**  
 It is my pleasure to announce that American Cleaners, a professional dry cleaning service located in

ness that you think is deserving of being recognized, you can nominate them by clicking on this link.  
**Senate Committee Rejects Biparti-**

Committee. Our kids will continue to be at risk until we get serious about cracking down on fentanyl.  
**Legislature Continues Concerning Record on Affordability**



Folsom at 639 East Bidwell Street, has been named as my small business of the month. Virgil and Alma Versoza have owned and operated American Cleaners since 2000 when they moved to the Sacramento Region from the Bay Area. They both immigrated to the United States from the Philippines and have been serving the Folsom Community for 23 years. Congratulations to American Cleaners!  
 If you know of a small busi-

**san Fentanyl Legislation**  
 This week the Senate Public Safety Committee rejected SB 44, a bill that would have given formal warnings to people convicted of selling/distributing fentanyl that they could face homicide charges if they deal again and someone dies as a result.  
 This bill has 42 coauthors, including 24 Democrats and 18 Republicans. Yet that still wasn't enough to get past the Senate Public Safety

Recently I shared with you that I wrote this letter, signed by 18 of my colleagues, calling on lawmakers to oppose the Governor's new oil windfall tax. While we were successful in getting him to drop that proposal, this week the Legislature approved a similar bill that will give unelected bureaucrats the power to penalize refineries. I opposed this effort to add even more regulations, as I believe will create fuel shortages and ultimately raise gas prices for

hard working Californians.  
**Vietnam War Veterans Celebration**  
 I had the honor of recognizing a few of our local veterans at Summeret Senior Living in Rancho Cordova on National Vietnam War Veterans Day. I was also joined by ROTC students from Cordova High School. We must never forget the service and sacrifice of our veterans, thank you to all who have served.

**Folsom Community Awards**  
 Recently I had the privilege of presenting Bayside Folsom with the "Outstanding Partnership Award" at the annual Folsom Community Awards put on by the Folsom Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to Bayside Folsom for their continued commitment to Folsom and Assembly District 7, and congratulations to all of the other winners!

(Continue from page 3)  
 meeting, a portion of the Dry Creek Parkway will be renamed in honor of Robert (Bob) Bastian.

and he served on and founded many local clubs and organizations," said Liz Bellas, Regional Parks Director.

on County commissions and committees, Mr. Bastian also served as Chairperson for the Rio Linda/Elverta

Linda Chamber of Commerce, the Grant Alumni Association, and the Grange.

Mr. Bastian was a leader in the community, having been born and raised in North Sacramento. He attended local schools and earned his Associate of Arts degree from American River College, a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master of Arts in Special Education from Sacramento State. He taught for more than 30 years, at Del Paso Junior High School, Lincoln High School and the majority of his career with the Rio Linda Union School District.



"Bob served on the Dry Creek Parkway Advisory Committee and was a member of the Sacramento County Recreation and Park Commission, a commission he served on for 31 years, from 1987-2018."  
 In addition to his time serving

**2023 Community Survey**  
 Make Your Voice Hear!  
 Let Supervisor Frost What is Important to you!  
 Sue Frost  
 Sacramento County Supervisor, District 4

Recreation and Park District; founding member, President and Vice President of the Rio Linda/Elverta Historical Society; President, Vice President, and Vision Chairperson for the Rio Linda/Elverta Lions Club; a Shriner; a Mason; and a member of the Rio

He was a Special Olympics and Pop Warner football coach, and served as a leader for the 4-H club. He was an elected member of the Rio Linda Union School District Board of Trustees.  
 The Dry Creek Parkway Trail from Dry Creek road heading northeast to "U" street will be known as the Robert F. Bastian Memorial Trail.  
**2023 Community Survey**  
 If you have not already, take the 2023 version of my community survey so that I can stay up to date with how you feel on the important issues impacting our community.

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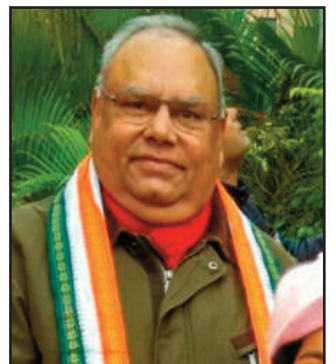
# Ambedkar in London – A book of great historical value

**A** book of a great historical value, *Ambedkar in London*, was officially released in London some weeks ago. One of the authors, Ms. Santosh Dass, MBE a social and human rights activists and President of Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations (FABO) of UK, one of my 'acquaintances of understanding and respect' sent me the book in advance of the formal release through one of her associates in the FABO, Harbans Virdee. I wished to read the book and offer my comments before the release of the book as a 'curtain raiser' but could not do so because of my

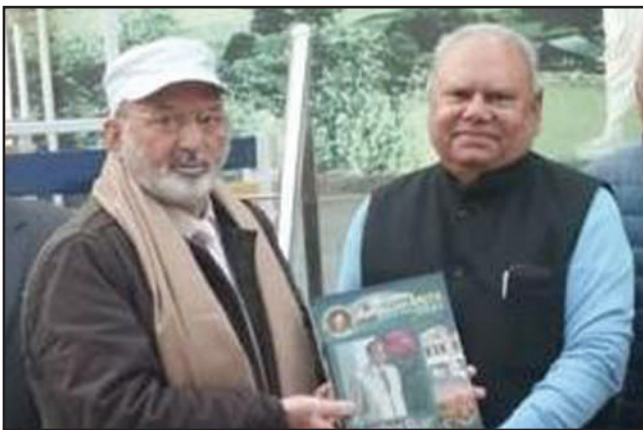
spective with regard to the title of the book, and I quote, "Unlike New York, where Ambedkar only nourished himself in intellectual activities and academic growth, London was where he began to put his ideas into action." It is satisfying to note that Suraj Yengde has done full justice to the book and one of the greatest sons of India by candidly saying, "In all of this book, Ambedkar's conduct was feisty. He held himself high. He certainly did not as any lesser think of himself, nor did he treat his opponents as devilish. Ambedkar elevated statesmanship to a level which required Britain's bu-

thors confirmed that Ambedkar did not have much of personal life and was interested only his studies while at the London School of Economics. They write (page 52), "It is possible that Ambedkar did not greatly engage with the social side of school life as completing his studies in three years would have required him to spend most of his time studying. He is not pictured in any of the photographs or mentioned in 'The Clare Market Review'. This in contrast to Krishna Menon," his contemporary at the LSE. One can imagine how much sacrifice Ambedkar did with regard to his

able to defy in Britain were reinstated into the political debate about dalit representation." The next chapter is Christophe Jaffrelot's *Dr. Ambedkar*



**Ramesh Chander**  
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)  
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pre-occupation on one side and the 'heavy content' of the book which required 'digestion' on the other. Meanwhile, I have seen some well written reviews of the book in the social media and that have made my job (pastime) of blogging easy. I take the liberty of offering my humble comments on the book, *Ambedkar in London*, written and compiled by renowned intellectuals and academics; William Gould, Professor of Indian History at the University of Leeds, Santosh Dass and Christophe Jaffrelot, Professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute. *Ambedkar in London*, published by Hurst and Company of London, is "An exploration of the international context for Ambedkar's ideas around caste, law, religion, democracy and race, as developed while studying in the imperial capital", as stated at the inner page of the jacket of the book. It further adds, "This book explores his lesser known period of London based study and publication during the early 1920s, presenting that experience as a lens for thinking about Ambedkar's intellectual significance." I tend to agree with these assertions that Ambedkar's multifaceted intellectual and academic inputs came to fore during his time as a law student at the Gray's Inn and doctoral researcher at the London School of Economics.

Coming to the contents of the book, the Foreword has been written by a renowned young scholar and Ambedkarite activist and, Suraj Milind Yengde (I met him briefly at Ambedkar Bhawan at Jalandhar a couple of years ago), really a thought provoking piece on Ambedkar's 'International presence' and his 'International relativity'. He has rightly said, "Ambedkar's presence was vast and the shadow he cast was even longer." Suraj Yengde has stated in the Foreword, which put the things in per-



reaucrats and aristocratic political classes to sit up and pay attention. A longish Introduction has been done by the two out of three authors of the book, Santosh Dass and William Gould. They wrote that as to how the idea of this book came up during the struggle to get 10 King Henry's Road, where Ambedkar stayed as a student in London, declared a museum. The book, *Ambedkar in London*, has been divided into two parts. Part One contains 5 essays on important aspects of Ambedkar's stay and interaction in London right from the student and research scholar days and his important work and contribution in the Round Table Conferences written by prominent historians and scholars like; William Gould, Sue Donnelly and Daniel Payne, Steven Gasztowicz, Jesus F. Chairez Garza and Christophe Jaffrelot. In his piece – *Ambedkar The Activist Research Scholar in 1920 London*, William Gould has given some interesting information on the personal life of Ambedkar referring to some "F" (pages 22-23) whom later Ambedkar dedicated his one of the important books, *What Gandhi and the Congress has done to the Untouchables with the dedication "In Thy Presence is the Fullness of Joy"*. In the second essay of Sue Donnelly and Daniel Payne, *A Student in London*, the au-

mission and vision? The authors have rightly noted (page 62), "He was neither the first nor the last Indian student to study at the LSE but he was among those who have made the greatest impact on the world." The third write up is, *Ambedkar As Lawyer*, done by Steven Gasztowicz, a lawyer to steer the legal aspects of Ambedkar Museum at 10KHR. He candidly writes (page 64), out of sheer reverence to Ambedkar, that how much he was impressed by the icon and made him determined to win the legal battle, 'Having learnt about him, I was also determined to win the case for him, if humanly possible, whatever the difficulties. Looking at the legal training and experiences of Ambedkar should provide not on reassurances but great inspiration not only for lawyers but for people in the whole array of other occupations and way life.' It is a wholesome tribute to Ambedkar. The fourth article, *Ambedkar, London and the First Round Table Conference* written by Jesus Chairez Garza presents an in-depth analysis of Ambedkar's early attempts to internationalize the problem of untouchability in India. Towards the conclusion of the article the author tends to support the views of some of the followers of Ambedkar that by signing the Poona Pact in 1932 with Mahatma Gandhi, Ambedkar lost the political edge in abandoning the 'Separate Electorates' for the depressed classes. He writes (page 106), "... Ambedkar's political achievements in London were not to last. On his return to the subcontinent, Ambedkar found that the caste boundaries he was

in 1920s – The Transitional Decade. It is a thought provoking piece on the 'changing thought process and action' of Ambedkar. One thing becomes clear that to begin with Ambedkar was not a revolutionary of the left orientation but was a reformist of the right orientation. I quote from the article to further elaborate this, "Ambedkar's reservations about separate electorates stem also here from his fears that such a reform would divide the Indian nation; I do contemplate and I do desire, the time when India shall be one and I do believe that a time will come when, for instance, all these things will not be necessary, but all that would depend upon the attitude of the majority towards the minority." May be this thinking of Ambedkar need further debate and deliberations. The Part two of the book as stated by Santosh Dass and William Gould in a brief introduction, said (page 130), "The book, therefore, juxtaposes the historical Ambedkar with the contemporary Ambedkar. In this sense, building on Part One's narrative, Part Two further develops the symbolic, emotional but material and institutional impact of Ambedkar in Britain's Dalit Diaspora." The chapter, *The Ambedkarite Movement in Britain*, written by two leading lights of the Dalit Diaspora in Britain, Santosh Dass and Arun Kumar both functionaries of FABO have given a fair and lengthy account of Ambedkar and Dalits in Britain from historical perspective and also some of the current activities and issues concerning the community like; Ambedkar Museum at 10KHR, Ambedkar Room at the Gary's Inn, Bust of Ambedkar at the India House (HC of India), financing and establishing of various Buddha Vihara's and Ambedkar outfits not only in Britain but also in India, Ambedkar's birthday, April 14 as the International (Contd. on next page)

# Sahib Kanshi Ram and Dalit Emancipation

**Prem K. Chumber**  
Editor-In-Chief:

www.ambedkartimes.com

Sahib Kanshi Ram devoted his life for the eradication of caste from the domestic structures of Indian socio-religious realm. The sole aim his life-long struggle was to facilitate the Bahujan Samaj to acquire power through the medium of ballot. He was a firm believer in the nonviolent power of democracy that he inherited from the teachings of Babasaheb Dr B.R Ambedkar. A chance reading of one of the numerous valuable writings of Dr. Ambedkar transformed his vision and he did not only prefer to live unmarried but also renounced his family life once for all. After he plunged into social struggle for the acquisition of political power for his people he did not look back at all toward his home in village Khauspur in Rupnagar district of Punjab. He did all this for helping his people to stand on their own feet to get rid of centuries' old slavery and blind faith in the Chaturvarna system of social hierarchy, which deny them their bare minimum human rights. He ingrained among his people that the political power is the only key to Dalit emancipation and empowerment in the real sense of the term.

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji was an innovative thinker and a charismatic mass leader who coined new political vocabulary for the mobilization of downtrodden. The slogans he chiseled adroitly caught the imagination of all and sundry throughout the length and breadth of India. He told

his people unless and until they formed their own social and political organizations, no upper caste political party will allow them to come to rule India. And he was confident that given the 85 percent strength of Bahujan, if the latter joined hands no one in the world can stop them reach Delhi. His untiring efforts and firm faith in his people brought success though in some parts of the country. But as far as awareness among the Bahujan is concerned his was a great success. Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba weekly newspaper pays sincere tributes to Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji on his 11th death anniversary and solemnly resolve to continue struggling following into his footsteps. Posted at www.ambedkartimes.com

#### Some points from

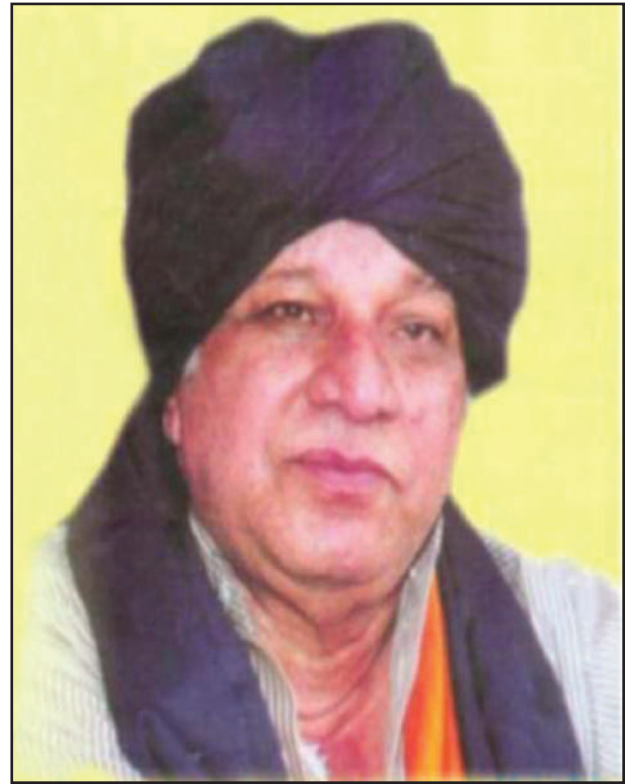
#### Sahib Kanshi Ram's Speech –

- The Ad-Dharm movement was the movement of rebellion against the Hindu religion. It was the movement against the Manuwad.
- Ad-Dharm movement was the revolt against the Manuwad.
- We as a community must understand what Ad-Dharm movement was and 75 years ago what movement was started by our forefathers, how Ad-Dharm movement ran for 75 years, what next needs to be done and what future holds for us, for the movement.
- One thing I know is that if Guru Ravidass Ji's teachings were not included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, no one would have ever known about Guru Ravidass.

• BSP is a party of weakest (section of the society) but its fight is with those who are powerful. How to fight these powerful parties? By developing the right thinking/mentality.

#### We need to become ruling class if we want to form a casteless society

Sahib Kanshi Ram said– In 1936 Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was invited by the "Jat Pat Todak Mandal, Lahore" to present his essay on the subject of caste. But the organizers of the conference did not allow Babasaheb to present the essay. Later on, Babasaheb published the essay in a form of book titled as "Annihilation of Caste". When I first read this book in 1962-63, I felt that annihilation of caste is certainly possible. But later on, when I started thinking deeply and began to study the subject of castes, caste system and behavioral patterns associated with the caste system, my understanding of caste began to change. My study of Caste is not merely based on reading books but it has emanated from my real life experience with the castes. There are millions of people who leave their villages and migrate to metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and other big cities. These people do not bring



anything else with them; the only thing they bring with them is their caste. They leave behind in their villages their small huts, a small plot of land, etc.

But they cannot leave behind their caste in the village; the caste invariably accompanies them to the cities where they begin to stay in dirty shanties along the side of railway tracks and nallahs. If the caste is so dear to the people then how can we annihilate the caste? Therefore I have stopped thinking in the direction of the annihilation of caste.

## Ambedkar in London – A book of great historical value

(Continue from page 5)

Day of Equality under the aegis of the UN as mentioned at page 155 referring me (Ambassador Ramesh Chander) as an initiator of the proposal among others. With regard to the proposal on International Day of Equality, I would like to take this opportunity to thank FABO; particularly Arun Kumar and Santosh Dass for supporting the proposal right from its inception in 2015 by writing to PM Narendra Modi and urging the GOI to make an official and diplomatic demarche to the UN in this regard. A heartwarming reference (page 157) to Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, with whom I had the opportunities to meet and interact in New Delhi sometime in 1990 as Under Secretary in the East Europe Division of the MEA and later in Prague sometimes in 2005-06 as Minister of the Embassy of India, with regard to inclusion of Ambedkar in the school curriculum is really praiseworthy particularly with the resolve of the dalit communities as indicated in the essay under reference which reads, "It may be only a matter of time before the movement will see that the British school children learn about Ambedkar in the same way they do about Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela." The next chapter gives details of the initiative and struggle to turn 10KHR, where Ambedkar lived as a student into Ambedkar Museum. It was a difficult job to begin with but Dalit Diaspora in the UK, led by Santosh Dass. Gautam Chakravarti, Arun Kumar among others under the aegis of FABO and

other Ambedkarite, Buddhist and Ravidassia outfits engaged the local authorities, High Commission of India, Government of Maharashtra and other stake holders to get the proposal accepted. The proposal took six years to become a reality and was formally handed over and declared open by PM Narendra Modi on November 14, 2015. It was gratifying to note that many of my diplomatic colleagues from the IFS fraternity namely; Ranjan Mithai, Dr. Varinder Paul, Dinesh Patnaik, Ajay Gondane among others, were fully involved in the process, The Ambedkar Museum is a befitting tribute to one of greatest sons of India in the contemporary times. I will be failing in my earnestness, if I don't mention here that even after it formal inauguration by PM of India, there were many procedural and legal formalities to be completed. Santosh Dass with her dedicated associates did their best finally made the memorial fully functional. Thanks to all of them. The next essay, The Campaign to Outlaw Caste Discrimination in Britain written by Santosh Dass, a crusader to fight the caste menace, is her pioneering work taken under the umbrella of CasteWatchUK and Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance. It is not charitable to note caste has travelled with the Hindu Diaspora as feared and visualized by Babasaheb Ambedkar and to reiterate this fact, I quote from the book (page 202), " Ambedkar warned that if Hindus migrate to other regions on earth, Indian caste would become world problem." It happened so particularly in the UK, the USA,

Canada and other destination of mass migration.

Though personally, I don't think we should try to make it an issue and try to bring in social reform yet it is time for the Hindu hierarchy to sit and think to take on the Caste based discrimination head on by invoking the legacy of Ambedkar internationally. The proposal to declare April 14, birthday of Bbasaheb Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality under the UN comes to my mind could be one such initiative. I hope somebody listens in the GOI. The campaign of Santosh Dass and others is not without purpose. The last chapter of the book is, Ambedkar in London and the African American community done by Cavin Brown, a Fulbright Scholar in India in late 1990s. Many details on the subject are available in the piece. My personal thinking is that though Ambedkar's legacy is fully potent to carry itself and as such President Barack Obama called him as 'Symbol of Knowledge' yet the question raised by Cavin Brown is relevant and needs answer; 'Why don't African-American intellectuals know more about Dr. Ambedkar.' William Gould has thoughtfully concluded the thought provoking narration of Ambedkar in London, Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is celebrated or memorialized today n multiple ways in India and elsewhere and arguably as a single historical figure, his wider political significance is unmatched."

Ambedkar in London is a fully researched and well documented work by intellectuals and professional

with Reference Notes and Select Bibliography at the end, List of Illustration (photos inserted inside the book) and List of Ambedkar Organisations in Britain since 1960 in the beginning of the book makes it a highly commendable and readable work.


With this I close this so called review with one or two observations not to find faults but to register that I tried my best to do justice to the book in my own humble way – one, it would have been good, had the writers thought of giving some personal anecdotes of Ambedkar's stay, work and interaction in London for the benefit of readers and Second, It is with regard to Babasaheb Ambedkar's historic and epoch making visit to Jalandhar in October, 1951 in which my blog on the subject has been mentioned (page 134), there are some factual errors, obviously inadvertent but not of substance – Lahori Ram Balley who is said to have met Ambedkar Sahib at Jalandhar in October, 1951 and the second - name of Sulekh Sahib, who was the Master of Ceremonies at the public meeting at Bootan Mandi, is Kartar Chand and not Kishan Chand as mentioned in the book. I may add a bit to elaborate further, the car in which Babasaheb and his wife Savita Ambedkar travelled was driven by not a professional or hired driver but by a young scion of Seth Kishan Dass's family (nephew of Seth ji), Sant Ram alias Pritam Ramdasspuri, a poet of standing writing in Urdu, Persian and Punjabi languages, my fellow BootanMandian.

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# The City of Burnaby recognizing April 14, 2023 as "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Day of Equality"

"Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" Weeklies are pleased to gladly share the proclamation from the City of Burnaby recognizing April 14, 2023 as "Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Day of Equality" April 14 is celebrated world over in honor of Bharat Rattan Babasaheb Dr B. R. Ambedkar's 132nd birthday and in remembrance of his lifelong struggle for the annihilation of caste and the creation of egalitarian social order as well as democracy.

Prem Kumar Chumber  
Editor-in-Chief "Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" Weeklies



City of Burnaby  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## Proclamation

### DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR DAY OF EQUALITY

**Whereas** Canada is a multicultural society that promotes freedom and equality; and

**WHEREAS** Concerns about inequality and inequity continue to be experienced globally and efforts to eradicate inequalities need to be supported and strengthened; and

**WHEREAS** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, born in India, on April 14, 1891, in a community of Dalits (previously known as 'untouchables'), rose through the ranks and chaired the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly to make and enact the new Constitution of India; and

**WHEREAS** The Constitution of India, enacted in 1950, stipulates the lofty ideals of Equality, Liberty and Fraternity; and

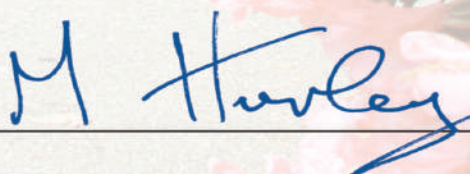
**WHEREAS** The dedicated efforts and vision of Dr. Ambedkar to bring about a just social and economic order deserve to be celebrated in India and around the world.

NOW THEREFORE I, MIKE HURLEY, MAYOR OF BURNABY,  
DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 14 AS

## "DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR DAY OF EQUALITY"

IN THE CITY OF BURNABY.

Dated this third day  
of April, 2023 A.D.



Mike Hurley  
M A Y O R





# **Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti**

## **Invitation**

14 April

**H.P. SHRI GURU RAVIDASS MAHASABHA  
DISTT. UNA (H.P.)**

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF  
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF  
**BHARAT RATNA BABASAHEB DR BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR JI.**

**ON 14 APRIL 2023 AT 11 AM  
IN THE GROUND OPPOSITE TO MC PARK  
& NEAR H.P.P.W.D. REST HOUSE UNA, (H.P.)**

**HON'BLE FORMER AMBASSADOR V.B. SONI  
I.F.S. (RETD.)**

35 YEARS OF EXTENSIVE WORK EXPERIENCE IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS GLOBALLY AND  
IN INDIA.

JOINED THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICES IN 1967.

SERVED IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES IN INDIA DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN MOSCOW,  
CAIRO, KUALA, LUMPUR, LONDON, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY  
OF COMMERCE, NEW DELHI. (1967-1986)

**HAS VERY KINDLY CONSENTED TO BE THE  
CHIEF GUEST**

**R.S.V.P**

Shakuntla Devi Sandhu  
President

Baldev Chand  
General Secretary

**AND ALL OTHER PROMINENT MEMBERS OF H.P.S.G.R.M. UNA**