



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com

Editors: Takshila & Kabir Chumber

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Sri Guru Ravidass ji's 640 Parkash Utsav



The 640th Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji was celebrated by Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg (CA), at Guru Ravidass Temple on February 12, 2017 in Pittsburg California. The Board of Directors, Managing Committee members, Priests (Granthies) and the Sangat worked tirelessly for days to celebrate this occasion. Sri Guru Ravidass Ji granted a bright & sunny day on Sunday, after a long week of wet & rainy weather. Sangat came from all over California especially Fresno, Yuba City, Bakersfield, Fremont, San Francisco and other neighboring cities to get the blessings of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji on this pious day. Sangat started thronging Gurughar right from early morning and the Darbar hall, Langar hall, patios, parking lot and the open stalls area were full of devotees by noon. Devotees had to drive few blocks to find parking on the streets a gathering of about 5,000 Sangat members and devotees got the blessings of GURU GRANTH SAHIB and listened patiently to the Kirtankars, Ragis, Kathavachaks and other speakers who emphasized and elaborated the preachings of Guru Ravidass Ji.

Akhand Path of GURU GRANTH SAHIB was started on Friday and concluded on Sunday morning with Ardass for peace, welfare and happiness of the entire Sangat. The prominent Jatha of Bhai Gurcharan Singh Rasia (Ludhiana wale), Giani Gurnam Singh & Giani Ompal Singh, Giani Parkash Singh and Kumar Khatkar enhanced this Kirtan Diwan until late afternoon.

Senior members of our Gu-

CONGRATULATIONS ON 640th THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SAHIB SHRI SATGURU RAVIDASS JI MAHARAJ

Prem Kumar Chumber

(Editor: www.ambedkartimes.com)

Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj, whose 640th birth anniversary is being celebrated throughout the world, was a great saint/Guru of medieval Bhakti movement of North India. He belonged to the lowest of the low castes in India whose touch used to be considered polluting to the Savarnas. He opened a frontal attack against the system of Untouchability. He rejected the tradition of Brahmin mediator to reach the Supreme Being. He also said that one need not to hide his caste or leave his low profession to reach God. He became a model for his fellow beings to overcome the hierarchical barriers of Brahminical Social Order and to establish Begumpura - a state without fear and sorrows. Guru Ravidass elevated the status of the labor by emphasizing on the fact that honest labor is empowering. He completely rejected the concept of living on charity or miraculous wealth obtained by Paras.

By defeating the famous Kashi Pundits in a formally organized Shashtrartha, Guru Ravidass proved that merit is not the fiefdom of so called upper castes alone. Everybody is capable of worshipping Him. The fourfold division of Hindu society is a big lie and a trick to make and keep a large section of the Indian society under the cruelty and control of the few in the name of purity-pollution principle made by the so-called Brahmins. It is against this very system of religiously sanctified social differentiation that Guru Ravidass envisioned establishing a state where there would be no place for untouchability and social oppression.

For the social transformation of the society, Guru Ravidass laid emphasis on labor, compassion, virtue, prohibition of alcohol and all bad deeds. He also reiterated on the urgent need of remembering the formless God whom he addressed by varied names. Some scholars are of the view that Guru Ravidass did not form an organization nor he launched any consistent and systematic agitation against the system of untouchability. This is true. But to raise a loud voice at his times was no less than a clarion call to dismantle the unjust system of Brahminical social order. It is also true that the path told by him has become the beacon light for the Dalit movement in the country and abroad.

rughar Mr. O.P. Balley, Mr. Sukhraj Chopra, Mr. Jagdev Ram, Bhai Sukhdev Singh, Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber Editor-In-Chief "Ambedkar Times" & "Desh Doaba" weekly newspapers and representatives of

the other Sri Guru Ravidass Gurdwara Sabhas, from Sacramento Mr. Raj Sood, from Bay Area Mr. Vinod Kumar Chumber and Mr. Randhir Singh Suman, from Yuba City Mr. Kuldip Singh and from Fresno Mr. Rajinder Momi and Mr. Karam Singh Bangar shared teachings of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji and congratulated Sangat on the Parkash Utsav of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji. Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, Editor of Desh Doaba and Ambedkar Times, Harpal Singh from Sadelok newspaper were personally present for the News coverage.

Sangat collected funds and sent to Gurughar in Houston Texas. Hardial Banga helped that Gurughar personally. Abhishek took the lead for collecting funds. He announced reopening of the Gurughar and thanked everyone whoever contributed towards this great cause. Mr. Fakira Mehmi released new CD by KanthKaler. President Kashmiri Bhatia was the major contributor for this CD of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji.

Consul K. VenkataRamana represented the office of Consul General of India San Francisco. He spoke in detail about the teachings and philosophy of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji. He interacted with the community and assured the helping hand with the visa and passport related issues.

Council Member Mr. Juan Banales from the City of Pittsburg attended this function and paid respects to Sri Guru Ravidass ji and conveyed the message of support on his behalf as well as on behalf of

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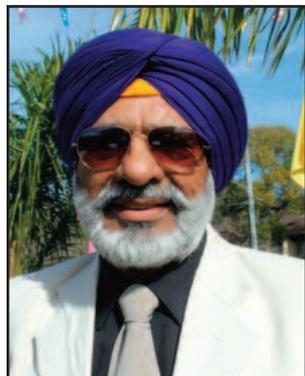
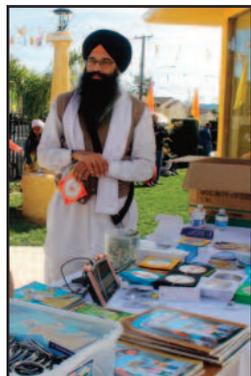
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Mayor Merl Craft who could not make it because of preoccupations. Sargam Restaurant, Tandoor Restaurant and Dass Sweets made fresh food for the Sangat. Aloo Tikkie, Gol-Gape, BhatureChane, Mango Lassi, RasMalai, Kari Chawal, BreadPakore, Saag&Makki-di-Roti, Kulfee and fresh Jalebies were served to Sangat at stalls in addition to Guru Ka Langar in

the langar hall. Managing committee and the entire Sangat appreciates the langar Sewa, food and drinks stalls by SantokhMadhar, Balwinder Kumar, Jarnail Singh Jindowal, Ajay Chahal, Des Raj Chumber, Jarnail Singh Lambardar/Sarpanch, Karnayal Singh, Gurnam Rattu, Surinder Rattu, Kuldip Singh and Shashi Pal. Attorney Manpreet Singh Gahra put up a booth

along with his legal team in Gurughar and gave Sangat very important information about the changes in immigration laws and helped people with immigration issues. This was very helpful to the Sangat, especially people who are not citizens. He answered questions people had about the new laws. The entire Sangat is thankful for this gesture and free in-

formative service to the community. Chairman Shinder Paul Narebat, President Kashmiri Bhatia and the entire committee worked with great enthusiasm. General Secretary. Gina Bhatia, Vinod Kumar and Dilbag Singh handled the stage very well. May Wahoguru bless His SANGAT with health, happiness and prosperity.
Report by Ramesh Suman