

Ambedkar Times

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Labour Day Celebrations & Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar's Contributions for Labourers in India

Prem Kumar Chumber Editor-In-Chief: www.ambedkartimes.com

Bharat Ratan Bodhi Satav Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji's contribution towards the emancipation and empowerment of the working class in India both during the freedom struggle as well as after India's independence is worth remembering on the historic May Day: celebrated worldwide as International Workers' Day, also known as Workers' Day and Labour Day. It was chosen to be International Workers' Day at the International's second congress in 1891 to commemorate the 1886 Haymarket affairin Chicago wherein on 1 May workers of various industrial units observed general strike for the eight-hour workday. On 4 May when the Chicago police tried to disperse a public assembly in support of the general strike an unidentified person threw a bomb, which led to police firing resulting in the death of seven police officers, at least four civilians and wounding of sixty police officers and unknown number of civilians. This was led to the arrest of hundreds of labour leaders and their sympathiers. Later on, four of the arrested ones were executed by hanging.

It was coincidence that Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar was born in 1891 and came to acquire higher education in the United States of America in 1913. What he learnt during his three years (1913-16) stint at Columbia University in New York City in the class room sessions of his great professors - John Dewey, James Shotwell, Edwin Seligman and James Harvey Robinson - made him struggle for the emancipation and empowerment the labourers on his return in his own country during the British as well as after India's independence. During his tenure as a Labour Minister and as the Labour Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council between 1942 and 1946, he worked hard for the reduction of working hours from 12 to 8 Hrs a day. His contributions towards granting the rights of the labourers are manifold: establishment of Employment Exchange, Employees State Insurance (ESI), Indian Statistical Law, Compulsory Recognition for Trade of Union, Indian Factory act, Dearness Allowance (DA), Paid Holidays, Health Insurance, Extra pay for Overtime, Legal Strike Act, Provident Fund (PF), Labour Welfare Fund, Technical Training Scheme, Mines Maternity Benefit Act, Women Labour Welfare Fund, Women and Child-Labour Protection Act, Maternity Benefit for Women Labour, Equal Pay for Equal Work irrespective of the Sex, Restoration of Ban on Employment of Women on Underground Work in Coal Mines.

As far as the public domain of working class activism is concerned, Dr Ambedkar was always acted as front soldier for the rights of workers. His contribution in highlighting the plight of Dalit workers access in the highest paid textile mill weaving departments is well known. Dalits were not allowed to work in these textile mills for the fear of pollution caused by their saliva to wet the thread during the weaving process to tie the knot, each time the weft bobbin required a replacement. Dr Ambedkar brought this issue in the public during the famous 1928 Bombay Textile Strike. He threathened to dissuade Dalit workers from joining the strike if his demand for Dalits' access to all kind of jobs in the mills was accepted. His contributions towards the bill to abolish the Mahar Watan and Khoti abolition bill were among the several prominent labour welfare measures undertook by him. Abolition of Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900 was yet another legal relief to the non-agriculture classes, including Dalits, to overcome their exclusion from the land ownership rights.

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Weekly newspapers congratulate all on the Labour Day Celebrations the world over and also fondly remember the rich contributions made by Bodhi Satav Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar towards the emancipation and empowerment of workers in India!

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CELEBRATIONS OF SHRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHA (VANCOUVER)

Ratan Paul, Coordinator Phone: 778-772-2101

Burnaby: "On behalf of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha (Vancouver), it is my pleasure to congratulate our members, supporters, and the congregation on the 40th anniversary of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha", announced Bill Basra, president of the organization.

"Forty years ago, our forefathers developed a vision to provide a forum to discuss matters of concern and develop a spirit of brotherhood and we are very grateful for their wisdom and foresight", said Basra.

The Ravidassia community started arriving in Canada and settling on the west coast in 1906.

According to the records found thus far, Mahmis were the first family to arrive and their descendants now live in Victoria and various other parts of the lower mainland.

Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha (Vancouver) was established in 1982. Among other social, educational, and recreational activities, the Sabha also operates a community center and offers a place of worship in accordance with the teachings of Guru Ravidass, Dr. Ambedkar, and other Gurus and



saints whose teachings are enshrined in the Holy Book, Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The center is located in Burnaby (BC) and is integral part of the social fabric of the city and the lower mainland.

To celebrate the fortieth anniversary, the management of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha of Vancouver plans to; Host a sports tournament on September 11.

Capture history and Ravidassia heritage in a souvenir and documentary video.

Honor and recognize families of Ravidassia pioneers and founders of the organization.

Re-construct a multi-purpose complex to meet the growing and evolving needs of its members, congrega-

tion, and the wider community.

Community is invited to be involved in the planning of these events and participate in the celebrations. Members are also invited to submit photos or stories that highlight the contribution of founders and supporters over the past forty years.

> For more information, please contact: Bill Basra, President: 604-725-4048, Harbhajan Mahey: 604-724-5333, Aronjit Lageri: 778-251-2138

Copies of Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha's Mahan Kosh to be destroyed immediately:- Kendri Singh Sabha

ਕੇਂਦਰੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਭਾ

Chandigarh, 31 August (2022), by the Central Sri Guru book like "Hum Hindu Nahi", has sealed the distinct Singh Sabha, Guru Granth Sahib Bhavan plot no. 1, Sector 28-A, Chandigarh, the 161st birth anniversary of eminent Sikh scholar Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha was celebrated in the form of a solemn discussion. Starting

the event Welcome to all done by Giani Kewal Singh and General Secretary of Singh Sabha Khushal Singh.

Dr. Jagmail Singh Bhathuan said that Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha was a lexicographer, commentator, jurist, expositor, demlomantic, he was also a great poet and a great musician. Dr Bhathuan also recited Bhai Nabha's poems to the audience and presented two books edited by them.

Speaking about Mahan Kosh, Amarjit Singh Dhawan said that the English and Hindi translations of Mahan Kosh by Punjabi University had numerous errors, which was a gross disrespect to the work of Bhai Kanh Singh Ji. He gave details of the long battle fought by the university to get these editions banned. He said that although the High Court has banned the sale of the English-Hindi editions of the great dictionary full of errors, the university has not destroyed these editions till recently. The attendees at the event demanded that the copies of Mahan Kosh be destroyed immediately.

Sikh thinker and writer Rajwinder Singh Rahi said that Bhai Kanh Singh Nabha, by writing a classic identity and uniqueness of Sikhs forever. Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha also played a role in breaking the caste divide and eradicating untouchability. S. Gurtej Singh IAS said that Bhai Kahan Singh Nabha laid the foundation

of missionary research.

President of Singh Sabha Prof. Sham Singh said that Bhai Kahan Singh was a product of the Singh Sabha movement. Whatever research work he did was according to the Singh Sabha school of thought. He said that the central Sri Guru Singh Sabha is celebrating 150 hundred years of the Singh Sabha movement from October, if there are any



Major Adarshpal Singh, great-grandson of Bhai Kanh Singh Nabha, said that he has kept the royal invitation letters and other materials sent to his greatgrandfather. They demanded from the Punjab government that the erroneous translations of Mahan Kosh published by Punjabi University should be ordered to be destroyed immediately.

In this event, apart from others, former ambassador Pariprun Singh, Dr. Jaswant Singh. Dr. Kulwant Singh, Colonel Jagtar Singh Multani, Harsinder Singh, journalist Sarabjit Singh Dhaliwal, Pritam Singh Rupal, Hamir Singh and Malkit Singh Brar were present.

Ambedkar Times

PUNJAB'S ECONOMIC ISSUES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Punjab made numerous sacrifices in the freedom struggle of India. It contributed immensely to the food security of the country, in the three wars with Pakistan and is facing many problems due to being a border state. Despite all these facts, Punjab is facing many economic problems. Prominent among these economic problems are the ever-increasing debt of Punjab, the continuously worsening economic conditions of farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural artisans who depend on the agricultural sector for their livelihood, the deplorable state of the industrial sector, and capital-drain.

Before the 1980s financial condition of Punjab was good. Now, Punjab's debt and interest on it continue to rise and are higher than all other states as a percentage of the state's gross domestic product

(GSDP) and as a percentage of the state's revenue receipts respectively. This fact is confirmed from the table below.

At present, the Punjab government has a debt of around Rs. 3 lakh crore, which is estimated to become Rs 3.73 lakh crore by 2024-25. The policies of the central and state governments are responsible for the continuous increase in Punjab's debt. In order to control militancy, the central government imposed all the security expenses on the Punjab government, while the central government itself has incurred and is incurring such expenses in relation to other states. When Inder Kumar Gujral was the Prime Minister of

the country, he waived a very small amount of Punjab's debt. During militancy, some industrial units in Punjab moved to other states due to security reasons, which reduced industrial employment and production, and also reduced state government revenue. Due to the financial concessions/facilities given by the central government for industrial development of the hilly states, many industrial units of Punjab moved to the hilly states, especially Himachal Pradesh, causing considerable loss to industrial employment and production, and revenue of the state government.

During the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61), the main priority was given to the development of the industrial sector and as a result the country faced a severe shortage of food grains. The drought during the two years of 1964-66 made this problem more serious. In order to meet the food requirements, the central government had to import wheat from the United States of America under PL-480, which costed the country a lot. To overcome the huge shortage of foodgrains, the central government decided to adopt the 'New Agriculture Technology'. This technology was adopted in Punjab on a priority basis keeping in view the

hardworking farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural artisans and soil fertility and groundwater levels. The hard work of Punjab's farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural artisans and excessive use of the rich natural resources of the state solved India's food grains problem, but the central government's agricultural policies resulted in various issues related to agriculture in Punjab. The economic conditions of various sections of people dependent on the agricultural sector have worsened in the state, while debt of the Punjab government has also increased tremendously. On January 19, 2019, economist Ashok Gulati wrote an article in Indian Express which highlighted that ICRIER and OECD research project (2000-01 to 2016-17) found a burden of Rs 45 lakh crore on farmers in 17 years through implicit taxation in India.

deprivation and miseries or they commit suicide when all hopes of their life are dashed by the governments and the society. A research study conducted for the Punjab government by Punjabi University Patiala, Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar, and Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana revealed that 16,606 farmers and agricultural labourers committed suicide during 2000-16 due to debt burden. Of these, 40 per cent suicides were committed by agricultural labourers, and three-fourths of suicides of farmers were committed by marginal and small farmers. Agricultural policies in India are mainly formulated by the central government. Although the central government is responsible for the poor economic conditions of the agriculture-related sections, the state government also cannot escape from its

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should be given to the states. The central government has started levying subtaxes and cesses to increase its share of these taxes, from which all the income accrues to the central govern-

ment. In reality, the states have received only 29.61 per cent of the taxes collected from the states. According to the recommendations of some of the previous finance commissions, the share given to Punjab has been quite low compared to many other states.

Major changes in agricultural, industrial, and financial policies of the central government are needed to solve the economic problems of Punjab. Keeping in view Punjab's contribution to the country's freedom, food security and being a border state, the central government should give a special economic package to Punjab. Punjab deserves com-

pensation for the loss incurred as the result of agriculture being a loss-making proposition. The state government has to take quick measures to increase its income. As the Punjab government has procured Moongi (Lentils) at Minimum Support Price (MSP) during the current year, in the coming period efforts should be made to procure maize, cotton, oil seeds and some other agricultural commodities.

The shamlat/panchayati land obtained from the illegal occupants should be given to Dalits, women, and landless farmers for cooperative agriculture without taking any rent. It is necessary to promote cooperative farming and efforts in this regard should be made by farmers' organizations. The Punjab government needs to establish cooperative agro-processing industrial units in the rural areas which would increase employment, value-addition and benefit the farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural artisans.

In order to reduce the economic problems of the working classes, along with the smooth running of the MGNREGA scheme, it is necessary to run other similar schemes so that the urban workers can also get some relief.

State	Debt as a percentage of gross domestic product	Interest on debt as a per- centage of revenue receipts
Punjab	53.3	21.3
Rajasthan	41.5	14.9
Bihar	38.6	8.6
Kerala	37.0	18.8
Uttar Pradesh	34.9	11.2
West Bangal	34.4	20.8
Jharkhand	33.0	8.4
Andhra Pradesh	32.5	14.3
Madhya Pradesh	31.3	11.7

Since Punjab is a state with high agricultural production costs, Punjab's farmers and the state government have to bear the brunt of this implicit taxation.

Punjab has made and is making a great contribution to the food security of India. Geographically very small (1.54 per cent), this state has been contributing nearly 50 per cent in respect of wheat and paddy to the Central Pool of Foodgrains for a long period of time. Although this contribution of Punjab has decreased somewhat due to the fact that the central government is giving priority to the agricultural development of some other states, but even now it is more than 30 per cent. An important fact that demands attention in this regard is that the contribution of Punjab increases even more during natural calamities like floods, droughts etc.

Various research studies conducted in Punjab have brought to light the worsening economic conditions of marginal and small farmers, agricultural labourers, and rural artisans. Most of the individuals belonging to these sections are born in poverty and debt, live a hard life in poverty and debt, leaving behind abject poverty and huge debt for their coming generations either die a death of

responsibility.

uct, and per capita income have fallen below that of many states. The biggest impact of this fact is on employment in the state. For the past many years, employment and the quality of employment in Punjab have come down. Young children of Punjab, especially those belonging to the middle income group, are forced to migrate to foreign countries in large numbers to get employment. While this kind of migration is causing braindrain and loss of demographic dividend, capital-drain is also causing a lot of damage. Among the children who are migrating from Punjab to foreign countries, the majority of them are going on student visas. After their admission in colleges/universities abroad, their fees etc. have to be remitted before they leave the country. The costs of obtaining visas for foreign countries and air travel are also quite high. After arriving in foreign countries, more money is demanded from the parents for further fees, living expenses and after getting employment and living abroad, for renting or buying a house, a car, etc. This whole phenomenon has resulted in capital-drain from Punjab which is neither in Punjab's favour nor the

Punjab's gross domestic prod-

Considering the current worst-hijacking situation in India, the Bahujan Dravida Party calls upon the Kanshiramists in the Country and around the Globe, to reclaim our own nation and the destiny of our Bahujan Dravida People of India.

KANSHIRAMIST MEET - 2022

Dear Bahujan Dravida brothers and Sisters...!!!

The Government announced celebration of the 75th year of Indian Independence by non-Dravidian/ nonindian (occupiers). For the past 75 years, the Indian nation was ruled by the non-Indians (Aryans) with oppressive subjection of Bahujan Dravidian. Are the Bahujan Dravidian people, who are the majority in the country, truly free..? Or does the state also undermine the minimum freedom afforded by the Constitution? These are two questions that must be in the consciences of the so-called patriots of this country.

Wherever we look in India, violence, oppression, hunger, poverty, humiliation, unemployment, oppressive treatment by government agencies apparatuses, a kind of fear and anger among the people, a great deal of frustration among the academics, a suspicion wherever you look, and intelligence agents who are constantly confusing the people, this can be a never ending concerns

The root cause of all this misery is the desperation and silence of the Kanshiramists. Today, the reason why the nation is in such a bad situation is because the silence of the Kanshiramists has given opportunity to the oppressors occupiers to mock our dignity.

Manyawar Kanshiram stood, firm with his principles to the end, He

successfully completed his work with integrity and principle. But the biggest challenge we have in front of us is that we have not achieved ManyawarKanshiram's Aspirations. He will not come back to liberate us from the clutches of Brahminical

forever, Only if each one of us becomes Manyawar Kanshiram, we can reach his footsteps and protect our nation from anti-nationalists. The

dream of Kanshiram can only be fulfilled by identifying and politically ousting the fake Kanshiramists. To that end, the true Kanshiramists have the responsibility to identify young people with a self-sacrificing spirit who can sacrifice their time, knowledge, other resources and labor and develop them into leaders.

As you all know, Aryanism is

working beyond the country and in the international circle too. But the opponents of Brahminism do not think beyond the local level, district level and state level, and there is no initiative or action plan for it. After

Kanshiram. Manyawar Bahujan Dravida Party is the only political party in India which is doing his work honestly and sincerely across the country according to Kanshiramism.

The aim of Kanshiramism is to rule by the Dravidians, of the Dravidians, for the Dravidians on the land of Dravidians.*

You know India's soil is the soil of the Dravidians. n this Dravidian soil, to de-

cide the strategies and struggle for the social, economic cultural and political transformation of the Dravidians, Bahujan Dravida Party has decided to conduct the conference in the name of " Kanshiramist Meet -2022". It will be held in Delhi. The most prominent Kanshiramists had given their green signal at international level to participate in this conference.

It is our strong desire that Kanshiramists and other activists who are working for the liberation of the Bahujan Dravidian community and who believe in his ideology, attend this event.

For activists who want to do politics according to Kanshiram's principles, this conference will be very useful. Youth, women and elders work together in the party, listen to key speakers, meet them and gain political knowledge. We fully believe that this conference will be a great opportunity to transform the growing generation into a Self-Respecting Community.

Date: 17th September 2022 (Saturday) Time: 10Am to 4PM

Venue: Constitution Club of India, New Delhi

Your contribution and participation would ensure that you are in the same path of our movement Thank you!

In Kanshiram's Mission

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Congratulations to CM of Punjab - Reservation in appointment of Legal Officers

Manuwadi mindset of the likes of the former Advocate General of Punjab, it is a matter of satisfaction that Government of Punjab, under the able leadership of Hon'ble CM Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann, has decided to provide reservations to Scheduled Caste candidates in the recruitment of Legal Officers. It is an important decision towards 'Empowerment' of weaker sections of the society, the first such decision in the country taken with foresight and vision. CM Bhagwant Mann fully deserves hearty congratulations and appreciation in this regard. With this in mind, I ventured to write to the Hon'ble CM of Punjab to register our thankfulness

matter with the Government of Punjab to support the 'affirmative' agenda for the due share and space to the weaker segments of the society.

Text of my letter dated August 23, 2022 to CM of Punjab:-

August 23, 2022 Respected CM Sahib,

I am writing this, as a common citizen that is Aam Admi, with a view to keep the dialogue on. I thought of writing to you again, Sir, as I found couple of your recent decisions as 'public centric' particularly with regard to the weaker sections of the society. Congratulation; I wish you and your government all the best in the days to come.

weaker sections in due course. People are with you.

III) Post Matric Scholarships to SC students remained an issue of contention to the detriment of SC students. Kindly solve this issue once for all as I also wrote about this in my earlier letters. The wrongs done in this regard required to be set right and a new perspective presented. I am confident, Sir, you can do it.

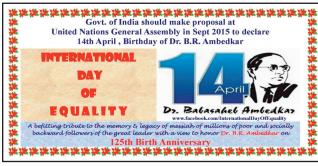
IV) Kindly don't delay and appoint Chairmen/Members of Punjab SC Commission, SC Finance Corporation, NRI Commission, among others. SC candidates, I think, equally qualify and are available for such coveted positions. AAP is a party with a difference. Kindly demonstrate it and

hands. surmise to write a line that, except automated acknowledgements, nobody has shown anv concern and interest to respond to several let-



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

ters to you. Obviously, I don't have a







and gratitude. It also gave me an opportunity to list a few additional points concerning the community; Post-Matric Scholarships to SC Students, Vacating of illegally occupied land in rural areas, appointments of Chairmen/Members of various Commissions, Mayoral positions for Scheduled Castes and April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality. Let us hope CM Bhagwant Mann, a well meaning leader, considers and take appropriate action and decision on the points raised in the letter dated August 23, 2022 appended below. I humbly expect the civil society and the intelligential; particularly belonging to the marginalized sections of the society to kindly consider and pursue the

I) One such decision is to provide reservations to SC candidates in the recruitment of Legal Officers. It is a laudable decision taken with guts and foresight. Yes, you have shown constitutional and moral standing in this regard. It will go a long way in strengthening the 'affirmative action' to help the marginalized sections of the society. Let us hope other states also take a cue and take positive decisions in this regard leaving the 'lip service' phenomena.

II) The second one which I would like to refer is – your policy and action in vacating illegally usurped land the rural areas by the land sharks and anti-social elements. Kindly continue and take a timely decision in allotting the land to the tillers of the

I am sure that you will put your weight behind these decisions; sooner the better.

V) Yet another suggestion as apolitical observer, kindly consider and fix, formally or informally, at least 4 Municipal Corporations reserved for SC candidates with due share to ladies as Mayors.

VI) Kindly take up the proposal of April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar as International Day of Equality. I wrote to you on the subject on July 7 which may be accessed at my blog for ready reference: http://diplomatictitbits.blogspot.com/2022/07/international-day-of-equality-open.html

I am confident that my submissions would find due and favorable consid-

vested agenda and my only purpose is to support you in your good work with regard to the people of Punjab; particularly pertaining to the depressed people.

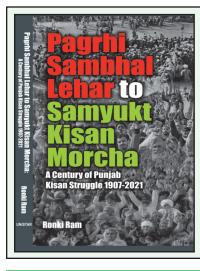
With the assurances of my highest consideration,

Yours truly,

(Ramesh Chander)

Hon'ble Sardar Bhawant Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab, Chandigardh

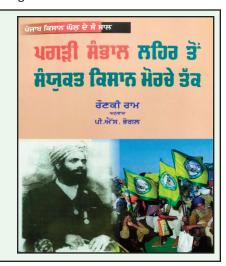
POSTSCRIPT: - While I am posting this on my blog, Chief Minister's Office has acknowledged my letter and forwarded it to the concerned senior officers for necessary action. It is a matter of gratification to note this change. Thanks CMO.



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