

DALIT EMANCIPATION AND SAHIB KANSHI RAM'S CAPTIVITY

In the modern context, Sahib Kanshi Ram's name has become synonymous with Dalit empowerment. The complexion of Indian democracy significantly changed with his rise on the political horizon of India. Major Indian political parties were taken by surprise. The era of one-party rule ended paving a way for the coalition politics at the Center. He entered in politics like an ascetic by renouncing the comfort of hearth and home for writing a new chapter on making of the Indian Nation. Utter Pradesh Chief Minister Kumari Mayawati, his keen follower, created history by winning absolute majority in predominantly Hindu majority state of Utter Pradesh. A spate of pro-Dalit developments undergoing in Utter Pradesh would not have been otherwise possible for several decades. The day is not far when she may even occupy the seat of power in Delhi. A majority of Dalits are proud of Kanshi Ram and his protégé Kumari Mayawati for empowering them, but few experience alienation for not being allowed to participate in the celebratory moments of their patriarch's vision.

According to a report published in Times of India on 10/19/2008, Sadhanshu Kumar, a youth from Bhagalpur and an ardent follower of BSP icon Kanshi Ram has been singularly campaigning at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi for a CBI probe into his unnatural death. Nobody can miss the banner displaying, "Kanshi Ram Ne Di Sardari, Mayawati Ne Ki Gaddari" (Kanshi Ram put a crown on her, but she betrayed him.) Sadhanshu Kumar may be among very few who would try to belittle

Mayawati's remarkable history being the first woman of Dalit origin to command so much authority. Everyone knows that UP CM could jolt influential persons like Mrs. Sonia and Rahul Gandhi out of their smugness, sometimes just to demonstrate the sweep of her unquestionable power. Dedicated supporters of Kanshi Ram like Sadhanshu Kumar from Bihar are relatively very poor and non-entities in comparison to the immensurable strength of Utter Pradesh Chief Minister.

On Kanshi Ram's second death anniversary, Kumari Mayawati announced 3000 crore development projects. One of the projects, "Dr. Shakuntala Mishra Handicapped University" has been named after BSP General Secretary, Satish Chandra Mishra's mother. Mishra, a Brahmin is currently the undisputed king of Utter Pradesh CM's strategies and policies. The naming of the Handicapped University after Mishra's mother to memorialize Kanshi Ram's death anniversary, appears to be a

cruel reminder of Kanshi Ram's 95 year old mother who died during a prolonged struggle to liberate her ailing son from Mayawati's clutches. Critics say Mayawati used purposely Mishra's mother to demoralize Kanshi Ram's relatives who still allege that Mr. Ram was killed while in her captivity. The act of naming Handicapped University after her General Secretary's mother, according to a Kanshi Ram's supporter, is like rubbing salt in the festering wounds of his survivors.

A school teacher who had dreamed of becoming a civil servant at the most, Mayawati fantasized her life on the roller coaster when she met Kanshi Ram in 1980. Kanshi Ram's matter-of-fact style captivated her. She could not get over what he had prophesied about her 'being the ruler instead of being ruled.' She started monopolizing him from the very first day of her meeting with him; and thought she would not only win him over to her side completely, but also not tolerate anyone

sharing the special pride he had. Mayawati recognized that Kanshi Ram had set a mission on a higher plane where wealth, marriage and family ties could not distract him. His vows about not marrying and amassing wealth during his BAMCEF days reflected the singularity of his purpose and extreme dedication to the cause of Dalit upliftment. Mayawati figured out that Kanshi Ram's detachment from worldly allures had created a void that he wanted to fill by empowering Dalits in the national politics. She set her eye on the empty space of his life and started filling it with her domineering presence. She presented herself as the agent of change that Kanshi Ram had most advertized. The aggressiveness she showed by venting her vitriol against Brahmins, Bania and Thakurs had convinced Kanshi Ram of her potential and eagerness to work for the party cause. The experience of being three time chief minister of India's most populous state during Kanshi Ram's life time, Mayawati had carved her own independent line that ran contrary to her mentor's beliefs. Some supporters feel Kanshi Ram's resolve to remain unaffected by political corruption and relatives' promotion was woefully reversed. She showed her tendency to amass unlimited wealth and got embroiled in Taj Corridor corruption case. After 1998, Kanshi Ram decided not to contest any election for the public office.

He planned to improve the party functioning and make it more attached to the grassroots level. But by 2000, he



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HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS



I congratulate all Sahib Shri Guru Ravidass & Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar's followers around the world on this special occasion of the launch of AMBEDKAR TIMES Newspaper. The credit goes to the chief editor Mr. Prem Kumar

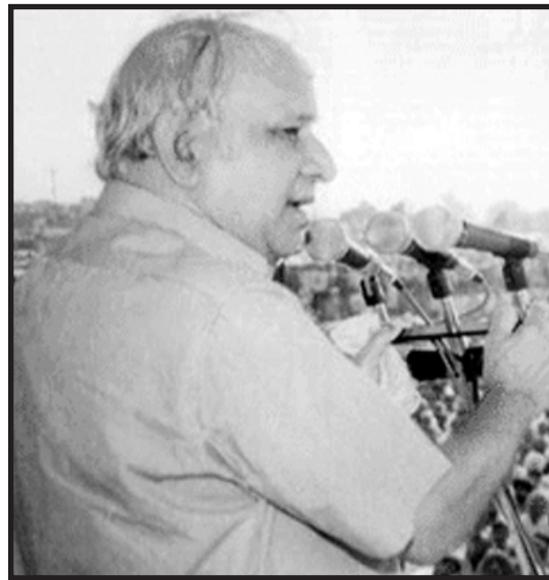
Chumber for setting this history by launching first newspaper under the banner of Dr. Ambedkar in abroad. My best wishes are with him.

I congratulate to all on auspicious occasion birth anniversary of Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji who was the founder of BAMCEF, DS4 & Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and he was our great leader after Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar & Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia.

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