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Remembering Bodhisattva Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 133rd birthday celebration in Sacramento
Prem K. Chumber
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Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (14 April 1891 – 6 December 1956) was a great humanist, liberator of downtrodden, world reputed economist, acclaimed jurist, statesman in true spirits, conscientious politician and scholar par excellence. He initiated many social reform measures and founded three political parties towards his life long struggle to annihilate caste from the soil of India. He was of the firm view that caste is the biggest hurdle on the way of India to become nation. Shortly before his Mahaparinirvan he laid the foundation of Dalit Buddhist movement in India to show a new way to the millions of socially discriminated people of the country to get rid of the centuries' old curse of caste and untouchability.

His scholarship and brilliant approach to take mankind to new heights brought him into various offices of responsibility both during the British rule and Independent India. He was the first law minister of independent India. He was Chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution of Independent India.

Dr B. R. Ambedkar was a prolific writer who founded three well received journals during his campaign against untouchability. He earned doctorates in economic and many more academic degrees from the reputed universities of the US and UK. He has been adjudged one of the few most intelligent peoples in the world so far. In 1990, the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, was posthumously conferred upon him. Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba forums fondly and most respectfully remember Bodhisattva Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr B. R. Ambedkar on his 133rd birthday celebration in Sacramento.

AZAD JULLUNDURY A LEGEND PASSES AWAY (IN MEMORIUM)

Heart-felt feelings of grief and sadness transcended the entire community knowing about the sad and sudden demise of Mr. Azad Jullundhary, a renowned poet and a household name among the Indian community in India and USA. His impeccable writings towards the development of Punjabi poetry and literature in particular and to the society in general had an indelible impact on the minds of those who knew him.

I convey my heart-felt condolences to his son, Mr. Rajan and the bereaved family and thousands of his admirers and well-wishers across the globe.

Mr. K. C. Azad, popularly known as Azad Jullundhary in his literary field, was god-gifted with a rare blend of his pen, musical artistry and vocal attainments. He authored many books in Punjabi poetry ventilating his deep insight and concerns into the harsh realities of life, emphasizing on the unique values of humanitarianism.

As observed from his writings, Mr. Azad made a valiant attempt to rise above the man-made social and religious barriers to send his inner message across.

Just a few weeks ago I, accompanied by Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, Chief Editor, Desh Doaba and Ambedkar Times, visited him at his residence in San Jose, California. Though he looked frail and weak because of some health concerns but we had a very long and a heart-searching discourse with him on various subjects, creating a fond and a lasting memory to linger on for years.

I have very distinct recollections of Mr. Azad Saheb's association and voluntary services during the formative years of Shri Guru Ravidass Temple,

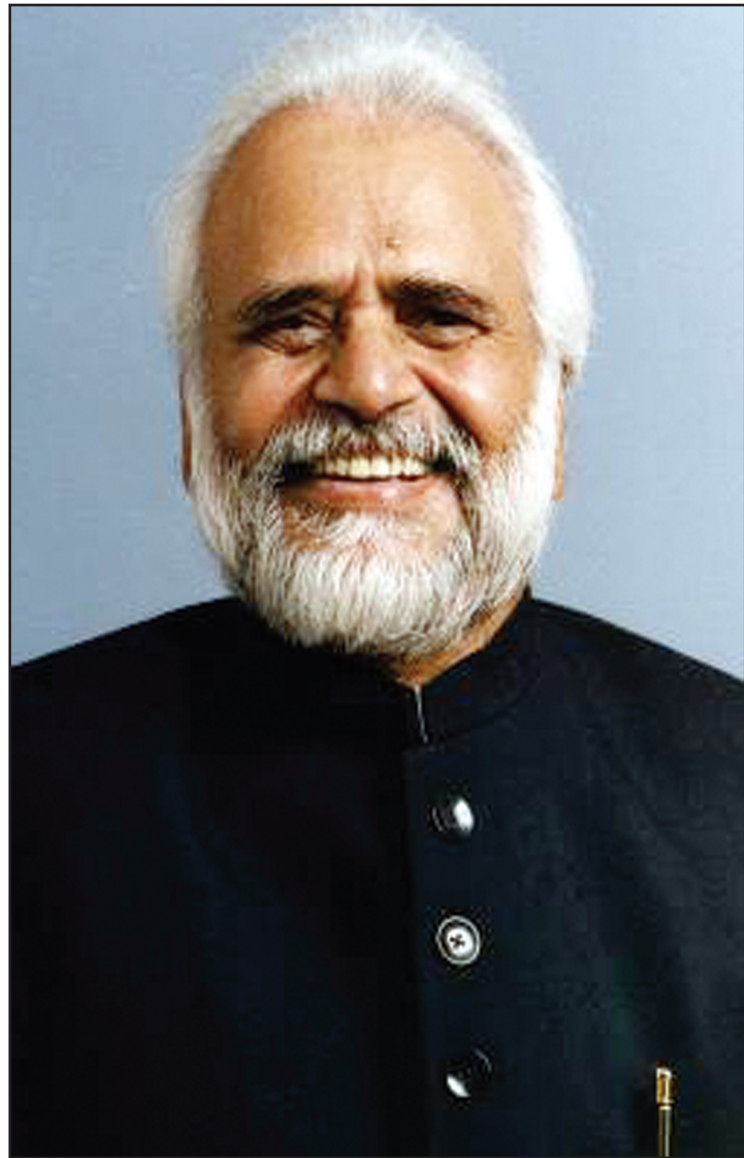
Pittsburg, California. He was also well known for his contributions as a Gurvani preacher and a vocal artist in many other similar organizations and temples in India and USA, reckoning his unforgettable contributions to society.

In appreciation of his literary accomplishments Mr. Azad was also recognized on many public forums by many renowned organizations like Ambedkar Education Society California, USA and other social and religious entities in India and abroad.

CONCLUSION: - Though very difficult, rather impossible to fill in the vacuum caused by Shri Azad's departure from this mortal world, but his eternal legacy will keep inspiring the future generations for years and years to come.

I had the privilege of knowing Mr. Jullundhary personally for over 65 years, including 20 years in India where we worked for Government of India, New Delhi, before migrating to USA in late 1970's.

Because of his sagacious disposition he was never seen confrontational in his approach to solve any



social or personal problems.

While paying my floral tributes to his accomplishments and contributions to society, I pray to Akalpurkh to shower His benign blessings for his soul to rest in peace, providing solace and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

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Goodie Takhar, PhD

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How can India get rid of the suffering of heat waves?

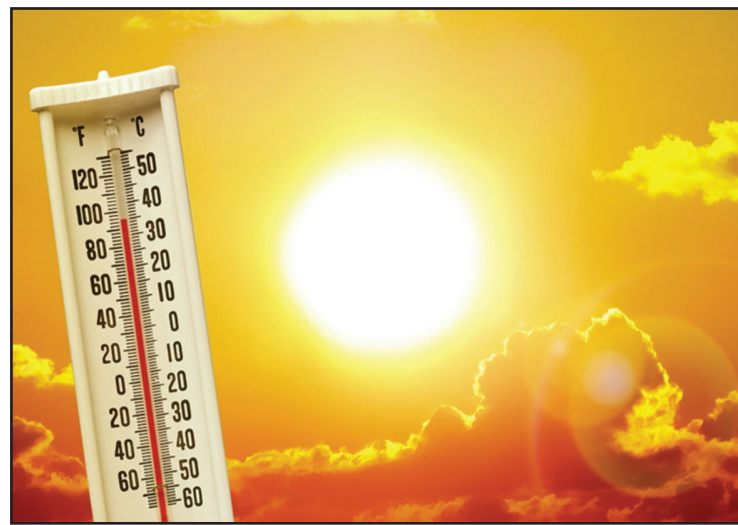
Since the beginning of the month of May, people have been suffering from heatstroke due to the extreme rise in temperature in the northern states of India. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a 'Red Alert' from May 20 in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Chandigarh, West Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat. Temperatures of 40 to 45 degrees Celsius have been recorded since May 15 in most areas of these states. On 25 May 50 degrees Celsius temperature was recorded in Philaudi city of Rajasthan and on 27 May 48.4 degrees Celsius temperature was recorded in Bathinda city of Punjab. The temperature in Bathinda city was 7.1 degrees Celsius above normal. So far 55 people have died due to excessive heat in Rajasthan. In Delhi's Najafgarh area, the temperature reached 48 degrees Celsius on May 27. According to the IMD, Delhi has recorded an increase of 2.5 degrees Celsius in night temperature and 5 degrees Celsius in day temperature due to severe heat waves. People are repeatedly being warned through print and electronic media not to go out in direct sunlight from 10 am to 3 pm. In Punjab, summer vacations have been preponed for school children to protect them from the adverse effects of rising temperature.

Rising temperature in May and June in India is not a unique or new phenomenon. The north-western states of India used to experience heat waves in summer, but now with climate change, their arrival time, frequency, duration (number of days), and intensity of their effects are rapidly increasing. According to a report by the India Meteorological Department, only 17 states of the country experienced heat waves till 2015, but in 2024 this number has increased to 23. Now, the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, and the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir have also started to suffer from heat waves.

India is not the only one affected by the heat waves, its neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos are also

affected in the month of April this year. In Thailand at least 30 people have died of heatstroke. Schools were also closed for a few days in Bangladesh and Thailand due to rising temperatures.

The IMD in its May 2024 report had made an alarming prediction that now people may have to suffer more days from heat waves than before. In May, previously the northern states usually suffer from heat waves for 3 days, but now their number may increase to 5 to 7 days. The forecast added that around 8 to 11 heat wave days are likely over south Rajasthan,



west Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Gujarat and some other areas. These regions otherwise get an average of three days of such heat waves. While southern peninsular states are likely to experience twice as many heat wave days as they normally do in May.

The rise in heat wave arrival days and temperature did not occur suddenly. Scientists have been warning all the countries of the world about this kind of phenomenon for several decades. In 2022 too, the increase in temperature in April broke the previous 122-years record. From June 2023 to April 2024, 11 months have been the hottest on record. The year 2023 is also recorded to be the hottest year so far. According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service, the average temperature of the earth in 2023 is recorded to be 1.48 degrees Celsius

higher than the temperature of Pre-Industrial Revolution Period. Every single day of the year in 2023 recorded temperature 1 degree Celsius or more above the same day's temperature in Pre-Industrial Revolution Period, and nearly half the year (50 per cent of days) recorded temperature above 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In 2023, the surface temperatures of the Indian, the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans were also higher than average. According to a study published in the journal Science Direct in April 2024, the Indian Ocean is warming faster than the rest of the oceans.

Its temperature may increase by 1.7 to 3.8 degrees Celsius in the period 2020-2100, which may also lead to long-lasting marine heat waves. An increase in the surface temperature of the Indian Ocean will lead to a rapid increase in all kinds of natural calamities related to the oceans, which is a matter of serious concern for India.

Along with climatic change, the El-Nino phenomenon is also responsible for the huge rise in India's temperature this year. El-Nino is a phenomenon associated with the Pacific Ocean that greatly affects the climate of India. In El-Nino years, monsoon winds bring less rain in India, leading to drought conditions in many parts of the country. The El-Nino phenomenon started in the month of June 2023. The effect of El-Nino usually lasts for 9-12 months. Rainfall in 2023 was below average due to El-Nino and snowfall was also less than average in the mountainous regions during winter, resulting in a sharp rise in temperature this year.

Increase in temperature also affects crops, fruits, vegetables etc.. Drought conditions have arisen in some areas of Maharashtra. Apple production in hilly areas is also affected. According to the sixth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2021-22, an increase of 1 degree Celsius in temperature can reduce maize production by 25 to 70 per cent and paddy production by 10 to 30 per cent. As a result, this will lead to food shortages and farmers' income will fall. Inflation will increase due to shortage of food grains. Food grains will be out of reach of the poor leading to increased malnutrition and starvation deaths.

With the rapid increase in temperature, people are suffering from diseases like heatstroke, skin diseases, dehydration etc.. School children in many states fell unconscious due to extreme heat waves. As much as the increase in temperature has an effect on humans, it also has a negative effect on cattle, animals, and birds. News of animals dying due to lack of fodder and water is also coming from Rajasthan. In 2022, many birds died due

to dehydration and rise in temperature.

The increase in temperature will cause the glaciers in the Himalayas to melt faster, which will increase the risk of glacial lakes bursting due to the rapid increase in size. According to a study by the

Indian Space Research Organization, one out of four Himalayan glacial lakes is more than 10 hectares in size. About 89 per cent of these large lakes have doubled in size since 1984. These lakes can burst at any time causing heavy flooding in hilly areas as well as plains. In October 2023, the Lohnak Glacial lake in Sikkim burst, causing severe flooding and considerable loss of life and property.

Along with climate change and El-Nino, there are some local reasons for the increase in temperature and heat waves in the country. These include decreasing area under dense forests and native trees, buildings made of concrete and glass, increasing length and width of roads, increasing number of private vehicles, increasing use of air conditioners, etc..

In order to get rid of the rise in temperature and heat waves, the union and the state governments should take immediate efforts as well as to formulate long term plans. Therefore, in addition to changes in the modes of transportation, lifestyle, eating habits, etc., the materials used for the construction of buildings should also be adjusted according to the local conditions and requirements. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, there is a need to rapidly switch to public transportation instead of private vehicles.

Along with an increase in the area under forests in the country, there should be a complete ban on the cutting of dense forests. Local trees should be planted preferentially over commercially useful and ornamental trees in every area. Temperature is rising faster in the hilly states of the country than in other regions due to which the glaciers are melting faster. Therefore, non-essential constructions (wide roads, hotels etc.) should be banned in the hilly states. The construction of multi-purpose projects on the rivers should also be according to the capacity of the hilly areas. In order to protect coastal areas from the effects of temperature rise, the state governments of those areas should protect coastal vegetation as a natural disaster buffer that protects these areas and the people living there from natural calamities. Instead of glass and concrete buildings in every region of the country, buildings should be constructed according to local requirements and technology. The central government should make full efforts to fulfill the promises made at the international level to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and should fulfill its due responsibility.



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Change of Name

I, Rajo W/O Gian Chand Salhan

R/O: 2232 Mount Whitney Drive,
Pittsburg, CA 94565

I have changed my name

From: Rajo

To: Rajo Chand Salhan

All concerned Kindly note it.

Power-lust let loose ...

Missiles zoom...
Bombs boom.....
Towers grounded,
Homes made debris,
Death scattered,
Men maimed,
Children charred,
Womanhood compromised!

That is the sight of devastation
Authored by Megalomaniacs
To whom nothing and no one matters
More than their vaulting ego!

History is full of such villains
Yet their tribe
Takes pride
That they still thrive !

What kind of pride is that ?
What do they try to prove ?
What do they gain ?
Whom do they really kill?
Do they know their victims?
Are any scores really settled
By exterminating
The masses
Or paid soldiers
Who are there in uniform
Just because they need means of livelihood?

It takes ages to heal the wounds
Of wars that spell genocide
And mutilate the human race.
They are ugly scars on earth's face
Warlords may earn momentary attention
But they surely walk out of Lord's Grace !

Poor , but how?

Are you poor
In a land of plenty
Where the per capita income
Rises 13.7 % annually ?
National per capita net income
Stands at Rupees 172000.

Which means
That every man's monthly share
Comes close to rupees 14000 !
Does that seem to announce poverty ?
Nay , our statistics can't be wrong !
Then where does it go ?
Why do 19 crore Indians
Go to bed hungry every night?

God knows
Our figures are sincere !
May be Google has faltered
In collecting its information.

But then why do people sleep in tents ,
In shacks , in polythene enclosures ,
In thatched huts and under the open sky?
Why do they ask for food
Outside eateries ?
Why do children lick from abandoned plates?
Why do they collect rotten fruit
From near the auction sites



DESH BIR
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Born in 1951 and brought up and schooled in Kangra district of erstwhile Punjab (now Himachal Pradesh), Desh Bir did his M.A. in English from DAV College, Jalandhar and topped the GND University, Amritsar. Taught at DAV College, Jalandhar for three years before joining Punjab Govt. Education Service in 1976 as a Lecturer at Govt. College Hoshiarpur. He was selected in Central Services based on combined UPSC exam for IAS etc in 1978, but chose to stay in Education. He was promoted as Principal, Govt. College, Hoshiarpur, in July, 2006 and retired in October, 2009. After retirement, he was appointed as Ombudsman, NREGA for five districts of Punjab for four years. Has nearly 170 creative articles published in English Newspapers like Daily Post, Deccan Herald, The Tribune, Daily World, Punjab Advance and Kashmir Vision. Lately, he has taken to poetry for pouring out his intensely felt perceptions

In the fruit market ?

The Ministry says, we don't know !
Our calculations are simply immaculate !
Not the Government's fault
If the Industrialist and the business tycoon
Earn a million times more
They do it legitimately
And their income ,too, does count
While figuring out the per capita income!
Mathematics cannot alter the outcome!
It cannot make the poor rich.
It does its job and leaves things at that !
Why do you malign the governments !
They have done their job ,too.

The Beast in Man

The milk of human kindness
Has turned into the fire of revenge.
Man and humanity have taken a back seat,
Nay , these have been muffled
Or sent into coma!
Or hypnotized by sermons of national honour,
Or by vows taken in the name of religion!

Did people beget children
To offer their youth to the cannon's mouth ?
Were grandchildren brought up
With such fondness and doting
Only to be seen ending up as splintered bodies
Bagged in the morque ?

Merry-making in American
Or British or German or Italian
Or French or Indian Club houses
Goes on as usual
Because God is in His Heaven
And all is well here !

That contrasts callously
With things obtaining in war torn

Lands controlled by jingoists
Who are in love
With their Flag-waving postures
Wherein they ignite the spark of retaliation
And push people into a holocaust !

God of either party to this strife
Has gone into deep sleep
Or has abdicated in favour of the Devil!
Or how else could a seven month old baby
Be bundled as cadaver ?
As she wasn't a party to any clash of EGOS !
She never knew which religion she belonged to!

God stands defeated!
The Beast in man
Has his day!
Alas !

Nest , Nestlings and the World...!

Those who were nestlings once
Have now gone to distant destinations.
They wore their dreams on their wings
And flew in search of fulfillment
Just as we did
Long.. long ago!

They now choose to fly back
Just to touch and refresh...
As may suit their pleasure
Or leisure from the job-routine!
Not to blame ,really !
We did the same
When we got these nestlings.
And got less and less time
For flying back to the old nest.

We are used to it.
And sometimes
Longer intrusions
May not be found very pleasant
As we have entered
Upon a new kind of freedom
Which we don't want infringed for long!

Wanderlust now attracts me more
Than staying back !
Longing for being a traveler
Watching and understanding
Men and manners,
People's priorities,
Their hurry or slow pace,
Depending on their outlook and age !
Perhaps the vocation of a Bus driver
Would suit such a wish
As that offers a wide canvas
To comprehend the world of humans
As it boards and travels...
And at the right place and time alights!

It may appear to be an absurd flight!
But that's how the human mind
Sometimes conjures certain things!
These may be fanciful or unfair!
Yet such musings are there !

Judicial Restraints Lifted? Supreme Court to Rule on Local Authority in Camp Cleanup

I often consider the age-old concept of "the carrot and the stick," which embodies the balance between enforcement and support—a theme that frequently comes up in discussions about how we govern and regulate the homeless community. This balance is crucial but often mishandled by government policies. The City of Grants Pass v. Johnson case, recently argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, marks a pivotal moment in our approach to homelessness. It prompts us to reevaluate the effectiveness of past policies that have, in many ways, worsened the problem rather than solved it.

For too long, court rulings like the 2018 decision in Martin v. Boise have handcuffed local governments, preventing them from enforcing anti-camping ordinances that are essential for maintaining public order and safety. These legal constraints have allowed encampments to proliferate, contributing to crime, environmental damage,

and public health crises, including the spread of diseases and increased drug overdoses right on our streets.

The oral arguments at the Supreme Court indicate a potential shift that could empower local authorities to regain control over this spiraling issue. If the Court sides with Grants Pass, it could mark an end to the era where local officials' hands are tied by overly permissive legal interpretations. This change is crucial; it's about restoring the rule of law in our communities while addressing the humanitarian crisis of homelessness with more than just temporary fixes.

Some politicians and their activist allies argue that enforcing anti-camping laws is inhumane for those without alternatives. Yet, this view overlooks the true cruelty of letting people live in dangerous and unhealthy conditions. It's not merely about clearing tents from the streets; it's about eliminating obstacles to more effective

solutions, including mental health services, addiction treatment, and suitable housing for our most vulnerable residents.

The harsh reality is that the current approach has not only failed our homeless population, it has also ignored the rights and needs of the broader community. Residents and businesses bear the brunt of the consequences, from depreciating property values to safety concerns. It's clear that a shift towards more balanced policies is overdue. We need policies that ensure compassion does not cripple our communities, but rather strengthens them.

As we await the Supreme Court's decision, which is expected in June, it's time for local leaders to prepare to act decisively. We should be ready to implement a dual approach that enhances enforcement to clear hazardous encampments and increases support through proven rehabilitation

and mental health programs. This isn't just about taking back control of our streets; it's about taking responsible steps to provide real solutions that address both the symptoms and root causes of homelessness.



Sue Frost
Sacramento County Supervisor

Thank you for Reading – and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.gov. Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murietta.

Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

California Budget Update

With the California budget needing to be passed by June 15th, I want to use this opportunity to give you an update on where things currently stand.

Earlier this month Governor Newsom put out a revised budget plan that estimates a \$56 billion deficit over the next two fiscal years. This week the majority party proposed their own version of the budget, which is substantially different from the one put forward by Newsom. Their plan rejects proposed cuts to the Middle Class Scholarship, dam safety programs, developmental service providers,

job training programs, services for foster youth, and services for crime survivors. However, it also relies more on using our budgetary reserves to cover the deficit.

Both proposals also cut school funding by over \$16 billion, and I will do everything I can to protect against these cuts. Under the Governor's current plan for example, he proposes taking money away from preschool programs for students with disabilities to fund a new electric school bus mandate. These are not the right priorities. Addressing a budget deficit of this magnitude requires tough decisions, but our students' education

should not be on the chopping block.

I will also be working to preserve funding for public safety, keep taxes and fees from being raised, and prevent a slashing of the transportation budget.

New Podcast Episode

In this week's episode of the Point of Order Podcast I was joined by Chris Micheli to discuss the recent House of Origin deadline, legislation to delay a minimum wage increase, record high median home prices, electric school buses, and the Legislature's "comprehensive" retail theft package.

Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting In Folsom

I want to wish a huge congratulations to C o l o r Chemistry Salon for their new business ribbon cutting.

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Assemblyman Hoover



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