



Ambedkar Times Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com, editor@ambedkartimes.com

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: DREAMLAND OF FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITIES

Prem Kumar Chumber Editor-In-Chief:
Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Weeklies Newspapers



In the United States of America, July 4th embodies a vision of freedom and opportunities. The USA has become a dreamland for people across the whole world to put their dream goals into reality. Everyone irrespective of religion, class, creed and region aspires to make the USA her/his homeland! S/he feels embolden while getting associated with this great nation -- an abode of liberty, equality & fraternity -- of opportunities and dignity. It instills faith and encourage all to come forward to live and let others live with love and peace. Since the end of World War II, it has not looked back to reconstruct peaceful order in the world and help attain freedom of thought, liberty and equality everywhere on the globe. Name any continent, region or a country where the USA has not left its mark of encouragement and initiatives for realizing ones dream and aspirations. One of the largest and oldest democratic countries in the world, the USA has always shown its greatest interest in allowing free flow of ideas and letting people live the way they want to be. It has remained first in all fields of human activities, be it science, technology, art, and sports. What led it to achieve all this is perhaps the freedom of thought and action guaranteed by its constitution and effective governance system. "Ambedkar Times" & "Desh Doaba" take lots of pride in congratulating all on this auspicious day of freedom and independence.

39th Anniversary celebrations of Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburg (California)



ਜੋ ਮਾਗਹਿ ਠਾਕੁਰ ਅਪੁਨੇ ਤੇ ਸੋਈ ਸੋਈ ਦੇਵੈ ॥
ਨਾਨਕ ਦਾਸੁ ਮੁਖ ਤੇ ਜੋ ਬੋਲੈ ਈਹਾ ਉਹਾ ਸਚੁ ਹੋਵੈ ॥

Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburg's 39th anniversary was celebrated on last Sunday, June 30, 2024 with great enthusiasm. Three days Akhand Path Sewa started on Friday and concluded with Bhog ceremony on Sunday June 30, 2024. Path and langar Sewa was hosted by Sangat and Sewadars. Sangat did the Nishan Sahib Chola Sewa on June 29, 2024, Saturday morning at 11:00 AM.

In early eighties Sangat felt the need for their own place to worship. Founding members got together and started looking for a central place to build a Gurdwara. Guru Sahib blessed His Sangat with this Gurughar in 1985. This building was renovated and converted into Sri Guru Ravidass Temple with the



long time. Their Shabad Kirtan was very melodious.

Honorable Mr. Jaswant Singh Consul, from the Consulate General of India, San Francisco (California) congratulated Sangat on this great occasion; He informed Sangat that the Consulate will be open to public seven days a week.

Mr. Dilbag Singh (General Secretary), Mr. O.P. Balley (Founding Member of the Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburg)), Mr. Ramesh Suman (Chairman), welcomed and congratulated Sangat on Gurughar's 39th anniversary. Mr. O. P. Balley is one of the founding members and a historian; he knows all the details of this Gurughar's history. We are thankful to Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber (Editor-in Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba) and Mr. Ricky Pal from Pal Films for coverage of this historical event.



Honorable Consul Mr. Jaswant Singh, from the Consulate General of India, San Francisco (CA)

help and contribution of the founding members and Sangat. This building was renovated again in 2023.

In 2005, some foresighted members and Sangat purchased another building to accommodate the needs of the growing community. This used to be a City Gym. During 2013 and 2014, Sangat and few Sewadars donated large amount of money and worked tirelessly for over a year to completely remodel the building which is now used as Darbar Hall.

This year, Gurughar Committee and Sangat purchased another building. Hardial Banga saw a sale sign on the Church and brought an idea to purchase this building because of the location and visibility. Shashi Paul, Vinod Kumar, Sunita Singh, Ramesh Suman, Jagtar Singh, Harmesh Bangar, Dilbag Singh, Salinder Bhatia and other jumped on this opportunity. Ram Murti Saroay was also very helpful and one of the highest contributors.

Gurughar's Ragi Jatha of Giani Balwinder Singh, Satinder Singh and Karamjit Singh kept Sangat almost spellbound. No one moved during Guru Ka Kirtan and Katha. Jatha of Bhai Amarjit Singh and Bhai Manjit Singh came to this Gurughar after a very

We had a very successful Health Camp. We want to thank Dr. Amarjit Singh, Dr. Shefali Dham, Dr. Sandeep Dham and Pinky Singh for donating their time. We are thankful to all the Sewadars who cooked, cleaned and served food for 3 days, Especially Sunita Singh, Kulwant Kaur Banga, Kirana Banga, Surjit Kaur, Gyan Suman, Manjit Kaur, Naranjan Devi, Kulwant Kaur Jaswinder Kaur, Kulwinder Kaur, Satya Mati Rattu, Bimla Rani, Balwinder Kumar, Rajinder Singh, Gyan Rattu, Harbans Kalu, Harbans Rattu, Naresh Kumar, Shinder Paul, Resham Kalsi (Bittu). Prem Kumar and Santokh Madhar took care of the outside maintenance. There were so many other ladies who helped in the kitchen.

We are requesting all the founding members and their members of the founding members to send an 8X10 picture. We want to create a souvenir next year on the 40th anniversary and we want to add the pictures and some of their contributions so that it becomes a document that can be given to Sangat and keep a copy in Gurughar.

We are thankful to all the volunteers and donors for their help and contributions.

Longing..longing and longing....

The Indian deities are said to long
For a human life on the earth
As that is claimed to be the apex rung
Of God's pleasure called Creation !

Here in human life
We have fulfillment
Of longings of senses
Of heart's desires!
There is beauty,
There is luxury,
There is wealth,
There is power.
To long for !

Indian spiritual lore
Encourages a longing
For salvation,too.
A liberation...
From the cycle
Of life and death !

That, if actually possible,
Would be longing for
Non-existence!
Can that ever be
Something worth seeking
As compared to existence?
Longing is the essence of life ...
Then why spurn life
And work for Non-existence ?

When Externals matter More

All wise men believe
That real human material
Lies not in flesh or looks
But in the human mind.

Yet that seems true only
As long as man does not
Lose this sense in the flush
Of money and wealth.

Once into the world
Of plenty and glitter..
He starts embellishing
And polishing the externals.

All this always happens
At the cost of internal worth.
What matters is dresses and shoes
Trendy tops and bottoms!

Majority do assess and get
Assessed through their hair styles,
Perfumes , wraps, coats and purses...
Externals win and the internals yield!

Wardrobes that are proudly stuffed,
Shoe racks that have unused pairs,
Woollen suits that would suffice
Even if the winter were year-long!

Where does this plenty lead to
Except to a kind of vacuum ?
A shallow and hollow life...
That restricts itself to appearances.



DESH BIR
+91-98780-24304

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

Lord's Bounty Alone !

On the Great Ocean Road,
Along the Great Pacific ,
Heading towards Twelve Apostles
Comes the Lorne Beach
Offering a favourite spot
To bathers and sea-surfers !

It is the haunt of week-end revellers
Coming in hordes
Comprising diverse communities
Flocking from all parts of the world.

Carrying loads of provisions
And plenty of ale !
They are here to forget
The fret and fury of the week
And experience a merger
With Nature's celestial elements !

They are aware of only One Lord
Who runs this universe !
They care not to remember
The names of their Prime Ministers
As they dance in tune with
The Great Ministry of the Universe !

Andrew's Chicken Point
And Surfers' Haven
Overlooking the Lorne Beach
Survive in bliss without
The blessings of the political masters !

The only bounty that matters
And lets people stay lively
Is Lord's Bounty alone !

Fighting justified !

Motiveless fighting for fun
Is not a normal human attribute.
It can be our acquired craft

For some cunning gains.
Only small children,
Yet to come out of animal instinct
Can be exempt from this taint.
Not the grown ups !

Yet , fighting for existence is a right !
When the Bull buffalo brought to bay
By a less skilled lion or leopard
Realizes that it is a 'Do or die',
He strains every possible muscle
And uses his horns to full advantage,
Flinging the tyrant predator
To a fatal fall or inglorious flight !

Evil needs be challenged,
Defeated and crushed
And shown its place
As was done in the Ramayana!
At Kurukshetra , the Lord
Advising Arjuna had justified
Confronting the unjust
As a matter of Duty !

Though not a normal human attribute,
Fighting may become a duty
And the only option
To stay in dignified existence.
In that situation , carry no qualms
Of conscience !
Just act like the desperate bull
Flinging the enemy to a crushing defeat !

Ethics in Healthcare

They stand in the hallowed halls....
...Halls of compassion, care and healing!
They got initiated into this trusted tribe
After a sacred Oath to treat the sick
With equanimity, selflessness and concern,
Believing their services are worship !

When they examine the sick people,
They seem to land into the role of God!
Most of them match up to that ideal
And dole out hope, health and well-being!
They prove to be angels of rejuvenation,
And add a sunny brightness to the dark clouds.

Those who betrayed the oath
And chose to be Mammon's men
Become money-suckers
And entice the suffering lot
With promises
Which may be only half-truths!

Such buck-makers take to advertising!
Wall hoardings and radio Ads..
Hold out wonder-results
Even for maladies generally fatal!
They first ask about insurance covers
Or cashless treatment financed by agencies!

In the hands of these deserters of Oath,
In their facade with hidden deep pockets
Where can a patient expect selfless ,
Loving , compassionate healing touch?
First, they rob people of their money
And finally push them down life's edge !
Good bye to ethics ! Goodbye to ethics!

Supervisor Frost July Newsletter



Sue Frost

Concerns Over California's New Road Charge Plan

This summer, as Californians prepare for road trips and vacations, I wanted to share my thoughts on the Road Charge Collection Pilot, a mileage-based tax program designed to help fund road maintenance. This pilot program offers drivers the chance to voluntarily sign up and test a new funding approach, where they pay a set fee for each mile driven or a fee based on their vehicle's fuel efficiency. The program is set to run from August 2024 to January 2025.

In 2014, the California legislature passed SB 1077 to research a road charge system, which involved over 5,000 vehicles and documented 37 million miles of travel. The study proposed a shift to a per-mile charge to distribute road maintenance costs among all drivers, regardless of their vehicle's fuel efficiency.

Historically, road maintenance has been funded through the gas tax. When you buy fuel, a portion of that expense helps maintain our roads. However, as electric vehicles (EVs), which bypass traditional fuel consumption, become more popular, revenue from this tax has been declining. The proposed state solution is to charge drivers based on the miles they drive.

Although this may seem fair on paper, it's important to consider the potential negative impacts. Firstly, charging by the mile could potentially increase your costs, especially when you're planning vacations or visiting relatives. This might discourage some from traveling, potentially affecting our state's tourism industry.

Another concern is privacy. If this pilot program were adopted nationwide, how would mileage be tracked and reported without infringing on individual privacy? How much would it cost to administer the tax?

Also, this mileage-based tax could impact lower and middle-income families. Those who rely on their vehicles for daily commutes, especially in less fuel-efficient vehicles or from remote areas, might find this system feels like a double tax, disproportionately affecting them. How is that fair?

Lastly, California's push to move to electric vehicles by 2045 presents some infrastructure challenges. For instance, last summer's heatwaves led to blackouts that disrupted EV charging, showing that our current infrastructure may not yet be equipped to support a fully electric future.

While the Road Charge Collection Pilot has good intentions, its unintended consequences could place an extra burden on hardworking residents. Instead of creating more tax burdens, we should focus on managing our money better and prioritizing the use of funding.

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 Murieta.

Achievement Initiative Spotlight Delvin Isaiah Ntale

I'm incredibly proud to celebrate Delvin



Isaiah Ntale's achievement of Eagle Scout! Delvin's commitment shines through in his project to honorably retire American flags and his excellent academic record, boasting a 4.22 GPA at Jesuit High School.

His accomplishments reflect the Boy Scouts' values of perseverance and service. Witnessing his dedication to community and personal growth has been inspiring. Congratulations, Delvin!

Fireworks and July 4: Keep it Safe, Keep it Legal!



With Independence Day coming up, it's always a good idea to know the risks of fireworks, only use legal fireworks and stay safe when using them. If you see or suspect illegal firework usage, please report it! When it comes to fireworks, we want to keep it safe and keep it legal!

The Use or Sale of Illegal Fireworks Will Result in Fines In 2022, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted a social host ordinance that levies fines, starting at \$1,000, against property owners that either use or allow the use of illegal fireworks on their property, in addition to fines for use in places like the American River Parkway.

"Host," as it relates to this ordinance, means a person who knowingly permits or allows fireworks to be lit, exploded or sold on private property owned or controlled by the person.

If the illegal fireworks are being set off from your property, you are responsible for the fines.

Penalties for violations are as follows:

\$1,000 for the first violation
\$2,500 for the second violation within one year of the first violation
\$5,000 for each additional violation within one year of the first violation
\$10,000 for each violation that occurs at schools, parks and within the American River Parkway
When to call 9-1-1

Calls for service throughout the County increase dramatically on July 4, and emergency response resources are stretched extremely thin.

During the holiday weekend, please use 9-1-1 for emergencies only -- like an active fire or injury or immediate threat to persons or property. Each jurisdiction has provided an alternative method to report illegal fireworks sales and usage.

Know the Risks

The unsafe use of fireworks can cause severe burns, amputations, blinding and even death.

Damaging fires may occur when children use fireworks unsupervised by adults.

Parents are responsible for any property damage or injuries caused by all fireworks.

Keep it Legal

All legal fireworks in California are called Safe and Sane Fireworks and must bear the State Fire Marshal's seal.

Safe and Sane Fireworks may only be sold from noon on June 28 through 9 p.m. on July 4.

Safe and Sane Fireworks may only be used between 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. from June 28 to July 4.

Any firework that goes up in the air or explodes is illegal and dangerous.

Keep it Safe

Always have a non-combustible bucket of water to dispose of fireworks and leave in the water overnight before disposing.

Always have an available hose connected to water in case of fire.

Do not use fireworks near dry grass or other flammable materials.

Do not use fireworks while under a canopy, covered balcony, covered patio or under a tree or bushes.

How to Report Illegal Fireworks Sale and Usage

Unincorporated County of Sacramento: 916-874-5115 or reportfireworks@saccounty.gov

City of Sacramento: 916-808-FIRE or the Sacramento Fire Department App
Folsom: fireworks@folsom.ca.us or seeclickfix.com/folsom

Elk Grove: 916-714-5115 or fireworks@elk-grovepd.org

Rancho Cordova: 916-362-5115 or the Rancho Cordova Connect App
Citrus Heights: 916-727-5500 or seeclickfix.com

Galt: 209-366-7000

Aren't sure who or how to report? Call 3-1-1 to

be connected to the right place.

Volunteers Needed to Comfort Shelter Pets

Sacramento County's Bradshaw Animal Shelter is asking the public to help keep shelter pets calm during 4th of July fireworks. The loud pops, bangs and whistles that are associated with the holiday can cause much distress to pets in and out of the shelter. The public is invited to sit, sing, read or softly play a calming musical instrument during the festivities.

"All of the noises caused by celebrations are really terrifying for the animals and they don't understand what is happening," said Celeste Ingrid, Volunteer Program Coordinator for the Bradshaw Animal Shelter. "The human voice can be a very powerful tool for calming animals down."

Registration is required online, and individuals and groups of up to five people are invited to sign up. Teens 12 and older are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

While pets in the shelter are being comforted, don't forget about your pets at home. Remember, fireworks and noise occur before the holiday, so it's best to prepare now.

July 4th Pet Safety

Many pets are terrified by the sound of fireworks which can cause them to flee or become destructive.

Keep pets indoors at home in a sheltered, secured, quiet area or turn on the TV or soothing music to drown out outside sounds.

Remove any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful if chewed.

If you know that your pet is distressed by loud noises, consult with your veterinarian in advance.

Be sure your pets are wearing identification tags, are microchipped and are licensed with updated information to help with their prompt return

For more tips, visit the Bradshaw Animal Shelter's Pet Owner Safety Tips website.

Lost Pet Information

If your pet escapes during the 4th of July weekend, the Bradshaw Animal Shelter has some tips for helping to bring them home quickly:

Report lost and found pets at Petco Love Lost.

Check all accommodations, websites and social media, and not just those in your area. Dogs can run far when they are scared.

(Contd. on next page)



(Continue from page 3)

Contact shelters for up-to-date information on animals in their care. Hang flyers or post on social media pages and apps to get the word out. Sites like Nextdoor and Facebook are good local resources to tap into.

Talk to your neighbors.

Ask your postal person. They may have seen your pet during deliveries in your area.

Waived Owner

Redemption Fees

Did you know July 5 and the weeks following are the busiest days of the year for animal shelters across the country due to lost pets? To help reunite pets with their owners and to help lessen the impact, the Bradshaw Animal Shelter is waiving owner redemption fees from July 1 - July 15, 2024.

For a list of lost and found pet resources, including a list of pets currently at the Bradshaw Animal Shelter, visit the Animal Care Services Website.

Grant Line Road Improvement Project

Receives Grant

A \$25 million grant for road improvements is headed to the Sacramento area in an announcement by U.S. Transportation Secretary, Pete

Buttigieg. The funding request was submitted by the Sacramento County De-

partment of Transportation, Capital Southeast Connector Joint Powers Authority (JPA) and the City of Rancho Cordova. The three agencies are teaming up to improve a three-and-a-half-mile segment along Grant Line Road

between White Rock Road and Chrysanthy Road.

The project will provide critical safety improvements and more multi-modal transportation options along Grant Line Road.

The total estimated cost of the first phase is \$55.5 million. Other funding will come from the Sacramento Transportation Authority, a grant from the California Transportation Committee, and Measure A funding. Sacramento County and the City of Rancho Cordova will also contribute to the project as well. The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) also provided support for the grant effort.

The goal of the RAISE program is to fund eligible surface transportation projects around the country that will have a significant local or regional impact that advance the federal priorities of safety, equity, climate and sustainability, and workforce development.

You can learn more about the U.S. Department of Transportation's RAISE program at the USDOT website.



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