



# Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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## May Day Celebrations & Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar's Contributions for Laborers in India

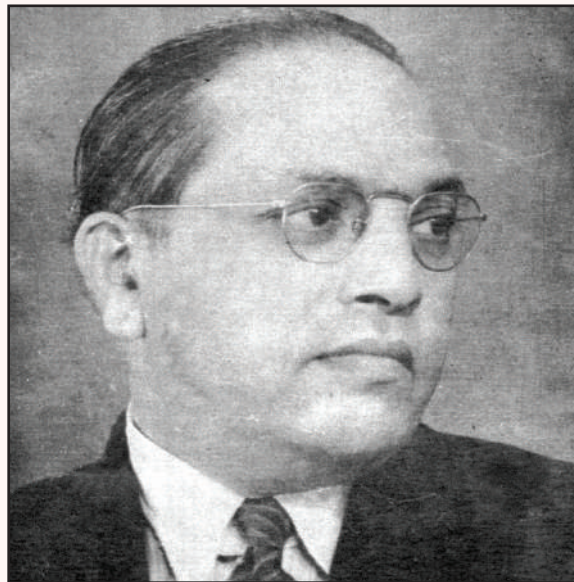
Prem K. Chumber

(Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba)

May Day Celebrations & Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar's Contributions for Laborers in India Prem K. Chumber Editor-in-Chief: www.ambedkartimes.com Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Weekly Newspapers Bharat Ratan Bodhisattva 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 affair in 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 sympathizers. 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 of the laborers 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 Hours a day. His contributions towards granting the rights of the laborers 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 threatened 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 undertaken 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 May Day Celebrations the world over and also fondly remember the rich contributions made by Bodhisattva Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar towards the emancipation and empowerment of workers in India!

## MAY DAY (LABOR DAY) CELEBRATED World-Wide



**I**nternational Working Day also synonymous with Labor Day in some countries was observed and celebrated on May 1st, 2022, in commemoration of the rights and accomplishments of the laboring classes all over the world. More than 80 countries celebrate this significant day at national level.

In USA it is observed as a International Working day and as Labor Day it is officially observed annually on First Monday in the month of September which also marks the end of Summer. UNO observes it as an important day under the patronage of UNESCO. In India it is celebrated at federal level as a "AN-TARRASHTRIYA SHRAMIK DIWAS" and the other states observe it with different names in honor of the hardworking people who work for the betterment of our society.

### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE IN INDIA:

- With the dawn of Industrial Revolution the poor working conditions with hazardous environments for workers in the factories and other establishments needed improvements. It resulted in the establishment of many labor Unions and other channels for comforts of the working people.

**ROLE OF Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR:** - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar fought his way against poverty, adversity, injustice to pinnacle of leadership. As a member of the Executive Council of Viceroy from 1942 to 1946 and as Law Minister of India, Dr. Ambedkar, based on his extensive study of the labor problems and the labour legislations in Europe, was responsible for introduction of many landmark decisions for improving the working conditions of the labour. Some of them are as under:-

1. Reduction in Working Hours (From 14 Hours to 8 Hours)
2. Creation of Tripartite Organization for settlement of Industrial disputes.
3. Ban on employment of women on underground work in coal mines and Maternity Benefit Act.
4. Provision for Dearness Allowance
5. Employees state Insurance Corporation
6. Pay commissions.



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### CONTRIBUTIONS OF BABU JAGJIVAN RAM:

- As labor Minister in Jawahar Lal Nehru's cabinet, Babu Jagjivan Ram was the first labour Minister to preside over International Labour Organization in Geneva. He got enacted many Bills into laws for the benefit of the labour classes. Alongwith Dr. Ambedkar he was able to steer through many other labor Acts.

1. Industrial disputes Act, 1948
2. Minimum Wage Act, 1948

The month of May 2022 is also very significant for congratulations and celebration of:-

1. Eid-UI-Fiter (End of Ramadan-Holy month of fasting and Prayers.
2. World Press Freedom Day was observed on May 3rd, 2022 for which Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber as Chief Editor, "Ambedkar Times"/ "Desh Doaba" (Weeklies) deserves hearty congratulations.

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# RASHTAR, RASHTARBAD AUR AMBEDKARBAD – A BOOK BY DAWARKA BHARTI



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

**Dawarka Bharti**, who requires no introduction, is a renowned writer of poetry and prose on matters of interest and concern to the under-privileged segments of

Nagar Budh Vihar at Bootan Mandi in Jalandhar where I was invited to do the honours. It was a pleasure not only to pay my humble tribute Babasaheb but also stand with Dawaraka Bharti at his moment of achievement, yet another feather in his literary hat. The title of the first essay in the book is the title of the book also. Publisher, Varinder Kumar of Navchetna Publications, has rightly said in his note, "वैसे तो इस पुस्तक में उठाए गए विषय इतने गंभीर और महत्वपूर्ण हैं की हर विषय पर बसितार चर्चा होनी चाहिये" The thought provoking essays are worth reading which have been written by the author with courage and conviction

conversion from Hindu religion, to other faiths. The author's take on Ayurveda and Yoga, medical and health systems of India, makes an interesting reading. Dawarka Bharti is very candid on some of the social ills of the society like big feasts on death and 'Antim Ardas' events etc. Bharti is concerned and worried about the prevailing and emerging communal situation in the country and has touched the relevant aspect of the issue in a couple of essays in the book. It is said that the proof of the pudding lies in its eating. The book Rastar, Rashtarbad aur Ambedkarbad is worth reading.

While delivering my brief remarks on the launch of the book, I said that India was a land of multicultural and multi racial society and as such India that is Bharat was declared as Union of States in the constitution. The chief architect of the constitution Babasaheb Ambedkar said that India was never a nation. We are to make it a nation" Bharti Sahib has written about Ambedkarbad, while referring to the concept, I thought of raising a question which academics and historians would answer in due course and asked that what was Ambedkarbad? I don't think that Ambedkar was interested

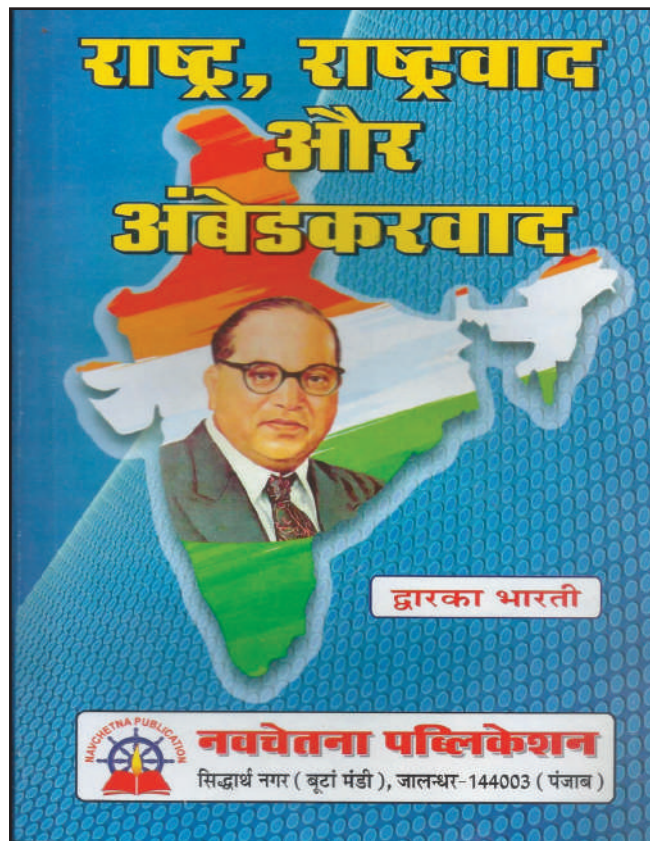


the society. He is a staunch Ambedkarite and a Buddhist to the core. I had reviewed his earlier book "Mochi" – a sahitayak Atamkatha (a literary autobiography) in the columns of my blog which may be seen at the given link: <https://diplomaticitbits.blogspot.com/2021/01/from-mochis-thee-ha-to-ignou-book-review.html>

The book in hand – Rashtar, Rashtarbad aur Ambedkarbad written in Hindi is a compilation of 21 essays on interesting subjects pertaining to some of the issues of current and contemporary interest and relevance. The book has been dedicated to the Dawarka ji's father Bhagwan Dass Raju who himself was an Ambedkarite activist of his times. Dawarka Bharti acknowledges this fact with a sense of pride and gratitude that his pursuits to know and adopt Ambedkar Thoughts were initiated and instilled in him by his father.

The book was formally released on April 14, birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar at Sidharath

tion in these days of growing intolerance in the system and the society. Bharti Sahib in his home-grown humbleness says at the outset, "मेरे लखिने से यां न लखिने से बहुत फरक पड़ जायगा; ऐसा नहीं है; पर लगा शायद चुप रहना सद्धमतानि मान ली जाये मेरी ". It may be taken at its face value. Some of the essays have been devoted to various aspects of Ambedkar Thought. One of the headings rightly conveys the mind of the author - आंबेडकर एक आइकॉन ही नहीं; बैचारिक जवालामुखी भी है. Yet another aspect of Ambedkar Thought reflects in the essays on Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy and also on conversion, especially



in any "BAAD" but still I think, as a lay man, Ambedkar Thought, in concrete and crystallized form, stands for the betterment of the community, society and the humanity at large by way of harmonious social set-up, democratic polity, and equitable economic order, humanistic and compassionate spiritual endeavor which may be termed as Ambedkarbad. As regards the ongoing unfortunate strife ridden atmosphere in the country as raised in some of the essays in the book, I said that we all should revisit and read Babasaheb's speech of November 25, 1949 delivered in the Constituent Assembly before the constitution was finally passed and adopted. As a visionary leader he raised questions and answered himself which are as relevant today as it was in 1949.

I hope that the book will be received well. Dawarks Bharti is fighting fit to give us more at his age of past seventy. I wish him good health and prosperity in the years to come.



**Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD**

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**Goodie Takhar, PhD**



# Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor. District 4



Sue Frost

## New Senate Bill Denying Law Enforcement Funding (SB 1464)

With the legislature back in session, legislation has recently been introduced that compounds the progressive pillars of excessive mandates and



defunding police. Below, I would like to explain what this bill is, and why I believe it is a horrible idea.

Over the past couple years, we saw an onslaught of public health orders introduced at the state and local levels in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These health orders came with requirements for masks in public places, the closing of businesses, and other aspects of "social distancing." Following the health orders, many law enforcement agencies announced that they would not be dedicating resources to the enforcement of health. In response, we now have Senate Bill (SB) 1464 which would deny funding to any law enforcement agency that adopts a policy to not enforce health orders in the future, and transfer that funding to public health agencies that are unelected and do not answer directly to the people.

During my campaign for County Supervisor, I made a promise that when I vote I will always ask the questions: Is it constitutional? Can we afford it? And does it make sense for our community? For this bill, the answer is no on all three counts.

It is not Constitutional. The mandate would impede the Constitutional discretionary authority of elected Sheriffs, and the Constitutional discretionary authority of elected County Supervisors who are best able to act in the interest of their community.

We cannot afford it. During the COVID lockdown, Sacramento County saw a reduction in staff at the Sheriff's department. We lost officers who retired or resigned, and the circumstances of the COVID pandemic regulations disrupted our normal annual training and recruitment, leaving us short by 138 Deputies. COVID mandates exacerbated the homeless problems as we were instructed not to move homeless camps. We saw in-

creases in response times and the shifting of officers off certain assignments to partake in patrols. Ultimately, the citizens of Sacramento County shouldered the burden.

It does not make sense for our community. We need more law enforcement funding, not less. Along with the COVID challenges, more than 20,000 inmates were released from jails statewide in 2020, we are coincidentally seeing an increase in violent crimes. So, with crime up and law enforcement staffing down, why would anyone see it as appropriate to further reduce law enforcement budgets?

During my years as a Supervisor, I have watched as the legislature has systematically eliminated tools and disabled law enforcement when it comes to enforcing the law. Felony crimes in California have been reduced to a misdemeanor. Anyone can walk into their local store and steal up to \$950 worth of merchandise without serious consequences. For large corporations, this is just considered "a cost of doing business" but for small businesses this is one more nail in the coffin of their dying business. Homeless individuals can defecate on sidewalks and drug users can scatter their needles throughout our parks. The unintended consequences of policy over time have stripped our law enforcement of tools that used to keep neighborhoods and businesses safe.

It is hard to imagine a world where we enter another pandemic (assuming this one ever officially ends) and it is silly to assume that law enforcement has the time to send a deputy to issue a citation to every person who enters a public space without a mask.

SB 1464 seems to imply that those who were not ready to comply were worse offenders than the 20,000 people released from jails. No one who wishes to not wear a mask or follow social distancing protocol has any right to harass or assault a public health worker or a customer service employee who asks them to follow such protocols and anyone who becomes less than peaceful under such circumstances is likely deserving of the attention of law enforcement. At the same time, if a person peacefully or respectfully declines as a form of protest or exercise of medical freedom, it is their right and Law Enforcement is bound by their oath to uphold those rights.

Defunding law enforcement

agencies for how they prioritize their response to crime in the community is entirely backwards. Perhaps a carrot in the form of additional resources to enforce laws already on the books rather than the stick of defunding already overburdened agencies is a better approach to enhancing public safety. I hope our legislators see the flawed logic and withdraw SB1464.

## County DHA Launches Food Insecurity Pilot Program

With applications for CalFresh and the California Food Assistance Program rising as the effects of the pandemic grow year over year for those with low or fixed incomes, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors heard the pleas of the community – we need to address food insecurity in our County. In response, the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance (DHA) has launched a Food Insecurity Pilot Program – aimed at lessening the impact the pandemic has had on individuals struggling to feed themselves and their families.

The pilot program includes increased funding to the food bank, providing food delivery services and working with local non-profit partners to ensure the services are reaching



those that need them most. The BOS approved \$3,859,993 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Revenue Replacement Funds and \$250,000 in APRA funding to implement a County Food Insecurity Pilot Program.

The County received proposals directly from the community to address food insecurity that mirrored the restaurant meals program administered during the pandemic, which saw an increase in needed food supports.

DHA is contracting with Family Meals Sacramento (FMS) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for an initial pilot program of one-year to ensure individuals and families are receiving the food services. DHA chose FMS and NAACP for their experience and their ability to expedite restaurant meal services to families experiencing the greatest need. Funding allocations:

<b>FMS (Restaurant Meal Service):</b>	\$1.25 million
<b>NAACP (Restaurant Meal Service):</b>	\$2.5 Million
<b>NAACP (Outreach on Food Insecurity):</b>	\$250,000
<b>County Administrative Costs:</b>	\$109,993
<b>Total Program Allocation:</b>	\$4,109,993

While ARPA funds can be used to fund this program directly, DHA determined there would be significant challenges in allocating ARPA funds to restaurant meal services if the partners were unable to meet the ARPA compliance and reporting guidelines – which are fairly strict. It was also determined the program would become an administrative burden and create an audit risk if partners were unable to comply with program rules, thus creating further hardship on restaurants, the community and the County.

Administering the ARPA Food Insecurity Pilot would also require extensive training for all partners and restaurants, increasing the costs of County administrative support significantly. Thus, DHA determined that using General Fund in lieu of ARPA funding for this program would allow for a more effective and streamlined approach to the implementation of the program. However, in order to still fully utilize the ARPA funds available, but allow for more flexibility and versatility in the program, DHA requested the funds come in the form of revenue replacement to cover the full program costs.

In addition to the information provided above, in the coming months, DHA will be seeking approval from the BOS for two additional contracts the food bank and meal delivery services. The funding for these two contracts has already been approved by the Board, adding an additional \$2 million to address food insecurity in the County.

For more information on this program, review the power point presentation from DHA provided to the Board of Supervisors on March 22, 2022.

## Fire Prevention Efforts Underway in Regional Parks

Fire season seems to start earlier and earlier, and the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks has already initiated its multi-pronged plan to reduce fire risk, defend wildlife habitats and protect our natural resources and the neigh-

(Continue from page 3)  
borhoods adjacent to the parks.

For its 2022 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan, the Department of Regional Parks has lined up sheep and goat grazing contracts, is utilizing maintenance crews to maintain fire breaks, and is issuing fuel break maintenance permits to properties bordering Park properties.

To decrease the number and size potential of wildfires in our parks system, the techniques used will be applicable for each area and will include:

**Firebreaks** – A combination of mowing, soil discing and targeted herbicides will be used where appropriate to create perimeters around open fields, along fence lines and be-



hind neighborhoods. This work is scheduled to be completed by end of June.

**Ladder Fuel Hand-Crews** – In limited, hard-to-reach areas, hand-crews will remove vegetation that allows the potential for a fire to climb up or move into urban areas.

**Grazing** – There are hundreds of acres of undeveloped or protected land in our Regional Parks. Goats and sheep are ideal for vegetation management and are great at eating down weeds, bushes and grass that manned crews cannot get to. Grazing is expected to occur between April and the end of June.

**Annual Encroachment Permits** – Residents who live adjacent to Regional Parks' properties are able to

apply for free annual encroachment permits to maintain a fire break behind their property line. These allow residents to string-trim grass and weeds for up to 50 feet beyond their private property line. To request a permit, provide your name, address and contact information to Regional Parks at parksinfo@SacCounty.gov.

Additionally, the Ranger Division will continue its increased education and enforcement efforts related to illegal fires and cooking along the parkway in an effort to reduce the number of new fire outbreaks.

Visitors to Sacramento County Regional Parks should be aware of the following regulations:

Open flame fires are not allowed and barbequing is only permitted in designated picnic areas.

Smoking is only allowed in developed picnic areas, asphalt surfaces, golf courses and levee tops along the American River Parkway.

Visit the Regional Parks website to learn more about the 2022 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan for Sacramento County Parks. If you see a fire burning in our Regional Parks, please call 9-1-1.

**Capital Region Small Business Week May 2-17, 2022**

Sacramento County Economic Development and the Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) are partnering with City of Sacramento's Office of Innovation and Economic Development, and Sacramento State's Carlsen Center to host "BizX, Minding Your Business & The Future of Technology" on Tuesday, May 3. This event is one of several events during Capital Region Small Business Week, May 2 – 7, 2022.

Capital Region Small Business Week is a week-long series of virtual

and in-person events designed to connect the region's small businesses with local resources and celebrate the important role that small businesses play in the region. This regional event coincides with National Small Business Week.

Entrepreneurs, small businesses and industry professionals are invited to join and register for the events below:

**Monday, May 2, 2022**  
VIRTUAL | Registration coming soon  
Kickoff Mixer: "Coffee Talk" with Maestro Coffee House

**Tuesday, May 3, 2022**  
IN-PERSON | Register here  
Airport Rental Car Supplier Diversity Outreach & Business Resource Day  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Discover business opportunities with Sacramento International Airport car rental companies.

**Tuesday, May 3, 2022**  
VIRTUAL | Register here  
BizX: Minding Your Business & the Future of Technology  
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. | BizX is back with an overview of Influencer Marketing along with Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence Information Technology.

**Tuesday, May 3, 2022**  
IN-PERSON | Registration coming soon  
BizX Mixer  
5 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Details coming soon!

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022**  
VIRTUAL | Registration coming soon  
Small Business Tax Panel  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m. | A panel of Federal and State tax agencies will discuss your tax rights and responsibilities as a small business owner during this free, virtual event.

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022**  
VIRTUAL | Register here  
Mentor Sacramento Sprint  
12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Mentor Sacramento Sprint is an opportunity for early-stage entrepreneurs to receive expert advice.

**Thursday, May 5, 2022**  
IN-PERSON | Register here  
Capital Summit  
1 p.m. – 3 p.m. | Are you an entrepreneur seeking startup funds to jump start your business venture; or are you looking for capital to expand your business? Join us for an in-person event to have all your access-to-capital questions answered.



**Thursday, May 5, 2022**  
VIRTUAL | Registration coming soon  
Presentation: Importing & Exporting for Small Business  
1 p.m. | Learn from the U.S. Commercial Service about U.S. Government assistance for exporting and tips for importing into the U.S.

**Friday, May 6, 2022**  
IN-PERSON | Registration coming soon  
May Mixer  
Hosted by the California Capital Women's Business Center

For more information about Capital Region Small Business week, visit [capitalregionssmallbusinessweek.org](http://capitalregionssmallbusinessweek.org).



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