



Ambedkar Times

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com

Editors: Takshila & Kabir Chumber

VOL- 6

ISSUE- 21

February 4, 2015

www.ambedkartimes.com

www.ambedkartimes.org

CONGRATULATIONS ON 638th THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SAHIB SHRI SATGURU RAVIDASS JI MAHARAJ

Prem Kumar Chumber

(Editor: www.ambedkartimes.com)



Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj, whose 638th birth anniversary is being celebrated throughout the world, was a great saint/Guru of medieval Bhakti movement of North India. He belonged to the lowest of the low castes in India whose touch used to be considered polluting to the Savarnas. He opened a frontal attack against the system of Untouchability. He rejected the tradition of Brahmin mediator to reach the Supreme Being. He also said that one need not to hide his caste or leave his low profession to reach God. He became a model for his fellow beings to overcome the hierarchical barriers of Brahminical Social Order and to establish Begumpura - a state without fear and sorrows. Guru Ravidass elevated the status of the labour by emphasizing on the fact that honest labour is empowering. He completely rejected the concept of living on charity or miraculous wealth obtained by Paras.

By defeating the famous Kashi Pundits in a formally organized Shastrartha, Guru Ravidass proved that merit is not the fiefdom of so called upper castes alone. Everybody is capable of worshipping Him. The fourfold division of Hindu society is a big lie and a trick to make and keep a large section of the Indian society under the cruelty and control of the few in the name of purity-pollution principle made by the so-called Brahmins. It is against this very system of religiously sanctified social differentiation that Guru Ravidass envisioned establishing a state where there would be no place for untouchability and social oppression.

For the social transformation of the society, Guru Ravidass laid emphasis on labour, compassion, virtue, prohibition of alcohol and all bad deeds. He also reiterated on the urgent need of remembering the formless God whom he addressed by varied names. Some scholars are of the view that Guru Ravidass did not form an organization nor he launched any consistent and systematic agitation against the system of untouchability. This is true. But to raise a loud voice at his times was no less than a clarion call to dismantle the unjust system of Brahminical social order. It is also true that the path told by him has become the beacon light for the Dalit movement in the country and abroad.

AMBEDKAR TIMES & DESH DOABA NOW WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Ambedkar Times Inc takes pride in announcing the launch of weekly papers: "Ambedkartimes" and "Desh Doaba". The journey was not an easy trip from monthly through fortnightly / bi-weekly to the current launch of weekly papers. It would have never happened but for all your support and encouragement. I feel highly indebted to all of you who candidly supported me in great measure in the form of contributions of various forms: writing for the papers, readership, and moral as well as financial support. I appeal you all for your continuous support and guidance, and from my side I promise my level best to come up to your expectation and to keep on serving for the cause of freedom of expression, equality and social justice.

Prem Kumar Chumber
(Editor: www.ambedkartimes.com)

31ST INTERNATIONAL PUNJABI DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

Patiala (Ambedkar Times News Bureau): The Department of Punjabi Language Development, Punjabi University, Patiala organized three days 31st International Punjabi Development Conference from January 14 to 16, 2015. The inaugural function was held at the university's Science Auditorium on the morning of 14th January. Dr. A.S. Chwala,

ure of our society and our society would remain richest with the possession of this immeasurable treasure forever. Sri Guru Granth Sahib incorporates the spiritual knowledge of various spiritual personalities belonging to diverse faiths and believes. Professor Ronki Ram discussed in detail the past and present state-of-affairs of the fast globalizing soci-



Dean Academic Affairs welcomed the dignitaries, eminent guests, participants, teachers, research scholars and students. Dr. Jasbir Kaur, Chairperson, Department of Punjabi Language Development briefed about the conference, Mr. Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, MP, presented the inaugural address, Dr. Ravail Singh, Convener, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Academy, Delhi was the special Guest, Professor Ronki Ram, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Hon. Director ICSSR (NWRC), Panjab University presented the keynote address. Professor Jaspal Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala presided over the event and Dr. Satish K. Verma presented the vote of thanks.

Mr. Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, MP, enlightened the illustrious gathering while deliberating at length on the importance and relevance of Sri Guru Granth Sahib as the ultimate source of spiritual and moral strength. He emphasized on the fact that Sri Guru Granth Sahib is the most sought after treas-

ety of Punjab. He sharply underlined the need to guard against the nefarious impact of hollow liberalism and it blue eyed baby of free market economy. He also stipulated on the need of learning in one's own mother tongue and at the same to make concerted efforts to keep ourselves abreast with the varied domains of knowledge while indulging in healthy discourse with our co-travelers of other languages.

Professor Jaspal Singh briefed about the mandate of the Punjabi University, the various efforts of the university to promote the pursuit of knowledge in the mother tongue and the rich cultural heritage of the Punjabi society that every Punjabi is proud of and the endeavors we should make to preserve and promote the same. Dr. Ravail Singh also reminded the imminent gathering of the importance of learning from our rich cultural and spiritual heritage which has a wonderful strength to take us to new heights both materially and spiritually.

CELEBRATION OF INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY

Sacramento (Ambedkar Times News Bureau): A special event was held to commemorate the celebration of India Republic Day at the California State Capitol in Sacramento on Monday, January 26, 2015. For the first time in its history, both the houses of the California Legislature - the California State Assembly - and the California State Senate jointly passed a resolution in honor of India's Republic Day. The resolution was sponsored by Senator



Tony Mendoza and was carried by full majority in both houses. Consul General met State Assembly Speaker Ms. Toni Atkins and other leading Assembly Members and Senators including Bob Wieck-

owski, who stressed the importance of US-India relations and the contributions of Indian Americans to the US. The "California Legislature Resolution" congratulating the Republic of India on its Republic Day was handed over to Consul General Venkatesan Ashok by California State Senator Tony Mendoza during the ongoing California Senate Floor Session. A reception hosted by Senator Tony Mendoza in his office in the State Capitol was attended by California State Assemblymen, Senators, prominent businessmen & professionals of Indian origin and members of the Indian Association of Sacramento.

COMMISSIONER LAHORI RAM'S SIXTH BARSIS



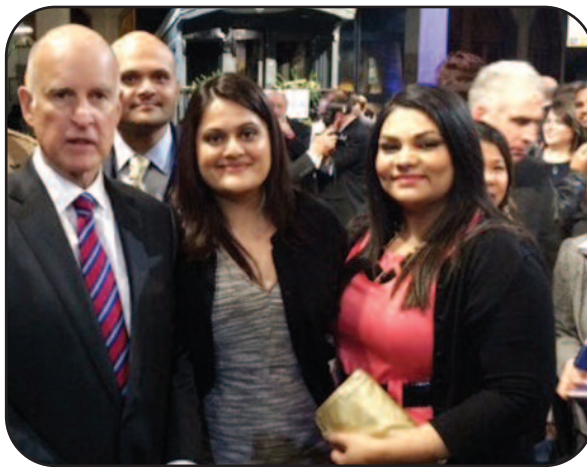
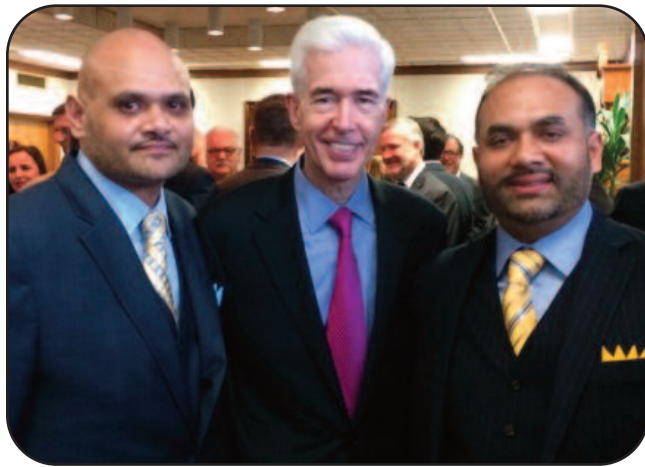
Images Prem K. Chumber (www.ambedkartimes.com)
Report on Page 3

GOVERNOR EDMUND G. BROWN JR. TOOK THE OATH 4TH TIME

Sacramento (Ambedkar Times news Bureau)-The illustrious family of late Commissioner Mr. Lahori Ram Ji (Jagdev Ram, Ajai Paul Ram (sons) and their sister Jagdish Kaur Ram) met & congratulated the Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on his being taken the oath of office as Governor of California (USA) on January 5, 2015 and the occa-

sion of his inaugural address in the Assembly Chamber in the Capitol Building. Other prominent Punjabi community members who were present on the occasion were Didar Singh Bains and his son Karamdeep Singh Bains (Bains family), Baljeet Singh Mann, Kamal Khangura, Preet Singh, and Raj Brar. First Lady, Anne Gust Brown, Lieutenant

Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Kamala Devi Harris, State Controller John Chiang, Former Governor Gray Davis and his wife Sharon Davis and Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon were among the many dignitaries present during inauguration.



COMMISSIONER LAHORI RAM'S SIXTH BARSIS

Pittsburg (Ambedkar Times News Bureau): On January 25, 2015 the illustrious Ram Family arranged an Akhand Path at the Shri Guru Ravidass Temple in Pittsburg, CA celebrating the life of Late Commissioner Lahori Ram Ji. The function commemorated the sixth anniversary of Late Mr. Lahori Ram Ji. Over 1000 friends, family members and well-wishers attended the memorial. People traveled from all over the United States to attend the function. Many people traveled internationally to pay homage to their dear friend and give support to the family to continue the annual memorial to keep Mr. Ram's memory alive.

Many dignitaries attended on Sunday and praised the work Mr. Ram accomplished in his lifetime. Local California Assembly woman Susan Bonilla expressed her gratitude for being invited to speak on the occasion. She said that there was always something new to learn about

Mr. Ram's life at such occasions. Shanelle Scales, from Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's office, said that Lahori Ram's name is well known in the halls of Congress in Washington, DC. San Jose City Councilman Ash Kalra said that Mr. Ram paved the way for the next generation to enter US politics. Lathrop City Mayor Sonny Dhaliwal praised the Ram family for their political activism throughout the years.

Sukhraj Chopra brought a collection of recordings he compiled of Mr. Lahori Ram Ji's speeches. He played one speech from the early 1980's for the sangat when Mr. Lahori Ram Ji was the General Secretary of the Pittsburg Temple. The recording was from a radio interview where Mr. Ram was talking about the life of Guru Ravidass Ji and inviting all to the Gurdwara for Guru Ravidass Ji's Gurburb.

Kirtan was performed by Shri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburg head

priest Bhai Prakash Singh, Bhai Bhupinder Singh's Jatha from San Jose Gurdwara, Bhai Ompal Singh's Jatha from Deradune, India, Bhai Baldev Singh's Jatha, and Bibi Surjit Kaur. Respected artist Asha Sharma said the large gathering gave evidence of the love and respect people had for Mr. Lahori Ram Ji and his family. She praised Mrs. Pritam Kaur Ram for the work she has done in helping her husband and raising wonderful children.

Most of the local Bay Area Sikh Temples sent their representatives to attend the memorial. Committee members from Fremont, Yuba City, Sacramento, Rio Linda, Fresno, Bakersfield, San Jose, Hayward, Modesto, Livingston, Fairfield, Santa Clara, and El Sobrante were all present. Many other Indian leaders spoke at the event. Harpreet Sandhu, an active political community member, spoke about Lahori Ram's contribution. Abu Bakr Mojaddidi from the

Afghan community spoke about the need of minority communities to unite. Reverend Tony Pierce, from Los Angeles, spoke about his dear friendship with the family and Mr. Ram's consistent activity to help the community. He said Mr. Ram would always ask how we could help the community. Representatives from the Brahma Kumaris were also present and also from the Sunnyvale and Vallejo Hindu Temples. Norman Franklin from the Native American Miwok Tribe, which covers Yosemite to the Sacramento River, was also present. He said that we all must work together and work on our common goals. Jagdev, Ajaipaul and Jagdish Kaur Ram thanked everyone for helping out in the three-day service and especially thanked the community and elected officials for their encouragement and support. They appreciated the great things said about their Father and hope to continue the work their Father started.

REMEMBERING MR. R.C. PAUL



Prof. (dr.) Ronki Ram

Mob: 0091-9779142308

E-mail: ronkiram@yahoo.co.in

Mr R.C. Paul lived a true life of a missionary meticulously dedicated to the emancipation and empowerment of the downtridden. He became involved in social welfare task of his fellow beings during his college years. During his F.Sc degree course at Doaba College Jalandhar, he took the responsibility of the General Secretaryship of the Punjab Scheduled Castes Students' Federation. Late Mr. Suraj Bhan was its president who later on became the Governor of the states of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Bihar. It was Mr. R.C. Paul, the General Secretary of the Punjab Scheduled Castes Students' Federation, who presented the Welcome Address in English in the honour of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Ramdasspura (Bootan Mandi) where he addressed the first mammoth gathering during his third and the last Punjab visit (27-29 October 1951). Seth Kishan Dass, President of the Punjab Scheduled Castes Federation presented the Welcome Address in Urdu.

In the Welcome Address, Mr. R.C. Paul highlighted the sufferings of the Scheduled Castes students and the severe hardships they had to face to acquire education. That was the time when only the science Scheduled Castes students offered some scholarships by the central government and there was no state government help available to them. Mr. K.C. Sulekh, founder Editor of Ujala (the only paper brought out by the Scheduled Castes of Punjab) and Secretary of The Punjab Scheduled Castes Federation, Mr. Suraj Bhan and Mr. R.C. Paul met a number of time Sh. Prithvi Singh Azad, the then Cabinet Minister in the Punjab Legislative Assembly for the Punjab Government help for the students of the Scheduled Castes communities. Alongwith Sh. K.C. Sulekh, Paul Sahib also visited Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at his stay in the Rest House Bangalow in

the Cant of Jalandhar. Both of them talked at length with the Messiah of downtrodden and made him relaxed while kneading his legs. After the completion of F.Sc, Mr. Paul joined Govt. service in the department of Electricity. After three years, he did graduation and later on got enrolled in the evening classes for the LL.B. degree course at Panjab University, Chandigarh, which he completed successfully. In 1967 he qualified PCS and was appointed Sub-Judge. He retired in 1979 as a Judicial Magistrate. In the same year he started Law practice at local court Jalandhar. It was after his retirement that he became actively involved in the cause of the mission of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. He offered his legal services free to his fellow brethren. In close collaboration with Mr. L.R. Balley, a veteran Ambedkarite of the region, Mr. R.C. Paul participated in many agitations for the restoration of the due rights of the Scheduled Castes people. He was always willing to come forward to work for the mission irrespective of when and where. He was the most familiar face at all the events at Ambedkar Bhawan (Jalandhar) highlighting the great mission of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

I share the irreparable loss with his family and innumerable fellow travellers on the mission.



At a marriage function-(from L-R) R.C. PAUL, RPS PAWAR(SON-IN-LAW OF PAUL), K.C. SULEKH, SURJIT LAL(SON-IN-LAW OF SULEKH)

Paul met a number of time Sh. Prithvi Singh Azad, the then Cabinet Minister in the Punjab Legislative Assembly for the Punjab Government help for the students of the Scheduled Castes communities. Alongwith Sh. K.C. Sulekh, Paul Sahib also visited Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at his stay in the Rest House Bangalow in

FLORAL TRIBUTE TO RESPECTABLE MR. R.C. PAUL



Ambedkartimes.com shares the grief with the family and friends of respected Mr. R.C. Paul who completed his worldly journey on 30 January 2015 after living for 82 years and consistently struggling for the spread of the mission of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. I have had the honour to be with him both in India and America and also of being benefited immensely from his commitment to the noble cause of bring equality and social justice for the emancipation and empowerment of downtrodden of the society. We will miss him forever. His sad demise has left a void that cannot be filled for ties to come.

Prem Kumar Chumber
Editor-In-Chief: Ambedkar Time

A LIFE DEDICATED TO AMBEDKAR MISSION

MR. R.C. PAUL IS NO MORE!

The sad demise on 30th January in America of Mr. R.C. Paul, a retired Judicial Magistrate and a prominent advocate at Jalandhar has left a void that cannot be filled. He was 82. He was down with kidney-liver related ailments and was receiving the best of treatment under the care of his younger son Shashi Kant Paul in America (California) since some years past, yet the sad news was a great shock to his relatives and friends particularly the Ambedkar circles to which he remained passionately attached till his last breath.

The story about how he rose from the life of an ordinary lad to that of a fully developed social figure in the days ahead is quite interesting

I learn with a heavy heart from the Ambedkar Times of the passing away of Shri R.C. Paul. My



hear felt condolences on the sad demise of Shri R.C. Paul, a Community Activist and a staunch Ambedkarite, to the bereaved family and the community large. May God grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss? His memory will remain alive in our hearts in the years to come.

With regards.

(Ramesh Chander)

Ambassador (Retired: I.F.S.)

and a good example for the younger generation to follow. Having passed his matriculation at Banga High School, he joined Doaba College at Jalandhar where he could not carry on to the level of graduation for various reasons. Leaving his study midway after F.Sc standard, he took up the job of an assistant in the Electricity Department and with his posting at Chandigarh, He was immensely inspired in the midst of new vistas of a new world to complete his graduation first and then study law in the Punjab University. He came out successful in both the courses that worked as a strong stimulus to go still higher. He attempted and cleared the PCS exam and was selected for the Judicial service to become Judicial Magistrate. After retirement therefrom in 1979, he started practice as a lawyer at Jalandhar in the district Courts where he soon established himself as a successful advocate thanks to his rich legal experience and his popularity in the community.

Earlier when Mr. Paul had just entered the college, I was also there in the last year of my studies when we together formed SC Students Federation with Mr. Suraj Bhan as president and R.C. Paul as General Secretary. Mr. Bhan was then a BA student at Ambala who rose in his lateral life to become Governor of two states and Chairman of SC-ST

Commission. The best memorable hour in his life perhaps was when he got the opportunity to present an address of welcome to Baba Sahib on stage in the capacity of SC students' representative. The occasion was the great SC conference held on 27th October 1951 at Jalandhar(Abadpura) that was addressed by Baba Sahib during his pre-election tour of Punjab. Only two welcome addresses were presented at that time, one was by the state SCF president Seth Kishan Das on the general state matters and the other was by Mr. Paul on the student's problems.

It was really a matter of pride for him. The whole responsibility to manage the conference affairs and to conduct the stage was mine for which Mr. Paul lent me full help. Another opportunity to sit very close and talk to Baba Saheb came when on the next morning of the conference day, many of us gathered around Baba Saheb to listen to his words of wisdom.

Replying to a question put by Mr. Paul, a student then, whether students should take part in active Politics or not, Baba Saheb said "The students' foremost duty is to first acquire education of a high standard under a strict discipline of life like a "Tapasvi"(Ascetic) so as to fully understand the complexities and fine points of Politics before jumping into the arena.

His role in the management and construction of Ambedkar Bhawan at Jalandhar is another story that speaks volumes of his undying faith in and dedication to Ambedkar Mission. The Bhawan was raised as a Memorial to Baba Saheb on the same spot in Abadpura where he had delivered his historic speech in 1951. Mr. L.R. Balley, the founding trustee of this great project was almost all alone in the initial stages to carry out the stupendous task when an equally enthusiastic comrade-in-arm in the person of R.C. Paul joined him to work as Secretary of the Trust that had already been established in 1972. Thousands of Rupees as donation were collected by Mr. Paul during his several visits to foreign countries U.K., USA and Canada as also from local people.

Mr. Paul has left behind two sons Dr. RaviKant M.S., Shashikant(America-business), daughter Pamela, son-in-law Mr. RPS Pawar, principles Secretary Retd., wife Asha Devi and a prosperous family. Mr. Paul will always be remembered for his exquisite manners, affable nature and above all for his love for the community.



K.C. Sulekh

0172-4623503

Trustee, Ambedkar Bhawan
Trust Jalandhar(Regd.)
House No. 503, Sector 15-A,
Chandigarh (India)