



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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A grateful nation remembers:

Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji

one who dedicated his entire life to organize the downtrodden, exploited & backward sections of the Indian society so as to enable them to stand on their feet.



AMBEDKAR TIMES FORUM PAYS FLORAL TRIBUTE TO SAHIB SHRI KANSHI RAM JI ON HIS 14TH PRINIRVAN DIVAS!!

Ambedkar Times pays floral tribute on the Prininirvana Divas of Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji, founder President of BAMCEF, DS4 and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). We also take pride in reproducing herewith the 1st World Dalit Conference Report. Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji was the Chief Guest at this historic occasion and delivered the key-note address at its opening session. This Convention, entitled 'A new vision towards a casteless society,' was held at Kuala Lumpur Mines Resort city, Malaysia (October 10-11, 1998). 700 delegates from different parts of the world participated in its two day proceedings. The main source of strength behind this great event and preparation of its extensive report was Senator and Chairman President IPF late Mr. M. G. Pandithan Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Let me put on record, at this occasion of reproducing the 1st Dalit Conference (held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 10-11, 1998) Report, that I am thankful to all our contributors and esteemed readers for showing faith in us and our small and humble endeavor for serving our community through the pages of this paper. We hope to continuously receive your contribution liberally in future too.



Prem Kumar Chumber
(916-947-8920)

Prem K. Chumber
Editor-In-Chief:

AMBEDKAR TIMES Weekly Newspaper (English)
DESH DOABA Weekly Newspaper (Panjabi)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

It's almost three months after the First World Dalit Convention, I am speaking to you all through this column of our full "Convention Report". I am indeed extremely happy and excited!

I was rather busy running our party's (IPF Malaysia) divisional meetings and had little time to prepare the "Convention Report".

We have tried our utmost best to incorporate whatever information we had gathered to make this report a near complete one.

If there was anything left out or missing in this report, it was unintentional. Please bear with me and forgive us magnanimously.

The conference was a remarkable success, everyone extended good and kind cooperation to make us proud.

The world now knows that Dalit people are highly dignified and have the calibre to organise a world conference not only by name but by standard.

I wish to express my wholehearted thanks to each and every delegate and also those people who relentlessly worked for the success!

The members of the Dalit International Organisation (DIO) wish to register its deepest gratitude to His Excellency Mr. K. R. Narayanan, President of India for graciously lending his name to be the Patron of the convention.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to the Honourable Malaysian Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik for inaugurating the First Dalit Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

We are also thankful to all those leaders who sent messages to the souvenir, President K. R. Narayanan, Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, Mr. Kanshi Ram, Mr. Ramvilas Paswan, Mr. M. Karunanithi (*Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu*), Mr. V.P. Singh (*former PM of India*), Mr. Gillian Martin Sorensen (*UN*), Mr. Shigeyuki Kumisaka (*Japan*),

Mr. K. Veeramani (*D.K Leader*), Mdm. Kamala Sinha, Dr. N. Srinivasan (*UK*), Mr. Sharad Pavar (*OPP leader*), Mr. G. K. Moopnar, Mr. Gopalsamy and Mr. S. Selvaraj (Minister, Tamil Nadu) are a few names deserved to be mentioned.

We also thank Mr. Bhagwan Das (Delhi), Dr. Laxmi N. Berwa (USA) and Mr. Yoges Varhade (Canada) for presenting papers on education, economic and social justice. The papers were very thought-provoking and highly esteemed.

Credit also goes to Dr. Rahul Deepankar (USA), Dr. S.S. Dhaktode (Principal, Siddharth College, Mumbai), Dr. Mohammed Shabbir (Professor of Law, International Islamic University, Malaysia) for chairing the sessions and handling the discussions so professionally.

We must also thank veteran leader Mr. Kanshi Ram, Mr. Ramvilas Paswan, Mrs. Phoolan Devi, Mdm. Kamala Sinha, Dr. Krishnasamy and the rest of the leaders who took time to participate in the conference and shared their wisdom,

knowledge and experience with Dalit brothers and sisters from many parts of the world.

Special mention to our Japanese Buraku brothers who attended the conference and donated 200,000 yen to DIO.

The first day of the convention was just marvelous with wonderful and fine speeches by our leaders. They were all very meaningful and had lots of substance.

The second day was also splendid with delegates seriously debating all the three papers presented. The delegates really meant business during resolution time. Now let us discuss very important issues. The First World Dalit Convention is over. What is next? We have a couple of things to do as a follow up action. The immediate step is to organize the DIO committee in various states and places to bring the people under one banner.

With this ambitious idea I will be soon visiting various places to meet our brothers and sisters to discuss important matters.

Remember! We must hold our world convention in every three years. Our second convention will be in the year 2001. Time and tide waits for no man and the year 2001 is not very far!

Another important event is the "**Dr. Ambedkar International Award**" presentation ceremony, President K.R. Narayanan has responded favourably to our letter. He has agreed to be the first recipient of the Award. Now, we will have to fix the date and place convenient to the

President and start our preparations.

Next, I am also thinking of "*Dalit Students Exchange Programme*", "*Dalit Youth Exchange Programme*" and also "*Dalit Women Exchange Programme*" where potential dalit students, youths and women could be sent to various countries and instill in them the awareness so that they are well prepared for our future struggles and not forget their roots or our cause.

It also struck in my mind that we should try to hold a **Dalit Youth and Women Conference** in Bombay or Delhi. This will help us to awaken the Dalit youths and women in India to prepare our ground for a formidable youth force.

Two other important issues we all should seriously consider are the Dalit Encyclopedia (Who is who in the Dalit world) and the **International Media** of our own. It is time we should collectively take positive steps towards these directions.

Now you see, we have a lot of things to embark on for our dalit people. The success entirely depends on the serious commitment of the DIO committee members.

Last but not least, we thank His Excellency, the High Commissioner of India, Mr. Paramjit Sahai, for all the cooperation, help and assistance rendered towards the success of the convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. With Best Wishes and Kind Regards. Happy New Year! Hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely,
M.G. Pandithan

History

K. R. NARAYANAN

First Recipient of Dr. Ambedkar International Award

The President of India, Mr. K. R. Narayanan will receive the Dr. Ambedkar International Award. He will be the first recipient of the award.

This was announced by Dalit International Organisation President Mr. M. G. Pandithan, who is also the organising Chairman of the First World Dalit Convention.

The Dalit International Organisation has instituted the Dr. Ambedkar International Award to be given every three years to prominent leaders who work for the welfare of the down-trodden people.

Thus the DIO Committee unanimously nominated Mr. K. R. Narayanan

to be the first recipient and the Indian President has graciously agreed to receive the award.

The award giving ceremony will be held in New Delhi at a suitable date convenient to the President.

The DIO also takes great pleasure to express its deepest gratitude to the President for kindly consenting to be the Patron of the First Dalit Convention. His involvement has added glamour to the phenomenal success of the Dalit Convention.

Hearty Congratulations and Best wishes to the President Mr. K. R. Narayanan.



THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION

We, the Dalits of different parts of the world assembled here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 10th & 11th October, 1998 for the First World Convention, do hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that we dedicate our-selves wholly for the blessed unity of Dalit community throughout the world and would solidly stand united to struggle relentlessly for better and brighter future, dignity and respect of Dalits and other down-trodden communities.

Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba congratulate Prof (Dr.) Ronki Ram

Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba Weekly Newspapers congratulate Prof (Dr.) Ronki Ram, Dean (Faculty of Arts) and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair Professor of Political Science, Panjab University (Chandigarh), on recent conferment of the status of Visiting Professorship on him in the Faculty of Arts, Business and Social Sciences at the University of Wolverhampton (UK).

The Visiting Professorships are for duration of two years maximum, but can be extended if required.



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

First World Dalit Convention

A REMARKABLE SUCCESS

The First World Dalit Convention was a remarkable success as it achieved its designed aim. Almost all the prominent Dalit Leaders throughout the world assembled in Kuala Lumpur, the federal capital of Malaysia to forge unity and solidarity.

The world convention set the torch for brighter future of the dalit community through education, economic and social justice.

The historic 1st world convention- A New Vision Towards A Castless Society being an unique

Shegeyuki Kumisaka, Dr. Krishnasamy, Mr. Shantharam (U.K), Dr. Rahul Deepankar, Mrs. Kamala Sinha, Mr. Ashok Bharathi (Australia), Dr. S.S. Dhaktode and Prof. Mohammad Shabbir (Malaysia) are a few name to mention.

The opening ceremony was colorful with a Malay, Indian and Chinese cultural dances depicting Malaysian culture. Malaysia is a United Nation.

Senator Mr. M.G Pandithan gave the opening speech. He found the convention the most

of caste is impossible at this stage. He elaborated the very purpose of creating caste.

Jubliant and enthusiastic Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan at the out-set of his speedh congratulated Senator Mr. M. G. Pandithan for convening a historic convention to debate on the problems of Dalits to find out solution for the Dalit problems. Stressing on the issue of solidarity, he hammered that an organized and united effort will put an end to the era of social tyranny and caste discrimination.

Robin Hood Girl Ms.

Chairman of Buraku Liberation and Human Rigts Institute, Japan, gave a call for untiy of Dalits to fight against discrimination.

After lunch, on the opening day of the convention, prominent leaders of different countries and representatives of different organizations from different parts of the world addressed the convention on education, economic and social justice.

The second day was a serious business day and the delegates meant business At 8.30 a.m., the business



Dhaktode, Principal, Siddharath College, Mumbai, India.

Dr. Berwa emphasized the relevance of economy in enhancing the over-all status of the Dalit community. After the presentation, relevant issues of economy and economic problems were debated. The business session was concluded by remarks of the Chairman Dr. Deepankar.

The session for Social Justice was most stomy. Well-known social worker, Mr. Yoges Varhade (Canada) Presented his paper on 'Social Justice' Dr. Mohammad Shabbir (Dr. Ambedkar Chair Professor of Law) International Islamic University, Malaysia, chaired the session.

Mr. Yogesh Varhade highlighted the many social problems of the dalit community especially by women and children. As soon as he presented his paper, the delegates began to debate with facts and figures. Although the debate with facts and figures. Although the debate was very mush heated and fiery, the Chair-person, Professor Mohammad Shabbir, handled the session will and won much appreciation from the delegates.

After the three papers were presented, it was time for resolutions. When the first resolution calling on the UN to step in to check caste discrimination, delegates unanimously passed he resolution without much debate. But the second resolution calling on Indian Government to correct the economic and social imbalance and also stop the atrocities, the situation was similar to disturbing the hornet's nest. Like the buzzing bees, every delegate wanted to say something and debate the resolution. Some even wanted to bring in new resolutions and ideas to debate them.

Contd. Next Page



venture of Dalit International Organsation (DIO) and Indian Progressive Front (IPF Malaysia) was held under the pragmatic, visionary and dynamic chairmanship of Senator Mr. M.G. Pandithan on 10th and 11th October, 1998 at the Mines Resort City, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

About seven hundred high spirited delegates from different parts of the world, comprising noted leaders of Dalit movement, champions of down-trodden and backward classes, social reformers, apostels of social justice, renowned educationists, famous economists, great scholars and profound social activists participated in deliberations and debates. President of India, His Excellency Mr. K.R. Narayanan added glamour to the colorful and historic evnent as the Patron. His name will go into history.

Mr. Kanshi Ram, President of Bahujan Samaj Party, (India), Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, President of Dalit Sena, (India); Mrs. Phoolan Devi, Mr. Bhagwan Das, Mr. Yougesh Varade, Dr. Laxmi N.. Berwa, Japanese Buraku Leader Mr.

momentous event in the chequered history of the dalits. According to him, the convention provided an international platform to focus and highlight the bitter plight of the 300 million dalits through out the world to plan out the constructive strategies for their upliftment.

Datuk 'Sabbaruddin Chik, Malaysian Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, delivering the inaugural speech, appreciated the role of education, economy and social justice in proper progress of individual, society, civilization and country.

Mr. Kanshi Ram, delivering

Phoolan Devi, advocation the relevance of 'retributive justice' vowed to fight out against the atrocities and abuses of children, women and Dalit Samaj. She narrated her own plights, miseries and atrocities



the key-note address traced the history of caste and Brahminical social order. He asserted by virtue of his vast experience that the elimination

inflicted upon her by the people of upper caste. She gave a call to fight out violence against Dalits unitedly.

Mr. Shigeyuki Kumisaka,

session on 'education' commenced under the chairmanship of Dr. Rahul Deepankar (U.S.A) Mr. Bhagwan Das, President, Dalit Solidarity Programme, presented his paper on Education,

highlighting the educational backwardness of Dalits. He stressed on the need of education for the square progress of the Dalit community. After the presentation of the paoer, Dr. Rahul Deepanker gave opportunity to delegates to debate. After the meaningful debate, Dr. Rahul, giving his own remark, concluded the business session on education.

Dr. Laxmi N. Berwa (USA) presented a paper on 'economic problems' under the chairmanship of Dr. S.S.

COVER STORY

Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik :

Caste Discrimination is Sinful !

In God's creation everyone is equal. There is no discrimination as high or low. Every human being is same. It is sinful to have caste discrimination, Malaysian Minister for Culture, Arts and Tourism, Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik told the delegates at the First World Convention.

Every human being should detest caste discrimination, he said. Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik who is also the Secretary General of the ruling UMNO (United Malays National Organisation) Party declared open the Convention.

The First World Dalit Convention was held at the Kuala Lumpur Mines Resort City on 10th and 11th October, 1998. The Malaysian Minister was accorded a grand traditional welcome by Malaysian women clad in colourful Malaysian attirements.

The Minister released hundreds of balloons to mark the freedom of Dalits from the bonds of Casteism and slavery.

The Chairman of the organising Committee and President of the Indian Progressive Front (IPF Malaysia), Senator M.G. Pandithan who is also the Chairman of the Dalit

International Organisation, received the Minister.

The Minister had full praise

discrimination. The government is fair to all. It is most unfortunate that discrimination

sons of India and the Father of Indian Constitution.

He had championed the importance of education to stress 'educate, organize and agitate', Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik told the enthusiastic delegates. It is not enough that parents only care for childrens' academic education. Moral education is equally important. Discipline for children is vital, he stress. Sowing the seeds of



for the delegates who had come from various parts of the world and the organising committee for taking the initiative and great pains to organize the convention, the first of its kind.

This conference will provide the platform to discuss various issues which affects the life of about 300 million dalits, Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said. We welcome you all to Malaysia, he added. Malaysia is a plural society with different ethnic groups, different cultures and religion. In fact, Malaysia is like the United Nation. We respect each other. We do not practise

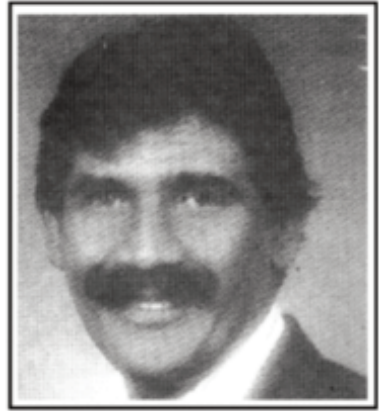
prevails in Indian community throughout the world. Education is the best cure to this caste disease. One can be exalted to greater heights through education, Datuk Sabbaruddin chik pointed out.

Parents should pay more attention to children's education. They must make sure that their children study well. It is only through education that they can overcome the caste barrier. I was told by Mr. Pandithan that the most famous untouchable leader Dr. Ambedkar struggled very hard to become one of the famous



dignity at a very young age is also important. They should be proud of themselves so that they will never fell the inferiority complex, the Minister said.

Datuk Sabbaruddin chik told the delegates that patience, perseverance and commitment will one day bear fruit. The world dalits should organize themselves like the Blacks in



the United States and South Africa to redeem themselves from caste discrimination.

He reminded the delegates of the importance of unity. "Rember, united we stand, divided we fall", he said. "I hope the Kuala Lumpur

Convention will be a turing point to change the destiny of some 300 million Dalits throughout the world, so that Dalit really means Dignity, like my friend Mr. Pandithan said in his peech earlier. Dato Sabbaruddin Chik concluded. His speech was punctuate by loud applause from the delegates.



"We can change the plight of the Dalits through educational and economic progress. We must also try to get our children married outside our own clan".

- Mrs. Kamala Sinha MP
Former External Affairs Minister

"To-day the Dalits are a more brave lot. You disturb them, they will retaliate. You burn ten of their huts, they burn 100 huts of the attackers. You kill ten of them, they will kill hundred".



- Dr. Krishnasamy
MLA
President,
Puthia
Thamilagam
Tamil Nadu.

In Breif.....



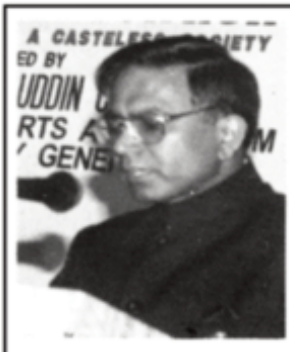
"The time has ripened for the Dalits to join force and have our own International Bank to tackle the economic woes and problems of our people"

- Bishop Azariah Masilamani



"The Brahmins have a powerful print-media. We must also have them to rebut their under hand tactics".

- Ashok Bharathi
Australia



"We all must congratulate M. G. Pandithan and the Organising Committee for a great job well done. We want the second convention to be in London. Please trust us, we will organise it well."

- Gautam Chakravarthy



s a h e b Ambedkar and the Great Periyar in M. G. Pandithan. He has created history by organising the First World Dalit Convention in Kuala Lumpur.

- Bishop Ezra Sargunam

First World Dalit Convention

But due to time constraint, the delegates unanimously agreed to leave the task to the Organising Committee to add also other views and ideas.

The Kuala Lumpur Declaration forging solidarity and unity was accepted whole heartedly by all the delegates.

The organizing chairman, Mr. M.G. Pandithan's concluding speech was very touching and heart-rending. Many delegates were moved to tears.

Ram Vilas Paswan gave the valedictory speech, thanking the organizing committee and Mr. Pandithan's efforts.

At the opening ceremony, Phoolan Devi lighted the convention lamp. Kanshi Ram garlanded the portrait of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar and Ram Vilas Paswan garlanded the portrait of Periyar.



K.L. MINES RESORT CITY

INSTEAD OF BEING RULLED LET US BE RULERS

KANSHI RAM TELLS DALITS.

Dalits should become rulers instead of being ruled. We must not be always at the receiving end, instead become the givers, Dalit Leader Mr. Kanshi Ram told the world dalits.

It's long we have been ruled. It is long we have been taking. Now it is time we change the destiny to rule and give, he said. Mr. Kanshi Ram who is the Founder President of Bahujan Samaj Party delivered a key-note address at the opening of the 1st World Dalit Convention 'A new vision towards a casteless society' at the Kuala Lumpur Mines Resort city.

The two day convention held on 10th and 11th October 1998 was well attended by more than 700 delegates throughout the world including famous politicians noted leaders from dalit movement, champions of down-trodden, social reformers, renowned economists, famous educationists and great scholars.

The Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik officialy opened the conference which saw the opening very colourful with Malaysian cultural and traditional dances performed by Indians, Malays and Chinese.

Mr. Kanshi Ram garlanded the Portrait of Dr. Babasaheb ambedkar while Dalit Sena President Ram Vilas Paswan

garlanded the portrait of the great Periar.'Mr. Kanshi Ram in his speech continued to trace the history of caste and Braminical social order. He asserted by virtue of his vast experience that elimination of caste was impossible at this stage. He also elaborate the very purpose of crating caste.

In context of caste oppression and justice Mr.

reservation is not the solution to our problem. We must become rulers instead of being ruled, givers instead of being takers, Mr. Kanshi Ram told the crowd to a thunderous applause. It is my duty to prepare my people not to get reservation but to grant reservation. Who can grant reservation? Only rulers can grant reservation. Hence, I will



KANSHIRAM GARLANDS DR. AMBEDKAR'S PORTRAIT

Kanshi Ram refered the role of Dr. Ambedkar. He commended the merit of 'communal award' which he achieved after a long struggle. Dr. Ambedkar could not sustain the going due to the constant pressure of the mighty upper caste Hindus, Mr. Kanshi Ram told the delegates who packed the hall.'Babasaheb Ambedkar was able to get reservation for the oppressed in legislative houses, job opportunities in government departments and also places in higher educational institutions.

I wish to stress upon that

prepare my people to become rulers. If we do not become rulers, our problems will remain forever, Kanshi Ram said.

In order to become rulers we must learn how to handle caste. Dr. Ambedkar, Nehru, Gandhi and Indra Gandhi were experts in handling caste.

Nehru handled caste so well that he made Dr. Ambedkar helpless and retain the Brahminical Social Order. Indra Gandhi also handled caste well to benefit the Brahminical Social Order. Dr. Ambedkar prepared the SC/ST to handle the caste. That

Dalits should become rulers instead of being ruled. We must not be always at the receiving end, instead become the givers, Dalit Leader Mr. Kanshi Ram told the world dalits.

is how we could get many benefits from the British, he added.Mr. Kanshi Ram expressed concern for 10 crores slum dwellers who are deprived of proper drinking water and electric supply.

People migrating from villagers to cities are also being denied of many facilities and end up in polluting the environment.But those refugees who came from Pakistan after independence were duly taken care of by the then government and a special budget was allocated to meet their basic necessities, he pointed out to the delegates.

According to Mr. Kanshi Ram, slum dwellers presently living in urban areas are the Dalit refugees who have migrated from villages because of acrimonys and atrocities committed by upper caste Hindus. They have not been able to influence the Planning Commission and the Government of India to allocate separate budget to provide them bread, clothes and shelter.

A decent life is a matter of fundamental right of every citizen in accordance with the constitutional mandate, Mr. Kanhi Ram asserted.

He advocated separate settlement for dalit people as

once formulated by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

He was very critical of the evil impact of caste-system in India. Whatever the Indians went they never failed to carry with them this spreading disease he told the laughing and cheering crowd.

The Indians are prepared to leave anything behind. They leave behind their little property, small land and their huts. But they will never leave behind their caste. They carry with them whatever they go, he said.

While urging the dalits to unite, he also called upon the Dalit intellectuals to shed away the approach of existing analysis only.

They should instead come with forward looking approach in education, economic and social problems.

They must also come up with some sort of effective solution programme, Mr. Kanshi Ram added.

Mr. Kanshi Ram impressed upon the delegates that Dalit problem can only be solved through political power to rule the country.

"We must become the rulers instead of being ruled," he told the cheering and applauding delegates.

International Organising Committee



Mr. N.G. Meshram
Adviser
(Mumbai)



Dr. Velu Annamlai
Adviser
(USA)



Mr. Ram Khobragade
Asst. Secretary
(New Delhi)



Mr. Vijay Hotmode
Asst. Secretary
(New Delhi)



Mr. A. Ilangovan
Asst. Secretary
(Brunci)



Mr. V.R. Meshram
Asst. Secretary
(Canad)



Mr. Prabin Gangurde
Asst. Secretary
(Mumbai)

The Economic Session discussed many important issues of the economic problems of Dalits in India and other parts of the world. Many delegates suggested that the Dalit people should seriously think of starting a bank.

Dr. Laxmi N. Barwa (USA) presented a paper on "Economic Problems" of the Dalits. This session was chaired by Dr. S.S. Dhaktode, Principal, Siddharth College of Arts, Science & Commerce.

Chairman introduced the speaker, Dr. Berwa and other panelists of the session:

Panelists

1. Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, Dept. of Economics, University of Mumbai
2. Dr. R.K. Jadhav, Bajaj Institute of Management, Mumbai
3. Mr. Ashok Bharati, Australia.

Chairman's Remarks on Dr. Berwa's paper.

Dr. Berwa had indeed given a thought provoking presentation. According to the statistics he has presented reservation policy.

The liberalization policy of Govt. of India has an adverse impact on Dalits. Both unemployment and poverty levels of Dalits have increased. Moreover, the social disabilities are bound to be enhanced by the new economic policies.

Question-Answer Session

Economic Paper : DALITS SHOULD START A BANK! Delegates View



Dr. Berwa



During question-answer session, delegates raised many issues relating to economic problems of Dalits. One of the issues raised during this session, needs special mention, since most of our problems are associated with our economic conditions.

One of the delegates raised the issue of difficulty in getting financial assistance to the deserving Dalit Entrepreneurs to start business activity. Reacting to this, many delegates felt the need to start an International

Bank for catering to the financial needs of entrepreneurs from



Dalit Community, and it was suggested that IPF and DIO

should take a lead in this matter. It is heartening to note that



delegates from Japan have contributed some money which

can be used a core fund to establish a bank to cater to financial Economic Session Children needs of Dalit entrepreneurs.

Report by Dr. S.S. Dhaktode, Chairman Economic Session Children

The exploitation of man by man may have been based on distinction of gender, caste, creed, race, physical or mental power.

**-Gnena Oli
Dr. V.G. Santhosam**

Conference in Pictures



Education Paper : VALUE EDUCATION FOR PROGRESS



DALIT PARTENTS URGED

The education session impressed upon the Dalit parents to Value Children's education for better future and progress. The education paper by Mr. Bhagwan Das was on

Biswas, India
Mr. Dharmachari Lokmitra, India
Prof. N.G. Meshram, India
Mr. S.K. Bahal, England
In line with Dr. Ambedkar's

Deepankar, M.D. from U.S.A and the paper was presented by Mr. Bhagwan Das from India.
The session lasted about two hours and extensive discussions were held mainly



Dr. Deepankar

to and from the panel.

Dr. Deepankar concluded the session with main emphasis on basic education to all Dalit children especially in the rural areas and particularly the girls education, advanced and technical education is also important for our progress.

RESOLUTION

our prime goal guiding our future actions.

2. That the conference urges the government of India to improve infrastructure of rural education including more schools made available in small villages.

3. That the Dalit International organization will create an entity which will support unemployed educated Dalits, through temporary financial help, career counseling and moral support.

4. That the government of India be urged to eliminate discrimination and prejudicial treatment meted out to Dalits at all levels of bureaucracy in the educational institution.

5. That besides the better efforts by government of India, Dalits themselves must value the education, primary and advanced, as the real means of attaining freedom from oppression based on caste.

Reported by **Dr. Rahul Deepankar**, Chairman Education Session!



eye-opener to the Dalit Community.

Chairperson: Dr. Rahul Ddpanker, U.S.A

Paper Presented by : Mr. Bhagwan Das, India

Panelists : Mr. S.K.

priority, education was considered the most important means of emancipation for Dalits.

The conference held the first public session on education which was chaired by Dr. Rahul

through interactive exchange of ideas between the panel and the delegates.

Due to the importance and interest in the topic the assigned time seemed short to explore all ideas as presented

With the consensus of delegates, the conference held a vote and resolved the following:

1. The striving for universal literacy and primary education to all Dalit children be

International Organising Committee



His Excellency **Mr. K.R. Narayanan**
President of India (Patron)



Senator **Mr. M. G. Pandithan**
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Chariman President IPF



Mr. Raju Kamble
Vice Chairman (UAE)



Mr. K. Panjamurthi
Secretary (Malaysia)



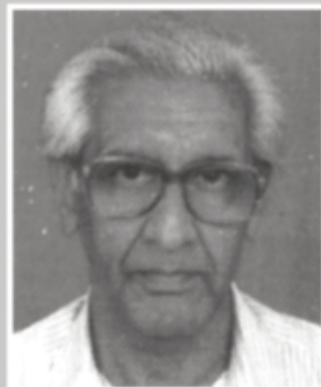
Treasurer
Mr. N. Sargunam
(Malaysia)



Mr. Kanshi Ram
Adviser (New Delhi)



Mr. Ramvilas Paswan
M.P., Adviser (000 00000)



Mr. Bhagawan Das
Adviser (New Delhi)



Dr. Lazmi Berwa
(Adviser UAE)





M.G. PANDITHAN :

DISUNITY RUINED DALITS

"And my dreams come true....."

K.L.MINES RESORT CITY :

to dalit unity, he stressed.

A very good morning and happy greetings from beautiful Malaysia and our beloved Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

I am infinitely happy and elated to welcome you all to this great historic event The 1st World Convention 'A New Vision Towards A Casteless Society through education, economic and social justice organized by the Dalit International Organisation (DIO), The Indian Progressive Front (IPF Malaysia) and more than 30 Indian based cultural and social organizations in Malaysia.

On behalf of the Organising Committee I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism Yang Berhormat Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik who is also the UMNO Secretary General for sacrificing his most precious and valuable time to be with us this morning to open the convention.

Although the Honourable Minister is so busy with his official duties and also party work but nevertheless he quite graciously agreed to come and officiate this historic event. This shows he cares and sympathises with the 300 million dalits throughout the world. Like our beloved Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Dato Sabbaruddin Chik is also a Champion of the poor and down-trodden people in the country.

On behalf of the Dalit Community we express our deepest gratitude from the bottom of our hearts to Dato Sabbaduddin Chik.

Dear Brothers and Sisters.

In English they say 'Birds of a feather flock together.' And today we, the birds of the same feathers have flocked together. 'And today we, the birds of the same feathers have flocked together in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from many parts of the world. We have flocked together in high spirits to flutter and fly to greater heights in the world.

But there is a pessimist saying in Tamil 'Uyara, Uyara paranthalum urkkuruvi parunthaguma', meaning however high the little sparrow flies it cannot become

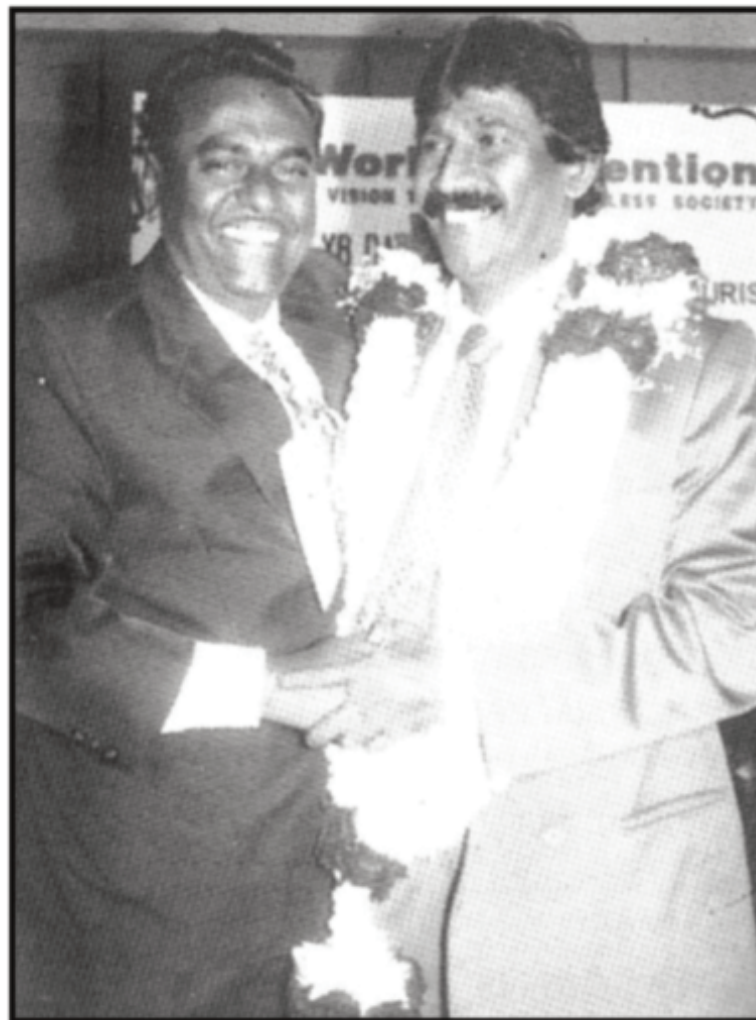
and eagle. But we all know how the little sparrow outwit and outflow the eagle using its brain.

And so we are here like the little sparrows to use our brain and plan out strategies to win not eagles or vultures but the monstrous caste demons.

Today is the most

colonized the dalit community to become slaves to the system.

It is most appropriate that Malaysia hosts this 1st World Convention because we endeavour to emulate our beloved Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir, the Hero of



momentous day in the chequered history of the dalits. It is this day that our dreams have come true to be on the same platform to focus and highlight at the international arena the plight of the 300 million dalits throughout the world who are being mentally and physically harassed, abused and insulted by their own brothers. The world of course is so ignorant of this heinous crime.

The Western Block, The Americans, The Asians especially the Chinese, The Africans, The Arabs and the rest of the world are unaware of how 300 million people are being oppressed, suppressed, depressed and deprived of their rights to be decent human beings, leave alone their 'Human rights'. The issues are not being highlighted by the world media, and for many centuries this despicable and draconian caste-system has

the Third World and the Tiger of Asia who vehemently opposes, detests and also condemns discrimination and racism.

Here 300 million people are being discriminated like the Blacks in US and South Africa. In fact Indian apartheid is worse than African Apartheid because the brothers of the same colour and creed discriminate each other because of caste.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have gathered here to plan our strategies to overcome this social menace or social stigma!

I know two days are not enough to discuss this 3000 year old monstrous problem. But I strongly feel the cream of leaders and the best brains of the dalit community who have gathered here will come out with, some constructive and positive suggestions for a better and bright future instead of harping on the same old issues and waste

our precious and valuable time.

The 'maledy' has been diagnosed. What is the remedy? This is what we are going to discuss for the two days. The world dalits expect some concrete, constructive and positive ideas for follow up actions. Otherwise this convention will become as any other ordinary and meaningless meetings. Let us start a beginning' to end the 3000 year problem.

Remember what Confucius said, "A thousand miles journey begins from the first step.' Let us out our first step and a firm step towards the right direction.

The direction has already been given by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar through his philosophical golden words. Educate, Organise and Agitate. These three magic words can slowly but surely change the destiny of the down-trodden communities. Only through Education, Organisation and Agitation we can elevate their social status.

Caste System has already become the lifestyle of Indians and Hindus. It is difficult to abolish unless we educate and organize ourselves to mobilize the masses to unite and struggle for better life.

Even in Malaysia, two Chinese meet to form a single organization to unite and also two Malays meet to have one organization. But surprisingly two Indians meet to form three organisations. How? your many ask me. It's simple, initially both of them join together to form an anticaste organization. Then secretly each forms his own organization to strengthen his caste. These caste fanatics also brand God's avatars (forms taken by God) as their caste. They even say God belongs to their caste. Lucky Indians are not living in other planets, otherwise they will pollute them. Let us sing God save the gracious moon!

What is education? What was the true essence of Dr. Ambedkar's teaching on education? Greeting a degree, Phd or becoming a Professional is not enough.

Dr. Ambedkar viewed education as a means to change the world not merely to understand it.

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Dalit International Organisation Chairman Senator M.G. Pandithan made a call to all dalit leaders to organize the people to make them into a powerful force.

Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Yasir Arafat, Kanshi Ram and Ram Vilas Paswan with other leaders should take the lead to organize and unite the masses, he added.

Mr. M.G. Pandithan made this call when he delivered his opening speech as Organising Chairman of the First World Convention.

The Convention was held at the Kuala Lumpur Mines Resort City on 10th Oct. 1998.

The two day convention was inaugurated by the Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik. The opening ceremony was colourful with multicultural dances performed by Malays, Chinese and Indians. Dr. Martin Luther King organized the Blacks in the United States of America and they earned recognition, Pandithan said. Nelson Mandela organized his people, they got independence and so Yasir Arafat, who organized the Palestinians to deliver their homeland. Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar succeeded to a certain extent to organize the dalits and redeem their many rights.

It is sad that dalits have remained disunited and disorganized for a long time, Mr. M.G. Pandithan who is also the organizing chairman of the conference said. After Dr. Ambedkar there was a leadership vacuum and no leader was in sight who had the stature of Babasaheb until the emergence of Kanshi Ram and Ram Vilas Paswan. It's time Kanshi Ram, Ram Vilas Paswan and other dalit leaders join together to organize the dalit force, Mr. Pandithan added. We may be Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus or belong to any other religion, but the most important fact is that we are all dalits. Religion, language and other differences should not be a stumbling block

I am ready to follow you

(K.L. Minies Resort City:

Ramvilas paswan tells kanshi ram

Dalit Sena President Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan declared that he was prepared to follow Mr. Kanshi Ram for the sake of Dalit Unity.

I am prepared to disband the Dalit Sena and forsake the Janata Dal and follow you, Mr. Paswan told Mr. Kanshi Ram at the opening day of the 1st World Dalit Convention in Kuala Lumpur.

Minister was responding to Mr. Kanshi Ram who had just concluded his keynote address at the opening day. Paswan spoke for about an hour touching various points on politics, education economic and social problems of the dalits. Unless we have the RSS type of cadres we will not be able to match and achieve

today, in many parts of the country, dalit people have not even seen ballot papers. Untouchables cannot even rent houses in good localities.

The situation is far worse in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) the place where Gandhi was born, Mr. Paswan said. He also spoke on the discriminations shown on dalits when filling senior

bodies for all people but when implemented, they are misinterpreted to deny benefits for lower strata people.

This happens because the courts are monopolized by the upper-caste people and we don't have a Dalit Judge in India.

To check this judiciary imbalance Dalits should be appointed as judges and also

system as a cancer which has no cure. You can change your religion. A poor man can become rich. A man can even become a woman but you cannot change your caste even after your death. You may go away from India to stay in other countries but caste will continue to chase you, he told the laughing crowd. The message is very clear. We have to build our strength. We must also plan our programmes and methods. And Education must be our top priority. Reservation is our constitutional right but others also will not want to surrender their powers and privileges, he told. We may be in different platform and organizations but we must always unite to safeguard dalit welfare whenever threatened. We should try to forgo our ego and differences to find a solution. More conventions in other parts of the world will create awareness and help to build a strong 'Dalit International Organisation,' Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan said in his speech. He had lots of praises for the organizing chairman Mr. M.G. Pandithan for a job well done. At the end of his speech the organizing chairman and IPF President M.G. Pandithan invited Mr. Kanshiram and Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan to the stage and locked their lands to wave to the rejoicing delegates expressing dalit solidarity.



Mr. Paswan looked serious while the Bahujan Samaj Party President Mr. Kanshi Ram was virtually shocked but the delegates who had come from many parts of the world rejoiced and gave a thunderous applause for the novel idea. How long are you going to live? He asked Mr. Kanshi Ram. How long am I going to live? Come, let's do something for our people, Mr. Paswan added. The former

success in our struggle, Mr. Paswan told the delegates.

Even after 50 years of India's independence, Dalits are still being tortured, discriminated and made to live in subhuman conditions. The situation in rural areas is worse, he bemoaned.

Untouchables dare not walk with their heads high before the village head man or high caste people. A woman does not feel secured while working in the fields of the landlords. Even

positions in Government Departments. The high-caste bosses write bad confidential report on talented SC/ST officers and workers so that are not promoted to higher positions, Mr. Paswan told the delegates. With great efforts of Babasaheb Ambedkar reservations were made in Parliament and State Legislatures where all sections of Indian Society represent.

Laws are made by these

as senior officers in government departments, Mr. Ram Vilas, Paswan emphasized.

Like the public sector the private sector also should practice reservation for SC and ST Communities. Keeping in view of the changing economic scenario, reservations should be made in private sector so that people from lower strata society are fairly represented, he added. Mr. Ram vilas Paswan described the Caste

M.G. Pandithan : Disunity Ruined Dalits

Education should be capable of creating human values which have universal applicability. And therefore he established people's education society in 1946 to raise the cultural heritage of the Oppressed. He was physically depressed and mentally anguished when some

acquiring higher education they will serve the society. But what I am seeing is that they are feeding themselves and their families. Has the situation changed now? Well, I leave it to the delegates to judge.

The second magic word of Dr. Ambedkar was "Organise" which

powerful. Their population in India is only 3 percent, but they can bully the dalits who are about 25 percent. This is possible because the dalits are a disorganized lot. There was leadership vacuum after Dr. Ambedkar. Dalit leaders like Mr. Kanshi Ram and Mr. Ramvilas

Blacks in south Africa organized themselves under Nelson Mandela and they got independence. The Palestinians organized themselves under Yasir Arafat and they got a homeland. Like Martin Luther King, like Nelson Mandela, like Yasir Arafat let Kanshi Ram and

them success in their struggle. The Indian Progressive Front in Malaysia better known as IPF is also uniting the down-trodden people under one banner in Malaysia. When dalits are educated, organized and start to agitate for better life the dreams of Dr. Ambedkar and Periyar will certainly come true. Someone was telling me, "It is easier for a camel to enter the eye of a needle but for dalits to unite!" I hope this first world convention will prove that negative thinking a fallacy and make our mission and vision towards a casteless society a reality. With that on behalf of the Dalit International Organisation and IPF Malaysia, I wish to thank all of you for being here for a novel cause of the dalits all over the world. My special mention to Yang Berhormat Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, the Honourable Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism for graciously consenting to open the conference. Thank You and Terima Kasih.



educated dalits became opportunists. He lamented, "there is some progress in education in our society. Some people have reached higher position. But these educated people have deceived me. I was hoping from them that after

forms the basis for progress. Have the dalits throughout the world organized themselves under one banner to face the challenges collectively?

The Brahmins like the Jews organized themselves in all aspects of life and became very

Paswan have the guts, the grit, the courage, the tenacity and political acumen to organize the dalits to greater heights. The Blacks in the United States of America organized themselves under Martin Luther King and they earned recognition. The

Paswan and other dalit leaders who champion the cause redeem the dalits from the monstrous demon. We must appreciate the Buraku people in Japan who have organized themselves to demand for better social recognition. Let us wish

“I am not a BANDID QUEEN” FEMALE ROBIN HOOD PHOOLAN DEVI TELLS THE WORLD

“I was not born a bandit. There are no bandits in my family,” says Phoolan Devi.

“It was not born a bandit. There are not bandits in my family,” says Phoolan Devi.

“It was society that turned me into one. Because I was born in a poor family and from a low caste, I was subjected to degradation and dishonor. She told the World Dalit Convention.

“In my backward village in Uttar Pradesh, caste discrimination was practiced to the maximum-between the pure and impure, the touchables and the untouchables.

“We were only allowed to take water from the well later in the day after people from the upper caste had their turn and we were not allowed to bathe upstream,” Phoolan related her terrible and harrowing experience as a member of the Mallah caste, a Shudra sub-caste of boatmen, at the First Dalit World Convention held in Kuala Lumpur, on 10th and 11th October 1998.

The theme of the convention was “A New Vision Towards a Casteless Society.”

In advocating the fight against discrimination towards Indians of the lower caste, Phoolan cited her life story-one in which she suffered unspeakable acts of degradation and humiliation because “it was my destiny.... I was born to serve others.” She told the delegates. I was forced to marry at 11 to a much older man who raped and beat me. I ran away only to find that a woman without a husband “was fit only for abuse.” Even at such a tender age, I knew instinctively

that “a battle was just beginning, and it would be daily, cruel and terrible.”

I survived beatings, verbal abuses, gangrapes and ostracism but ostracism but determined not to take my own life but to go on living.

I did not join a bandit gang, but was kidnapped into one. After her bandit husband Vickram was killed, she survived to lead her own gang and claimed retribution for the wrongs done to her. Phoolan and



her gang of bandits raided villages and robbed the rich to give to the poor. “People of my caste heard all about it. If a mother wanted to protect their daughter, or a father his wife or his sister, they knew all they had to do was say to the rapist that Phoolan Devi would punish them.

“People of my caste heard all about it. If a mother wanted to protect their daughter, or a father his wife or his sister, they knew all they had to do was say to the rapist that Phoolan Devi would punish them.

“That’s why, whenever I heard it, I crushed the serpent that used to torture women. I dismembered them. It was my vengeance,

and the vengeance of all ‘women,” she recalled.

After her surrender to the police in 1983 - so that her family could live in peace - Phoolan was imprisoned without trial for 11 years. In J 994, the charges against her were withdrawn, and she was freed on parole.

Her freedom is provisional, and Phoolan is still waiting for the supreme Court’s final decision for the charges against her to be dropped.



In defending the poor and down-trodden, Phoolan has become a heroine in their eyes. In 1996, amid both popular support and controversy, she was elected to the Indian Parliament. She lost her seat six months ago, but Phoolan claimed that the election was rigged.

“People still know me as a dacoit, a bandit, but that part of my life is over. Which is bad? The crimes done to me or mine against the men that wronged me? She asked the crowd. “Sometimes, you need violence to fight cruelty, but it is a limited way. That is enough. . My personal vengeance is over, said Phoolan solemnly. My mission now is to make sure that the

degradation I suffered does not happen to others.

“I am not educated in the typical sense, but the lessons I have learnt can never be told in words.

“I visit the villages and speak to the people. I tell them that they must not follow traditions blindly.

“Traditions say that young girls must be married by 11 or 12. I tell them not to marry off their daughters so young. Look at what happened to me, “she



said addressing the convention in Hindi. “Upper-caste men come to the villages and pick young girls from low-caste poor families, and take them to be used as they like,” she continued, stressing the need for change in her community’s mindset.

It is not only women’s fight, she stressed. Men from the lower-caste community too, must unite to fight the oppression they have endured for centuries, and defend their daughters and wives against exploitation.

Phoolan emphasised the importance of education, stressing that each village should have a school and that poor people must not be intimidated away from

being educated “by words or by sticks.”

“Because was uneducated, my knowledge of the world was limited. I thought that the world ended where the fields ended and the sun drowned each night in the river.

“If I had been educated, I would have gone to the courts to fight for the land that was rightfully ours. I would not have gone into the jungle,” said Phoolan.

She believes that her efforts in advocating changes have not been in vain. “In some of the villages I visited, I know that I have convinced them not to fight among themselves, and have learnt to settle their disputes amicably.

“I also tell them not to drink, and warn them against indentured labour. I advise them to ask for daily wages. Don’t work for monthly wages because at the end of the month, the zaminders (landlords) may not pay you. Remain free.”

Phoolan had only visited her village once since she was released from prison because “the Thakurs (from a higher caste than her) refused to allow me in.” Her family has moved to New Delhi where she now lives with her husband. Her weapons are different now, but Phoolan continues to fight against the injustices and tyranny suffered by the poor and downtrodden. Phoolan told the delegates that she was disgusted to see the majority being ruled by the minority. Is it not our own weakness that the minority rules us? She asked.

It is because the Dalits have become puppets to others, she added. Our educated people should go to the villages to explain to them the true situation. We must do something for the downtrodden and the women so that our people are united.

I will continue to fight against caste and injustices she declared. (her speech in Hindi was interpreted by Dr. Deepanker).

Our
Social
Reformers



BHIMRAO RAMJI AMBEDKAR
14 April 1891 - 6 December 1956

BABU KANSHI RAM
March 15, 1934 - October 9, 2006

BABU MANGRU RAM MUGHWALIA
Jan. 14, 1886 - April 22, 1960

Our
Social
Reformers

SPECIAL REPORT

CASTE STRUGGLE**Pandithan****Victor or Vanquished?**

By M. Gopinath, Bangalore.

What compelled the Malaysian Dalits to organize the First World Convention of Dalits in Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of Malaysia, on October 10-11, 1998?

They have been living in Malaysia for hundreds of years. They never thought of holding one such convention in the past.

They had organized several family-conferences but they had never thought of organizing a Dalit convention till last year. All these days they were Tamils first and families last.

Now for the first time they have come to identify themselves as "Dalits". Once they were saying, "*Thamilan enru sollada, thalai nillada*" (tell that you are a Tamilian and raise your head high) and now they are saying, "*Dalitenru sollada, thalai nimirnthu nillada*" (say that you are a dalit and raise your head high)

They have coined a new slogan, "Dalit means Dignity", in this convention. They have also formed their own political party called the "Indian Progressive Front". Today they proudly say that they are the followers of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. They invited Dada Saheb Kansi Ram to deliver the keynote address, Phoolan Devi to light the lamp and Ram Vilas Paswan to give the valedictory address.

Dalit International Organisation : This convention was organised to acquire a "new vision to create a casteless society". The need to have a "casteless society" has been there in India for centuries and it has become very intensive after the rise of Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Indian politics.

Malaysian Dalits have their relative's all over India and they keep visiting India very often. Yet, they never bothered about creating a casteless society earlier. The gory killings of

Kilvenmani in the seventies or the recent killings in Pallar-Thevars bloody clashes did not move the Malaysian Dalits to have one conference on 'caste'.

All of a sudden, under the Dalit International Organisation (DIO) they decided to hold a World Convention of Dalits in 1998. Why this sudden change among the Malaysian Dalits? All these developments cannot be the results of external forces outside Malaysia. These are certainly results from the internal developments of Malaysia. What are those developments?

Multi-ethnic Malaysia : Malaysia, being a fast developing country, has got several similarities with India. India is a union of states which were under the British rule till August 15, 1947. Similarly, Malaysia is a federation of states that were under British colonial rule till August 31, 1957. Like India, Malaysia is also a land of multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-ethnic entities. Malaysia is made up of Malays (50%), Chinese (30%), Indians (10%) and others. The total population of Malaysia is around 20 million. Islam being the official religion, the other religions are Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity. Bahasa Malay is the official language. The other languages are English, Chinese, Tamil and Iban.

Though Islam and Bahasa Malay are the official religion and official language respectively, the religious rights and the civil freedom of other communities are very much guaranteed by the Malaysian Government.

The only glaring difference between Malaysia and India is that the latter has been ruled by the alien Aryan minorities, while the former has been ruled by the indigenous Malays who are known as Bumiputeras. That is why Malaysia has become one of the fastest growing countries

of the world.

Castle Struggle : Had the Malaysian Dalits been discriminated by the Malays or the Chinese people, they would have either launched a Tamil national movement like that of Tamil Tigers of Eelam or returned to Tamil Nadu long back. These Dalits are being discriminated by their own Tamil brethren! That is why it has become a "caste



struggle", forcing the Dalits to identify themselves as "Dalits" against upper caste Tamils. It is once again proved that Hindus will carry their caste wherever they go.

Tamil mesmerism: The upper caste oppression against Dalits is not a recent development. They have been under subjugation for the past several decades. But all these days they never knew that they were slaves. They were mesmerized as Hindus and Tamils and made to accept their slavery as the natural phenomenon. The developments that made them realize their slavery is an interesting story by itself.

The Indians, who were almost Tamil Dalits, were brought to Malaysia by the British Colonial Government as plantation workers in the middle of nineteenth century. The upper caste Tamils must have gone there much later to do business. Even today, compared to the upper castes,

Tamil Dalits are economically weak and lowly educated. But all these people, like all other migrants, live in urban areas.

Rise of Pandithan : So long the Dalits accepted their inferior position in relation to the upper castes, there was no problem. The Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC), a party of the Indians, has been under the leadership of upper caste Tamils ever since its formation. Thought Dalits formed the bedrock of MIC, they were never allowed to occupy key positions in it. As Dalits became educated and politically conscious they started asserting their position in society as well as in MIC.

Mr. M. G. Pandithan symbolizes this new trend of assertion. His emergence in the Malaysian politics has brought an awakening among

event brought a great turn in the history of Malaysian Dalits.

Mr. Pandithan started a socio-cultural organization called Malaysian Natpani Mandram to educate his people. He started rousing the Dalit pride and culture through continuous awareness campaigns. Dalits, being 65% of the Indians, started feeling their Bahujan strength. Few days before the 1990 elections, Mr. Pandithan formed "Indian Progressive Front" (IPF), a hundred percent workers party and organized rallies all over Malaysia under the title "*Needhikettu Nedum Payanam*" (Long March to Demand Justice). Consequently, during the elections, more than 46% of Indian votes were cast against the Barisan National



the Dalits. Even today, Dalits are not allowed to enter Hindu temples and intercaste marriages between Dalits and upper caste are being rarely accepted. Whereas Dalits marrying Chinese and Malays are living very happily. Dalit girls committing suicide after their disastrous love affairs with the upper caste boys are on the rise. All these developments made Dalits to understand that the people who discriminate and exploit them are none other than their own Tamil brethren. And they started questioning these age old practices which were considered natural till then.

Mr. Pandithan with his son Jayan, wife Jayashree and a delegate (extreme left)

Long March to Demand Justice : As expected, the upper caste leadership of MIC did not tolerate Dalit identification and assertion within the party and society. Mr. Pandithan, who was an MP, was thrown out of the party in December, 1988. This

Party, which is the ruling party now in coalition with 14 other parties including MIC.

Successful Application of Kansi Ram Formula : What Mr. Pandithan did is, he has only adopted the Kansi Ram Formula to consolidate the Voters. The Dalit leaders who came earlier to Senator Pandithan were '*Chamchas*' (stooges) of the upper castes. Few more chamchas are still serving their upper caste masters in MIC. Mr. Pandithan denounced this '*Chamchagiri*' and pledged to liberate his people from the yoke of upper castes. With nearly 50% Indian votes being consolidated (which is almost 70% of Dalit votes) Mr. Pandithan has become a Senator. If he consolidated all the Dalit votes, MIC will simply collapse and the Dalit '*chamchas*' will have no other way than to join IPF. In the coalition government today, the MIC has got six MP's of whom three are ministers.

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THE JAPANESE APARTHEID

Kumisaka tells of 3 million Buraku Peoples Sufferings



K.L. MINES RESORT CITY:

The Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Research Institute of Japan came forward to donate 200,000 yen for the welfare of the Dalit International Organisation (DIO).

The Organisations President Mr. Shigeyuki Kumisaka donated

under the leadership of Mr. Shigeyuki Kumisaka.

Mr. Kumisaka took the opportunity well when his turn came to be one of the speakers on the opening day of the conference. He spoke in Japanese. His speech was translated in English.

He explained well about the

contribution of leather goods for tax purpose and serving as petty police officers to put down peasants revolt and execute criminals. This discriminated them against society.

In 1868, the Meiji Restoration took place in Japan, transforming the social structure into a modern society. The 'Emancipation Edict'

Suiheisha encouraged Buraku people to develop a movement to eliminate discrimination. When the movement was succeeding in its objectives, the suppression by the government forced them to support World WAR TWO.

Japan was defeated in the war which killed the lives of people in

national government to initiate state policies to solve the Buraku problem. In 1965 the government finally released the recommendations produced by the Cabinet.

Dowa Policy Council stating that solving the Buraku discrimination is the responsibility of the government. Basing on the recommendations the Law on Special Measures for Dowa Projects was enacted in 1969.

A series of new measures brought some benefits in housing projects and scholarships to Buraku people and their children. But the gap remains wide between Buraku people and non-Buraku people in many areas such as enrolment in High Schools, Colleges, Employment etc, he added. Mr. Kumisaka said that the Buraku Liberation was trying to forge solidarity with Korean counterparts Hyongpyongsa who are fighting against discrimination in Korea.

We will also forge good relation with all groups including DIO which fights against discrimination, he said.

Meanwhile the All India Confederation of SC/ST organizations Chairman Mr. Ram Raj (New Delhi) donated \$ 225.00 (Two hundred twenty five ringgit only) to DIO.



the money to the DIO at the 1st World Convention - 'A new vision towards a casteless society held at the Kuala Lumpur Mines Resort City.

DIO Chairman and President of IPF Malaysia M.G. Pandithan who was also the Organising Chairman of the 1st World Convention received the donations from Mr. Shigeyuki Kumisaka.

The Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Research Institute sent a three member delegation to the conference

Buraku Liberation League, an organization fighting to eliminate Buraku discrimination and enhance human rights in Japan. We have discrimination against Buraku people in Japan, a form of discrimination based on social status. There are as many as 6000 buraku communities with a population of more than 3 million people.

During the feudal era, our predecessors were forced by the ruling class to engage in certain types of labour including the disposal of dead oxen, the

promulgated by the government in 1871 eliminated the category of the lowest class.

But the Emancipation Edict' never ended the discrimination even after 300 years, Mr. Kumisaka bemoaned with disgust.

1892 our predecessors started the struggle against Buraku discriminations and funded the 'National Levelers Association (Suihei-sha), with a declaration, 'Let there be warmth in society, let there be light in humanity.'

Asia-Pacific region. Many Japanese died in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

After the war the New Constitution prohibited discrimination and pronounced a respect for human rights, Mr. Kumisaka said. After the war the Buraku Liberation movement started again. In 1955 it changed its name as the Buraku Liberation League (BLL) and until today the name continues to exist. The Buraku Liberation League started its nationwide campaign urging the

Caste Struggle Pandithan

If Mr. Pandithan becomes the unique-stionable leader of the working class Indians, perhaps he would replace most of the MIC MPs and ministers who are all upper caste minorities. This would be the main development that is expected to follow after the First World Convention of Dalits. Bahujan Indians are eager to see the Bahujan Indians of Malaysia becoming powerful enough to dethrone the upper castes from power.

Caste to defeat casteist : In a country like Malaysia, Dalits with their 6.5% votes (about 1.3 million population) cannot become rulers but they can certainly become reasonably powerful partners in a coalition government. Dalits are not

majority anywhere in the 190 constituencies of Malaysia. But in most of the constituencies they are the decisive voters. The parties which would like to form the government can easily ignore upper castes but they cannot dare so in the case of dalits. Mr. Pandithan knows it very well and he has played his cards very correctly. We cannot create 'casteless society' by destroying the castes. But we can create casteless society by eliminating 'casteism'.

"Caste" cannot be eliminated but 'casteism' can be eliminated. "Casteism" is a fascist thought/ideology that has emanated from caste system. Caste system is a power structure created by the upper castes to have greater



power and privileges over others. Hence, the powerful Brahminical castes have become the upper castes and 'untouchables'. That is why we say 'untouchability' means 'powerlessness'. "Casteism" is the discriminatory attitude and thought of the 'powerful' against the 'powerless'. This casteism can be eliminated by converting the powerless into powerful. This can be achieved by consolidating the victimized

castes against the victimized castes against the powerful castes. This is what our leader said, "Do not ignore caste. Learn to handle the caste". In fact, this is what our Malaysian Dalits too are doing. They are proving the efficacy of Kanshi Ram formula.

Dalits of Malaysia are using their "Dalit" identity against *Manuvadis of Malaysia*. They are using their caste to create a casteless society. They are using their caste to defeat casteists

and they are using caste to capture political power. Caste itself is a 'power' question and 'power' can be destroyed only by 'power'. This is what Babasaheb Ambedkar said and did. This is what Dadasaheb Kanshi Ram is also saying and doing. And this is what Mr. Pandithan is doing today in Malaysia.

This is the most successful formula and the surest way to end Brahminism. **Ambedkarism** or **Kanshi Ram Phenomenon** is the only antidote to kill Brahminism, be it in Malaysia or anywhere else in the world. We are sure that in future Dalits would become ministers and join the ruling class of Malaysia. We the Bahujans of India wish them a great success in their endeavour.

Two Resolutions Passed: Stop the Atrocities! Indian Govt. Told UN Should Step in! “CASTE IS AGAINST HUMAN-RIGHTS”

K.L.MINES RESORT CITY:

The United Nations should immediately step in to commence an independent investigation into Human Rights



violation and atrocities committed on dalit people in India and other parts of the world, the delegates to the 1st World dalit convention in Kuala Lumpur unanimously passed a resolution to this effect.

The Convention was held at the Kuala Lumpur Miens Resort. City on 10th and 11th of October 1998. (Saturday and Sunday). About 700 delegates from various parts of the world attended the two day convention.

Unlike the first day which only saw the colorful opening ceremony and speeches by various business day with lots of constructive arguments and debates on many topics.

Towards the end of the conference time came for resolutions to be presented. The first resolution called on the United Nation to step in to save the 300 million dalits of the world from "Indian apartheid" The dalits unanimously passed the resolution with a thunderous applause.

When the second resolution expressing deep concern over the prevailing situation in India where Human Rights' violation. Atrocities and other untold sufferings are day to day affair of dalits was tabled, virtually everyone stood up to give comments to amend or improve on the resolution to show their seriousness in the second resolution.

Dr. Krishnasamy, President Puthia Thamilagam, (Tamilnadu), Bishop Ezra Sargunam(Tamil Nadu). MN.Chengai Sivam M.L.A (Tamilnadu). All India India) Mr. Gagraj Singh, Lord Buddha Club President, Dr. M. Prasad, Oxford Dravidian Amnesty Council Secretary Cllr. S. Segaran, Mr. Gautam Chakravarth(England) All India Dalit Research Wing Chairman Dr. Katti Padma Rao(Andra) Mr. Chaure (S'pore) Madhuri Chaure (S'pore)DR. Millind Mane (Nagpur), Vinod Sonkamble and many other speakers showed much interest to comment and also suggested new resolutions.

Due to time constraint the organizing committee appealed to the delegates to send in their comments and other proposals or new resolutions in writing so that important aspects can be incorporated to the second resolution.

Many delegates submitted their resolutions in writing. After careful and painstaking study the organizing committee incorporated the various important facts into the second resolution without fear or favour.

Both Resolution 1 and Resolution 2 will be sent to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan Indian Prime Minister Atal Vajpayee, Ministers, Chief Ministers of various states and Government Heads of different countries.

RESOLUTION 1

(a) This convention has recognized the initiatives towards full development of dalit community throughout the world but deeply regrets the flagrant violations of Human Rights such as caste discrimination and atrocities committed on dalits in India and other parts of the world. And India being the main culprit, innocent women and children face untold sufferings in their day to day life.

Therefore this convention unanimously resolves to urge the United Nation to immediately appoint 'Special Rapporteurs' to commence investigation into this Human rights violation and also take appropriate measures



to effect the implementation of fundamental 'Human Rights' instrument for dalits in India and other parts of the world.

(b) This convention

also appeals to the United Nation to regard this problem seriously as it affects the lives and future of 300 million dalits throughout India and the world who are facing a fate far worse than South African or American Apartheid.

RESOLUTION 2

(a) This convention takes a serious view on the prevailing situation in India especially in most states where blatant violations of Human Rights and atrocities are day to day affair of dalits especially innocent women and children are persistently being kept under bonded labour to caste Hindu landlords.



(b) Therefore this convention urges the G Central and State governments of India to immediately arrest the situation and also

bring to book those culprits who are responsible for the heinous crimes committed on dalit people.

(b) This convention acknowledges that innocent dalits are being constantly harassed and

victimized through criminal proceedings during frequent caste clashes in several parts of India. This convention therefore urges that respective State Governments take appropriate measures and ensure that unbiased police actions and justice and maintained.



(c) This convention also urges the Central and State governments of India to safeguard all the rights provided for in the constitution especially the Reservation Quotas of SC/ST people at all levels including Police, Armed Forces and Judiciary and also immediately fill up all vacant places without any further delay.

(d) This convention urges the Indian government to supervise the strict implementation of the Reservation Rights at Local, State and Federal level including Police and Armed Forces and also give judicial and



punitive powers to the National Commission for welfare of SC/ST communities so that the commission can play a meaningful and effective role.

CONVENTION DAY TWO: FIERY DISCUSSIONS ON EDUCATION- ECONOMIC-SOCIAL JUSTICE PAPERS DELEGATES MEAN REAL BUSINESS

K.L. MINES RESORT CITY:

The 11th October 1998 (Sunday), The second day of the 1st World Dalit Conference was a serious day for the delegates who came from various parts of the world.

The first day saw the colourful opening ceremony with various cultural dances of the Malaysians and speeches by Malaysian Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism Dato' Sabbaruddin Chik, Chairman M.G. Pandithan, Mr. Kanshi Ram, Mr. Ramvilas Paswan, Mrs. Phoolan Devi, Madam Kamala Sinha, Mr. Shigeyuki Kumisaka (Japan), Dr. Krishnasamy, Mr. Ashok Barathi (Australia), Mr. Ghautham

children in education and stressed the need for the Indian Government to correct the situation.

He also called upon the world dalits to pay much attention to education to improve their children's progress.

Dr. Rahul Deepanker (USA) chaired the session. Mr. S.K. Biswas (India) Mr. Dharmachari Lokmitra (India) Prof. N.G. Meshram (India) and Mr. S.K. Bahal (England) served as panelists.

Economic Session:

The economic session chaired by Dr. S.S. Dhaktode, Principal of Siddharth College of Arts,

Science and Commerce (Mumbai) was another lively session.

Dr. Laxmi N. Berwa (USA) presented his paper on 'Economic problems of Dalits.' He emphasised the relevance of economy in

enhancing the overall status of the Dalit community.

Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, Dept. of Economics, University of Mumbai, Dr. R.K. Jadhav, Bajaj Institute of Management Mumbai, Mr. Ashok Barathi, Australia were the members of the panel.

Delegates took the chances well during the question

answer time to make the session lively and worthy.

After the education and economic papers the debate on social justice was very stormy and interesting.

Session on Social Justice

Mr. Yogesh Varhade (Canada) a well known 'Human rights' activist and social worker presented his paper on 'social Justice'.

Dr. Mohammad Shabbir (Dr. Ambedkar Chair Professor of Law) International Islamic University, Malaysia chaired the session.

Mr. Yogesh Varhade touched on many problems from ill effects of caste to child bonded labour and injustices and atrocities committed on dalit people.

As the topic served the basis for the World Convention, virtually every delegate spoke on the matter. The arguments were heated and fiery but always under control drawing much fun and laughter.

Prof. Mohammad Shabbir well controlled the whole situation very dutifully and beautifully. ♣

Wherever the Untouchables went and whichever religion they embraced, they could not completely wash off the stigma of caste.

- Bhagwan Das



(UK), Bishop Azariah Masilamani, Bishop Ezra Sargunam and many other prominent leaders of different countries and representatives of different organisations also spoke at the opening.

Unlike the first day the second day saw serious discussions and debates on the three papers education, economic and social justice, presented by Mr. Bhagwan Das (Education), Dr. Laxmin Berwa USA (Economy), and Mr. Yogesh Varhade Canada (Social Justice).

Dalit educationists and other delegates took turns to present their views after veteran Dalit Leader Mr. Bhagwan Das who is also the President of the Dalit Solidarity Programme read his paper on Dalits in the field of Education.

Mr. Bhagwan Das highlighted the problems faced by Dalits and other poor





Prof. Mohammad Shabbir (left) discusses a point with Mr. Paswan.

SOCIAL JUSTICE PAPER: **HUMAN RIGHTS A MOCKERY IN INDIA!**

Govt. not serious In Implementing

'Social Justice/Equality' was a stormy session. Mr. Yogesh Varhade (Canada) who is well recognised all over the world in internationalising the problems of the Dalit community presented a paper on 'Social Justice'.

The session was chaired by Dr. Mohammad Shabbir (Dr. Ambedkar Chair Professor of Law), International Islamic University, Malaysia.

Mr. Varhade highlighted the evil effect of Hindu caste system on Dalit community. He gave statistical information and upto-date data position of atrocities inflicted upon Dalit men, women and children. He touched on sexual offences committed against Dalit women and children.

He gave relevant information on social condition, discrimination and position of jobs in public and private sectors of the Dalit community in India.

He enumerated social welfare legislations meant for ameliorating Dalits conditions, but he pointed out that the desired result could not be achieved due deep rooted prejudices of upper castes and their dominance in all three wings of the Government and the perpetuation of their discriminatory approach coupled with the influences of Brahminical order.

According to him, the denial of social justice is the denial of human rights. whatever provisions

ensure social justice or other rights to improve the status of Dalits are not duly enforced sharing the essence of fairness and honesty.



Mr. Yogesh

Mr. Vahade's presentation was followed by heated debate but it was constructive in nature.

Professor Shabbir giving the concluding remark in his capacity as chairman of the session thanked Senator Mr. M.G. Pandithan, the Chairman of the convention for providing an international forum in Kuala Lumpur to discuss ways and means by the world-wide Dalit leaders, Dalit intellectuals, social activists, scholars, thinkers and academicians.

Addressing on remedial measures, he advocated the relevance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's philosophy especially in area of education and social justice and urged to actuate them as a solution package.

Opportunity was extended to delegates to express their views on the theme of the convention. Different resolutions were proposed and discussed thoroughly. The convention came out with a meaningful and constructive declaration - known as 'The Kuala Lumpur Declaration'. The organising chairman of the Convention - Senator Mr. M.G. Pandithan gave his heart-touching concluding remarks and thus by valedictory address by Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, the convention came to an end successfully by echoing the slogan: 'Dalit means dignity and not untouchability' propounded by Senator Mr. M.G. Pandithan, the Chairman of the Convention'. ♦

Report by Prof. Mohammad Shabbir, Chairman Social Justice Session.





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Conference (held at
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
October 10-11, 1998) Report.**

I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..."

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji



ਸੁੱਖ ਰਾਮ ਚੰਦਰ ਤਾਜਪੁਰੀ
ਅਤੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਚੰਦਰ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ



Neeraj Kumar Chander Tappuri
and his Family



We don't want social justice, we want social transformation. Social justice depends on the person in the power.

Suppose at one time, some good leader comes to power and people get social justice and are happy but when a bad leader comes to power it turns into injustice again. So, we want whole social transformation.

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji

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Shri Amardeep Chahal with his Wife, Mother & Father

ਸਮੂਹ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਬਿਹਾਰੀ ਲਾਲ ਚਾਹਲ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ



To get the power, there is a need of mass movement, converting that mass movement into votes, then converting votes into seats, further converting the seats into [power at] states, and lastly converting the [power at] states into [power at] center. This is the mission and aim for us.

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Momi Brothers



ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਸਭਾ ਬੇ-ਏਰੀਆ (ਕੈਲੀਫੋਰਨੀਆ)



We will not stop until we unite the victims of the system and overthrow the spirit of inequality in our country.

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji

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Bheem International USA



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ਅਜੈਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਸੁੰਡਾ



ਸ਼ਿਵ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਧੂ



ਤਰਲੋਚਨ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੱਧਣ

ਸਹਿ

SHRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHA (CA)

2150 Crestview Drive, Pittsburg CA 94565
Tel : (925) 439-2355



A HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO SAHEB KANSHI RAM

Saheb Kanshi Ram Ji was a true leader of our community. He carried Baba Sahib's message to a great length. He fought against the social injustice.

Suffering of Dalits and all poor people are becoming unbearable now. We need leaders like Saheb Kanshi Ram at this time.

He sacrificed so much and worked so hard to uplift our community. His contributions are countless and unforgettable. He will be remembered forever.

We pay floral tribute on the Pr Nirvana Divas of Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji, founder President of BAMCEF, DS4 and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) & we congratulate "Ambedkar Times" for reproducing the 1st Dalit Conference (held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 10-11, 1998) Report.



Jagtar Bhatia (Chairman)



Shinderpal Narabut (President)



Dharampal Chonkaria (Gen. Secretary)



Vinod Kumar (Treasurer)

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Balvir Chand Mal



Jagdev Ram



O.P. Balley



Dr. Harmesh Kumar,



Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Committee Members & more

LEGAL COMMITTEE



Jaila Jaggi



Salinder Bhatia



Ajai Paul Ram



Shashi Paul

The New Committee appreciates the services of the previous committee and the selection panel and is looking forward to continued support. Guidance and cooperation of the entire Sangat who is the backbone of our Gurughar. Thank you.

Sangat De Sewadar

Chairman
Jagtar Bhatia

President
Shinder Paul Narabut

General Secretary
Dharam Pal Chonkria

Treasurer
Vinod Kumar



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ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਦੇ
ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ

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Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji



Shingara Singh Ralh & Ralh family

Shingara Singh Ralh, President, Shri Guru Ravidass Temple Yuba City, California



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Baljit Singh Kahma, Usha Rani Kahma and family



ਮਹਾਂਰਿਸ਼ੀ ਵਾਲਮੀਕ ਸਭਾ ਯੂ. ਐਸ. ਏ. (ਯੂਬਾ ਸਿਟੀ) ਕੈਲੇਫੋਰਨੀਆ



I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..." Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji

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ਸੰਗਤ ਦੇ ਦਾਸ

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A community that doesn't have representation in the political power, that community is dead.

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji

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**S. Gurbachan Singh (Chairman)
 Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Selma (CA.)**



ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਸਭਾ ਫਰਿਜ਼ਨੋ (ਸੈਂਟਰਲ ਵੈਲੀ) ਕੈਲੀਫੋਰਨੀਆ



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**Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha (CV) Fresno (California)
5025 S. Cherry Ave., Fresno (California) 93706**



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**Bansi Lal
Bangar**

Bansi Lal Bangar



Kewal Bolina and Family

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Satnam Singh Nangalkalan

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Parshotam Sood (Vice Chairman)
Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Yuba Cityy (CA)



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Kuldip
Suman

(General Secretary)

& Suman
Family



Sri Guru Ravidass
Temple Yuba City
(California)



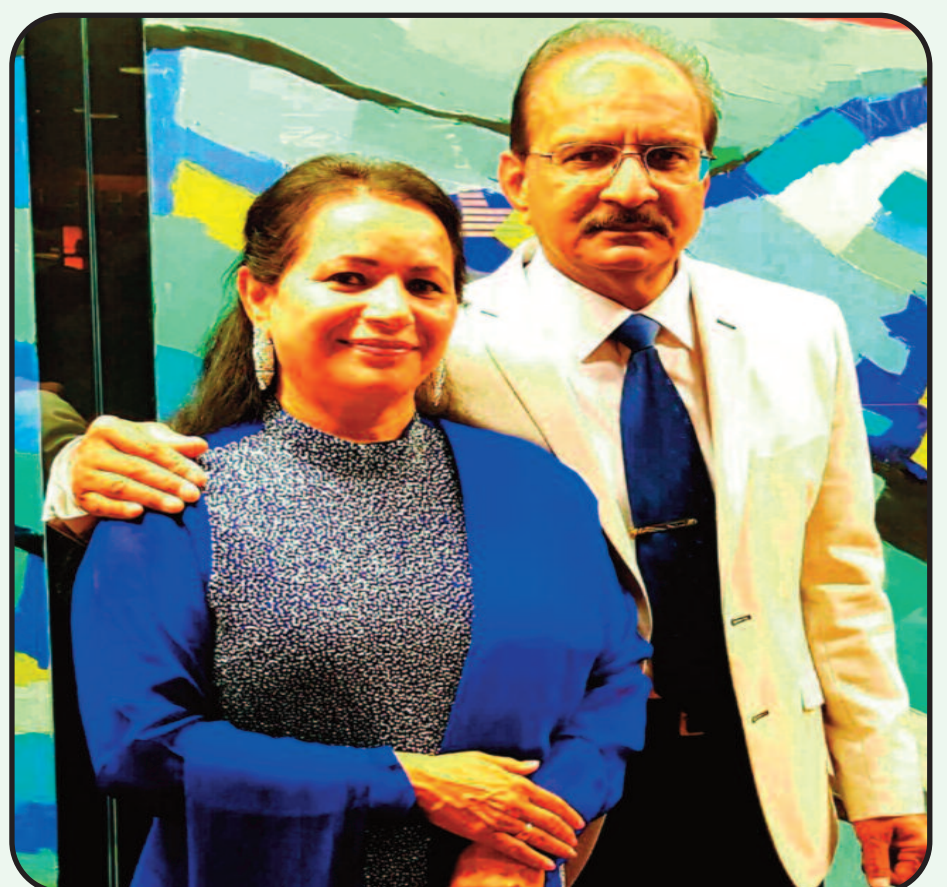
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Lumpur, Malaysia, October
10-11, 1998) Report.**

**We will not stop until we unite the victims of the system and
overthrow the spirit of inequality in our country.**

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji



Ramesh Suman & Suman Family



Shashi Paul & Family



**Kashmiri Bhatia
and Family**

We pay floral tribute on the Prininirvana Divas of Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji, founder President of BAMCEF, DS4 and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) & we congratulate "Ambedkar Times" for reproducing the 1st Dalit Conference (held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, October 10-11, 1998) Report



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**Santokh Singh
Narr
and Family**



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Avtar Lakha





A community that doesn't have representation in the political power, that community is dead.

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji

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ਸਮੂਹ
ਸੁੰਮਨ ਖਰਿਵਾਰ

SUNSHINE AUTO CARE INC., MANTECA (CA)



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Hans Raj Kajla

CASTE, VIOLENCE AND PREDICAMENT OF JUSTICE: ORDEAL OF A DALIT GIRL OF HATHRAS

Invited Editorial Article

On 14 September 2020, a 19-year-old Dalit girl, from Bulgarhi village of the Hathras district headquarter (UP), which is also a Lok Sabha constituency under the reserved category of Schedule Caste, was brutally raped and physically tortured by four upper caste men of her own village in its agricultural fields. On that unfortunate morning, at around 7.45 am, she accompanied her mother and brother to collect fodder for their livestock from the nearby agricultural fields owned by the upper caste village-families. Within an hour the trio – mother, brother and sister – was able to cut enough grass to send their only male accomplice (brother) back home to leave one bundle of grass (Sunny 2020). It was within a few minutes, after the son left for home, that the mother of the hapless victim noticed that her daughter, who was cutting grass just a few metres away, was not seen around and failed to respond to her calls (Lakhani & Sinha 2020). For a while, as reported in the Sunday Hindustan Times, the mother thought that her daughter too might have returned home. But when she found one part of her slippers by the roadside, she became panicked and failed to locate the remaining part of her slippers (Sunny 2020). In her desperate search, the scarred mother found the nearby bajra (pearl millet) fields trampled upon that convinced her about the presence of her daughter around there only. After about 20 metres, to her unbelievable eyes, she found her daughter almost unconscious and lying in a pool of blood with her dupatta (stole) around her neck. It was in this bajra field, that her daughter was allegedly dragged to, gang-raped and brutally tortured – her tongue gashed, lower spine and three neck bones broken. "Initially, we even wondered if she was bitten by a snake," her sibling told the NDTV (Srivastava 2020). Her mother told one of the reporters, after the Uttar Pradesh police lifted the village barricade to allow the media to visit her native place, that "until then, I didn't even know the word, rape (in English). Today, I am having to prove that my daughter was raped," (Sunny 2020). Nothing more can be so catastrophic that can befall on this marginalised Dalit family living in a reserved Parliamentary constituency; and at time (morning) when workers begin their daily chores of hard work for their meager source of day-to-day living. The ferocious beasts in the shape of so-called upper caste humans pounced upon this hard working lowest of the low castes girl who was helping her mother in collecting grass for their five buffaloes – the mainstay of the family. What an irony, the poor Dalit family was busy in making their both ends meet; and the upper caste goons were busy in laying ambush to perpetrate such a gory crime on the body and soul of the laborious Dalit girl of their own village that can even shame the demons.

When the mother found her beloved daughter – who can't fall asleep unless she was next to her – without her lower cloths and bleeding from her private parts, her chin and tongue, and her eyes bloodshot (Lakhani & Sinha 2020), it was a double crime in that the panic-stricken mother was deeply shattered within her very self, which no mother on

the earth planet wants to face such a brutal assault on ones daughter! The moment, the mother saw her daughter in such an unbelievable conditions, she cried loudly, summoning a nearby young Thakur boy into the field of the incident. "My first instinct," said the mother, "was to cover her lower body with my saree, but I couldn't" (Lakhani & Sinha 2020). "The Thakur boy ran into the village to call her brother for help even as the mother put on the pyjama on the victim and tried to carry her to the village" (Sunny 2020). However, the mother failed to do so and cried helplessly (Ibid). After the arrival of her son, the mother-son duo took the victim to the local police station on a



motorcycle, about two kilometers away from the field. From here onwards, began another ordeal both for the victim and her poor family.

At the police station, reported the Sunday Hindustan Times, "the woman was made to lie down on a cement slab as her brother was asked to submit a written complaint" (Ibid). "My mother was with my sister and I wrote whatever I knew. My mother didn't have the heart to tell me that my sister was raped," as narrated by the victim's brother to the reporter of the Sunday Hindustan Times (Ibid). Thereafter, the brother and the mother brought their severely crippled girl to the district hospital and after about four hour later she was moved to Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in Aligarh, an hour away from Bulgarhi, the village of the victim. During this period, the Hathras police had registered a case of attempt to murder and named Sandeep as the suspect. Three days after the ghastly incidence, on September 17, the girl regained her consciousness and mentioned the gang rape and the names of the other suspects (Ibid). The mother claimed, "When I was alone, she hesitatingly told me about four men raping her" (Ibid). The same day, as per the version of the victim's family, a written complaint was filed at the office of the Hathras superintendent of police.

Whereas, as per police records, "the victim's allegation of gang rape were officially recorded only on September 22 in front of a magistrate and her medical examination for rape conducted after that – a delay that could prove crucial" (Ibid). Finding no improvement in her continuous deteriorating conditions, the girl was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in the national Capital city of Delhi on 28 September 2020, after 14 days, where she succumbed to her deep injuries next day at 6.55am. During her 15 day long tortuous life conditions in the hospitals, she displayed great courage to reveal the ugly faces of the four persons who perpetrated untold crimes on her body and soul. Many such cases of horrendous

such grave crimes despite the presence of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to prevent a t r o c i t i e s

against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The high handedness of the law enforcement agencies can be gauged from the handling of the entire case from its very beginning on September 14. What followed the death of the victim on September 29 was more horrific. It is reported that the victim's body was taken to her village in Hathras after midnight from the Safdarjung hospital in Delhi and was 'cremated' by the UP police surreptitiously without allowing her family to participate in the performance of the last rites as per their community traditions. The police refused to listen to the pleading of the victim's father and family to allow them to take the body of their daughter to their home and cremate her in the morning. The woman's father told NDTV "We wanted the last rites to be performed according to the Hindu traditions. Despite our protests, the cremation was performed. They took the body forcefully. We couldn't see our daughter's face for the last time." The sister-in-law of the victim was heard saying in a post hurried cremation video that "I can't eat or sleep... Look at what we have been put through. We might be poor, we might be Dalits but do we have no right over a loved one? They didn't even let us see her off peacefully" (Lakhani & Sinha 2020). After the convicts in the Delhi Nirbhaya case, which shook the conscience of the entire nation on 16 December 2012, were hanged to death in March 2020, the reaction of the mother of the hapless victim was: "Women now will feel safe." But unfortunately this brutal Hathras rape case has proved that wrong! Our daughters, especially belonging to lower castes, continue to face similar heinous crimes amidst the undeterred presence of beastly sexual offenders despite in place the implementation of strictest punishment. What will bridle such crimes may be the structural transformation of our society that requires consistent efforts on the part central and state governments as well as the active participation of the civil society in what Dr B.R. Ambedkar called "Annihilation of Caste".



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miseries go unreported across the length and breath of the country. "The two separate incidents of violent sexual assault on two adolescent girls, followed by the killing of one them in mid-August in Uttar Pradesh, are fresh in memory" was reported in the editorial of The Tribune, the day after the death of the Hathras rape victim (September 30, 2020).

What makes this case even more shameful was its caste angle. Equally horrifying dimension of this agonizing rape case is the site and the time of the crime. The site was victim's village field situated in a Parliamentary reserved constituency; and the victim herself belonged to a Schedule Caste community. The field belonged to the same village landowners where the girl and her family reside. This alludes at the perilous living conditions of the landless Dalits and the deadly fate of their women folks who were forced to visit the village fields to fetch fuel for the hearth and fodder for their animals under the severe poverty. And the perpetrators of the crime were none other than the ones who owned the land and take hollow pride in their being belonging to upper caste communities. Dalits, at the first place, needs to be liberated from their demeaning poverty, if their women are to be saved from such horrendous crimes. Secondly, the law enforcement agencies are to be equally held responsible for the continuation of

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D. C. Ahir

The Ad Dharm Movement and Dr. Ambedkar

When in 1915 Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was giving final touches to his Ph.D. thesis at Columbia University in New York, a Punjabi youth, who

had gone to America a few years earlier, was involved in a dangerous mission of smuggling guns from California to the Punjab for inciting mutiny in India. This Punjabi youth later became famous as Babu Mangu Ram, the founder of the Ad Dharm Movement. Mangu Ram was born in a small village Mugowal in district Hoshiarpur, Punjab on 14 January, 1886 in an untouchable family; his father was a leather merchant. As by then the doors of education had been opened to all by the British rulers, Mangu Ram was sent to the school in the nearby village, Mahilpur, but the treatment meted out to him by the Hindu teacher was far from human. Like Bhim Rao in Satara, Mangu Ram too was made to sit outside the classroom. Not only that, even the teacher would not teach him directly; he was invariably given lesson through a Muslim student. Somehow, Mangu Ram passed his middle examination and joined high school at Bajwara, a nearby town. Here too. He was subjected to the same humiliation, and was made to sit outside the classroom. One day, it rained so heavily that in spite of taking shelter under a tree, Mangu Ram was completely drenched. And when the snow-balls, accompanied by high velocity winds, fell like missiles on him, he was unable to bear it any longer. So, he ran to take shelter inside the classroom. As soon as he had entered the room, the teacher saw him, and instead of showing any sympathy, he started beating him with a stick for having come inside. Weeping and crying, Mangoo Ram went out, and somehow reached his home.

Unmindful of the insult and beating, Mangu Ram again went to the school next day. As soon as he reached there, he was surprised to see the teacher in the process of purifying the classroom by sprinkling water on the wooden table, chair and the tats on which the students used to sit. On seeing him, Brahmin teacher cried out, "Oh Chandal, you have come again". Fearing another beating, Mangoo Ram hastened back, never to go again to the school. And that was the end of his education.

With his education coming to an abrupt end, Mangu Ram became unemployed, and bit frustrated too. In 1909, he, along with some other young men from the village, went to California, U.S.A. in order to earn some money by working in the Peach Orchards of Fresno and elsewhere in the San Joaquin valley of central California. Instead of earning money, he, however, became involved in the activities of the Ghadar Party, an international network of militant Punjabi

nationalists led by Lala Hardayal. By his sheer devotion and sincerity to the cause of India's freedom, he came to be regarded as the most dependable and reliable member of the organization. In 1915, Mangu Ram volunteered to be one of the five Ghadarites accompanying a shipload of guns and propaganda material headed for India. This ship was unfortunately intercepted by the British as Batavia, and was sealed. It remained sealed for nearly a year, with the five Ghadarites as prisoners inside. In the meanwhile, they were prosecuted in absentia, and sentenced to death for taking out the weapons illegally on the ship. On hearing the capital punishment, some patriot Indians in Germany decided to help the imprisoned Ghadarites. Somehow, they managed to smuggle the prisoners out from the sealed ship, and sent them in different directions. Mangu Ram was put in a ship going to Manila. By mistake,



however, the ship reached Singapore. Unfortunately for Mangu Ram, here he was recognized by some traitor Indians who had earlier worked for the Ghadar Party. They informed the Police. By now, for running away from Batavia, death warrants had been issued by the British Government to be executed wherever any one of them was found. Accordingly, the Singapore Police began preparing for his execution. Then a miracle happened. Just half an hour before his execution, a gentleman named Barde, whom Mangu Ram had never seen or met, came, caught him by the arm, took him out of the Thana, and putting him on the same ship in which Mangu Ram had come, he asked the Captain of the ship to sail for Manila. By the time the Police swung into action, the ship had crossed the Singapore Port Limits. Having failed to intercept the ship, the police caught hold of some drunkard; executed him to cover up their lapse, and announced that Mangu Ram had been executed. This news was later published in the Indian Newspapers.

For the next 7-8 years, Mangu Ram hid in the Philippines, and during this period he had no contact with his family as no letters could be written

for fear of being intercepted. Taking him, therefore, as dead, his wife married Mangu Ram's elder brother, who was a widower. The validity of the death warrant issued by the British Government lapsed in 1924. Then Mangu Ram thought of returning to Punjab in 1925. Soon thereafter, Mangoo Ram became involved in another kind of freedom struggle, the liberation of the untouchables, the people among whom he was born, and the people who were meekly suffering the atrocities of the Hindus. Babu Mangu Ram's association with the Ghadar Party had broadened his outlook, and sharpened his skills as an organizer. Soon he found a band of like-minded young men involved in the social work, and began organizing them in order to liberate the down-trodden from the clutches of the Hindu social slavery.

Encouraged by the response to his



ideas, Babu Mangu Ram convened a Conference at his village Mugowal in district Hoshiarpur on 11-12 June, 1926. Addressing the largely attended Conference, Babu Mangu Ram proclaimed that the Untouchables constituted a separate Qaum, a religious community like the Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus, and those they were the original inhabitants of this country. Hence, the movement was named as Ad Dharm; and its leaders devised distinctive costume, bright red turbans and shashes; coined a new sacred mantra or symbol, "So-hang" and exhorted the people to call themselves as Ad Dharmis.

The primary object of the Ad Dharm was to give the untouchables an alternative religion. Its another object was to reform the society from within. As social movement, the Ad Dharm exhorted the people to abstain from immoral practices; to lead a life of purity and piety; to discard the use of alcohol, drugs, give education to boys and girls, and to treat all men and women equal in the society. On the whole, the movement was aimed at giving the untouchables a sense of pride and dignity as members of the Ad Dharm.

The headquarters of Ad

Dharm Mandal were established in Jalandhar city from where the movement was organized in a systematic manner, and the devoted missionaries spread the message far and wide in the Punjab, and even beyond. Since the Mandal had accepted Sahib Shri Guru Ravidass Ji as its spiritual leader, the movement became primarily popular amongst the Chamars, and they readily adopted the nomenclature of Ad Dharmi.

At the time, Babu Mangu Ram was organizing the untouchables of the Punjab under the banner of Ad Dharm; Dr. Ambedkar was fighting a similar battle in another part of the country. Though they were thousands of miles apart, yet their ideas and methods of struggle were almost identical. Both believed that the present day Scheduled Castes are not Hindus, and that their salvation lies only in being independent of the Hindu religion. Both believed in self-help and advocated peaceful means to achieve their goal. Both laid the greatest emphasis on 'education'. Babasaheb considered "education" the key to all progress, and Mangu Ram says that only "education can lead us to Sachkhand (the realm of truth)." Again, Babasaheb exhorted the people to follow the Three Commandments of 'Education, Agitation and Organization' to gain power. According to Mangu Ram, the poor have three kinds of power: "Qaumiat (collective solidarity), Mazhab (spirituality) and Majlis (organization)".

Within a year of its founding, the Ad Dharm movement created quite a stir in the Punjab by constant rallies and conferences, if forced the Government of the day to take notice of the problems of the untouchables. One of the reasons of the poverty and exploitation of the untouchables was the pernicious system of beggar, the system under which they were forced to live at the beck and call of others and were obliged to do a great deal of work without any remuneration whatsoever. The Ad Dharm Mandal agitated against the system of beggar, and demanded its abolition. The Mandal also agitated for repealing the Punjab Land Alienation Act which prohibited the untouchables from buying even a small piece of land. The Ad Dharm movement reached its peak at the time of 1931 Census. As a result of their sustained propaganda, more than half a million untouchables declared themselves as Ad Dharmis. This showed the organizational skill of its leaders. "The massive support", as says Mark Jueregensmeyer, "created political capital, and Mangu Ram used that capital in political ways. Ad Dharmi candidates stood for public offices and an alliance was created with the Unionist Party. In both instances, scheduled caste leaders supported by the Ad Dharm organization achieved public positions".

Courtesy: Dr. Ambedkar and Punjab by D. C. Ahir

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji's Memorable Historic Pictures



Sahib Kanshi Ram ji's historic pictures

