

Ambedkar Times

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Babu Jagjivan Ram Former Deputy PM A True Democrat and Savior of Downtrodden

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

Babu Jagjivan Ram (April 5, 1908 - July 6, 1986) was known for his patriotism, straight forwardness, and concern for lower castes and poor. When in 1937, the Britishers wanted to set up a puppet government in Bihar, Babuji was approached with an offer of a large sum of money and a Ministerial berth and many other similar benefits to shake hand with them, but he simply refused to be on their side. Rather, he stood like a rock with his people who were to tally committed to lay their lives for the liberation of the motherland. He earned the love of the people and leaders of the Indian freedom movement for his patriotism and integrity. Showering praises on Babu Jagjivan Ram for his bold stand on to be remained with his people, Gandhiji said that he 'had emerged as pure as gold in the test of fire'.

Babuji was a born fighter and a crusader for freedom, dignity and social justice. During his middle school education, he refused to avail scholarship meant for Scheduled Castes students and earned it by appearing in open competition and becoming successful on the basis of his meritorious academic performance. It was also during his Arrah Town School days that he smashed twice separate pitcher meant drinking water for Scheduled Castes students and forced the principal to withdraw his discriminatory decision of segregated water arrangement at the premises of the school. He proved his exceptional talent by excelling in studies despite extreme poverty at home as his father (Sobhi Ram) passed away (1914) while Babu Jagjivan Ram was still in his village primary school. He and his mother (Vasanti Devi) fought boldly against poverty and social exclusion all around.

Despite such an oppressive social environment and poor economic conditions at home, Babuji acquired proficiency in Hindi, Bengali, English and Sanskrit besides Bhojpuri - his native Bhasha. It was his command over Hindi and English that attracted the attention of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviyaji during the welcome address by him that finally took him to study at the prestigious Banaras Hindu University. It was at the Banaras Hindu University that Babuji organized, for the first time, Scheduled Castes students to protest against the denial of basic services like meals for Scheduled Castes students in the hostel and hair cuts by local barbers. After qualifying his Inter Science examination at BHU, Babuji left BHU and completed B. Sc. degree from the Calcutta University in 1931. It was during his stint at Calcutta University, Babuji organized Mazdoor Rally at Wellington Square in 1928. This mammoth rally in which approximately 50,000 people participated brought Babu Jagjivan Ram closer to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose who got convinced of his organizing skills and political acumen.

Babu Jagjivan Ram devoted his entire life strengthening India and empowering poor and lower castes. He was a great inspirer and organizer of people against oppression. He was an eloquent orator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a talented administrator. From his school days to the celebration of freedom at midnight, he remined in the forefront of various struggles (including the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and the Quit India Movement in 1942) launched during the historic freedom movement of India. On the national political platform, he established himself as the savior of lower castes and poor people. He became the youngest minister in the interim government of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946, Labor Minister in the first cabinet of India as well as member of the Constituent Assembly of India. He played a constructed role in the meeting of the Constituent Assembly of India for promoting the cause of the Scheduled Castes and poor people. He served as a minister of various portfolios at the level of Central Government exceptionally for more than forty years as a member of the Indian National Congress. In 1977 and joined the Janata Party alliance, along with his Congress for Democracy. He also served as Deputy Prime Minister of India (1977-79). In 1981, Babuji formed Congress (J). Till his passing away in 1986, he remained active in the service of the nation and the downtrodden.

"Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" Weeklies fondly remember Babu Jagjivan Ram on his Death Anniversary and pay him floral tribute!

Read more: www.ambedkartimes.com

37th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS -SRI GURU RAVIDASS TEMPLE, PITTSBURG (CA)











37th Anniversary celebrations of Sri Guru Ravidass Temple, Pittsburg (California) were held at the temple on July 10th, 2022 (Sunday) with a spirited dedication and enthusiasm.

Approximately seven to eight hundred people participated in this historic function which was consecrated with the recitation of three days Akhand Path and Langar Sewa, hosted by Guru Ghar.

Two renowned Ragi Jathas led by Bhai Bhupinder Singh (Darbar Sahib Wale) and Bhai Onkar Singh Una Sahib Wale, embellished the occasion with their enthrallingart, melody and skills, thus mesmerizing the Sangat with a pin-drop silence.

The names of the other speakers who participated in the Shabad Kirtan are as under. Bibi Kamaljit Kaur Bhatia and of Mr Baljit Singh's daughter.

Mr. O.P. Balley one of the pioneers of this Guru Ghar paid his tributes to all the founder members-most of them have unfortunately departed from us but their sustained and dedicated efforts kindled the flame of founding this Guru Ghar which has the distinct honor of being the first Guru Ghar in North America under the banner of Shri Guru Ravidass Ji. Because of the collective efforts of the devoted followers of Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj thirty thousand dollars were (\$30,000.00) were collected as donation just on the opening day on June 2nd, 1985. This was in addition to the lavish donations of Mr. Sukhraj Chopra and Karma Ram Dalel who had the honor of opening the door and Sahib performing Nishan ceremonies respectively.

Since the main focus of the celebrations centered around the foundation of this historic shrine, it was imperative on our part to depict in details the spirit and the efforts of its founding members entailed and the circumstances to bring this temple into existence, but due to restraints of time assigned to me on the stage I could not elaborate the full significance of this auspicious occasion in its right historical perspective, missing many important names and events.

The Guru Ghar is in good hands and should remain so in future. Our Guru Ghar will be adorned with a new and added glamour with the installation of a new Nishan Sahib shortly.

Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, Chief Editor, "Desh Doaba" and "Ambedkar Times" did, as usual, a commendable job as a media journalist by running a live broadcast of the entire program on the Face Book for the information of the entire Sangat at large.

Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber also spoke at length with his deliberation on the occasion and had the following books released through the patronage of the Guru Ghar Managing committee. (1) Dr. Ronki Ram's book "Pagrhi Sambhal Lehar to Samyukt Kisan Morcha" translated in Punjabi by Prof. P. S. Bhogal (2) Dr. Badri Narayan's book "Bahujana De Nayak: Kanshi Ram" translated by

Dr. Paramjit Chumber & Dr. Harjinder Kumar (3) An Introduction to BAMCEF by Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram and translated in Punjabi by S. Fatehjung Singh and published by Prem Kumar Chumber. (4) Prof. Gurnam Singh Muktsar (Shardhanili) published by Prem Kumar Chumber.

Thanks to the entire Sangat for their help and cooperation which are the pillars of success of any public organization. (Contd. on page 2,3,4,5)



Founder Member Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg (CA) 1-925-252-6085







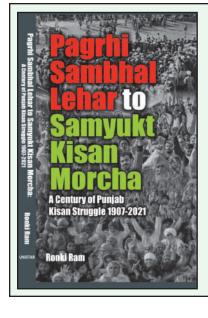








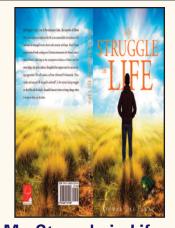




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My Struggle in Life:

Das Pawar, Ishwar: 9781682131558:

Amazon.com: Book Available

https://www.amazon.com/Struggle-Life-Ishwar-Das-Pawar/dp/1682131556



















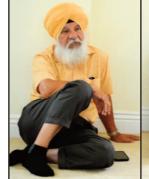


















































































V0I-14 Remembering Babu Jagjivan Ram Ji

Babu Jagjivan Ram was a prominent 1962 to the year 1963. freedom fighter, social reformer and a champion of human rights. He worked tirelessly throughout his life to promote equality in society. During his student years, he successfully organized a number of Guru Ravidas Sammelans and had started celebrating Guru Ravidas Jayanti in the different districts of Calcutta. He was among the Founding members of the All India Depressed Classes League which worked for attaining equality for untouchables.

In 1946, he became the youngest minister in the interim gov-

ernment headed by Jawaharlal Nehru. He became the Labour Minister in the first ever Cabinet of independent India. He laid out several policies and reforms that dealt directly with the welfare of the labourers. He also represented the country in the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organization that was held in Geneva in 1947. He was also instrumental for the successful implementation of the Green Revolution during his tenure as the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture. He was the Defence Minister of India during the Indo-Pak war of 1971. He was the Deputy Prime Minister of India between 1977 and 1979.

The official positions held by Babu Jagjivan Ram in his political tenure are:

- Member of the Central Legislature for over thirty years consecutively.
- He holds the record for being the longest-serving cabinet minister in India.
- Union Minister of Labour, from the year 1946 to the year 1952. Union Minister for Communi-
- cations from the year 1952 to the year 1956. Union Minister for Transport and Railways from the year 1956 to
- the year 1962.

- Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation, from the year 1966 to the year 1967.
- Union Minister for Food and Agriculture from the year 1967 to the year 1970.
- Union Minister of Defence for the following terms: 1970-1974, 1977-1979.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, from the year 1974 to the year 1977.
- Deputy Prime Minister of India, from the 24th of March, 1977 to the 28th of July, 1979.

pendent Bangladesh:

"I have an announcement to make. The West Pakistani forces have unconditionally surrendered Bangladesh... Dacca (now called Dhaka) is now the free capital of a free country."

The then Chief of General Staff in Eastern Command Lt. Gen. (Retd.) JFR Jacob described him as "perhaps the best Defence minister we (India) have had":

"He had an excellent grasp of military strategy. Being an able administrator, it was Jagjivan Ram who made sure that the requirements of

"Reception centres were set up all across Pakistan; people who possessed the will to take on the challenge fighting for the Liberation Bangladesh were screened by the Indian



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Armed forces and the civilian administration. This task too was overseen

by the indomitable Babu Jagjivan Ram"

The London's Sunday Times had then reported:

"It took only 12 days for the Indian Army to smash its way to Dacca, an achievement reminiscent of the German blitzkrieg across France in 1940. The strategy was the same speed, ferocity and flexibility."

In his work on the liberation war of Bangladesh, The Blood Telegram, Gary Bass has called Babu Jagjivan Ram the most "hawkish" Defence Minister, owing to his role in the victory of India in the of 1971.

India observes Babu Jagjivan Ram's birth anniversary as 'Equality Day' or the 'Samata Diwas' to commemorate his continuous battle

against caste discrimination and various forms of social oppression and his endeavour to promote a society of welfare and equality. Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation is established in the memory of Babu Jagjivan Ram and to propagate his ideology, philosophy of his life and mission and services rendered for the sake of the underprivileged and the country.

In the near future, detailed information about Babu Jagjivan Ram Ji would be shared, and as and when new sources of information would be discovered/researched, these would be made known.



The Defence Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, being briefed by Lt. Gen. J.S. Aurora, GOC-in-C Eastern Command, on the latest situation in the Eastern sector at Fort William

President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides from September 1976 to April 1983.

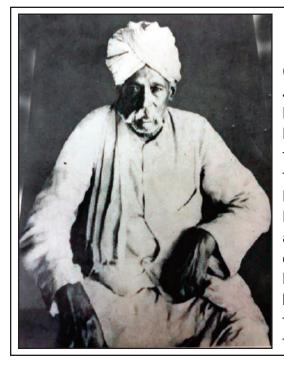
Babu Jagjivan Ram was posthumously awarded with the Friends of Liberation War Honour by the Government of Bangladesh for his contribution in the 1971 War. He was honoured as 1971 war hero. He was India's Defence Minister during the 1971 war, and was instrumental in the creation of the 'Joint Command' of Bangladesh and Indian Forces for the final assault which led to victory.

In his historic parliamentary Union Minister for Transport statement on December 16, 1971 he and Communications, from the year announced the emergence of Indethe three Services, in terms of manpower, weaponry, equipment and infrastructural facilities were provided, as far as possible".

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir, Bir Protik and Swadhinata Padak Awardee, Historian and Author in Bangladesh, exclaimed:

"Babu Jagjivan Ram's role was fascinating. He used to visit training camps set up for Mukti Bahini fighters in Northeast India. He was solely responsible for co-ordinating between the then Prime Minister's Office, Home Minister and the Defence Forces."

He added:



DR. BIRBAL DAS

On National Doctors Day on awarded the Victoria Medal for Facebook Page of Jagjivan Ram Foundation had shared information about the inspirational life of Babu Jagjivan Ram's father-in-law, Dr. Birbal Das. He was a brilliant student and he got admission in Prince of Wales Medical College, Patna in 1874. After receiving his doctor's degree, he joined the Indian Medical Services in British Army. He was

July 1st, the social media distinguished services in the Burmese and Chin Lushai Wars. In 1912, he co-founded the Kanpur Branch of the Indian Medical Association. He was a social reformer and was passionate about education. He worked for the upliftment of Dalits and also participated in the freedom movement.

Ref:

https://www.facebook.com/J agjivanramfoundation/



International Day of Equality – An Open Letter to CMs of Indian States



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

I wrote to EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar on July 25, 2021 about two month before the UNGA, 2 0 2 1 about the proposal on International Day of Equality. But, unfor-

tunately, nothing much has moved as far as the GOI is concerned. The blissful silence on the part of the government of PM Narendra Modi on the issue of honouring the greatest son of India, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is rather baffling and is not understandable. Over the

इक अर्जे तमन्ना है वह हम करते रहेंगे।

Text of the Open Letter dated July 7, 2022to CMs of Indian States -July 7, 2022

V0I-14

An Open Letter to **CMs of Indian States**

(International Day of Equality -April 14, Birthday of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar)

Hon'ble Chief Minister,

You may or may not have heard about the proposal on April 14, birthday of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar to be declared as International Day of Equality. In the run up to celebrations of 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by the Government of India in 2015, a proposal, in this regard, was made to the then EAM Sushma Swaraj in June, 2015 which was duly acknowledged by the UNES Division f the MEA in August, 2015. In November, 2015, Forum of SC and ST Members of Parliament under the the proposal is resting in the cupboards of MEA. We have been reminding the EAMs, PMO, Other Ministers and stake holders, ever since, at regular intervals but, unfortunately, there is no response. GOI is blissfully silent and this willful silence is not understandable. My last letter dated July 25, 2021to EAM Dr. S, Jaishankar is attached for ready ref-

It is a matter of gratification that our approaches to the foreign entities, through cooperation and liaison with Indian associations and organizations, have taken due notes of the proposal on International Day of Equality in their respective countries and has declared April 14 as 'Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality', over the recent years. Some of these details of these developments may be seen in my blog on the subject: http://diplo-

and the Hudson River in New York but as International Day of Non-violence and in 2015-16 as International Day of Yoga:

> Hon'ble CM may write to the Hon'ble PM on the proposal on April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar as International Day of Equality and urge him to take an appropriate decision in this regard.

> Pass a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly of the State in support of the proposal on International Day of Equality and forward it to the Mahamahim Rashtrapati ji.

> With these humble submissions kindly allow me to close this with an assertion that Ambedkar's legacy is so potent that it may not be possible to ignore it for long. International community has already taken positive note of the proposal on International Day of Equality. It is a wakeup call to the GOI to rise to the occasion before it gets late. It will be







year, much has happen abroad to own and honour the Indian icon. And also the initiative taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu to celebrate April 14 as International Day of Equality this year has set the ball rolling. Some of the details of the initiatives taken by the City/State Administrations in Canada, USA, and UK are listed in my blog for information and ready reference: http://diplomatictitbits.blogspot.com/2022/04/a s-i-please-is-it-my-obsessionwith.html

Not that the GOI is oblivious of the desirability and importance of the proposal on International Day of Equality to honour the Indian icon Babasaheb Ambedkar on one hand and to strengthen India's 'Soft Diplomacy' as GOI has done many positive and praiseworthy things to give a befitting honour to the leader in recent years. We have made it clear that our proposal is not 'agitative' in character but is a harmonious and persuasive suggestion. With this brief explanation and view to remind the GOI and solicit wider support, we have decided to write an Open Letter' to the Hon'ble CMs of all Indian States with the request to kindly consider and urge the GOI to take an early decision on the proposal International Day of Equality so that a diplomatic demarche could be made in the run up to the forthcoming UNGA in September, 2022. An early and positive decision in this regard will add to the celebrations of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

The text of the Open Letter to CMs of Indian States is given below: -इक तर्जे तगाफुल है सो वह उनको मुबारक;

leadership of Punjab Speaker Charanjit Singh Atwal submitted the proposal to PM Narendra Modi in a Memorandum along with several important Ministers in a delegation. Accordingly, on the initiative of India, through its PR at the UN in New York, Babasaheb Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary was celebrated at the UN for the first time on April 13-14, 2016. Speaker Charanjit Singh Atwal led the delegation to participate in the celebrations at the UN and in his speech duly took up the proposal on International Day of Equality at the function. On return, Speaker Atwal submitted a report in May, 2016 to PM Narendra Modi and informed him of the fact that the proposal was duly registered with the UN in his speech and urged the GOI to take up the proposal on International Day of Equality with the UN by making an official demarche through the diplomatic channels. Much water, since then, has flown in the Yamuna River in Delhi

matictitbits.blogspot.com/2022/04/a s-i-please-is-it-my-obsessionwith.html

Though the GOI is still unmoved yet it a matter of further satisfaction that some of the Indian states; particularly Tamil Nadu took a decision and celebrated April 14 as International Day of Equality in April, 2022 and urged the GOI to take necessary action to get the Day recognized under the aegis of UN to honour the Indian icon, Babasaheb Ambedkar. This gesture on the part of CM of Tamil Nadu has prompted me to write again on the subject and solicit support and cooperation of all the States of India in this regard. I take the liberty of writing to the Hon'ble CMs of all the Indian States and urge the following with a view to honour the greatest son India and strengthen the footprint of India in the cultural diplomacy as 'Soft Power diplomacy 'as we did earlier in 2007-08 for October 2, birthday of Mahatma Gandhi,

much appreciated, if the Hon'ble CMs of respective States urge PM Narendra Modi take the proposal to the UN in the forthcoming UNGA in September, 2022. Obviously, it is time to take an appropriate decision now and instruct the diplomatic machinery to keep the 'Powder Dry' for delivery in September, 2022 at the UN in New York.

With assurances of my highest consideration,

> Yours truly, (Ramesh Chander)

Hon'ble CMs of All the States of India

Copy to: EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar, PR of India to UN, Secretary to President of India, Secretary to the President of India, Principal Secretary to PM

Attachment: -Text of the letter dated July 25, 2021 to EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar

July 25, 2021

Dear Sir,

Ever since you have taken over as the EAM in May/June, 2019, I have been writing to you about the International Day of Equality, my last letter dated April 1, 2021 (copy enclosed for ready reference) refers. The proposal to declare April 14, birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality was first made in June, 2015 to your predecessor EAM Sushma Swaraj ever since the proposal is resting with the esteemed MEA.

I thought of reminding you on the subject in the run up to the forthcoming UNGA in September, 2021. You would appreciate, Sir, Babasaheb

(Contd. on next page)



International Day of Equality – An Open Letter to CMs of Indian States

(Continue from page 7)

Ambedkar is increasingly getting international recognition. It is surprising that our own government, which has taken many initiatives to honour one ofthe greatest sons of India otherwise, is taking time to consider the proposal and take a decision to make an appropriate demarche to the UN in this regard. I may inform, which you may already be aware, that the State of British Columbia in Canada proclaimed to declare April 14 as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality in April, 2021. Some days ago in July, 2021 itself the Gray's Inn in London has named and opened Ambedkar Room and unveiled his portrait to recognize Babasaheb. You may know that 'Dr

BR Ambedkar is the first person of the Indian origin and the very second jurist in the world to have a room dedicated to him at the Gray's Inn. The Inn, previously had a room dedicated to Rose Heilbronn, England's first woman queen counsel and judge' as the Tribune reported by July 22, 2021

I don't feel any need to say much, Sir, as you very well know and understand how to go about and what to do to get declared April 14 as International day of Equality. There may not be more opportune time when India will occupy the Head Chair at the UNSC and UNGA -76 in September, 2021 will be presided over by Foreign Minister of our friend

Maldives, Abdullah Shahid

I am confident that my submissions would find an urgent consideration and a favourable decision is taken to see that the proposal is sent and taken up at the UN appropriately. It would send a very positive political signal within the country and to the international community in under-pinning the 'Soft Diplomacy of India' to move towards establishing a just and equitable world order.

With personal regards, Yours truly,

(Ramesh Chander)

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, South Block, New Delhi

New Delhi

- Shri Narendra Modi, PM of India, PMO, South Block, New Delhi
- Dr. Varinder Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi
- 3. Shri Ramdas Athawale, MOS, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi
- Shri Som Parkash, MOS, Ministry of Industry and Trade, New Delhi
- Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, MOS, 5. MEA, New Delhi
- Shri Vijay Sampla, Chairman, 6. National SC Commission, New Delhi Shri Dushyant Gautam, MP,

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