

FLORAL TRIBUTES TO HONORABLE MR. DC AHIR SAHIB SEE ON PAGE-3

DR. AMBEDKAR, NEO-LIBERAL MARKET-ECONOMY AND SOCIALDEMOCRACY IN INDIA

The ambedkar times.com congratulates Prof. Ronki Ram (ICCR Chair Professor of Contemporary India Studies, Leiden University Institute for Area studies & International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands) for his recent research article entitled "Dr. Ambedkar, Neo-liberal Market-Economy and Social Democracy in India" published in the current (late) issue of Human Rights Global Focus (HRGF) Vol. 05, No. 03 & 04, July-December



Prof. Ronki Ram's latest Research Article in Human Rights Global Focus (HRGF)

2010, pp. 12-38. Prof Ronki Ram's research on Punjab Dalit Politics, Identity and Assertion has been widely carried in various reputed peer reviewed international Journals like Modern Asian Studies (Cambridge) Journal of Asian Studies (Cambridge) Asian Survey (University of California Press), Contributions to Indian Sociology (Sage), Journal of Punjab Studies (UCSB) among many others. He has also extensively published in Punjabi language. His latest book on Dalit Identity, Emancipation and Empowerment (Punjabi) is recently released by the Punjabi University, Patiala. The ambedkartimes.com also put on record its sincere appreciations for Human Rights Global Focus (published by the international human rights foundation) for its concerted efforts towards bringing critical awareness about the often negated but complex question of Dalit emancipation and empowerment. Dr. R. Sreekantan Nair is the current Editor-in-Chief of this prestigious Research Journal based at: TC-28/1487 East, Sreekandewaram, Fort P.O., Trivandrum-23, T #914064878, E-mail: info@humanrightsfocus. com www.humanrightsfocus.com

-Prem Chumber
Editor-in-Chief 'Ambedkar Times'

GHADAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION OF AMERICA CELEBRATED ITS 12TH GHADAR MEMORIAL CONFERENCE & MELA

Sacramento- (Ambedkar Times News Bureau): The Ghadar Memorial Foundation of America, Sacramento (California) organized its 12th Ghadar Memorial Conference to remember the martyrs of the Indian freedom movement. The conference was organized at the Performing Art Center, Sheldon High School (Sacramento) on July 8, 2012 in form of a seminar dedicated

lamented that the kind of Government which came into existence after the independence of India did not match in any way with the designs and dreams of the martyrs of the Gadar Lehar at all.

They also emphasized on the point that the real homage to the Gadar Babaian would be to establish such a governing set-up in India where

mark on the audience with their laudable show. Mr. Charan Singh Judge thanked to all the Societies Punjabi Cultural Society (Sacramento), Indo American Heritage Society (Fresno), Indo American Education Society (Yuba City) & Indo American Cultural Organization (Bay Area) and also a large number of participants who took part in this conference come from local &



Pictures Credit: Jessie/ www.moonlightstudio.com

to the thinking and sacrifices of the legendary Gadar Babay in addition to the enactment of famous play Sardal and a poetry recitation Durbar.

Dr Mohinder Singh, member Minority Commission, India, was the chief guest and the key speaker on the occasion. Mr. Anand K. Jha represented the Indian Mission in San Francisco (California) and also inaugurated the conference. Before the conference was formally inaugurated the entire participant paid their obeisances at the tombs of Gadar Baba Maulavi Muhammad Barkat Ullah and of other Gadarites.

The ceremony of lighting the lamp was performed by Famous scientist Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush & after that Mrs. Neelam Saini took the responsibility of conducted the stage efficiently. Among the renowned poets who recited their poems were Tara Singh Sagar, Parmander Singh Parwana, Pashaura Singh Dhillon, Harjinder Kang and Sukhwinder Singh Kamboj. Singers Anup Singh Cheema, Satinder Satti and Pammi Mann mesmerized the audience with their enchanting songs.

During the seminar all the speakers while paying their homage to the Gadar Babaian

no one has to face any form of exploitation. During discussion hour in the seminar, Dr. Gurmail Singh, a scientist from Fresno (California) told that in the coming year anniversary of the Gadar Babaian would be celebrated. Further he said that we should make earnest efforts to make our progeny aware about the glorious heritage of the Gadar Lehar and other martyrs of the Indian freedom movement.

Dr. K. Leonard, a distinguished American scholar of the University of California Irvin, read a paper on Gadar Lehar and the first Asian American Congressman Dalip Singh Saund. The conference passed a resolution addressing the Government of India to give due respect to the Gadar Babaian who contributed significantly in the India freedom movement while issuing a Postal ticket in their name and building a memorial dedicated to them.

After the seminar Natak Sardal was enacted under the directorship of Dramatist Surinder Singh Dhanoa. Sardal was based on the evil of drug addiction and break-up of family relationships.

All the participants in conference appreciated the Natak and the actors left a deep

other cities of California.

Among them Dr. Onkar Singh Bindra, Master Mukiat Singh Sarib from Modesto, Kashmir Singh Heera (Owner of India Market, Sacramento), Rashpal Pharwala (Founder Punjabi Cultural Society Sacramento), Poets Kulwinder & Kamal Banga, Prem Kumar Chumber (Editor-In-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba), Sucha Singh, Jasvir Singh, Tarlochan Singh Fresno, Balwant Singh Khera (President, Socialist Party Punjab), Dr. Gill Lodhai, Dr. Prabhvir Singh, Kuldip Singh Atwal, Surjit Singh Atwal, Surinder Badesha, Jassie, Moon Light Studio, Kuldip Singh Gill (Natomas), Karnail Singh, and Nirmal Singh, Jarnail Singh, Hari Singh Terasi and Master Mukhtiar Singh from Mantika, Sarpanch Kuldip Singh, Gurmail Singh from Yuba City, from Redbulf Kuldip Singh Sonu, from Rosevil Harprit Singh Dahia and Dr. Daljit Singh, Kashmir Singh, Amrik Singh Parhar, Avtar Singh, Jaspal Singh, Guri Kang, Harbhajan Singh Ghuman, Nirmal Singh, Harvinder Singh Chandi, Dalvinder Singh Dhutt, Inderjit Singh Bdingh and many others.

Please see concerned more pictures on page 5

Editorial**"LOOKING WITHIN: DALIT MOVEMENT AT THE CROSSROADS"****Prem Kumar Chumber**

Caste does not only operate along fault lines between the higher and lower caste. It equally afflicts the Scheduled Castes from within. The Scheduled Castes are as much divided among themselves as the other various twice born castes. The similar situation applies to the Other Backward Castes (OBC) too. Baba Sahib Dr. B.R. Ambedkar highlighted this aspect of the caste system in many of his speeches and writings. He was of the opinion that Scheduled castes were as much divided house within as the division between them and rest of the twice born. Irrespective of the fact that they were socially excluded and relegated out of the boundaries of the suffocating caste hierarchy emanated from the Varna system, the Scheduled Caste themselves follow the same logic of social exclusion and discrimination on the pattern of Brahmanical graded inequality. Baba Sahib Dr. Ambedkar reiterated that if the Scheduled Castes wanted to get rid of the social exclusion and untouchability, they have to say first good bye to the social evil of untouchability within. Unless and until the internal social division is not taken care of, the requisite unity among the various Dalit castes is difficult to evolve. Unity among the various communities among the Scheduled Castes is the most necessary requirement for any democratic Dalit movement to come forward to take cudgels with the Brahmanical Social Order (BSO).

In Punjab at present there are as many as 39 castes among the Scheduled Castes. In the 2011 Census their number was 38. Later on in 2007, another caste of Rai Sikhs was added to the list of Scheduled Caste in Punjab, thus making the figure thirty nine. Scheduled Castes in Punjab like their counterparts in rest of India are not only divided along caste lines, they are equally splintered into various religions. Scheduled Castes in Punjab are Hindus, Sikhs, Christians and Buddhists. Many of them claim to be belonging to their indigenous religion Ad Dharm; though after 1931 census Ad Dharm did not figure in the decennial census of India. The 39 Scheduled Castes of Punjab have their peculiar social hierarchical system whereby they have causally arranged themselves on low-high profile parallel to the prevalent Brahmanical caste system in the rest of the country. It was against this social division within that Great Indian great Ghadri Baba Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the founder of the famous Ad Dharm movement, addressed almost all the then caste members of the ex-untouchables by their specific caste names to come forward on a single platform forgetting their insidious caste factor and fight collectively the monster of untouchability.

Where are we standing today? Are we not a divided house? Take for example marriages. There is hardly any inter-caste marriage within the Scheduled Castes. Ad Dharmi will prefer to marry within the Ad Dharmi caste. In the matrimonial advertisements it is common to find that marriage alliances are sought strictly within castes. One hardly finds marriages between the Chamar and Balmiki castes.

Buddhists Dalits like all other Dalits belonging to different religions equally follow the criterion of caste endogamy in the marriages. All this has prevented unity among the Scheduled Castes. Probably this may be one of the most important reasons behind the failure of the Scheduled Caste in Punjab to come into political power despite their large numbers. Let us think beyond caste and forge a strong unity to empower ourselves.

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'ਅੰਬੇਦਕਰ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼' ਵਿੱਚ ਛਪੇ ਲੇਖਾਂ, ਮਸ਼ਨਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਇਸਤਿਹਾਰਾਂ ਆਦਿ ਵਿਚਲੇ ਵਿਚਾਰਾਂ
ਨਾਲ ਅਦਾਰਾ ਅੰਬੇਦਕਰ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਪਾਦਕ ਦਾ ਸਹਿਮਤ ਹੋਣਾ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਨਹੀਂ।

God bless America**Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom. 2 Co 3:17**

America's independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John

Adams had written to his wife Abigail: The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. Adams could already foresee that their actions would be celebrated by future generations.

He said, "The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

In a remarkable coincidence, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but another Founding Father who became a President, James Monroe, died on July 4, 1831, thus becoming the third president in a row who died on this memorable day. Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872, and, so far, is the only

President to have been born on Independence Day.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and worship services and prayer meetings in addition to various other public and private events & celebrations, government, and traditions of the United States.

Independence Day is the national day of the United States.

Rock Church joins celebration: We the members of the Rock Church Sacramento, the children of God, liberated from worldly bondages, comprising of the congregation of about two dozen nations, in fellowship within and without under the able leadership our 'Bishop' Dr Nathaniel J Wilson and 'Pastor' Pastor Myles Young, celebrate this day every year with pomp and show at brother Heede's house. This year the Rock Church gathered at this big mansion with lot of

open space on all sides. We cooked delicious food of our choice that includes hotdogs, hamburgers, various kinds of salad rice beans and lot of other things with cold drinks, lemon tea etc. Cotton candy, ice balls, raisin cookies were thing of big attraction for the children and youth group. The heads of the family were found sitting with their children, grand children and great grand children in groups.

There were a lot of fun games for children such as jump houses, spider houses and swimming pool etc. Grown up boys and girls could be seen playing horse shoe, volley ball, football and basket ball etc.

The closing of big celebration was with wonderful fireworks. I found it totally different from Indian system. In India, on such festivals like Dewali Vaisakhi, Republic Day, Independence Day, Christmas etc it is the children who play with the fireworks and the elder members of the family just watch them endangering their life and the family property but in America the children sit with their family and simply watch and cry on the explosions. Some healthy nominated people handle this awesome job. The crackers were so powerful that sometimes we had to plug our ears with the fingers.

Fireworks decorated the sky with various colorful explosions as we were rejoicing the fellowship with Lord Jesus Christ praying for His quick second coming to take away His Bride. Be strong, do not fear. Your God will come He will come with vengeance, with Divine retribution. He will come to save you. Isaiah 35:4

Dr Jasjit Singh

FLORAL TRIBUTES TO HONORABLE MR. DEWAN CHAND AHIR SAHIB

WWW.AMBEDKARTIMES.COM PAYS FLORAL TRIBUTE

Consoles the demise of Honorable Mr. Dewan Chand Ahir who dedicated his entire life for the spread of the mission of Bharat Rattan Baba Sahib Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar for betterment of the community. He was one the few scholars whose views on Buddhism and the teachings of Babasaheb are valued deeply among the intellectual circles world over. He wrote many books on the history of Buddhism in South Asia and the philosophy of Bodhisattva Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. He also wrote on the rise of Ad Dharm and Ambedkarite movement in Punjab (Dr. Ambedkar and Punjab, Delhi: B.R. Publications 1991). His seminal work on The Pioneers of Buddhist Revival in India published by Sri Satguru Publications, 1989 is one of the many widely read of his books. We lost in his demise a great scholar of Buddhism and a visionary of the great mission of Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. The forum www.ambedkartimes.com sympathizes with the family of honorable Mr. Dewan Chand Ahir and also his wide intellectual and friends circles.

Prem K. Chumber
Editor-in-Chief: www.ambedkartimes.com

MR. D.C. AHIR IS NO MORE

The renowned author of more than dozen published works on Buddhism and Dr. Ambedkar, Mr. DC Ahir is no more. He breathed his last at his Janakpuri residence of Delhi on 12 July after protracted illness (my talk on phone with his son Nirmal). Born in 1928 at his native place Baath (Jalandhar), he settled at Delhi as an employee in the central govt. service and retired as Director to the Govt. of India in 1986. He was a devoted follower of Baba Saheb Ambedkar not only as an ordinary admirer but as one passionately committed to spread the message and mission of Baba Saheb through his numerous writings. Author of so many books profoundly researched and meticulously documented, he can easily be calibrated among the front-ranking writers on Buddhism and Ambedkar. 'Buddhism and Ambedkar', 'Gandhi and Ambedkar', 'Ambedkar and Punjab', 'Legacy of Dr. Ambedkar', 'Dr. Ambedkar and Indian Constitution' published by different publishing houses are the titles of some of his books that have really helped the readers to know both Buddha and Buddhism , Ambedkar and Ambedkarism more intimately.

Himself hailing from Punjab, he has brought out and highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's deep interest and affectionate links with Punjab SC people in his book 'Dr. Ambedkar and Punjab'. He has presented vivid accounts of how at the time of working out a compromise formula 'Poona Pact' in the wake of Mohandas Gandhi's fast unto death against Communal Award in September, 1932. Baba Saheb had managed to get 8(reserved) seats in the Punjab assembly for SC's when no seat had been provided earlier in the Communal Award; secondly how he took special interest in annulling the abominable Land Alienation Act, 1901 to end the woes and miseries of the land starved SC people of Punjab and thirdly how he arranged to send battalions of Mahar regiment to bring back thousands of sc people still left in Pakistan after partition while he was a Minister in the Nehru-cabinet at that time. My literary association with Mr. Ahir goes back to the days when Urdu weekly paper Ujala with myself as editor had just made its appearance in 1948. He started with Urdu poems that were regularly published in the paper and thereafter he wrote on some serious topics too in prose. That was just the beginning before he occupied the pride of place in the literary world later on. I remained in constant touch with him for the last several years often exchanging information and ideas concerning the community and whenever he visited Chandigarh to attend seminars/discourses, he never missed to visit me. Once I accompanied him to Ucha pind, Sanghol on the Chandigarh-Ludhiana road to visit and collect information about the Buddhist relics there.

Unlike the professional writers, he had the special advantage to have some moments in the company of Baba Saheb Ambedkar every now and then. The man has gone but his memories will remain alive ever after.

-K.C. Sulekh, Trustee, Ambedkar Bhawan Trust, Jalandhar (Regd.)

A TRIBUTE TO RESPECTED D. C. AHIR:

D. C. Ahir was one of the few Punjabi Ambedkarites who had the honour of sitting in the company of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at his residence in Delhi. That was the time when a large number of educated young men from Doaba Punjab made a bee line to Delhi for the purpose of seeking government jobs over there and to offer themselves for the mission of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar. Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar was a Messiah for them. Following the clarion call of his beloved Master (Babasaheb), D.C. Ahir embraced Buddhism and opted for not to take any advantage from the system of caste reservation while keeping himself outside the Hindu fold. He earned all promotions in his job without counting on the policy of reservation. He especially emphasised on this point in one of my conversations with him at the residence of Mr. K. C. Sulekh at Chandigarh. Mr. D. C. Ahir earned a big name in the scholarship of Buddhism the world over. He was a prolific writer who wrote intensively on Buddhism and also the contribution of Babasaheb Ambedkar towards the spread of the teaching of Buddha in India and abroad. He was also instrumental in establishing Buddh Viharas in Delhi and Punjab. In his own village, Batthan Kallan, Ahir Saheb also founded a Buddh Vihara. He remained active in sincerely spreading the mission of Babasaheb for the annihilation of caste in India. Even before his shifting to Delhi, he was also associated with the Punjab chapter of Scheduled Castes Federation and its mouth organ Ujjala. The founder Editor of Ujjala, Mr. K. C. Sulekh, shared with me that Ahir Saheb used to write



HONORABLE MR. DEWAN CHAND AHIR
(1928 – 2012)

missionary poems for the Ujjala. Till his last breath Shri D. C. Ahir remained a valuable source to scholars, researchers and students who work on Buddhism and the philosophy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He used to help them very liberally in sharing the rare material as well as brilliant ideas he had. I am one of many such beneficiaries of his rich and liberal intellectual grace.

In his demise the mission has lost yet another great follower of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and an accomplished scholar of Buddhism. I share the grief with the family and friends of Respected Ahir Saheb.

-Dr. Ronki Ram
ICCR Chair Professor of Contemporary India Studies
Leiden Institute for Asian Studies &
International Institute for Asian Studies
Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands

A TRIBUTE TO LEGENDARY MR. D. C. AHIR

It is deeply saddening to learn about the demise of Mr. Dewan Chand Ahir, a true Ambedkarite and an ardent promoter of Babasaheb Dr. B.R Ambedkar's philosophy and legacy in the revival of Buddhism in India.

During my long stay in Delhi while in Government service between 1955 to 1970 I had many opportunities to be together with Mr. Ahir personally which includes the fateful day of December 6, 1956 when Babasaheb left us for good at his residence in Delhi. Mr. Ahir was a house-hold name and was widely respected among the entire spectrum of the followers of Babasaheb, because of his unrelenting efforts to carry on the legacy of Babasaheb through his literary and intellectual skills. His demise has caused a void in Babasaheb's mission which can never be filled but his inspiring memories will remain as a beacon-light for generations to come.

Supreme Council Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, USA conveys its deep condolences to the bereaved family, his admirers and close friends for this irreparable and irreversible loss.

-O. P. Balley,
General Secretary, Supreme Council Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA

MR. D. C. AHIR PASSED AWAY

I am truly saddened by Mr. Dewan Chand Ahir Ji's death. He was a prolific writer who authored numerous books on Buddhism and Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar. Perhaps he was the last few people left who spent some time with Babasaheb and pledged to carry on his caravan. To his last breath, he was true to his commitment.

He was an amazing person. He was always so kind and considerate. My first encounter with him happened in early 80s when Dr. Ambedkar Mission Society, Bedford decided to get translated Mr. Ahir's English book "Buddhism in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal" into Punjabi and we needed his permission. Later on I had an opportunity to meet and talk to him several times. He also attended the opening of Takshila Maha Buddha Vihara in October, 2006 in Punjab and was very happy to see the revival of Buddhism in Punjab.

His passing will not only leave a void in the Ambedkar and Buddhist movement in India but also in our lives and in the hearts of everyone who knew him. D.C. Ahir's memory will always remain deep within our hearts.

Our sincere condolences go to all of the family members, relatives and his friends.

With deepest sympathy,

-Arun Kumar,

on behalf and for Dr. Ambedkar Mission society, Bedford (UK)

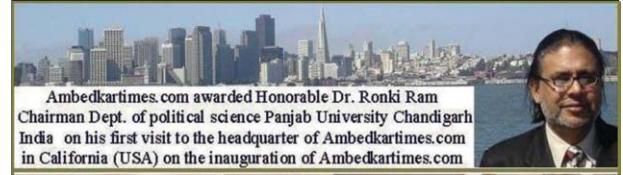
Ambedkarite Movement in the Western Hemisphere (Report by Arun Kumar)



Honouring late Mr. Kenneth Griffiths, British actor and film maker who made a documentary film on Dr. Ambedkar for BBC. Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Indian High Commissioner giving a memento



Unveiling of Ambedkar bust donated at the London School of Economics by Dr. John Ashworth, Director, LSE



Dr. Ronki Ram honored by Mr. Amrik Chand CPA & Mrs. Narender Kaur Chumber from "Ambedkar Times" during his maiden visit to www.ambedkartimes.com head quarter in California (USA)



Dr. Savita Ambedkar, wife of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the presentation of bust to the Columbia University.



Countess of Mountbatten of Burma, daughter of late Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India at Royal Commonwealth Hall



Late Mr. Bhagwan Dass addressing the audience in the seminar held in House of commons.



FABO, UK members handing over a memorandum to Mr. Kuldip Nayyar regarding the atrocities on Dalits.



Installation of plaque on the house where Dr. Ambedkar stayed in 1921-22. Seen in the picture are Mr. Roy Hattersley, MP, Deputy Leader of Labour Party, Deputy High commissioner, Mayor, Glenda Jackson, MP and film actress with other members of FABO,UK.



Mr. Chanan Chahal with Mr. Khushi Ram Ji in Vancouver

A TRIBUTE TO AHIR SAHIB

I read the sad news about the passing away of Shri Dewan Chand Ahir in the "Ambedkar Times". Shri Ahir's death is a great loss to the community and the society at large. Ahir Sahib was a scholar, an intellectual and an authority on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his mission. I read his book "the Legacy of Dr. Ambedkar" some years before and purchased the book. It is just a co-incident that while searching my small collection at my flat in Gurgaon; I laid my hand on the book again a couple of weeks before. I brought it with me to Jalandhar and kept myself engaged with the book in my train journey. It is a well researched and documented work on the life and mission and also the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family on the sad demise of the great son of the community Shri D.C. Ahir.

- (Ramesh Chander)

Retired Ambassador - IFS

Ghadar Memorial Foundation of America, Sacramento (CA) celebrated its 12th Ghadar Memorial Conference & Mela on July 8, 2012 in Sacramento (California)



Pictures Credit: Prem K. Chumber/ www.ambedkartimes.com

CALIFORNIA DECLARES NOVEMBER 2012 AS SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH

Dr. Onkar S. Bindra

Ignorance about the Sikhs is rampant even in California where Sikhs have been living since early 1900s. This is mainly because of virtual absence of anything about Sikhs in the school textbooks, non-inclusion of Sikhism in courses on world religions, and the Sikhs not making much effort to mix with others in their communities.

Under the circumstances, it was nice of Assemblyman Dan Logue to carry an Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR181) declaring Nov. 2010 as the Sikh Awareness and Appreciation month. However, before that month ended, Harbhajan Singh, 57, a Sacramento taxi driver was beaten severely by two men who admitted it to be a hate crime. Further, two elderly Sikh men were shot on March 4, 2011 when they were on their afternoon stroll in their Elk Grove neighborhood. One, Surinder Singh, 67, died on the spot, while the other, Gurmej S. Atwal, 78, died in the hospital after a few weeks.

There was an outpouring of sympathy for the bereaved families and moral support for the Sikh community. "We are all Sikhs today and we are all Americans" declared Darrell Steinberg, Senate President pro Tempore, and several other legislators, who wore turbans on the West steps of the Capitol on April 11, 2011.

In the light of the above, in consultation with this writer the Sikh Council of Central California, Fresno, during their celebrations of Guru Nanak's birthday in Caruthers Gurdwara, on October 19, 2011, requested Assemblyman Henry Perea for a resolution to declare every November as a month of Sikh Awareness and Appreciation throughout California.

Assemblyman Henry Perea introduced ACR97 (Perea) on Feb. 2, 2012. The resolution was presented on the Assembly Floor on May 17 by Assemblyman Dan Logue on behalf of Assemblyman Perea, who could not be present owing to serious illness of his mother. Five assemblymen, namely, Warren Furutani, Jim Nielsen, Roger Dickinson, Bob Wieckowski and Chris Norby, made impressive impromptu speeches supporting the resolution and appreciating Mr. Perea for authoring the resolution, Mr. Dan Logue for presenting it and California Sikhs for their contributions. Sixty-nine members of the Assembly became co-authors of the resolution, which was passed by a voice vote.

Thanks are due to Assem-

blymen Henry Perea and Dan Logue for their role, and to their staff, especially Stephen Francis and David Kruckenberg for their roles and for the pictures and a video of the event in the Assembly.

The Resolution was passed by the Senate on June 15, 2012, and has since been chaptered. The Chief Clerk of the Assembly is expected to soon transmit copies of this resolution to the author for distribution to the Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh American community, and other interested organizations or persons. For advance information, the same is given below. It is sug-

gested that the readers print it and distribute its copies to friends and family for distribution to colleagues at work, neighbors, and teachers of their children.

Further, the readers are requested to disseminate basic information on Sikh history, culture and religion, in America, using the following Supplemental Instructional Materials adopted by the State Board of Education. Furthermore, the Sikh cultural, educational, political, and religious organization are requested to plan holding seminars during November, 2012 to honor ACR97. Such seminars could possibly be held at the county level, district level and school level.

- PBS/KVIE videos "Meet the Sikhs 3:24 min." and "Understanding Sikhism 19.04 min" DVD Extras on KVIE'S Viewfinder DVD, "Sikhs in America". These may be downloaded free of charge from the inter-net.
- "Cultural Safari", an entertaining educational video, available free of cost from www.kaurfoundation.org (osbindra@sbcglobal.net)

TEXT OF ACR97 (PEREA) 2012

"WHEREAS, California and our nation are at once blessed and enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and

WHEREAS, among this un-

precedented diversity in California, there reside an estimated 250,000 Americans of Sikh origin, comprising nearly 40 percent of the nation's estimated Sikh population; and

WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have resided in California for more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants having labored on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Imperial Valleys; and WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California was established in Stockton in 1912, and Sikh temples have since been es-

ablished in communities throughout California, especially in the Central Valley, with more than a dozen in Fresno alone; and

WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated particular success in the areas of agriculture, trucking, medicine, and in the creation of small, family-owned businesses; and WHEREAS, Yuba City boasts the largest population of Sikh and Punjabi Americans in the nation and the Central Valley of California boasts the second largest population; and

WHEREAS, Representative Dalip Singh Saund of California, born in Amritsar, India, was a lettuce farmer in the Imperial Valley and an elected judge of the Justice Court in the Westmoreland Judicial District before becoming the first Sikh American and Asian American member of the United States Congress, where he served from 1957 to 1963; and

WHEREAS, Representative Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind, born in Taragarh, India, was a soldier, scholar, and activist who served in the United States Army during World War I, studied at University of California, Berkeley, and struggled and fought

for Asian Indians to be allowed to become American citizens; and WHEREAS, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto, born in Moga, India, is an accomplished scientist and inventor who has been awarded over one hundred patents, spurring advancements in lasers, biomedical instrumentation, solar energy, and pollution monitoring, and is widely acknowledged to be the father of fiber optics, a technology that has allowed for high-speed, digital communication; and WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have served as mayors of California cities, including David Dhillon in El Centro, Gurpal Samra in Livingston, Amarpreet "Ruby" Dhaliwal in San Joaquin, and Kashmir Singh Gill in Yuba City, and numerous Sikh Americans have served as council members of California cities; and



(L-R) Pashaura Singh Dhillon of SCCC, Fresno; Prof. Onkar S. Bindra of Sacramento; Charanjeet S. Bath, Raisin King of California; Prem Kumar Chumber, Editor-In-Chief of "Ambedkar Times" & "Desh Doaba" in handshake with Assemblyman Mr. Dan Logue, and Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Mayor of San Joaquin.

Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace, (ACJP)

UNITED NATIONS DEEPLY CONCERNED ON THE STATE OF DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

United Nations is deeply concerned on the issue of serious violation of human rights of Dalits in India which is evident from the recommendations contained in the report adopted by the Working Group on Universal Periodic Review held on 30th May 2012. India's human rights were reviewed by UN

ACJP's efforts resulted in starting a debate in UN during the India Report discussion before the Committee on Elimination Of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in 1996.

Germany made one of the strongest recommendations;

"Take adequate measures to guarantee and

ination, Convention on Rights of The Child, the International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The tough and persistent challenge India is facing in an international forum, dealing with social,

force the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocity (POA) Act - 1989". This speaks volumes about the state of affairs in the matter of Dalit human rights.

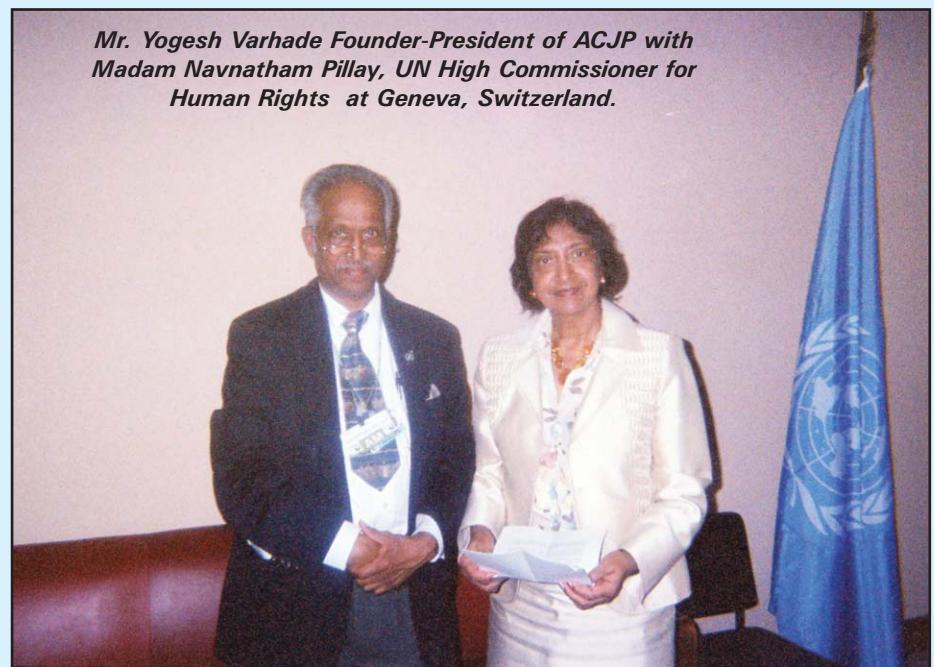
How serious is the issue could be understood from the statement of India's Home Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram in the Parliament on 19th Aug 2010.

law enforcing machinery stands completely divorced from the community. This is a matter of shame, wherever we go, whoever we talk to, both in India and abroad, ask us about how we treat our Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Minorities."

India's Union Minister of Social Justice Mr.



CJP presentation to United Nations during UPR2 in April 2012 Photo of ACJP Delegation to UN in 2008 during Prepcos ECOSOCR Committee under the leadership of Mr. Yogesh Varhade in 2008



Mr. Yogesh Varhade Founder-President of ACJP with Madam Navnatham Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva, Switzerland.

Human Rights Council on 24th May 2012 at Geneva where India put up brave face on Human Rights front.

Total 85 countries asked questions and made 165 recommendations to India during 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review in Human Rights Council in United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Various nations through the UN body strongly criticized the Indian government for continuing violation of basic human rights of more than 250 million Dalits and Tribals (SC/ST). Indian constitution, drafted by its chief architect, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, is strong enough to protect the human rights of all its citizens including the marginalized but due to the lack of political will of those in the helm of affairs, it has become a paper democracy for the marginalized SC/ST community, says its founder-president, Yogesh Varhade who has been bringing the issue in UN since 1991 and finally

monitor the effective implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, providing legal means for an increased protection of vulnerable groups like the Dalit, including the access to legal remedies for affected persons"

Japan was equally critical of India. They recommended :"Monitor and verify the effectiveness of , and steadily implement ,measures such as quota programmes in the areas of education and employment ,special police and special courts for effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Act, and the work of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes."

India has been one of the biggest violators of human rights of its underprivileged section, being signatory to the charter on human rights -1948 and all fundamental rights instruments like the International Convention Against All Forms of Racial Discrim-

economic and cultural lives of people, is the slow and marginal progress India has made in the field of human rights. It shows not just the lack of political will, but judicial and social indifference to matters that deal with human dignity.

There is a rising trend of atrocities on SC/ST which is evident from reports of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. During 2005 to 2010, total 217077 FIR were registered under the Prevention of Atrocity Act 1989 and PCR Act 1955. This includes 4724 murders and 11678 rapes of Dalit women in India.

While addressing an international conference in Delhi on 27th Dec.2006, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said that "the practice of untouchability is parallel to apartheid in south Africa....Untouchability is not just a social discrimination. It is a blot on humanity". In another conference he said "it is a real challenge as to how to en-

He said:

"There are other divisions in society but the most cruel, the most humiliating and the most dehumanizing are with regard certain castes as "untouchables". As a result of that, they have suffered socially, politically, economically in terms of development and they are the victims of crimes and atrocities." He further said "the statistics do not reflect any decline in the atrocities. On the contrary, the information compiled by the Crime Records Bureau shows that the number of cases registered of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is, in fact, on the rise."

He further said in the parliament that "Look at the kind of crimes that are committed against these people! The crimes that are committed are the worst kind of crimes. They are murder, rape, kidnapping, abduction and arson. These are not petty crimes. These are pre-meditated crimes. The point is that the

Mukul Wasnik was very straight and categorical in accepting on 17th April 2012 in Delhi. He said "No action has been taken against a single erring official in past 30 years despite there being a provision in the law to act against the officials who are not keen on taking action on the complaints registered by SCs/STs."

These observations and pronouncements of Indian government on public platform speaks volumes of the state of affairs in the matters of unbelievable and unspeakable stories of tens of thousands of caste atrocities with more than 90 % acquittals of perpetrators of crimes against SC/ST communities in India.

Ambedkar Center For Justice and Peace (ACJP), a global human rights organization has been trying to help India for last 20 years to prevent human rights violations of SC/ST communities, child labour, Child Prostitution (Devadasi system) and bonded

Cont on next page

Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace, (ACJP)

UNITED NATIONS DEEPLY CONCERNED ON THE STATE OF DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA

labour.. In 1996 UN recommended that India should start long-term human rights education at all levels aimed at eliminating the institutionalized thinking of high caste and low caste mentality. CERD committee again in 2007 delivered concluding observations to stop human rights violations of SC/ST communities.

After opening up of economy and liberalization, India has made a rapid progress in economy and trying to compete with China as emerging superpower. This will only happen if India properly treats its 25% SC/ST population with dignity.

India admitted during its presentation to Human Rights Council that it is facing stiff challenge from within from naxalites and insurgents who have its base in more than 120 districts of India are well aware that this internal dissent has started due to deep economic disparity and exploitation of SC/ST communities.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar while delivering his last speech in the constituent assembly on 26th Nov 1949 warned of the dangers of socioeconomic disparities and contradictions and urged Indian leaders to remove these contradictions

at the earliest moment or else those who are suffering from these contradictions will blow up the structure of political democracy.

end to apartheid." She argued that "other seemingly insurmountable walls, such as slavery and apartheid, have been dismantled in the past" and concluded that "we can and must tear

view. India was first reviewed in April 2008 in the first cycle and on 24th May 2012 in second cycle in the 13th session of Working Group on Universal Periodic Review where 87 countries

education and abolition of Armed Forces Special Powers Act -1948. India in its presentation before human Rights council made its commitment towards promotion and protection of all its citizens and expressed confidence that India would be able to deliver to every person their full rights and entitlements.

In all 11 countries asked caste related questions prominent among them were United States of America,

Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Norway, Thailand and Ghana. India has postponed its answers to the questions posed by members of HRC till Sept 2012.

Indian delegation was lead by the Attorney General of India. The review of India was held at the 13th meeting on 24 May 2012.

The delegation of India was headed by Mr. Goolam E. Vahanvati, Attorney General of India, Mr. Dilip Sinha, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India in the United Nations, Prof. Ranbir Singh, Vice Chancellor, National Law University, Delhi and 17 other high level officials of various ministries, departments and permanent mission at Geneva.



German Diplomat at UPR2 discussing with Mr. Varhade on Dalit Issue May 24, 2012



H. E. Ambassador of USA to UN at Geneva, Madam Betty King with Mr. Varhade discussing Dalit Issue on 24th May 2012

United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights Ms Navi Pillay in an opinion article commented, "The time has come to eradicate the shameful concept of caste," and called on the international community to come together "as it did when it helped put an

down the barriers of caste too." United Nations Human rights council has started a unique system of monitoring human rights situation in all its 193 member countries and each country has to face United Nations once in four years in the meeting of Universal Periodic Re-

had taken part and put up questions to India on wide range of human rights issues which includes child labour, bonded labour, trafficking, child mortality, maternal mortality, honor killing, violence against women, poverty eradication, right to health, right to

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Ambedkar Center for Justice and Peace, North America based non-profit NGO, has been working with United Nations since 1991. Their extensive efforts to draw the attention of UN and the civil society through UN Treaty Bodies and UN world Conferences have finally paid rich dividends. In 1996 CERD, (Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination), debated the evil of Descent (caste) based Discrimination in India followed by Committee on Human Rights in 1997, followed by Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2000 and finally in 2005 resulted in appointing two Special Rapporteurs to study the Caste-based and Work-based Discrimination around the world. The annual reports are submitted to UN Human Rights Council every year for debate on this report which India has to face and answer to the world body. These steps were declared by Baba Sahib in 1946 if necessary to be followed.

We, at "Ambedkar Times Group", ("AMBEDKAR TIMES" News Paper & its websites: www.ambedkartimes.com . www.ambedkartimes.org , "DESH DOABA" News Paper & its website: www.deshdoaba.com are very delighted and proud of the contribution of ACJP and its founder-president Mr. Yogesh Varhade Ji for this major breakthrough.

Prem Kumar Chumber
Editor-In-Chief: Ambedkar Times

Ambedkarite Movement in the Western Hemisphere

(Cont. from last issue)

conference, a bronze bust donated by Dr. Ambedkar Mission Society, Bedford, UK was displayed and later installed in the Simon Frazer University, Vancouver. Recently a talk is in progress to name a 40 seat hall in the university on the name of Dr. Ambedkar. They continue celebrating Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary every year.

Recently they celebrated 30 years of Ambedkarism in Canada. Dr. Ambedkar International Coordination Association of Canada has also been established in Vancouver. This association helps the needy Dalit children in education in India.

Based in Toronto, Indian Buddhist Society of Canada is entirely based on the Ambedkar Buddhism. Its members are spread all over the country. Anand Bali runs e-paper, Bheem Patrika from Toronto. Recently he visited UK to solicit support to build Ambedkar Centre and has set up Buddh Vihar Dr. Ambedkar Community Centre 328 Passmore Av, Unit 20 Scarborough, Ont M1V-5J5. Raju Kamble's presence in Calgary gave an impetus to Ambedkar movement and many programmes were organised in memory of Dr. Ambedkar.

Indians have been able to sweep the problem of caste preju-

dice under the carpet. But with globalisation and modern technological advancement in communication, no issue could be kept hidden for long time.

Keeping in view the nature of caste discrimination, Mandrika Rupa, a film maker from New Zealand made a documentary, 'Hidden Apartheid' in which she depicted Dr. Ambedkar as a champion fighting for the cause of the suppressed and neglected people.

With the increasing popularity of Ambedkar and his movement, he is becoming a World phenomenon. Sensing the interest people showing in the liberation movement

of Ambedkar, soon he will be considered one of the leading icons who fought for equality, liberty, fraternity, equal opportunity and equal justice and his name will be mentioned along with Martin Luther King Junior and Nelson Mandela.

"Author is a human rights activist, follower of Dr. Ambedkar involved in his movement in UK since 1977, had served in number of organisations in various capacities. Currently he is General Secretary of Dr. Ambedkar Mission Society, Bedford and Joint Secretary of FABO, UK".

(Please see concerned pictures on page 4)