



# Ambedkar Times Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: [chumbermedia@yahoo.com](mailto:chumbermedia@yahoo.com), [editor@ambedkartimes.com](mailto:editor@ambedkartimes.com)

VOL- 14

ISSUE- 2

March 23, 2022

California (USA)

[www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com)

[www.deshdoaba.com](http://www.deshdoaba.com)

## AMBEDKAR TIMES REMEMBERS

# SAHIB KANSHI RAM JI

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

**S**ahib Kanshi Ram was born on March 15, 1934, in Khawas Pur village of Ropar District of Punjab. He was the eldest of eight siblings. He belonged to the Ramdassia (Ad Dharmi) community of the Scheduled Caste group, which is the largest group in Punjab. He was named Kanshi because after his birth the mid-wife placed him in a tray made of kansa metal. His father owned some land and his uncles were in the armed forces. In Sahib Kanshi Ram's own words, "I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..." Despite his low caste background, he earned a bachelor's degree in science from the Government College at Ropar (Punjab).

His upbringing was modest. During his education years there was nothing special about him to suggest that he would mature into great social revolutionary. It was only after he took up a government job in the western Indian state of Maharashtra that he began to be influenced by the writings and life of Baba Sahib Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who voiced the concerns of India's low caste community and worked hard throughout his life for their empowerment. Soon after his graduation, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji joined the research staff of Kirki's Explosive Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) in Pune 1957. While working in Pune, he quit his job after becoming involved in the famous Deena Bhan case. Deena Bhan, a Rajasthani Scheduled Caste employee and senior colleague of Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji was suspended. His fault was that he protested against the decision of ERDL management for the cancellation of holidays for Ambedkar and Buddha Jayantis and their replacement by the Tilak Jayanti and one additional holiday for Diwali. Sahib Kanshi Ram decided to fight

against such a caste ridden and dictatorial behavior of the management. The fighter in Kanshi Ram got the suspension orders of Deena Bhan revoked and Ambedkar and Buddha Jayantis holidays were restored.

minorities into it.

He criticized the post-Ambedkar leadership of Dalits in India. For that he declared Poona Pact as the main reason. He said that "Poona Pact made Dalits helpless. By reject-

down-trodden in electoral democracy in India. In, the Chamcha Age, "he focused very much on the Poona Pact which was a point of a rather decisive Gandhian victory over Dr. Ambedkar after a long duel between the two at the Round Table Conference". In the mid-1960s, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji began to organize Dalit government employees to fight against what he saw as the deeply entrenched prejudice of higher caste peoples. It was around this time that he decided that he would not marry and dedicate his life to the cause of Dalit improvement. By the mid-1980s, he decided play a crucial role in the politics of the country.

The result was the formation of the BSP (the Common Man's Party) in 1984. As a politician, he became very popular among his people, who found a new hope and vision in his style of functioning and sincerity. Suddenly he became a national figure. He was a master strategist and a meticulous organiser. He used his strengths to carve out a niche for Dalits. This was done by deploying an often combative and aggressive strategy, with virulent attacks on other political parties which he claimed only represented the interests of higher caste Hindus. He was sharply different from other politicians of the mainstream. He used to communicate before he spoke.

He was one of the few great leaders of Independent India who actually expanded the limits of Dalit politics. His political vision was never confined to Scheduled Castes only, as is often thought about him. All of the political organisations he founded were meant for the down-trodden of all sorts – SC, ST, OBC and Minorities. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he was the one who took a lead in making Indian democracy more competitive and practically open to the Dalit-Bahujan Samaj. (Mobile: USA 916-947-8920)



This was the beginning of the long battle for the emancipation of the Dalits in the country that Sahib Kanshi Ram had to lead till his last breath. He resigned from his job and totally dedicated his entire life for the cause of the community. He never married nor visited his home since then. His struggle was not for the home and family. He devised a new strategy to regain the lost glory of the original (Adi) inhabitants of Bharat. He gave utmost importance to the culture of work and democratic method of struggle. He also expanded the circle of the Dalits by incorporating other Backward Classes and Mi-

ing separate electorate, Dalits were deprived of their genuine representation in legislatures. Several and various kind of chamchas were born in the last fifty years. As and when India's so called high caste Hindu rulers felt the need of chamchas and when the authority of the upper castes got endangered by real and genuine Dalit leaders, chamchas were brought to the fore in all other fields".

In his "The Chamcha Age", a well-argued and polemical tirade against the pseudo Dalit leaders, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji sharpen the contradiction for the legitimate acquisition of political power by the

### URGENT CARE CLINIC

## DR. TAKHAR'S FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE CLINIC

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

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

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

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



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD



Goodie Takhar, PhD

# Ambedkar Bhawan Bootan Mandi Jalandhar



Ambedkar Bhawan is one of the landmarks of Jalandhar situated on Nakodar Road (now Ambedkar Marg) at Bootan Mandi sandwiched by yet other sites dedicated to Babasaheb – Ambedkar Chowk (an important chowk on Bhagwan Mahabir Marg) and Ambedkar Park and also Ambedkar Government College at Bootan Mandi towards Satguru Kabir Chowk (Wadala Chowk). The followers of Babasaheb very thoughtfully located Ambedkar Bhawan at a historical site where Babasaheb delivered in October 1951 an important speech in the run up to first elections in 1952 and also visited Seth Kishan Dass's, an associate of Babasaheb, Chobara (Residence) at Bootan Mandi. It is pity that hardly any written information is available on this project (I purposely say it a project as I think it has yet to get completion as a spot of its standing and is still under-development) except some sketching information in a three page leaflet issued by Ambedkar Bhawan Trust which I could get from my friend Baldev Bhardwaj, a senior functionary of the Trust. Today, March 20, I visited Ambedkar Bhawan for a function of lying of foundation stone of Ramabai Ambedkar Hall with the grant given by MP Shamsher Singh Dullu about which I would write in the proceeding paragraphs. Let me complete the story of Ambedkar Bhawan as I have some personal knowledge of the period mid-1960s and information obtained and gathered informally from some of the stake holders.

I vividly remember as a youth in the formative years, the site of Ambedkar Bhawan was somehow acquired, claimed and occupied legally or otherwise in early 1960s by the community activists under the influence and encouragement by the leadership of the Republican Party led by Lahori Ram Balley and others like Piara Ram Dhanowali, Duni Chand Shahpuri, Charan Dass Nidhadak among others with the support of some of the Seths of Bootan Mandi and nearby villages engaged in leather business. I clearly recall joining the funeral procession of one RPI activist who died while under detention in the famous RPI Agitation sometime in 1964 who was cremated at the site. Later, the bare plot of land became a sought after venue of all important public meetings of RPI. I still recall clearly in the second half of 1960s, I heard leaders like Dadasaheb Gaikwad, B.D. Khobragade, B.P. Maurya, Shanta Bai Dani and also the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) among others and the missionary singer like Lal Chand Kamala and Bad-

han Qwalas to name a few. The site had by the end of 1960 become a rallying point of dalit politics and awakening in the region. Dr. Gian Kaul of Ambedkar Bhawan Trust told me that initially the registry of about 3 canals of land was done in the names of Lahori Ram Balley and Seth Karam Chand Bath. I can understand Balley Sahib, the community hero of the times and an intellectual face of the RPI, played a leading role in generating public funds and Seth Karam Chand Bath must have chipped in with financial support for the purchase and appropriation of the site. He further informed that later in 1972 Ambedkar Bhawan Trust was formed and subsequently the land title was transferred in the name of the Trust.

The Trust also purchased and appropriated another 3 canals plus and as such now Ambedkar Bhawan has total area of about 6.5 canals, a fairly good plot to host an elegant and befitting memorial of the icon Babasaheb Ambedkar. The leaflet of the Trust further explained the purpose and activities of the Bhawan as, "The Trust was created in 1972 in fulfillment of the aims and objectives of the Ambedkar Mission Society already engaged whole-hog in spread and carry forward the Mission of Babasaheb. Over the year the Bhawan has become a nerve-centre of the activities pertaining to the community. It is a matter of great satisfaction.

It is almost fifty years since Ambedkar Bhawan Trust was formed. Over the years, under the dedicated and motivated guidance of one of its Founder Trustees and a leader of the community by his own right, Lahori Ram Balley, the project – Ambedkar Bhawan has come long way in establishing itself as a befitting tribute to the memory of Babasaheb and as a watchdog of the interests of the community and a just social order, the subjects dear to Babasaheb Ambedkar. But at the same time, it will not be fair if it is not realized that this important landmark of the community has not received the attention and development at the pace which was expected and desired.

The Seths of Bootan Mandi and the followers of Ambedkar in the area and the people at the helm of the project may introspect and set the renewed pace of development. It is no criticism as I fully realize that our resources were limited, Ambedkar was unnecessarily and unjustly opposed or ignored by the Congress Party and other outfits till 1970s. Scheduled Caste Federation and Republican Party

did their best to make the project a befitting one but later in the process, political ambitions and narrow agendas of leadership came to the fore and they parted ways which was detrimental to the progress of the project. People at the control of Ambedkar Bhawan could not rise to the occasion and engage the community with an open mind and agenda as required. Unfortunately, Ambedkar Bhawan was tagged with one section of political activists and Buddhism and could not engage with wider audience. Again let me hastily add that it is no criticism but a feeble attempt to put the things in right perspective. It is matter of gratification to note that ever since Ambedkar Bhawan Trust was floated in 1972 the project register a facelift and progress. I understand well meaning people like Lahori Ram Balley on the lead and supported by other associates viz. Gian Singh Bal, R.C Paul, K.C. Sulekh, Dr. Ram Lal Jassi, Dr. Surinder Ajnat, Barkha Ram, Dr. Gian Kaul, Dr. Tarsem Sagar, Chanan Ram Wadala, Ram Lal Dass, R.P.S. Pawar, Baldev Bhardwaj, Harmesh Jassal, Sohan Lal, Dr. Rahul Balley, Dr. Rahul Jassi among others kept the ball rolling and turned the site into a functional and vibrant institution. One can understand the financial constraints. The followers of Babasaheb chipped in, both locals and from abroad to begin with. Of late, the Trust opened up a bit and started engaging with the establishment particularly dalit Ministers, MPs, MLAs for raising funds through grants available under the system and as such leaders like I.K. Gujral, K.S. Duggal, Parkash Singh Badal, Chaudhary Santokh Singh, Mohinder Singh Kaypee, Pawan Tinu, Sushil Rinku, among other did their bit by providing funds over the years. But I must say with a sense of complaint that it was not enough and done only half heartedly. Certainly, Babasaheb Ambedkar and the project named after him deserved better not only be the dalits alone but by others too as Ambedkar belonged to India and the humanity at large. My immediate motivation to write this somewhat lengthy piece came from the noble act of providing good sum of Rs. 20 lakh by MP Shamsher Singh Dullu from the MP fund, an appreciable job done thoughtfully.

It was a matter of satisfaction that the stone laying ceremony for the Ramabai Ambedkar Yadgar Hall was performed by the Hon'ble MP Shamsher Singh Dullu himself on March 20 as an expansion of the existing excellent facilities at the Bhawan in which I was also invited. It was a

good and solemn function. The other leaders, I hope, would take a que from this noble act of Dullu Sahib and follow suit to make Ambedkar Bhawan a vibrant and living mon-

ument for the benefit of the community and the society at large. This blog will not be complete if I don't make a mention of Ambedkar Mission Society and All India Samta Dal which operate from the Bhawan. Some activists like Janak Raj (Late) of SPEED and Prof. Sandeep Mehmi and his associates run coaching classes for the aspirants of government jobs as value addition to the activities of Ambedkar Bhawan for the community development. A good library with good books is already in place. An imposing statue of Gautama the Buddha, in white marble, is an added attraction at the site. I take this opportunity to register my appreciation of the current management of Ambedkar Bhawan Trust under the patronage of the living legend Lahori Ram Balley Sahib.

All said and done, kindly allow me to add my humble suggestions: First to raise funds – The Trust may approach and invite CM Bhagwant Mann and request for a substantial grant an all due support to the project: Ambedkar Bhawan. Second - Invite all dalit Ministers and MLAs, numbering 36 on one occasion and the other and ask for grants of Rs.10 lakh from Ministers and Rs. 5 lakhs from MLAs.

It seems the AAP government is inclined to appropriate Ambedkar and his legacy and they should be more than willing to join hands in making Ambedkar Bhawan a Centre of Excellence in the region. I think a pro-active approach is needed. Third – Not a pleasant one but general feelings of many.

Kindly avoid and stop bad elements, the self-appointed Thekedars, within, not to work for segregation and alienation of – the Mecca of the community by bossing over and dictating that this or that person should not be invited and welcomed at the Ambedkar Bhawan as he or she does not conform and support their scheme of things. Jai Bhim – Jai Bharat.



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

# Crisis of Rising Temperature in India



**Dr. Gurinder Kaur**

Professor, Department of Geography,  
Punjabi University, Patiala.  
001-408-493-9776

The recently released second installment of the sixth report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" details the adverse effects of global warming on the world. Nearly half of the world's population now lives in areas vulnerable to climate change, and many ecosystems have reached a point where their return is impossible.

According to the report, rising temperature will have a devastating effect on biodiversity. Many species of animals and plants will become extinct. Rising temperature, melting of polar ice caps and glaciers will raise sea levels, affecting coastal populations and forcing them to relocate. The incidents of all kinds of natural disasters are expected to increase manifold. Worryingly, each natural disaster has multiple impacts. Rising temperature increases the incidence of floods and landslides due to heat waves, droughts and wildfires, and short-term rainfall. Floods, droughts and heavy rains damage crops, which in turn reduces yields, resulting in lower household incomes as well as food shortages. Shortage of food-grains will lead to increase in food prices which will be out of reach of the poor which in turn will lead to increase in malnutrition and still increase the number of deaths due to starvation.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has pointed out that according to meteorologists, scientists and planners, the report reveals the worst effects of climate change so far. According to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres the report has revealed that economic and social inequalities are also responsible for the rise in temperature. Although the developed and rich countries are responsible for the rise in temperature, the worst hit are the poorer and developing countries. Countries in South Asia, Central and South Africa, South America and small islands are more affected by climate change than the developed countries. Among the Asian cities, the city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat faces the threat of Urban Heat Island (higher temperature in urban areas than the surrounding areas) and the city of Mumbai in Maharashtra with rising sea levels, the report said. The dangers of disasters and floods will increase. In addition, India's Ganges and Indus rivers, along with other rivers in Asia, will face severe water shortages by 2050.

According to the report, the rise in temperature is expected to have a devastating effect on India. India is an agriculturally dominant economy and overpopulated country. An increase in temperature of 1 to 4 degree Celsius could reduce paddy production by 10 to 30 per cent and maize production by 25 to 70 per cent, leading to food shortages in India. Our country is already grappling with the problem of malnutrition. According to the National Family Health Survey-5(2019-20), the rate

of malnutrition in the country is higher than that of the National Family Health Survey-4(2015-2016), and in 2021, India was ranked 101st out of 116 countries in the Hunger Rankings by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe and also lags behind its smaller neighbouring countries Myanmar (71st), Nepal (76th), Bangladesh (76th) and Pakistan (92nd).

The report reveals that rising sea levels are estimated to cause a loss of about — 49-50 billion dollars to Mumbai alone. The 5th IPCC report, released in 2014, also specifically warned that India and China would be more affected by climate change than any other country.

With the rise in temperature, the effects of various natural calamities on India are now becoming apparent. The year 2021 has been the

**There are a number of reasons why India is being hit hard by climate change due to rising temperature. India's geographical location and its pro-corporate economic policies are deepening the scourge of natural disasters. About 60 per cent of India's territory is prone to earthquakes, 12 per cent is affected by floods, 8 per cent is prone to cyclones and 68 per cent is prone to drought.**

sixth warmest year on record in the world but according to the Indian Meteorological Department, the year 2021 has been the fifth hottest year in India. According to a report released in December 2020 by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, 75 per cent of India's districts are prone to natural disasters (floods, droughts, short-term rainfall, heat and cold waves, and the like). These districts cover half of India's population (638 million). According to the report, the incidence of heavy rains, cloud-bursts, hailstorms, and landslides in India has increased 20-fold, flood incidence 8-fold and drought-incidence 18-fold in the last five decades. The report by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water found shocking developments in 40 per cent of the districts of the country such as flood-prone areas becoming drought-prone and vice-versa.

There are a number of reasons why India is being hit hard by climate change due to rising temperature. India's geographical location and its pro-corporate economic policies are deepening the scourge of natural disasters. About 60 per cent of India's territory is prone to earthquakes, 12 per cent is affected by floods, 8 per cent is prone to cyclones and 68 per cent is prone to drought. The geographical location of India is such that it is affected by all kinds of natural calamities. To the north of the country are the world's highest snow-capped Himalayan mountains, also called the Third Pole due to the abundance of snow, and to the south is the sea on three sides. On the basis of geographical features,

the country is divided into four regions: (1) the Himalayan mountains, (2) the northern plains, (3) the central plateau region, and (4) the coastal region. All the regions are being affected differently by climate change.

Climate change is affecting all the states located in Himalayan mountainous areas. A research study by Madhav and Tewari has revealed that the average temperature in India has risen by 0.4 degree Celsius in the last century. According to a study published in December 2021 by the University of Leeds, London, glaciers in the Himalayas have been melting at least ten times faster than average over the past few decades. Rising temperature has caused glaciers to melt and form glacier lakes, which can also cause flash floods in mountainous areas. These floods hit mountainous states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and some others every year.

In the summer, when the snow melts rapidly due to rising temperature, the water floods the northern plains and wreaks havoc. That is why the states in the northern plains of our country (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal) are hit hard by floods every year.

Thus, melting glaciers due to rising temperature, flooding the plains will cause severe crop damage, resulting in reduced agricultural production and food shortages, and in a country like India with a population of over 135 million, there may be a food crisis. In addition, all the rivers of northern India, including the Ganges, have their origin in the Himalayan glaciers. With the rapid melting of glaciers, these rivers will dry up and the country will face water scarcity.

According to a 2018 report by the NITI Aayog, by 2030, 40 per cent of the country's population will suffer from shortage of potable water. According to the report, 70 per cent of the country's water resources are polluted. Diseases caused by drinking contaminated water kill 1.5 million children in the country every year.

The southern part of the country is surrounded by sea on three sides. Sea levels in the coastal region are rising rapidly as temperature rises. According to the Indian National Center for Ocean Information Service, Hyderabad, the sea level in the coastal areas of India is rising at an average rate of 1.6—1.7 mm per year but the rate of rising sea level is not the same in all the coastal areas. In the Bay of Bengal, Kolkata has a rate of 5.4 mm per year, while in the Arabian Sea, Mumbai has a rate of 1.2 mm per year. Rising sea levels will not only harm the city of Mumbai alone, but also many other cities located in the coastal region of India, such as Kolkata, Chennai, and Kochi. As many as 10 states and 4 union territories of India are located in the coastal region. These states are home

to 40 per cent of the country's population which will be affected by rising sea level. According to a study by the University of Oregon, the Indian Ocean is warming faster than those of other oceans. As the temperature of the oceans rises, the number of hurricanes and their intensity increase manifold. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, there were an average of five cyclonic storms in the Indian Ocean each year during 1891 and 2017, of which four were in the Bay of Bengal and one in the Arabian Sea. With the rise in water temperature in the Indian Ocean since 2017, the number of cyclones and the depth of their impact have increased in the Arabian Sea.

Rising seawater temperature has also changed the timing of the arrival and return of monsoon winds in India. In 2021, the monsoon arrived in India 16 days late and returned after 19 days late from the normal dates and there were heavy rains in India. Thus, the changing nature of monsoon winds has caused severe damage to crops.

The government of India needs to take urgent action, both nationally and internationally, to protect the people and the country from the adverse effects of natural disasters the country is facing due to rising temperature. With the rise in temperature, our country is facing more natural disasters every year than the previous year. First of all, we need to take action at the national level. The temperature in the mountainous region of the country is rising faster than other areas due to which glaciers are melting rapidly causing floods in a number of states. Therefore, non-essential constructions in the name of economic development in hilly areas should be banned. Multi-purpose projects on rivers in the states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh should be built according to the capacity of rivers and hilly areas. Roads and tunnels in mountainous areas should be widened in such a way so as not to have any negative impact on the environment there. To protect the coastal region from the effects of global warming, the union and state governments should not destroy the natural wetlands and vegetation by enacting new laws in the name of economic development. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions, there should be a ceiling on the number of private cars and the means of public transport should be streamlined. In addition to increasing the forest cover in the country, deforestation should be completely banned. Urgent efforts should be made to increase reliance on renewable sources of energy instead of coal power generation. India should fulfill the promises made at the international level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

# Emotional Tribute to late Sunjay Naresh Kumar Ujagar

Sad and sudden demise of a blooming youth, Mr Sunjay Naresh Kumar Ujagar, grandson of late Shri Joginder Ujagar and Bibi Harbans Kaur Ujagar and son of Shri Surinder Pal Ujagar and Bibi Amandip Ujagar, sent a wave of shocking grief and sorrow to the entire community. It was a great emotional loss and set-back to the entire Ujagar family, relatives and friends. He passed away on February 22nd, 2022 and his funeral services were performed in

Sacramento Memorial Lawn, 6100 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA on March 6th, 2022. An unending stream of mourners and sympathizers attended the services. Prominent members of the community and the family members paid their homage to the memory of the deceased. After the cremation services a large number of close relatives, friends, admirers and sympathizers also visited their family home in Galt (California) to participate in the Antim

Ardass for the departed soul.

This tragic and untimely loss of a young man at such a tender age of 24 years has left a void which can never be filled. Bhog ceremony of SehejPath in the memory of Sunjay Naresh Ujagar was held in Shri Guru Ravidass Temple, Rio Linda (Sacramento) on March 19th, 2022. The proceedings of the Bhog and Antim Ardass were also covered by Mr. Prem K. Chumber Editor-in-Chief of Ambedkar Times &

Desh Doaba.

I once again convey my deeply-felt condolences and sympathies to the entire Ujagar family during this difficult time of bereavement, with prayers for late Sunjay Kumar Naresh Ujagar's soul to rest in peace in Almighty hands.

**O.P. Balley**  
**Founder Member**  
**Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha,**  
**Pittsburg (CA) USA**



**‘ਦੇਸ਼ ਦੁਆਬਾ’**  
**‘ਅੰਬੇਦਕਰ ਟਾਈਮਜ਼’**  
 ਆਨਲਾਈਨ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਲਈ ਕਲਿੱਕ ਕਰੋ:  
[www.deshdoaba.com](http://www.deshdoaba.com)  
[www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com)