



Ambedkar Times Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com, editor@ambedkartimes.com

VOL- 15

ISSUE- 15

June 21, 2023

California (USA)

www.ambedkartimes.com

www.deshdoaba.com

REMEMBERING DALIT SAVIOURS

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

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, E.V. Ramasamy Naicker (Periyar), Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Narayan Swami Guru, Achutananda, Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia are among the forerunners of Dalit saviors who devoted their entire lives for the emancipation and empowerment of the downtrodden. During their life-times they had to struggle very hard to articulate as well as build a 'counter public' for reclaiming the long lost Dalit space. Braving untold sufferings and persistent opposition from all the possible quarters, they remained steadfast in their mission to prepare a solid base for grooming the cause of the community. Despite the innumerable hardships, they succeeded in their bold endeavours to pave the way for Dalit liberation leading to 'equality, liberty, fraternity'. Of late their struggle as well as vision/philosophy started getting recognition even in the political circles of their opponents. Almost all of them now feel proud of owning/appropriating them as and when they deem so fit. The recent praises showered on Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by almost all the mainstream political forces in India is a case in point. Year-long preparation by the ruling as well as opposition parties for the celebration of his 130th Birth anniversary are being reported in almost all the national newspapers.

During the 1920s, a large number of Adi movements took roots in different parts of India. Ad Dharm movement of Punjab is one of them. It born in the background of series of political developments in the region. It was founded and led by Great Gadarite Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, who wanted that his people should have their own separate identity and the wherewithal to lead dignified life. He was convinced of the fact that the only way through which his people can live with dignity and self-respect was to form their own exclusive Dalit identity, political party and religion. He succeeded on all these crucial accounts. He got recognition from the British Government in 1931 for a separate religion for the Depressed Classes of Punjab (Ad Dharm), contested provincial assembly elections and pleaded meticulously for the rights of his people at all the plat forums available during his struggle.

Now when all the major political parties in India are promising to follow and implement the thinking of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, it would be in fitness of things that the Punjab government should rename one of the coming up institutes of higher education in the state after the name of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia who was among the pioneers of the Dalit freedom fighters, founders of Dalit movement in Punjab, visionaries and educationists in the state on the occasion of 96th anniversary of first annual convention of the Ad Dharm movement held on June 11-12, 1926.

THE AD-DHARM - AN APPRAISAL



Ramesh Chander
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)
91-99885-10940

The prevailing social milieu with regard to the human and social rights of Dalits in India came into discussion and focus in the 20s of the last century. The Congress Party took note of the depressed classes for the first time in 1917 in one of its annual sessions. With the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on the scene in the late 20s, the issue of the condition of depressed classes started attracting attention both in political and social circles. The Ghadrite leader Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia of Punjab returned back from abroad in 1925. He was much distressed on seeing the political, social and economic condition of Dalits in Punjab and throughout the country. The main stream political parties and communities were engaged in freedom struggle against the British rulers. Nobody was interested in ameliorating the sufferings of the depressed and oppressed segments of the society. Dr. Ambedkar started his activities in Maharashtra and some other parts of the country with regard to empowerment of depressed classes. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia picked up the threads in Punjab started a focused movement to address the issues of the depressed classes. His vision was to establish a separate identity for the Dalits outside the affiliation of Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians. He felt that as long as the Dalits would remain in the fold of these religions, they would remain oppressed and exploited as per the dictates of Hindu Shastras and practical behavior and treatment by the so called upper-castes.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia initiated and established Ad-Dharm Mandal on June 11-12,

1926 along with his associates Basant Rai, Thakur Dass, Shudranand and many more at Hoshiarpur in Punjab. The Headquarters of the Ad-Dharm Mandal was shifted to Guru Ravidass School, Kishanpura Mohalla, and Jalandhar in November 1926. The Ad-Dharm Mandal professed that Dalits were the original inhabitants of India and should be recognized as such. The agenda and goal of the Mandal was emancipation and empowerment of Dalits. With a view to unite all Dalits, they said that Ad-Dharm was their religion. It was said that the

Sant Mat of Guru Ravidass, Bhagwan Valmiki, Sant Kabir and Sant Namdev was "Ad-Dharm". The symbol of Ad-Dharm was "Sohang". The mode of greetings and social salutation was "Jai Guru Dev" and "Dhan Guru Dev". They also approved, in consultation with Sant Sarwan Dass of Dera Ballan, a separate Granth called "Ad-Prakash" which contained the vani of all the above said Dalit Gurus The 'Adi-Danka' was issued as the mouthpiece of the movement.



The leaders of Ad-Dharm Mandal struggled to achieve their goal under the leadership of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia. The Dera Ballan of Jalandhar under the leadership of great Sant Sarwan Dass fully supported the Ad-Dharm Mandal. With this, the general Dalit masses in and around the Doaba region of Punjab joined the movement with their leaders namely Master Gurbanta Singh, Seth Kisan Dass, Seth Sunder Dass and many more and professed themselves as "Ad-Dharmis". The Ad-Dharm Mandal submitted a Memorandum to the Governor of Punjab on December 10, 1929 and pleaded that in the general census they should be registered and shown as Ad-Dharmis as distinct from the main stream religions i.e. Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. The demand was considered and accepted and for the first time

(Contd. on next page)

Many Congratulations on Honoring a New York Street in the Name of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



"Ambedkar Times" (English) and "Desh Doaba" (Punjabi) Weeklies Newspapers (California) USA congratulate all on the auspicious occasion of celebration of 132nd Birth Anniversary of

Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar by Honoring 61st Street, Broadway, Woodside, New York to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Way. It is a matter of great pride that under the able stewardship of the Chairmen, Presidents, General Secretaries, Secretaries and Joint Secretaries of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha of New York & Begumpura Cultural Society of New York this mammoth achievement has been made in the place

where Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar arrived in 1913 to obtain higher education (University of Columbia, New York) and eventually evolved into a world reputed Jurist, Social reformer, Constitutionalist being the Chief Architect



of the Indian Constitution who dedicated his entire life for the annihilation of caste and institutionalization of democratic and egalitarian social and administrative governance system in India. It is a befitting tribute to the great son of India and world reputed legal luminary and greatest votary of democracy.

Prem Kumar Chumber
Editor-in-Chief:
Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Weeklies
Sacramento (California) USA

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia and Ad Dharm School of Dalit Awakening

Prem Kumar Chumber
Editor-In-Chief:

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia was one of founding members of the Ghadar movement, which aimed at building an egalitarian society and polity after liberating India from the British Raj. He participated in the weapon smuggling mission of the movement. He was arrested and awarded capital punishment, but was saved from the death sentence by chance. The news of his supposed death reached his village. According to the tradition of his community, his widow named Piari married his elder brother. After his return to India in 1925, he remarried and had four sons from his second wife, named Bishno.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia did not find any change in the life of his fellow villagers in Punjab after spending 16 years abroad. The social malady of untouchability had continued to torment the Scheduled Castes people. He wanted to overcome the social oppression that his people were undergoing for centuries. While living in USA, he realized what it meant to be equal, free and lead a dignified life. He made his mind to devote his life towards the awakening and uplift of the Scheduled Caste people.

He thought that the most viable way to bring social and political consciousness among his people was to establish schools for the Achhuts. Settling in his native village, Mugowal, he founded a school for the lower caste children in the village. The school



was temporarily housed in the garden of Risaldar Dhanpat Rai, a landlord of village Mugowal.

Later on Lambardar Beeru Ram Sangha, another landlord of village Mugowal donated half an acre of land to Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia to build the school.

The school had five teachers including Babu Mangu Ram ji. One of the teachers was a Muslim, Walhi Mohammad, and another was a Brahmin.

Now-a-days, the school land has been declared as Shamlat (common land) and no remnants of the school building exist except the old dilapidated structure of its well.

It was in this historic school founded by Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji that the first mammoth meeting of the Ad Dharm movement was held on June 11-12, 1926.

Excerpted with thanks from Dr. Ronki Ram's article entitled "Untouchability, Dalit Consciousness, and the Ad Dharm Movement in Punjab," Contributions to Indian Sociology, Vol. 38, No. 3, 2004, pp. 323-49].

THE AD-DHARM - AN APPRAISAL

(Continue from page 1)

Ad-Dharm was recognized as a different religion in the Census of 1932. It was a great victory for the Ad-Dharm Mandal. The struggle was being intensified. Dr. Ambedkar came firmly on the scene. He made his assertions at the round table conferences with regard to the rights of the depressed classes. The Ad-Dharm Mandal under the stewardship of Babu Mangu Ram whole heartedly supported Dr. Ambedkar. The result was the Communal ward by PM Ramsey MacDonald which granted separate electorate to the depressed classes. The Congress Party under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi opposed this. The rest is history. Under considerable pressure and duress, Dr. Ambedkar was made to relent in the larger interests of the freedom struggle and to save the life of Mahatma Gandhi who resorted to fast unto death against the separate electorate for the depressed classes. The Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi providing for reserved seats for the depressed classes. In the ensuing elections in 1937, Ad-Dharm Mandal won 7 seats of the 8 reserved seats and established its credentials successfully under the leadership of Babu Mangu Ram. It was a great success. The Congress Party could not relish this. The leaders like Prithvi Singh Azad, Master Gurbanta Singh, Yashwant Rai, and Seth Sunder Dass parted their ways and aligned with the Congress party and opposed Babu Mangu Ram and Dr. Ambedkar. The seeds of

division and disintegration were shown nourished. Subsequent political developments after independence in 1947 further marginalized the Ad-Dharm movement. Dr. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism in October, 1956 and advised his followers to do so. Unfortunately, he died soon after on December, 1956. It resulted in further set back to Ad-Dharm movement. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia who was getting old could not hold and sustain. A renowned Indian scholar and authority on the subject, Prof. Ronki Ram has done an intensive study in his thesis "Mangoo Ram, Ad Dharm & the Dalit Movement in Punjab" and said:

"The Ad-Dharm movement succeeded in raising the consciousness of the downtrodden people of the Doaba region of Punjab in particular and of the entire state in general. It gave those gurus to believe in, a Qaum to belong to and a sense of history to relate with. It envisions the possibility and potentiality of social change for the Scheduled Castes. The process of cultural transformation and spiritual regeneration started by the Ad Dharm movement under the leadership of Mangu Ram Mugowalia has continued to reverberate in the cities and villages of Punjab into the 21st century through different platforms and political formations." (Source: ad-dharm.com)

Yet another American scholar Prof. Mark Juergensmeyer in his study "Religious Rebels in the Punjab" and "The Ad-Dharm Challenge to Caste" said:

"With the Census of 1931 the Ad-Dharm had carved out a niche for itself. In the public world of the Punjab that time – the world of the Arya Samaj, the Singh Sabha, and the various movements for communal identity, nationalism and reform – the Ad-Dharm had made its mark. It had established a fact which previously had been unproved: that the Untouchable castes were capable of mobilizing for their own benefits, and of organizing in ways that permitted them to compete under the conditions that governed the socio-political arena at large. The time had been ripe for such an achievement, but an achievement it was, and the Ad-Dharm deserved whatever glory it conferred. The year 1931 and the great census would be remembered as the movement's crowning moment." (Source: website: ad-dharm.com)

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia tried his best to revive the movement. At a conference held at Dera Ballan in Jalandhar on December 13, 1970. The agenda of the meeting and some of the decisions were:

- Promote the Temple in Banaras (Varanasi).
- Renewal of Qaum Identity.
- Resurrection of Ad-Dharm as the Original Religion of the Scheduled Castes.
- Better roads and bridge across the canal at Ballan, so that people can easily reach the Dera.
- Better road be built in Banaras (Varanasi) to connect the Sri Guru Ravidass Ji Temple there with the

Banaras Hindu University and rest of the city.

- Launch of Ad Dharm Scheduled Caste Federation.
- Managing Trust Committee set up for responsibility of Guru Ravidass Ji Temple at Banaras.
- Seth Khushi Ram formally made Chairman of Advisory Committee.
- Presidency of the Federation assigned to Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji.
- Hazara Ram Ji became the General Secretary of the Federation.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia said at the meeting:

"Whatever rights we have now, it is because of the [original] Ad-Dharm Mandal. But the young people have not seemed to be capable of carrying the task which we started. During the British rule, we were twice slaves: slaves of the British and slaves of the Hindus. We have gotten rid of the British, now we have to assert our own rights against the upper castes. We were inspired by Ravi Das, Kabir, and Nam Dev. Hinduism is a fraud to us. Ad Dharm is our only true religion." (Source: Website: ad-dharm.com)

On the anniversary of the Ad-Dharm Mandal (June 11-12), I write this as a piece oral history. I think the outlines of the agenda and programme of the Ad-Dharm Mandal including the concept Ad-Dharm as a religion of the original inhabitant (Dalits) is worth studying with a view to provide Dalits their due identity and space in the society.

SB 403 meeting at the Mata Kalsa Hall, Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburg (CA)



Pictures: Prem Kumar Chumber
Ambedkar Times

We had a very informative meeting about SENATE BILL 403 last Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Sri Guru Ravidass Temple, Pittsburg (CA). All the patrons, supporters and sponsors of SB-403 and other related organizations shared their experiences and thoughts.

Ramesh Suman (Advisor: Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Pittsburg) set the ball rolling outlining the need and introduction of the Senate Bill SB403 in California. Thenmozhi Soudrarajan from Equality Lab was the opening

speaker. The sad stories of caste discrimination and prejudices and experiences she shared were heartbreaking. Dr. Nirmal Singh gave much needed information about the group working for SB-403. Dashvinder Pal from IBO, Kamaljit Kaur Surila, Abhishek Narebat - Assistant Secretary of Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg, Mr. O.P. Balley - Founding member and Advisor of Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg, Sunita K Singh (Treasurer of Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg), Deepak Saroya from Sri

Guru Ravidass Sabha Sacramento, Dr. Harmesh Kumar, Balbir Thind (Secretary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Education Aid Society), Vinod Kumar Chumber (Chairman, Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Bay Area), Prem Kumar Chumber (Editor-in-Chief: "Desh Doaba" and "Ambedkar Times" weekly newspapers), Vineet Mehmi, Ram Murti Saroyay (Chairman: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Educational Aid Society Fremont) and Shashi Paul (Legal Advisor: Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg) spoke in favor of SB-403.

We are thankful to all the organizations and attendees for attending this community meeting especially Thenmozhi Soundrarajan and Dr. Nirmal Singh for their contributions.

Whole community was united on this issue and committed to support this amendment bill all the way to victory and be enacted law to legally end caste discrimination. We appreciate the help and support of Gurughar committee for hosting this meeting. **Report: Ramesh Suman**

Creating History in New York City
**Honoring a New York Street
in the Name of
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**



Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha of NY & Begumpur Cultural Society of NY

Celebrating 132nd Birth Anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

**By Honoring 61st Street, Woodside, NY to
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**

(a social reformer, jurist, and architect of the Indian Constitution; dedicated his life to fighting for social justice, equality, and the empowerment of marginalized communities in India)

Sunday, June 25th, 2023

10:00am to 3:00pm

Street Honoring Ceremony: 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Location: 61-01 Broadway, Woodside, NY 11377

The program will include speeches paying tribute to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, cultural performances, and the official unveiling of the street sign.

The ceremony will be graced by esteemed guests:

Randhir Jaiswal, Consulate General of India, New York,

Deputy Mayor of New York City,

Shekar Krishnan, NYC Council,

and representatives from the NYC Department of Transportation

Dr. B.R AMBEDKAR WAY

Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha of New York:
Ashok Mahi (President) 917-225-0888
Balbir Chauhan (Chairman) 646-642-9243
Sub. Khushia Singh (Gen. Sec) 347-447-8624
Neelam K Badhan (Jt. Sec) 917 579-8500

Begumpur Cultural Society of New York:
Paramjit Kamam (President) 646-331-1206
Pinder Paul (Chairman) 718-610-9192
Raj Kumar (Gen. Sec) 646-546-3861
Santosh Singh (Sec. Community Affairs) 917-335-4789

International Day of Equality

The More The Merrier – All Buddhist and Guru Ravidass Organisations in the UK Support the Proposal on April 14, Birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as the International Day of Equality

I have been writing in my blogs about the International Day of Equality, a proposal made to the Government of India to declare April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality under the aegis of the UN. Since June, 2015, we have been reminding and pursuing the matter with the concerned authorities and all other stake holders. My last blog, urging the BJP leadership to consider and support, on the subject refers:

<http://diplomaticitbits.blogspot.com/2023/05/an-open-letter-to-bjp-leadership-april.htm>

The Government of India is taking its own time and sitting tight, it seems. But the proposal is potent one. It would be difficult to keep it under the carpet for long. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the proposal has caught the attention of international community and various cities and states in the developed world like; Canada, USA, UK, Australia among others and they have declared April 14 as 'Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality' locally by passing Resolutions and Proclamations by the competent city councils and state legislatures. I wrote before and I reiterate it again that 'We are not tired as yet' and would continue to follow the matter. More and more people are joining to support the proposal – The More the Merrier:-

अकेले ही चले थे जानबि मंजलि;
तोग साथ आते गए; कारवां बनता गया

Our brethren in the UK have given me a fresh opportunity write on the subject again. They under the banner of Federation of Ambedkar and Buddhist Organisations (FABO) has issued a Joint Statement on May 24, 2023 endorsed and signed by almost all registered and recognized Ambedkarite, Buddhist, Guru Ravidass Outfits in the UK to support the proposal on International Day of Equality to honour not only the greatest son of India, Babasaheb Ambedkar but also to strengthen the 'Soft Diplomacy of India' in establishing an 'Equitable World Order', one of the lofty ideals and objectives of the UN itself. The Joint Statement has been duly submitted to the High Commission of India in London for onward transmission to the GOI – EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and PM Narendra Modi. Chetna Association of Canada has already endorsed the Joint Statement and has requested the Consul General of India in Vancouver to forward their submissions to the GOI in New Delhi. I take this opportunity to thank my friends and associates at the FABO; Arun Kumar and Santosh Das among others and Jai Birdi and other friends at Chetna Association of Canada. The Joint State is appended to this for perusal and 'Necessary Action'.

What is the expected necessary action in this regard? -

All the Ambedkarite, Buddhist, Guru Ravidass and all interested and concerned outfits abroad (foreign countries) may issue Joint Statements or individual statements or endorse the Joint Statement of FABO and write to the con-

cerned Indian diplomatic offices (Ambassadors/High Commissions/ Consul Generals) in support of the International Day of Equality and request them to forward their submissions to the Government of India in Delhi.

Here in India, all the stake holders and followers of Babasaheb Ambedkar and all other right minded fellow citizens should write to the GOI; EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and PM Narendra Modi and urge them to take a decision as early as possible and make a demarche to the UN in New York (USA) to get April 14 declared as International Day of Equality, an important step towards making India a "Vishwa Guru".

It has been a long time since June, 2015 and the proposal is still resting in the cupboards of Ministry of External Affairs and PMO. Come on GOI; let us raise the flag of equality and honour the 'Icon of

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, York University, Toronto, Canada, Koyasan University, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and Hungary are some of the many places where his statues have been installed. In Hungary there is a school named after him. In Jamaica, a road "Dr Ambedkar Avenue" was inaugurated by the former President of India. There is a street "Ambedkar Way" in Auckland, New Zealand. In London Gray's Inn, his Alma mater has honoured him by naming a room "A m b e d k a r Room" and installing his portrait donated by the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations, UK (FABO UK). Ambedkar Museum London has become India's pride for having only museum in the World named after any Indian.

Dr Ambedkar's contribution to social equality is as significant as that of

Speaker of Lok Sabha, supported this proposal in his address. In his report submitted to the Prime Minister on 3 May, 2016, Mr Atwal urged the Indian government to recommend to the UN that it declare 14 April as an International Day of Equality. By honouring Dr Ambedkar at the UN, India will not only strengthen its "Soft Power" in diplomacy but also promoting the UN goal of just world order based on equality.

FABO UK have been pursuing this proposal via the India's High Commission in London since 2015. We urge the Government of India to recommend this proposal to the UN General Assembly to be held in September 2023 to declare 14 April as an International Day of Equality. We hope you will pass on this proposal to the Government of India with a favourable recommendation.

- * Ambedkar Mission Society, Bedford
- * Anti-Caste Discrimination Alliance, UK
- * Asian Rationalist Society, Britain
- * Bhagwan Valmik Sabha Bedford
- * Bhagwan Valmik Sabha Birmingham
- * Bhagwan Valmik Sabha Coventry
- * Bhagwan Valmik Sabha Oxford
- * Bhagwan Valmik Sabha Southall
- * Bhagwan Valmik Temple Wolverhampton
- * Buddha Dhamma Association, Southall Central Valmik Sabha UK
- * Dr Ambedkar Mission Society, Glasgow Dr Ambedkar Buddhist Organisation, Birmingham Dr Ambedkar Memorial Trust, London Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK Indian Scheduled Caste Welfare Association, UK
- * Indian Workers' Association, Great Britain
- * Jagat Guru Valmik Ji Maharaj Mandir, Gian Ashram, Birmingham Kanshi Radio Ltd Kanshi TV Punjab Buddhist Society, UK
- * Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha UK (SGRS-UK) and is the voice for all Shri Guru Ravidass Temples in the UK:
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Bedford,
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Birmingham
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Bradford
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Coventry
- Shri Guru Ravidass Temple Foleshill, Coventry
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Darlaston,
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Derby
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, East Ham
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Glasgow
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Gravesend
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Erith Kent
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Leicester
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Luton
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Northampton
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Southall
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Southampton
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Strood
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Strood, Medway
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Walsall
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Willenhall
- Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Wolverhampton



Ramesh Chander
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)
91-99885-10940



Equality', Babasahb Ambedkar. I conclude this 'Reminder' with a couplet which conveys our state of mind:
हर दृढमंद दलि को येना करा युता दे;
बेदोश जो पड़े है; शायद उने जगा दे।

Appendix:-
FEDERATION OF AMBEDKARITE & BUDDHIST ORGANISATIONS UK
12 FEATHERSTONE ROAD SOUTHALL MIDDLESEX UB2 5AA UK
Tel: +44 (0) 7959 918053 +44 (0) 7909 828750 +44 (0) 7902 806342
E:fabo@ambedkar.org.uk www.ambedkar.org.uk

JOINT STATEMENT
Declare 14 April, the birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar as 'International Day of Equality' 24 May, 2023

We, the following organisations, request the Government of India to make a demarche to the United Nations to declare 14 April, birthday of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao R. Ambedkar as "International Day of Equality".

It gives us Indians, wherever we are settled, immense pride when we see one of our iconic figures - Dr Ambedkar - recognised worldwide in the matters of equality and social justice. His enormous contribution towards a just society and equality has been acknowledged in many countries around the world. He has been honoured with statues, schools and rooms in institutions and library's named after him. Columbia University in the US, London School of Economics in the UK,

Dr Martin Luther King Jr and Dr Nelson Mandela. It is a matter of great pride for all Indians to observe when a number of organisations, institutions and local authorities in India, and around the world are honouring Dr Ambedkar by declaring 14 April, a day of equality. First City of Burnaby in Canada proclaimed this in April 2020, followed by a declaration that 14 April is "Dr B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality". This was followed by the Province of British Columbia, Canada in April 2021 that reaffirmed it again in April, 2022 and 2023. Vancouver also followed this and recognised 14 April as a day of equality. In the US, the state of Colorado has also declared as a "Day of Equity." In the United Kingdom, City of Coventry made a declaration "Coventry City Council hereby declares 14th April as Equality Day in honour of the work of Bhim Rao Ambedkar for equality, liberty, fraternity and justice for all humans". The time is ripe for the Government of India too to also recognise him as our national treasure and actively pursue the UN to declare 14 April as the International Day of Equality.

The UN in New York is not new to celebrating Dr Ambedkar. His birthday was celebrated at the UN on 14 April, 2016 and 2023. The leader of the Indian delegation to the celebrations, Sardar Charanjit Singh Atwal, former Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha and Deputy

Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report



California Problem Solvers Caucus
 Recently the Modesto Bee wrote a great article about the California Problem Solvers Caucus and our recent work to restore floodplain restoration funding. The caucus is a group of 20 legislators, 10 Republicans and 10 Democrats, and our goal is to find bipartisan solutions to some of our states biggest challenges. Common ground is where the best policy gets made. In an age of hyper-partisanship, I am thankful for this group that is committed to working together across party lines for the benefit of all Californians.

California State Budget Update
 On Thursday, the Assembly approved a \$311.7 billion dollar

budget deal that I do not believe is in the best interest of everyday Californians. While there are some positives in this budget, it is precariously balanced on risky revenue estimates and overly optimistic projections according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

It also relies heavily on borrowing to make up for our state's \$30 billion dollar deficit, all while increasing spending at a time when we need to be fiscally responsible. I will continue to work with my colleagues over the coming weeks to find ways to eliminate wasteful spending and be better stewards of taxpayer dollars.

Upcoming Community Meetings
 Thank you to everyone who attended

our Carmichael Community Meeting last week featuring Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond.

I will be holding two more community meetings this month, and I hope you can join me!
 Fair Oaks - 6pm on June 22 @ Bella Vista High School
 Foothill Farms - 6pm on June 29 @ Frontier Elementary School.

New Podcast Episode
 This week I sat down with my colleague Assemblyman Greg Wallis to discuss a number of topics including transparency in the Legislature, restoring civility in government, being a problem solver, the future of transportation, addressing the fentanyl crisis, spatial computing, and Governor

Newsom's interview with Sean Hannity. You can watch, listen, and follow the podcast here.

Ribbon Cuttings in Citrus Heights
 Recently my staff participated in the grand opening ribbon cuttings for two local businesses in Citrus Heights!
 Tint World, specializing in Automotive Styling and Window Tinting Services, located at 5948 Auburn Blvd.
 Aquarium Depot, for all your aquatic and reptile needs, located at 8201 Auburn Blvd.

CM DEDICATES UPGRADED DISTRICT LIBRARY TO THE PEOPLE OF SANGRUR



Daljeet Kaur
Sangrur, June 21, 2023: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday dedicated upgraded/renovated Baba Banda Singh Bahadur District Library Sangrur to the people for spreading the knowledge amongst people.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that equipped with ultra-modern facilities including Computer Section, Air Conditioning, RO Water Supply along with state of the art Landscaping this library has enhanced sitting arrangements for around 250 students. He said that this library has been renovated as a role model with the cost of around Rs. 1.12 crore by providing ultra-modern facilities here. Bhagwant Mann said that 28 more libraries will come up in villages of alone Sangrur district to ensure that a mass movement for spreading knowledge is started in district.

Likewise, the Chief Minister said that on the same model Libraries across the state will be upgraded to benefit the common man. Bhagwant Mann said that the state government will open eight coaching centres throughout Punjab which would provide free coaching of competitive exams including IAS, PCS. He envisioned that these centres will ensure that Punjabi students can clear these coveted exams and serve the country will full zeal.

The Chief Minister said that the state government has in a period of around one year handed around 30,000 government jobs to the youth of the state and many more such em-

ployment opportunities are in pipeline. He said that the state government is accomplishing the gigantic task of giving the jobs to youth in a phased manner adding that transparency and merit are the two key pillars of this entire recruitment drive. Bhagwant Mann said that a foolproof mechanism has been adopted for the entire recruitment process due to which not



even a single appointment out of these 30,000 has been challenged so far in the court.

Slamming successive governments, the Chief Minister said that previous governments were neck deep in corruption and the Ministers along with other leaders looted the money meant for the public. Citing an example, he said that two machines for counting notes were recovered from a former Minister's home at Hoshiarpur along with other wealth reflects how mercilessly these leaders had minted the money illegally by misusing their official position. How-

ever, Bhagwant Mann vowed that none of these leaders will be spared and they will be made accountable for every sin done against Punjab and its people.

Calling upon people to join hands and wage a war against corruption, the Chief Minister said that the state government has initiated the war from its very first day of office with starting an Anti-Corruption Action Line. He informed that the state government has identified the nine acre of Punjab's Land in Goa, which was leased out at throw away prices during tenure of previous government.

Bhagwant Mann said that this land will be vacated soon and none of them would not be spared if found guilty in this regard.

Extending gratitude towards the voters, the Chief Minister said that he indebted the people of Punjab for thumping victory especially people of Sangrur and he never forget this debt in his entire life. He also hailed the judicious usage of grants in this constituency given by him when he was the Member Parliament. Making a veiled attack on previous Finance Minister, Bhagwant Mann said that we have enough funds for the

development works contrary to earlier times when 'khazaana was khaali' (state exchequer was empty) for public works.

The Chief Minister said that Aam Aadmi Party scored century of Public Representatives in Punjab after getting thumping mandate in Jalandhar MP Elections.

He also introduced youngster named Robin of Lehragaga selected as IPS Officer to motivate youngsters and called education is the panacea of all social ills. He envisioned that the day is not far when due to strenuous efforts of the state government, Punjab will emerge as a frontrunner state in the country. Bhagwant Mann said that they had already rolled out a comprehensive plan for carving out a rangla Punjab for the coming generations.

On this occasion, MLA Sangrur Narinder Kaur Bharaj, IG Mukhwinder Singh Chhina, Deputy Commissioner Jitendra Jorwal, SSP Surendra Lamba, Chairman Punseed Mohinder Singh Sidhu, Chairman District Planning Committee Gurmail Singh Gharachon, Chairman Improvement Trust Preetam Singh Peetu, Chairman PICTC Guninderjeet Singh Jawandha, Chairman Gau Sewa Commission Ashok Kumar Lakha, OSD to CM Rajbir Singh and Manjit Singh Sidhu, Chairman Market Committee Sangrur Avtar Singh Elwal, Chairman Sunam Mukesh Juneja, Tapinder Singh Sohi, ADC d Varjeet Walia, Assistant Commissioner Nitesh Jain, SDM Navreet Kaur Sekhon among other dignitaries were also present.

Tributes to Legendary Playback Singer Sharda Rajan Ayengar

'तिली उड़ी उड़जो चली,
फूल ने कहा आज मेरे पास,
तिली कहे मैं चली आकाश'

'The butterfly flew away', the legendary playback singer and music director Sharda Rajan Iyengar embarked on her eternal journey on 14 June, 2023. She was battling with the terminal disease Cancer for the last few years. Millions of her fans are inconsolable, as if they are crying 'Don't go away, stay my love (चले जाना, ज़रा ठहरो- film "Around the World")'.

Sharda had done playback singing for many superhit Bollywood films in her vivacious, youthful and melodious voice like the tinkling of temple bells. Her musical journey began with Rajendra Kumar-Vyjayanthimala starrer golden-jubilee "Suraj" (1966) and continued till her end, be it playback singing/music-direction, pop music/ghazals/bhajan albums or grand musical events etc.

Sharda's full name was Sharda Rajan Iyengar and she was born on 25 October 1933 in a Vaishnava Iyengar family of Kumbakonam (Thanjavur district), Tamil Nadu. Their family first shifted to Chennai and then to Mumbai. She received training in Sanskrit and Vedic culture from her grandfather. Sharda was inclined towards music since childhood. But watching movies and listening to radio was forbidden in her house. So, whenever she stepped out of the house, she used to listen very carefully to her favourite Hindi film songs playing on the radio. She would write them down in Tamil and hum them while being alone. One day her mother was surprised to listen her singing in the bathroom. She then arranged for Sharda to be trained in Carnatic music. Gradually, Sharda got the opportunity to showcase her singing talent in her school and college. Sharda was a big 'fan' of melody singstress Noorjehan and used to go to any extent of obsession to listen to her songs. Once, she heard the song 'Yahan Badla Wafa Ka Bewafai Hai (Jugnu) sung by Noorjehan and Mohammed Rafi, coming from the radio of a tea-stall just behind her house. She left her meals in the middle and hurried to the roof to listen the song. She came down only after listening to the full song.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in Arts, Sharda moved to Iran with her family. Fortunately, she got an opportunity to sing at a function organized in honour of Raj Kapoor by Srichand Hinduja, a famous film-distributor. Raj Kapoor fell in love with Sharda's mesmerizing voice and invited her to come to Mumbai. On her arrival in Mumbai, Raj Kapoor introduced Sharda to the music composers Shankar-Jaikishan. After Sharda's audition, Shankar arranged for her training to hone her voice and make it suitable for playback singing. Sharda learned the nuances of classical music from great musicians like Pandit Jagannath Prasad and Pandit Laxman Prasad Jaipurwale, while Nirmala Devi gave her lessons in light music. She was a trained

Taanpura player.

With the strenuous training and regular Riyaz, Sharda was transformed into a seasoned playback singer and the Caterpillar having grown into a



butterfly (तिली उड़ने को तैयार थी). Composer Shankar Jaikishan launched Sharda Rajan as a playback singer with the song 'Titli Udi Ud Jo Chali' in the film "Suraj" (1966). The song became a top chartbuster of the year and Sharda became a singing-star overnight. However, her another movie "Gumnaam", with a duet 'Jaane Chaman Shola Badan, Pehlu Mein Aa Jao' was released prior to "Suraj".

The hit song 'Dekho Mera Dil Machal Gaya' (Suraj) was originally supposed to be sung by Suman Kalyanpur, but this song went into Sharda's lap. Mohammed Rafi for his rendering "Baharon Phool Barsao" and Sharda Rajan for "Titli Udi" for the same movie "Suraj" scored equal votes for the Filmfare Best Playback Singer Award. In the event of tie, the main award went to Mohammed Rafi while new entrant Sharda got a special award.

After the runaway success of Suraj and Gumnaam, Shankar used Sharda's distinctive voice in many more of his compositions such as "Around the World", "Shatranj", "An Evening in Paris", "Sapno Ka Saudagar", etc. In the film "Around the World" Sharda's magical voice again worked wonders and its song 'Chale-Jaana Zara Thehro Kisi Ka Dum Nikalta Hai Yeh Manzar Dekhte Jaana' was a smashing hit.

There was a mysterious melodious element present in her voice, which made it captivating. Despite having a limited vocal range, Sharda did much justice to some of the songs that those became memorable. Her melodious and popular songs include: Leja Leja Mera Dil (An Evening in Paris); Bak kamma Bak kamma (Shatranj); Humko To Barbad Kiya Hai Aur Kise Barbad Karoge' (Gunahon Ka Devta); Woh Pari Kahan Se Laun (Pehchan); 'Baat Zara Hai Aap Ki' (Jahan Pyar Mile); 'Aapki Mere Bare Mein Kya Rai Hai?' (Elaan) etc.

Rafi's song 'Jab Bhi Yeh Dil Udas Hota Hai' (Seema-1970) had

Sharda's tingling voice adding a wonderful touch of 'humming'. This experiment was very successful. Shankar recorded a song "Ek Chehra Jo Dil Ke Karib" in the voice of Lata

Mangeshkar for the film "Garam Khoon" (1980), written by Sharda under the pseudonym 'Singaar', which was picturized on Sulakshana Pandit. A strange but pleasant coincidence occurred in which three singers contributed distinctively in three stages of the song.

Sharda Rajan did playback-singing for famous contemporary heroines such as Vyjayanthimala, Waheeda Rehman, Sharmila Tagore, Sadhna, Saira Banu, Hema Malini, Mumtaz, Rekha and many more.

Music composer Shankar raised Sarada as his most lovable disciple to create a new idiom in Hindi film music. Sharda eulogised Shankar as her mentor and she sang in almost all of his films. Sharda was also favourite of music directors Usha Khanna and Ravi. Apart from these, Dattaram, Iqbal Qureshi, N. Dutta, Khayyam, Babul and Avinash Vyas also gave ample opportunities to

Sharda.

As time passed, the film makers/directors came under pressure to oust Sharda from their movies. The songs even if recorded in Sharda's voice, were got removed from the film subsequently. Sharda recorded 3 songs in the film "Deewana" (1967), but these songs disappeared mysteriously from the final prints of the movie. This was not an isolated incident, there were many. How dominant was 'the Maharani Sahiba'!

Sharda had told in an interview that she had sung a long duration 'dream song' in three parts for the film "Mera Naam Joker". Many musicians and press were invited at the time of recording of this megabudget song. But the 'shooting' of this song never happened. In this way, her songs were getting deleted from the films. It was an irony that Sharda became a victim of nepotism in Bollywood. Her last film as playback singer was "Kaanch Ki Deewar" (1986). As the singing opportunities dwindled, she turned to the arena of music direction in the mid-1970s. Her unique album of Pop

songs, kicked offers of music direction from the producers of low-budget films. Sharda Rajan emerged as an independent music director with the film "Maa Bahen Aur Biwi" (1974). Mohammed Rafi was nominated for the Filmfare

Best Male Playback Singer Award for its soulful song 'Accha Hi Hua Dil Toot Gaya'. It was sheer pity that Sharda got only 'B' grade films like Mandir Masjid, Tu Meri Main Tera, Garibi-Hatao, Maila Aanchal and Kshitij etc. in her kitty.

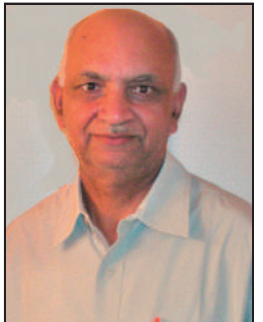
Her distinctive voice had heavy bass and fluidity that helped her sing pop-music with western beats perfectly. Sharda Rajan spread her wings and at the peak of her film career, she came out with an eight-song pop-album "Sizzlers", which was launched by HMV. She was the first Indian female singer to record and produce her own pop-album. Her new experiment had many takers but she did not garner the much-deserved fame.

Her next album "Andaz-e-Bayan Aur", based on Arabic, Persian and other folk music styles was released on 21 July 2007. She herself composed the tunes of 24 ghazals written by great shayar Mirza Ghalib and sang them from the core of her heart. She created ripples in the music world, as it was the first time that any singer had recorded such a number of ghazals of "Mirza Ghalib". Sharda founded "Kid Music Zone", a special fun cum educational musical activities program for the children in India.

Apart from Hindi language, Sharda had also rendered compositions in Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi and English languages. She rendered a very sweet bhajan 'Jag Vich Ek Hoy Do Naam, Gori Radhe Kala Shyam' in the Punjabi film "Kade Dhupp Kade Chhaan" (1967). Her live performances abroad, especially in USA were much appreciated and New Jersey used to be her second home.

She was nominated for the Filmfare Award for four consecutive years from 1969 to 1972. Finally, she was awarded the Filmfare Black Lady being the Best Female Playback Singer for the cabaret song 'Baat Zara Hai Aapas Ki' (Jahan Pyar Mile). She was given Lifetime Achievement Award by Bollywood Pulse Entertainment in 2023.

The worshipper of Goddess Saraswati, Sharda Rajan Ayengar left this materialistic world on 14 June, 2023. She is survived by a daughter Sudha Madeira and a son Shammi Rajan. Sharda's contribution to Indian film music is unforgettable, she will be remembered for years to come.



Bhim Raj Garg
91+98765-45157

Ambedkarite Buddhist Youth Lynched in a village in Nanded, Maharashtra, India

Incident: Killing of an Ambedkarite Buddhist Youth for celebrating Dr Ambedkar Jayanti in his village
Incident Date: 1st June 2023
Incident Place: Bondhar Haveli village, Nanded, Maharashtra, India

Every single public event hosted by any social or political organization in Maharashtra is not completed without citing Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and yet an Ambedkarite Buddhist youth, Akshay Bhalerao was brutally murdered for celebrating Dr Ambedkar Jayanti in the village Bondhar, Nanded, Maharashtra by dominant caste goons. Caste Atrocities are common in such villages where the Scheduled Castes and Buddhists are daily humiliated, mocked, or abused with caste slurs and women subjected to sexual violence. Moreover, the incidents of caste atrocities are not limited to this

remote village, but we have witnessed the same in Mumbai, the Capital of Maharashtra, Akash Jadhav in 2021, Dr. Payal Tadvi in 2019, or Bhima Koregaon in 2018, Sambhaji Bhide and Milind Ekbote, charged under the IPC and the Atrocities Act for the violence are not arrested. The conviction in case of Prevention of Atrocities Act is less than 10%, and there is no monitoring committee meeting called either by Chief Minister or by Social Justice Minister. Rule 16 states that state government "shall constitute a high power vigilance and monitoring committee". The State has the greater responsibility to monitor implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act. No High Power Monitoring Committee, No Contingency Plan, No Exclusive Special Courts, No Exclusive Special Public Prosecutors, No Legal Aid, No timely compen-

sations, is the sorry state of affairs in implementing the Act.

As the Chief Minister and Social Justice Minister makes tall claim that 'A Rikshawala can become Chief Minister, because of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution' and yet an Ambedkarite Buddhist Youth is ruthlessly murdered for celebrating Dr Ambedkar Jayanti.

We, the Global Ambedkarites based in USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Middle East, Japan and around the world are in a deep shock and we strongly condemn this barbaric incident. We call upon the government to take immediate steps to stop the atrocities and sanction following demands to address this issue:

1. Declare the village as Atrocity Prone Area, and setup special police force team for next 2 years in the village

to protect the impacted families. Set up a Police Check Post in the village. Extern the dominant caste goons for a period of at least 3 years.

2. Setup a team that does survey of entire Maharashtra State to find such Prone areas.

3. Constitute a High Power Monitoring Committee and invite a meeting immediately.

4. Establish Exclusive Special Courts in the State of Maharashtra, and not designated courts. These Courts should expedite all the pending atrocity cases filed in Maharashtra.

5. In this case, immediately provide special public prosecutor and trial in an exclusive special court.

6. Declare immediately that Chief Minister to celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti in the village Bondhar, Nanded.



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

URGENT CARE CLINIC

DR. TAKHAR'S FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE CLINIC

8191 Timberlake Way, Suite # 400, Sacramento, CA 95823

Phone: 916-688-8888 Fax: 916-688-8837

Clinic Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM & Sunday closed

We speak your language: Panjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic and Spanish



Goodie Takhar, PhD



SKY TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

STRIVE FOR MORE

ਟਰੱਕਾਂ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਵੀਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਲਈ
 ਸਕਾਈ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਸਾਲਿਊਸ਼ਨ
 ਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ



SPECIAL BIT INSPECTION AND DOT AUDIT COMPLIANCE:

WE PROVIDE
 ALL TRUCKING
 RELATED
 PERMITS AND
 SERVICES

ICC, DOT, IFTA, IRP Plates,
 PERMITS, NYP, KYU, OR,
 Canada Permit, CORPORATION AND LLC FILING
 SERVICES, 2290, PTI,
 Trailer plates.

NOTORY PUBLIC SERVICES.
 ON THE SPOT VIN VERIFICATION SERVICES.
 DOT OUT OF SERVICES??
 AUTHORIZED IRS E- FILE PROVIDER.
 WE HAVE COMPLETE SOLUTIONS
 FOR OUT OF SERVICE DOT.

SPECIAL DOT COMPLIANCE
 FOR SAFETY, AUDITS AND
 RECORD KEEPING.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

PHONE: 209-855-6938, FAX: 209-762-6540

Email: skytransportsolution@gmail.com

Give us a chance to provide you best services

121 E 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376