



Ambedkar Times

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-510-219-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com

Editors: Takshila & Kabir Chumber

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Ambedkar Statue-A Historical Milestone in Punjab Hundreds Embraced Buddhism



Arun Kumar
Arun.kumar@ntlworld.com

An important landmarked was created in the history of Ambedkar movement in the state of Punjab when a full sized brass statue of Dr. Ambedkar was installed at the Takshila Maha Buddha Vihara, Ludhiana in the presence of

all India Bhikkhu Sangha and thousands of devotees who gathered to celebrate the Diksha Divas and Ashok Vijay Dashmi on 13th October, 2013. This statue is unique in whole of India. Babasaheb is shown pointing one finger towards Buddha Vihara and in another hand he is holding his last book 'Buddha and his Dhamma' indicating Buddhism is the ul-

imate refuge for peace and the welfare of mankind. On 14th October, 1956 Dr. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism along with 500000 of his followers and that day became important in the Buddhist movement in India. Every year 14th October is celebrated as Diksha Day with great fan fare. It is also believed that on that very day Ashoka, the Great also embraced to Buddhism after the victory over Kalinga. The statue was donated by Hukam Chand Mehmi, President, Ambedkar Mission Society, Bedford and the plinth by Mrs. Nirmla Chahal in memory of her husband, late Chanan Chahal, former President, Punjab Buddhist Society, UK who played a prominent role in the construction of Takshila Maha Buddha Vihara. The statue was unveiled by Ram Pal Rahi, President, Punjab Buddhist Society, UK. Other members of the Punjab Buddhist Society, UK, Punjab,

Ambedkar Mission Society, Bedford, UK and Dhamma Federation of India, Rattan Lal Sampla, Mehar Chand Jassal, Mr. & Mrs. Dhanpat Rattu, Mr. & Mrs. Hukam Chand Mehmi, Mr. & Mrs. Harbans Virdee, Mr. & Mrs. Ram Pal Rahi, Mr. & Mrs. Arun Kumar, David Masih, Harbhajan Sampla, Dalbir Saroye, Gurnam Mall, Sham Lal, Manoj Kumar, Gurmit Singh, Advocate Sanjeev Kumar Bhaura graced the occasion. Arun Kumar and his family gifted a computer and printer to the Takshila Maha Buddha Vihara. S. R. Darapuri, IG (retired), UP, DVP Sehra, Senior Scientist (retired), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Delhi, Ram Gautam from Ghaziabad, Sohan Sehjal, Dr. G.C. Kaul, Dr. Rahul, Guru Ravidass Mission Hospital, Phagwara especially came to attend this function. Following the footsteps of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar, hundreds of his followers took refuge in the Buddhism. The Diksha ceremony was

conducted by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi Palo Mahathero and the twenty two oaths prescribed by Dr. Ambedkar were administered by the resident monk Ven. Bhikkhu, Prigya Bodhi. In his discourse, Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhipalo Mahathero explained the importance of Diksha Divas. Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar resurrected Buddhism for which he will always be remembered for ever like Ashoka. Ven. Bhikkhu Prigyabodhi thanked all devotees who helped to develop the monumental place, Takshila Maha Buddha Vihara. He also requested everybody to donate liberally so that Ambedkar Hall in the Vihara is also completed. The stage was anchored very successfully and efficiently by Advocate Sanjeev Kumar Bhaura of Dhamma Federation of India. Food was provided by Mrs. Nirmla Chahal, Satpal Paul, Chaman Lal, Ram Pal Rahi and Harbans Lal Virdee.

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Senator Corbett to Introduce Legislation to Prevent Future Assisted Living Facility Tragedies

SACRAMENTO – Following the tragic situation at the Valley Springs Manor in Castro Valley in late October, Senate Majority Leader Ellen M. Corbett (D-East Bay) today announced that she will introduce legislation that will bolster the facility inspection and complaint investigation process, as well as ensure a comprehensive plan that addresses the immediate and long term needs of assisted living residents following a facility closure. The legislation seeks to prevent future tragedies that may potentially jeopardize the safety and wellbeing of elderly and/or sick residents at assisted living care facilities. As the State Senator representing Castro Valley and the East Bay / Tri-Valley, Senator Corbett believes that the chain of events that culminated in 14 assisted living home patients being left virtually alone for two days following the closure of Valley Springs Manor by the California Department of Social Services in October is unacceptable. Senator Corbett thanks the selfless staff that remained after the state action and appreciates their heroic

efforts, though questions still remain regarding what steps government agencies and/or other facility staff should have taken to ensure the continued safety of facility residents. "Though the ongoing federal, state and local investigation into what happened at Valley Springs Manor continues, this situation in Castro Valley is a clear reminder that there is an urgent need for increased protections to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again," Senator Corbett said. "Residents at assisted living facilities are certainly vulnerable and both they and their families deserve the peace of mind of knowing that there are safeguards in place to protect residents if and when another facility closure occurs."

Senator Corbett and her staff will continue meeting with assisted living home representatives and residents, state agency representatives and other stakeholders in the weeks ahead to determine the best legislative course of action to meet the specific and general needs to protect assisted living home residents.

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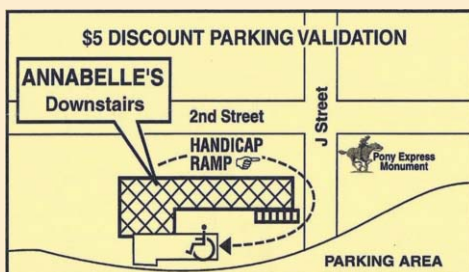


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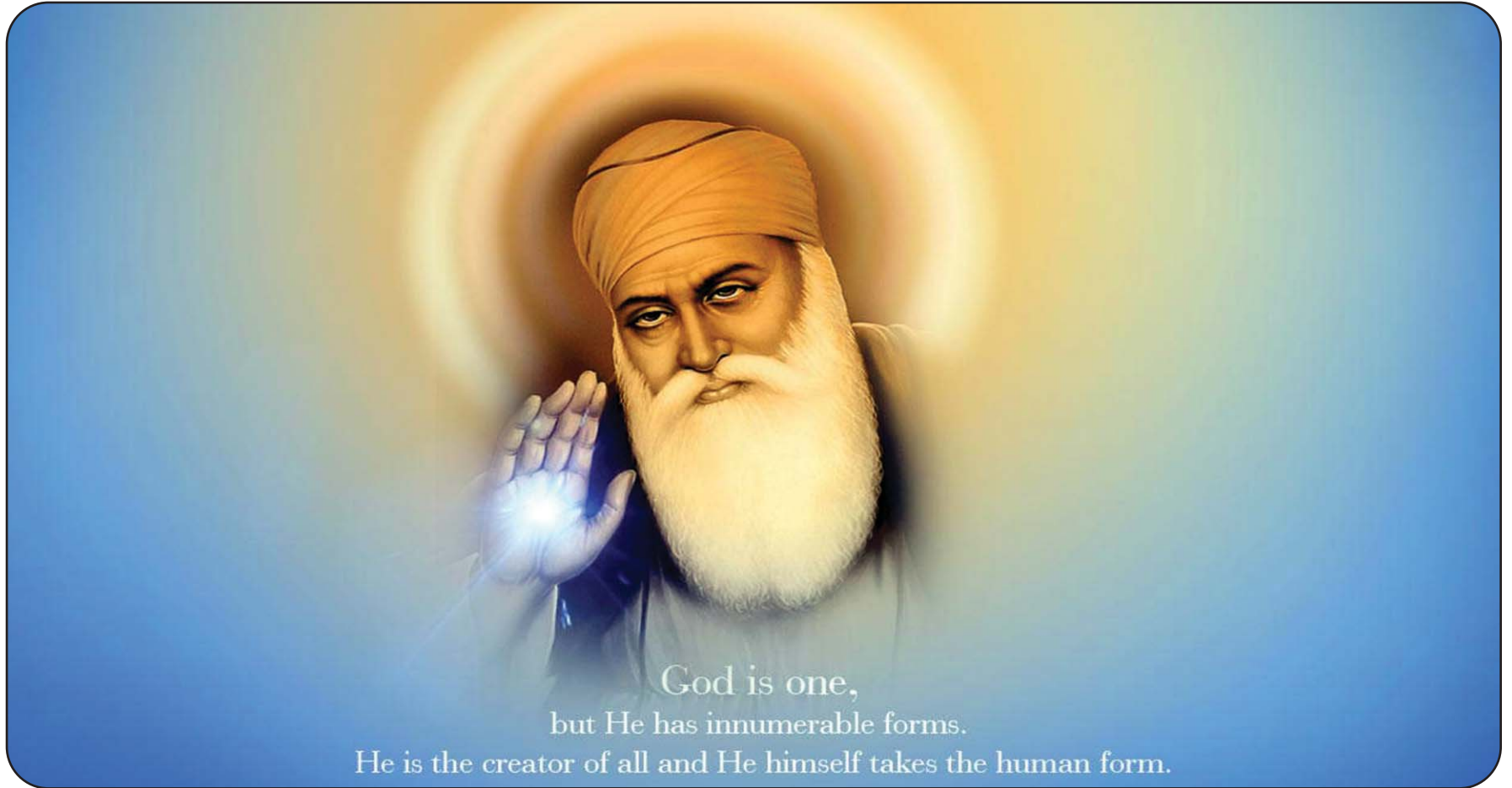
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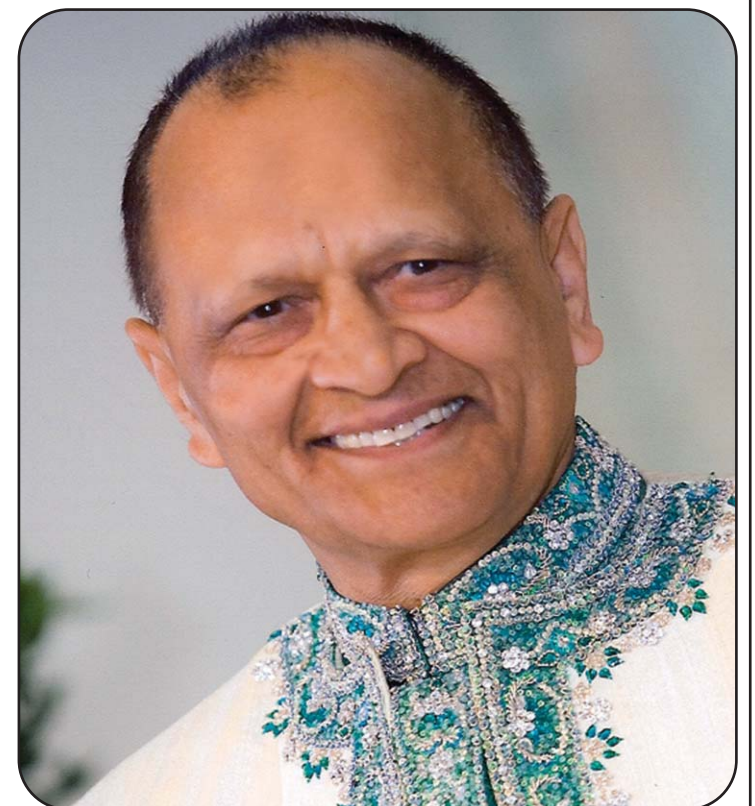
God is one,
but He has innumerable forms.
He is the creator of all and He himself takes the human form.

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