



# Ambedkar Times Weekly

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## Labour Day Celebrations & Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar's Contributions for Labourers in India

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor-In-Chief: [www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com)

Bharat Ratan Bodhi Satav 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 sympathisers. 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 labourers 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 Hrs a day. His contributions towards granting the rights of the labourers 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 Labour Day Celebrations the world over and also fondly remember the rich contributions made by Bodhi Satav Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar towards the emancipation and empowerment of workers in India!

## Historical Context of Delhi Kisan Morcha: Pre-partition Agrarian Movements – I

**P**re-partition Punjab witnessed many peasant struggles, which bequeathed a rich legacy for latter generations of farmers. With agriculture being the mainstay of majority of its populace, and given the unregulated and oppressive system of local moneylending accompanied by heavy land revenues and water taxes, peasant struggles became a routine occurrence during pre-partition Punjab. After the annexation of Punjab in 1849, British government put its entire land in the state under meticulously devised legal control. Another major project undertaken by the British Raj was the canalisation of large tracts of barren land, leading to the advent of irrigation and sudden prosperity among



S. Ajit Singh - Picture Credit: Patriots Of India

the otherwise pauperised peasant communities of the state. This canal-based system of arid land irrigation had not only propelled the high-yielding varieties of crops, but also gave rise to residential colonies of farmers around the newly-dug canals. Many farmers also joined the British army, which brought rich opportunities for Sikh soldiers to visit Europe and North America, but also forced them to face their ignoble social status as subjects of the British Empire. This had led to social and political awakening among the inhabitants of the newly established canal colonies in Western Punjab – many of them ex-soldiers in the British army – that eventually played a catalytic role in the emergence of peasant movements in the state against agriculture Acts, which offended their *izzat* (honour, prestige, self-respect).

However, preceding salutary contributions by the peasantry during the massive British Canal projects, there were much earlier inflexion points such as the introduction of the Persian water wheel in this region in the 16th century, and the establishment of a Sikh Kingdom by Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1799. The peasants of Punjab fought for freedom and their land, first under the command of Five *Pyare* and twenty-five Singhs sent by Guru Gobind Singh – along with Baba Banda Bahadur – to help establish just rule in Punjab, and later launch guerrilla warfare through various Sikh *Misls* (confederacies). During this long period of che-

quered history, the valorous peasantry of Punjab was engaged primarily in fighting for the restoration and protection of their land. It was also the peasants who bore the brunt of brutal persecution at the hands of both alien forces and of the partition of the vast province of Punjab when circumstances conspired against them and they had had to forsake their well-groomed canal irrigated agriculture fields in West Punjab, now in Pakistan.

In addition, the sterling contribution made by the farmers of Punjab in the organisation and functioning of the historic Ghadar movement-1913-1948, Gurdwara Reform movement-1920-25, Babbar Akali movement-1921-25, Guru ka Bagh morcha-1922, and Jaito da morcha-1924-25 add further lustre to the rich heritage of farmers' relentless struggle for the safeguard of their land rights, and restoration of their civic and religious liberties. Guru ka Bagh and Jaito Morchas are well-known for their exemplary non-violent struggle. The genesis of the current agitation, which has galvanised farmers across India, can be traced to these pre-independence agrarian agitations in Punjab.

### Farmers Struggle of 1907

The Pagri Sambhal Jatta movement of 1907 is the pioneer peasant movement of Punjab, which provides clues to understanding what sustains the vigour of the ongoing farmers' protests at the borders of Delhi. This movement was launched primarily to force the British administration withdraw the Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906 (introduced in the Punjab Legislative Council on October 25, 1906, and passed in February 1907), which aimed at depriving landowners of their land. This was not the only agriculture law passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly since the establishment of the canal colonies by the British government in the late nineteenth century after the annexation of the Punjab in 1849. A good number of agriculture-related Acts – the Land Alienation Act of 1900, the Punjab Limitation Act 1904, the Transfer of Property Act 1904, the Punjab Pre-Emption Act of 1905, the Court of Wards Act of 1905, and the Punjab Land Alienation Act Amendment Bill 1906 – had already been passed by the provincial government without facing any resistance from the land-owners. Instead, all these Acts were presented by the British government as what N. Gerald Barrier called 'paternal protection of the cultivating land-owners'.

However, what prompted the landowners to rise against the Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906 was its various stringent clauses that 'forbade transfer of property by will', introduced 'strict primogeniture as interpreted by the Canal Officer'; imposed fresh conditions like planting of trees as well as prior permission for their cutting, sanitary rules and higher occupancy fee; legalised fines and debarred the courts from 'interfering with executive orders'. It was also included in the Act that 'if a

(Contd. on next page)



### Ronki Ram

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# Historical Context of Delhi Kisan Morcha: Pre-partition Agrarian Movements – I

(Continue from page 1)

new settler died without gaining occupancy rights (generally before five years), the land lapsed to the government'. Though before the enactment of this Act, landowners in the Chanab canal colony were subjected to various hardships by the local administration in the form of corruption and arbitrary fines, but they did not raise the banner of revolt against the British government, which they used to consider benevolent. But as soon as their land was targeted, landowners turned hostile. The in-

crease in the abiana (water rate) under the Doab Bari Act of 1907 further aggravated the crisis that forced them to unite first under the "yeoman grantees" of the Bar Zamindar Association and then the revolutionary leadership of Ajit Singh, uncle of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, who with the support of the Bharat Mata Sabha, an underground organisation, fought the Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906 tooth and nail. The threat of losing land was articulated as a threat to the very existence of the landowners,

and this sentiment was captured in the movement's slogan: *Pagdi Sambhal Jatta* (take care of thy turban O, Jat). Eventually, the movement itself came to be known by the name of this very slogan.

The often repeated epitaph of 'the question of *hond* – existence of farmer' in the ongoing farmers' protests reminds the above-mentioned slogan of 1907 movement. The current farmers struggle against the three farm laws, like that of the 1907 peasant movement, is being fought to safeguard the *hond* (exis-

tence) of farmers. Both of these historic farmers' movements (1907 and the present one) were launched after thoroughly debating each and every clause. Another striking parallel between the Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906 and the current three farms laws, is that both were rushed through the legislative process sans a proper discussions. Finally, the Punjab Land Colonisation Act 1906 was withdrawn after the Secretary of State vetoed it on May 26, 1907.

(Continuing)



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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# Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor. District 4



Sue Frost

### County's Homeless Response

Over the years, the main concerns of my constituents have remained fairly consistent, occasionally with one receiving more attention than others. At the current forefront is the issue of homelessness. It seems nearly impossible to go anywhere in the County these days without encountering at least one homeless person or going past an encampment. That is not surprising given a 19 percent rise in Sacramento County's home-



less population from 2017 to 2019. We don't even know what that number has grown to since 2019 as the 2021 Point in Time count was cancelled due to COVID-19. The concerns around these encampments are numerous and legitimate. The number one question my office gets is: "why aren't you doing anything about them?" The truth is we are doing what we can, working our way upstream against a powerful legal current, and I am happy to share more on the realities of Sacramento County's response to homelessness.

Many people who have reached out seeking to have a homeless camp moved are undoubtedly familiar with the decision out of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in *Martin v. Boise*. Put simply, that decision made it unlawful to punish people for the act of being homeless when they do not have access to shelter. Because of this, we are unable to cite for illegal camping on public property. The challenges of the *Boise* decision were compounded during most of the pandemic as the public health order further restricted when and how homeless camps could be moved, even if that meant an illegally parked RV on a public street.

This is frustrating, because to me it is evident that the best way to work to improve the homeless situation is to focus on drug treatment and mental health treatment. But legally, the only way we can get back to cleaning up homeless camps is to add more housing.

While the COVID-19 restrictions on moving homeless camps were lifted on June 15th with the other restrictions, I am pleased to say

that some of the resulting solutions are in place.

The Board of Supervisors approved the creation of the Homeless Response Team (HRT) in 2020 to combat the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. The HRT was a collaborative effort of county departments, Sacramento City, and non-profit organizations to get the homeless access to shelter, sanitation materials, and COVID-19 preventative measures. Still, even with the HRT actively deployed and public health order restrictions lifted, we still have a homeless population that seems to be growing faster than ever before. And still, my office hears the concerns about homeless camps contributing to fires, public disturbances, and negative environmental impacts and what more can be done

to restore our communities to safe and clean environments. While my priority, and I think what will have the most impact, is increasing access to mental health services and drug treatment, the most simple and legal solution still remains as an increase in shelters and housing.

Some have pointed to Los Angeles as a beacon of hope as they have passed a new ordinance restricting where homeless people can and cannot camp overnight. When people ask how they can do it and Sacramento County cannot, there are many reasons why. 1.2 billion reasons, in fact. LA voters approved a \$1.2 billion bond initiative to fund a massive homeless housing project that is large enough to enable the enforcement of anti-camping ordinances. That is something I do not think Sacramento County residents are ready to take on, but we can and are working to expand our shelter space. As part of this year's budget cycle, we approved \$5.9 million to fund a new homeless camp initiative (HCI). This initiative will fund two encampment sites serving 100 individuals each, three encampment teams to connect individuals with services, three scattered site shelters and increase nightly bed capacity by 15. Possibly most important, the initiative includes navigators to connect people with housing services and temporary financial assistance to get people into permanent housing.

Permanent housing is, of course, the ultimate goal but we cannot simply create permanent housing. Getting homeless individuals into shelters and camps where professionals can make contact and try to connect them with services is how the process of getting them into permanent housing begins. The efforts of the HRT, the HCI, and the implementation of assisted outpatient treatments (aka Laura's Law), combined with the efforts of Sacramento City to expand shelters has us well on our way to making a noticeable impact on homelessness in Sacramento County. I anticipate that we will continue on this trend of expanding shelters and services and working with community organizations to make all types of housing more accessible to the point that we are no longer concerned about overnight camping.

Ultimately, this all depends on the willingness of the unhoused to come to the shelters and campsites being created and to accept whatever services they may be offered. And while I wish we could immediately address the underlying causes of homelessness directly, like mental illness and drug addiction, increasing the number of beds available is what is going to get us back sooner to cleaning up our neighborhoods.

### Supervisor Appoints County Executive

Following a Closed Session Board



meeting today, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to appoint Interim County Executive Ann Edwards as County Executive. The appointment is effective Sep. 14, 2021.

Edwards is the first woman appointed to the County Executive position.

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint Ann Edwards as County Executive. Ann has proven to be an outstanding Interim

County Executive and has provided stability to the organization, improved communication and built trust within and outside of the organization.

Edwards' accomplishments in her seven month tenure as Acting/Interim County Executive include increasing transparency in the budget process, organizing a process for a spending plan to provide assistance to both the County and the community with the American Rescue Plan Act funds and increasing engagement with local government and community-based organizations.

"I appreciate and thank the Board for the trust and support they have shown me," said Edwards. "I commit to looking at the County organization in new ways, to pursue a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, increase public transparency and engagement and enrich the County's organizational culture."

Edwards' current and upcoming initiatives include the formation of a Public Safety and Justice Agency, increased public engagement in and a new budget process for FY 2022-23 and implementing implicit bias training countywide.

About Ann Edwards:

Edwards has served as Acting County Executive since December 2020 and Interim County Executive since February 2021. Before that, she worked as Sacramento County's Director of Human Assistance since 2014 and worked as the Director for Social Services for Solano County. Prior to Solano County, she worked for Sacramento County between 1998 and 2013, serving as Chief Deputy County Executive for County-wide Services, Director of Health and Human Services, Director of Mental Health Services, Division Manager for Adult Mental Health and Program Manager for Child and Family Mental Health.

Edwards holds a Master's degree in Counselor Education and a bachelor's degree in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento.

### False Rumors Regarding County Elections Staffing (Contd. on page 7)







Ishwar Das Pawar  
District and Sessions Judge (Retd.)

# My Struggle in Life

## The Passport Affair

I took over as under secretary in the middle of October 1952 and was given the charge of the Departments of Partition and Commerce and Industry. Later the work of the Passport Department was also entrusted to me.

Meetings of the Partition Implementation Committee between India and Pakistan used to be held every three months, alternately at Simla and Lahore at the chief secretaries' level and sometimes at the ministers' level as the need was. Besides the official business, these meetings afforded me an opportunity to see the places and houses in Lahore where we had lived happily only a short while ago. Such visits were naturally emotive. During our stay at Lahore, we were not quite free to move about and see people who had been our friends or coworkers. The CID people kept a vigilant watch over our movements.

These restrictions notwithstanding, I was able, with the cooperation of the nice driver of the car placed at our disposal by the Pakistan government, to visit places in Krishnanagar where I, along with my family, had resided for quite long. These places brought to my mind the happy and, at the same time, sad memories of the past. People there did not seem to be very happy with the changed state of affairs but would talk only in a subdued voice. Some of them, who were critical of their own people, requested me to convey their deep affection and great respects to India and her people. They had not forgotten the times they had spent here as their beloved home. As regards commerce and industry, the work was of a routine nature and nothing of much importance was to be done. But in this connection, I have to make a mention of one instance. The government had set up industrial estates at various focal points including Jalandhar city, and a number of persons interested in setting up industries were allotted plots for various trades. No plot was, however, allotted to a scheduled caste person, possibly for the reason that nobody came forward to make a demand. One day, Anant Ram Badhan, a promising young man of Jalandhar, saw me in my office and requested for a plot in the industrial area at Jalandhar. It was good that at least one person had come forward in this field. I told him he could have a plot out of the unallotted ones. He had a particular plot in mind and put his finger on that plot as shown in the map. Accordingly, I put up a proposal to the secretary of industries, recommending that the specific plot be allotted to Badhan. Thus the young man got the plot of his choice. He was happy. He set up an iron industry there and has been doing very well in the trade.

The passport work was the important job. As I was absolutely new to the job and the grant of passport, especially for UK, carried with it a lot of responsibility, I started cautiously. Some scheduled caste MLAs and other leaders approached me in connection with the passport case of a young matriculate Harijan (person from low caste) boy of Ambala named Harbans Lal, whose family was carrying on the business of kikar (acacia) bark used in leather tanning. He wanted to go to UK to study the meth-

ods of tanning and finding out the scope for the business. His application for the grant of a passport had been turned down after obtaining the concurrence of the Government of India. He made two applications for the review of the orders, but these were also rejected after obtaining the concurrence of the Government of India, as had been done on the previous occasion. I thought it must have been done on the previous occasion.

I thought it must have been a very bad case. I felt diffident whether it would at all be possible to help the boy. But in view of the fact that so many important persons had spoken to me about the case, I asked them to tell the boy to make another review application, which he did in due course.

I asked the office to put up the case to me with facts and their comments. The case came to me with a lengthy office note, justifying the orders of rejection. I went through it and the office note carefully but was not convinced of the correctness and justification of the orders. Then I sent for the office superintendent in order to find out if he could throw more light on the case. He vehemently defended the previous orders mainly on the ground that all the three orders had the concurrence of the Government of India. Confronted with the facts of the case, he had to admit that a passport could be issued then but not now. It became clear to me that it was a case of a wrong decision. Why a special procedure was adopted in this case for obtaining the concurrence of the central government while the case could have easily been decided at the state level as was the rule?

I had already learnt that there was a lot of corruption in the passport office. Therefore, one of the probable reasons for not granting passport to the scheduled caste people could be that they were too poor to grease the palms of the concerned officials. It was evidently a case of injustice.

Accordingly, I put up a note to the secretary, stating the facts of the case and proposing that in view of the fact that the previous orders were wrong and the concurrence of the Government of India was obtained by wrongly representing the facts of the case, we might review our previous orders, grant a passport to the applicant, and then inform the central government. On seeing my note, the officials got perturbed. They told me that the orders could not be reviewed without first getting the Government of India revise their own orders. I told them not to get excited as it was my responsibility. The Home Secretary agreed with me, and the case came back. I directed the office to prepare a passport and dispatch it to the person concerned the same day and then to send the case back to me for further action. This was done, and I then informed the minister also accordingly. I knew that accepting the advice of the office would inevitably mean tying the case in red tape, as it was likely to get bogged down at one stage or the other for months together. This delay would have robbed the decision and its purpose of much of its grace. Delay was and is a routine phenomenon in government offices. But I wanted to cut the red tape, and I did it successfully and very rightly too. Then I wrote a demi-official letter to the passport officer at Delhi detailing the

reasons for the review of the previous orders and the grant of a passport to the boy. I specifically told the passport officer, Broughton, that the central government's concurrence was obtained by us by wrongly representing the facts of the case. There was a whisper in the office that a nasty stinker from the central government was in the offing. A few days later, I received a demi-official letter from Broughton in reply to my letter. It was on unexpected lines. I feel tempted to reproduce below Broughton's letter, which is both revealing and refreshing: Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi.

No.F. 8(48)-PU. 11/52 6th April, 1953.

My dear Pawar,  
Your official letter No. 2744-PE-53/6310, dated

21st March, 1953 has come as a breath of cool and refreshing air. Hitherto the sequence has been that you receive and reject an application for a passport, we then receive an appeal and, in several cases, overrule your objections. In the present case the reverse has taken place and, in spite of our agreement with your first reactions that a passport should not be granted to the applicant, the Punjab Government have reconsidered the position and quite correctly, issued him with a passport. As it is our policy to be as liberal as possible in the grant of passports consistent with the security and honour of the country, it should always be the object of State Governments to grant passport facilities as freely as they can and only to refuse them when the evidence is really strong that the issue of a passport in a particular case would be detrimental to our interest. We receive frequent complaints about the arbitrary severity with which the passport rules are administered by the passport authorities, particularly in the Punjab, and we are inclined to feel from our experience that, by and large, there is some degree of justification for these complaints.

Yours Sincerely,

I. J. Broughton

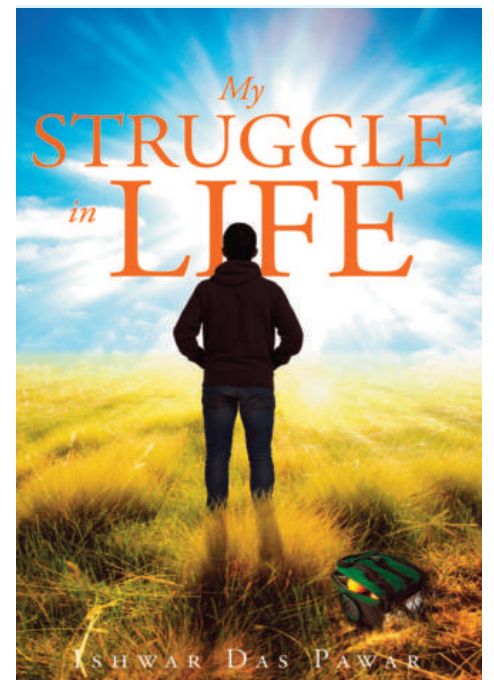
Shri Ishwar Das Pawar,  
B.A.LL.B., P.C.S.,

Under-Secretary to Government, Punjab, Partition Department, Simla

This letter strengthened my hands, and much of the mist surrounding the working of the office was cleared. I had started well. Red tapism and rigmarole were no favorites of the higher authorities. The Government of India appreciated bold and generous decisions. I sent up Broughton's letter for the information of the secretary and the chief minister, who was also the minister-in-charge. I found myself on the right path.

Scheduled caste people would come to me grumbling that they were denied passport for UK while others got them quite freely. They also made a similar complaint to the Harijan minister Chaudhari Sunder Singh. I too realized that their grouse was quite well-founded, as they were not getting justice in this regard. Therefore, I discussed this problem with the minister. On the basis of this discussion, he put up a note to the chief minister, setting out the grievances of the scheduled castes and requesting him to look into the matter personally.

The note travelled down to my table as it had to. The point raised was to be examined first by me as the pass-



port officer. The office appended a note in routine and hackneyed lines. It was merely a reiteration of the procedure in force. They had no worthwhile suggestion to make. On the other hand, I had a clear idea of the problem and enough perception of the real difficulties being faced by Harijans. I began my note with the admission, rather confession, that the complaint and the grouse of these people were perfectly genuine and justified but at the same time noted that they could not be helped in the face of the prevalent rules, which were too rigid and cumbersome to be complied with by them. The other difficulty, which was even more important, was that the police and the CID reports about them were mostly unfavorable and rather adverse. The department was helpless in this matter. I however made certain suggestions which, if accepted, in my view, would go a long way in mitigating the hardships faced by them. The following were two of them: (a) the amount of cash of Rs 10,000 required to be shown deposited in a bank should be reduced by at least half the sum; and (b) the concerned officers and departments, the CID, the police, and the DCs, in particular, should be directed to deal with the cases of Harijan applicants with care and sympathy.

This much was a must, according to me, if the complaints of the Harijans were to be substantially removed. With this note, I sent the case file to the Home Secretary who was in charge of the department. I had some hope that the suggestions made by me had a sporting chance of being accepted. In this matter, I had the full support of our minister Chaudhari Sunder Singh. Anyway, I had spoken out my mind and made the proposals in good faith.

The secretary sent for me. He looked a bit unhappy. He asked me as to how it was possible to make the proposed changes in the rules. I simply said that that was the only way if we wanted to help the Harijans. Then I left. I got apprehensive. The case file came back after a short while, and it was a pleasant surprise to find that the secretary had agreed with my proposals in their entirety. The battle was half won.

In terms of this decision, a suitably drafted circular letter was issued to all the departments and officers concerned. They were required by the instructions to deal with the passport applications of the Harijans with due care and sympathy. Their attention was also drawn to their complaints and grievances. The problem got wings. I informed the minister about the fruitful results of his note. He evidently happy and gratified. These instructions had the desired effect. The difficulty regarding financial position was softened

(Contd. on next page)



# Ambedkar College at Bootan Mandi Jalandhar

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the proposal of having a college in Bootan Mandi Jalandhar, the deemed capital of the dalits in Punjab particularly the Doaba region, has fructified. Government of Punjab under the stewardship of Captain Amrinder Singh finally got another feather in its cap by establishing – Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar Government Co-education College at Bootan Mandi to honour of the greatest son of India who visited Bootan Mandi in 1951 and rightly so. The College has started functioning from the current educational year i.e. 2021-22. I spoke to the first Principal of the College, Sarbjit Singh, an educationist and administrator and congratulated him on his elevation from the Government College Kapurthala. I

place. Let us hope Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar College becomes a 'Centre of Excellence' in the area and fully justify its existence not only as a tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar but also in meeting the educational needs of the weaker sections of the society. As I said that there was a long standing idea of having a college in the area. Many people contributed to realize this dream in their own way. In the recent years a non-script outfit called Sarb Samaj Sangharsh Committee agitated for the project and convinced the local MLA Sushil Rinku a young and energetic politician and others at the helm of affairs to cajole the Punjab Government to deliver in this regard. Some of the social activists of Bootan Mandi namely; Varun Kler, Jagdish Disha, Paramjit Mahey among other, worked hard in pursuing

and the teaching faculty of Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar Government Co-education College. I am confident the young students would benefit from the college immensely and fully justify the need of the residents and right decisions of the government. It is a University Graduate level college for courses in humanities, to begin with.

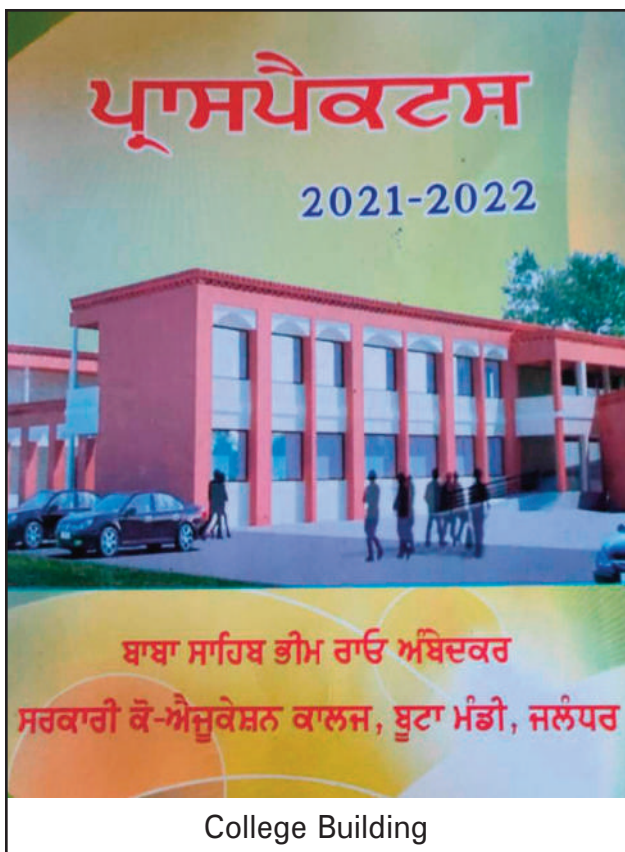
I am told that there is some dispute or new proposal to give the adjacent plot of land earmarked for a vegetable market to the college for play ground and other extracurricular activities. The proposal seems to be good. The play grounds will not only encourage the students and residents of the area to avail of sports facilities but also provide a green-lung to the congested residential localities in the vicinity. More to have a vegetable market in the neighborhood of the college goes

It goes without saying that the socio-economic and political empowerment of the weaker sections of the society was the primary agenda of Babasaheb Ambedkar

in whose memory the college has been named. It becomes our joint duty to see that Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar College becomes a centre of excellent education without which no empowerment is possible.



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



College Building

found him an enthusiastic person to head the new institution at an historic

Government of Punjab and also all the best wishes to Principal Sarbjit Singh



Ramesh Chander with Principal



Ramesh Chander at the College

the matter with the authorities. I have been writing, as a playback singer, about the project off and on in my blogs. The end result is available on ground – Dera Ayet Darroost Ayet. Congratulations to all the stakeholders and thanks to the

against the esthetics and serene atmosphere needed by the temple of learning. I humbly urge the Administration to consider the proposal to allot the adjacent plot of land to the college favourably for the benefit of the community at large.



Ramesh Chander with Sushil Rinku

## My Struggle in Life

(Continue from page 4)

considerably, and the police and the CID reports became generally favorable.

My path lay smooth.

In view of the changed conditions, it became possible for me to grant passports to quite a number of Harijans more easily and justly. Whenever they needed any guidance and help here and there, I did the needful with a sense of satisfaction to do so. Nothing was done which was unusual or out of the way much less against the rules.

In those days, there was no visa system as far as UK was concerned. It was introduced later. This way, quite a number of Harijans were able to get passports for UK and other countries. Many of those families are now in that country, and some of them had acquired citizenship of that land. It gives me a great pleasure and unbounded satisfaction to know that they are living there happily and are much better off. I was just an instrument in the hands of nature that was bent in the service of the poor and the needy who had been unjustly ignored by others. Being in a position from where I could help them, it became my legal and

moral duty to do justice to them.

Our people living in UK remember me with great love and affection. It is so nice of them. I wholeheartedly reciprocate their sentiments. They send me message after message to visit the country of their adoption, but for reasons of health, I have not been able to comply with their request. They have a grouse about me; I am not quite in touch with them. But on my part, I love them in equal measure and can possibly have no grievance whatsoever against them.

They are flesh of our flesh and blood of our blood. My mind often goes out to them for their loving remembrance. In view of my erratic and unsatisfactory state of health, I am not much optimistic whether I would ever be able to go there and meet them though it would have been a unique privilege for me if I could satisfy my strong desire to go there. Incidentally, my daughter Kamlesh is also in London.

My son-in-law, Vidya Bhushan Soni, is a counsellor in the Indian High Commission there. They too are pressing me to pay a visit to Howsoever I might wish, my health does not permit me, at

least for the present, to undertake the journey to that country of my dreams.

My only regret has been that I did not remain in the job relating to the grant of passport for a longer time to render a bit more service to the helpless people. Within less than a year, I was shifted from this post and appointed as a member of the newly constituted Punjab Subordinate Services Selection Board. There too, duty was awaiting me to render in a different form and sphere of service to the neglected people. In that post I remained for full eight years.

Shortly after leaving the passport post, I saw Chaudhri Sunder Singh at the secretariat at Chandigarh. It was only a courtesy call. During our talk, he told me that there was a whispering campaign in official circles that an enquiry be held against me. "Any corruption charge against me?" I enquired. "No such charge is possible," came a prompt reply. The allegation made against me was that I granted so many passports to the Harijans, which was uncalled for and unwarranted. I told the minister that it was correct that I grant passports to quite a number of Harijans but strictly on merits.

There was not a single case where the order was either not justified on merits or was against the rules. My only fault was that I treated Harijan applicants on a par with other applicants. This was not being done before. Therefore, this irked non-Harijans. Consequently, there was nothing to fear if an inquiry was held. As a matter of fact, such an inquiry was welcome as others could be exposed for their discriminatory treatment of the Harijans. I did nothing wrong.

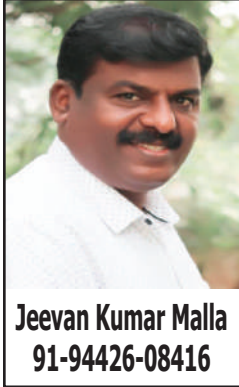
What I did was by way of faithful and honest discharge of my duties and trying to undo the grave injustice that had previously been done to them. I further told the minister that actually, as the boot was on the other leg, an inquiry should be held against those responsible for illegally and unjustly denying passports to the Harijans and thus were guilty of dereliction of their official duty by treating all not on the basis of equality. On hearing me speak thus, the face of the minister bore a broad smile, and he said, "Nothing to worry."

Ultimately, better sense prevailed, and the whispering talk of an inquiry proved empty and futile.



# Maveeran Emmanuel Sekaran- A symbol of Thamilar (Dravida) Liberation

## Every year ... All India Adi Dharam Mission of Punjab has been observing Shaheed Immanuel Sekaran's death anniversary with great gratitude.



Jeevan Kumar Malla  
91-94426-08416

Tamil Nadu consists of 32 districts, in which almost 27 districts are occupied by the Mallar community, who once ruled Tamil Nadu, as noted in history as the Chera, Chola and Pandiya kingdom.

Later with the Aryan invasion, the community gradually lost their power and was reduced to the status of slaves.

As on date, the overall population of the Mallar community in

occupation, more than 80% of people were landless agricultural coolie while the remaining are small scale and marginal farmers.

In such a scenario, the revolutionary social reformer in the Mallar community, Thiyagi Immanuel Sekaran born in 1924. After witnessing the oppression and exploitation of Bahujan brother's and their meager existence, he felt a lot to be desired for the betterment of the community. In 1942, Dr. Ambedkar appealed to the Scheduled Caste community through Radio, to join the British Army. After hearing the appeal, young Shekaran did not hesitate for a moment and joined the military service at once. Later, on visiting his district on avail-

scholarship of Dr. Ambedkar and his works. Similarly, Dr. Ambedkar also expressed his delight for the unity of Mallar community in Tamil Nadu.

Immanuel Sekharan, for a long time could not find an appropriate measure for alleviating the miseries of discrimination meted out to the Mallar community. However, he unified the Mallars and other socially and economically backward castes through the Organization of Depressed Classes in 1952 and expressed their opposition to upper caste people.

During 1953, Shri Rajagopalachari (Brahmin) was forced to resign his post as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who was succeeded by

in 1955, he left the Congress and fielded two Backward Class Candidates with the support of Forward Block against the Congress in the local body elections and managed to win both the seats.

In 1956, to create the socio-political awareness among the Mallar Community, he organized the First Political Conference of Mallars on 6th December 1956. On the 6th December, the Greatest Liberation Icon of India Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar passed away. On hearing the demise of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, he passed the condolence resolution to mourn the death of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in the very same conference. The Mallar community is the first community



Tamil Nadu is an estimated 1,75,00,000. The Mallar community is known for its fight against the evil discrimination in the Hindu social system. Also, in its effort to uphold their self-respect and dignity and in a show of expressing their discontentment, they opted for getting converted



into Muslims and Christians in the past. The Mallar community unperturbed by oppression unleashed against them had led several agitations to preserve the self-respect of the people of Scheduled Caste (SC) in Tamil Nadu. The community holds the privilege for not bowing down before the Manuvadis' for the sake of their social development. However, known for their innocence and contained emotional attitude, they failed to understand the might of their numerical strength and its significance in attaining political power. Therefore, the Mallar community lagged behind others in the realms of social, economic and educational progress. Though, agriculture was the main oc-

cupation, more than 80% of people were landless agricultural coolie while the remaining are small scale and marginal farmers. In such a scenario, the revolutionary social reformer in the Mallar community, Thiyagi Immanuel Sekaran born in 1924. After witnessing the oppression and exploitation of Bahujan brother's and their meager existence, he felt a lot to be desired for the betterment of the community. In 1942, Dr. Ambedkar appealed to the Scheduled Caste community through Radio, to join the British Army. After hearing the appeal, young Shekaran did not hesitate for a moment and joined the military service at once. Later, on visiting his district on avail-

ing leave and seeing the miserable condition of the Bahujans, and the caste atrocities unleashed against them by the upper caste people and the ruthless exploitation of the innocent Bahujans, he decided not to return to the Military and to work for the betterment of the suffering masses. Thereby he decided to work for the self-respect and justice for the Scheduled Caste and other Backward Classes, who were also subjected to untouchability. Accordingly, in 1946 in unison with Thekkampatti Balasundaram, he conducted a very big convention for the Mallar Community at Madurai. In Tamil Nadu, Mallar is the first community to recognize and accept the

Mr. C.L. Chumber launched my book, which talks about Shaheed Immanuel Sekaran Book at Nagpur on October 14, 2012  
Jeevan Kumar Malla



Shri. Kamaraj Nadar and Shri Kakkann who hailed from Scheduled Caste became the Home Minister in Nadar Cabinet. Due to the enormous political stature of Shri Kakkann, Shri Immanuel Sekaran joined the Congress Party and was subsequently appointed as the spokesperson for Ramnad District Congress. However, as he was leading the civil rights movement and the waging the battle against hegemony of Brahminical Caste System, he became incredibly popular among all the Backward Caste of Shudhras but for Kallar Community. Because of his active rebellion against Brahmanism, it was only natural that Congress Party distanced itself from him and his activities. Consequently

in the world to pass the condolence resolution to mourn the death of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. During this convention, Shri Emmanuel Sekaran conveyed Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's message to Mallars that Political Power is the only solution to surmount the sufferings and atrocities. The entire speech delivered by Shri Emmanuel Sekaran on the occasion was about the importance of gaining Political Power. He emphasized on the political power held by Brahminical forces and its implications viz., the suffering of the people of Mallar and other socially oppressed classes. Therefore, he underscored the significance of the Political Power to live with self-respect. He enlightened the Mallars, to progress towards capturing of Political power in the Centre as well as in the State, which he felt was the only solution to lead a dignified life filled with self-respect and equal justice.

Thereafter he started organizing  
(Contd. on next page)



# Maveeran Emmanuel Sekaran-

## A symbol of Thamilar (Dravida) Liberation

(Continue from page 6)

ing the Mallars and other Backward Class people in Tamil Nadu towards attaining self-respect. But before he could make much headway, he was murdered on 11th September, 1957 by the agents of caste culture. During the Ramnad riots, a worst of its kind, a series of politically motivated violent clashes took place between July and September, 1957, just a month before the 1957 election to the Lok Sabha.

In the election, Thevar community as a whole supported the forward block led by Muthuramalingam Thevar and the because of this, the Mallar and other Backward Communities supported the Congress party. Ironically, the

SC/ST/OBC communities failed to read the conspiracy game hatched by the Congress, and paid a heavy price on September 11, 1957, as the 33-year-old Emmanuel Sekaran, the leader of Scheduled Caste Congress delegation was murdered at the peace conference in Paramkudi.

When, Shaheed Emmanuel Sekaran served in the Army with Sant Banta Ram Ghera, Founder, All India Adi Dharam Mission Panjab. They two were close friends. Because of the caste discrimination in the military, the two decided to resign from the military and work for the socially oppressed community. Shaheed Emmanuel Sekaran decided to work for social liberation in Tamil Nadu. Sant Banta Ram Ghera decided to do their

socio-cultural work at Punjab. They did their work until the end of life as they decided.

On the anniversary of Shaheed Immanuel's birthday, Every Year under the leadership of Sant Satwinder Singh Heera, the national president of the All India Adi Dharam Mission of Punjab has been celebrating the occasion with great gratitude.

Similarly, over 1000 persons from the Punjab, every year come to the memorial place of Saheed Immanuel Sekaran at Paramakudi, Tamilnadu to pay their tribute of his great soul.

Though he is no more, Maveeran Emmanuel Sekaran is revered as a Liberation icon and a

source of political empowerment by all the Scheduled Caste people and Socially Backward Classes, and remembered as a the one who fought against the atrocities unleashed by caste culture and treated at a par with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Therefore, on 11 September every year, as a mark of gratitude and respect, lakhs of people from all over Tamil Nadu mostly from among the Mallars visit his Memorial at Paramkudi in Ramnad district, to derive inspiration to carry forward the legacy of Maveeran Emmanuel Sekaran in their arduous struggle live a dignified life with SELF RESPECT.

# National President,  
Bahujan Dravida Party New Delhi

(Continue from page 3)

It has come to the attention of the Sacramento County Department of Voter Registration and Elections that there are rumors circulating nationally and even internationally, that there are two employees of the Dominion technology company that are employed in our Registrar's office.

These rumors are false. The genesis of these rumors is still unclear, but due to the prevalence of this rumor, our office is addressing this lie head-on:

No Dominion employees have ever been or ever will be employed by the Sacramento County Voter Registration & Elections Department

Our Lead Support Technician from Dominion was on-site the first day of Logic & Accuracy testing (Monday, 8/9) and will be back next Monday (8/16) for the first day of Logic & Accuracy testing on the tabulation system.

The purpose of the limited on-site technician support is to provide subject matter expertise in the maintenance and/or repair of the voting equipment should any equipment fail during the Logic & Accuracy testing. On-site presence can expedite the RMA (Return Material Authorization) process to replace equipment in the event of failure.

Maintenance and/or repair processes are performed by Sacramento County Voter Registration & Elections staff. The vendor may only provide expertise and advice on how to best achieve the maintenance and/or repair of voting equipment.

On-site vendor support is required to be scheduled in advance, the vendor personnel must wear an identification badge and be escorted by Sacramento County Voter Registration & Elections Department staff

at all times while on the premises. They are not allowed to touch voting equipment, election files, or ballots at any time.

### County to Hold Realignment Plan Community Workshop

The Sacramento County Ju-



venile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) Subcommittee will host a Realignment Plan Community Workshop to present and encourage community participation and feedback in Sacramento County's Realignment Plan. The Community Workshop will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

The JJCC Subcommittee, chaired by the Chief Probation Officer, is comprised of representatives from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, Child Protective Services, Behavioral Health Services, Sacramento County Office of Education, and a representative from Superior Court. In April 2021, four community members were selected as members of the JJCC Subcommittee.

The JJCC Subcommittee is responsible for the development of Sacramento County's Senate Bill 823 Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment Plan to be submitted to the new state Office of Youth and Community Restoration. The Realignment Plan addresses programs, re-entry, rehabilitation and support services for youth realigned from the State DJJ to the Valley Oak Youth Academy (VOYA) located within the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility.

The VOYA provides a safe and secure environment for youth serving commitments at Sacramento County's Youth Detention Facility. Through the utilization of community-based responses and intervention, opportunities are provided towards positive outcomes for youth and public safety, reduced transfer of youth to the adult criminal justice system, reduced racial and ethnic disparities, and reduced confinement in the juvenile justice system.

"Through the dedication and collaboration that exists between our culturally responsive probation staff, contracted employees, county partners and more than 100 volunteers from community based organizations, the youth within the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility re-

ceive a wide range of programs," said Marlon Yarber, Interim Chief Probation Officer. "We look forward to continued collaboration with the community to create new partnerships, while providing a high level of care and support services to the new realigned population."

For further information, including the Workshop Agenda and Sacramento County's Draft Realignment Plan, please visit the JJCC website.

View the Realignment Community Workshop Flyer.

When: September 1, 2021 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm (Sign on begins at 5:25 pm)

Register for Zoom Realignment Plan Community Workshop.

## Change of Name

I, Kulwinder Singh  
s/o Jaswinder Singh  
Resident of: 2333 Vaca Way,  
Merced, CA-95340, U.S.A.

Now I have changed my name

From : **Kulwinder Singh**  
To : **Kulwinder Singh Saroya**

All concerned Kindly note it.



