



# Ambedkar Times *Weekly*

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

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

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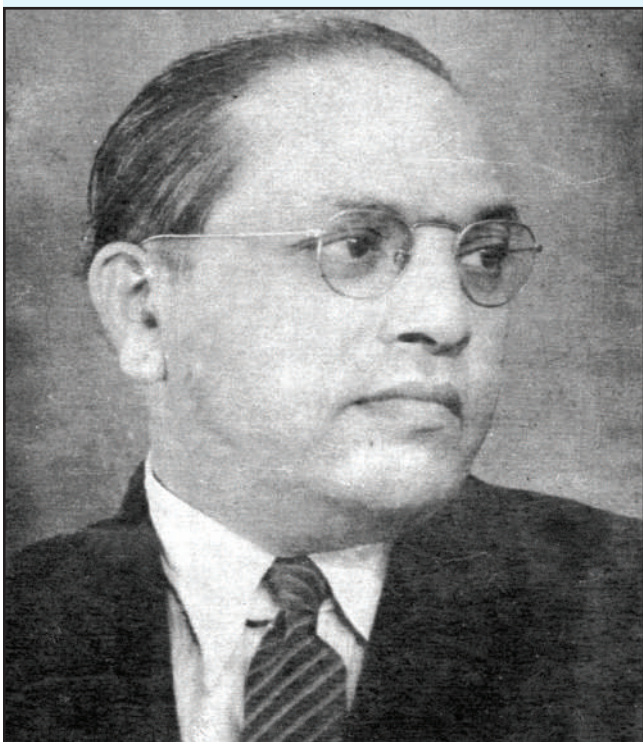
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## Revisiting Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar's Vision of Democracy And Peace

Prem K. Chumber Editor-In-Chief:

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba (Newspapers)

**Bodhisattva** Bharat Rattan Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is well known not only in India but throughout the whole world. Coinciding with the celebration of the 66th Independence Day on August 15, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was declared the Greatest Indian since 1947 by a well conducted opinion poll organized by the CNN-IBN TV Channel in India.



He was not only the chief architect of the Constitution of Independent India and the Messiah of the downtrodden, but also a great votary of democracy, peaceful resolution of conflicts and forerunner of world peace, a great economist, legal luminary and over and above a great humanist. His deep thoughts on the water management in India are yet to be harvested.

Another aspect of his great personality was that he never accepted defeat after stiff and continuous oppositions from all quarters of the mainstream in the then emerging electoral arena of the country before as well as after India's independence. For him what was important was not the defeat or victory in the literally sense of the terms but the actual empowerment of the socially excluded sections of the society. It is for this very reason that Dr. Ambedkar, quite often, used to say rather vehemently that for what use the Scheduled Castes legislators would be to their people if they were to sit mute and dumb in the parliament and state assemblies by winning on the party tickets of the mainstream political parties and organizations in reserved constituencies. What he really wanted to do with the reservation in the parliament was to deploy it for bringing political equality too in the asymmetrical domains of Indian social and economic life.

## Queen Elizabeth II's coffin set for final journey from Buckingham Palace



**London-** The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II returned to Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening, making its way through a drizzly London as crowds lined the route for a glimpse of the hearse and to bid her a final farewell.

People parked their cars along a normally busy road, got out, and waved as the hearse, with lights inside illuminating the flag-draped coffin, made its way into London. In the city, people pressed in on the road and held their phones aloft. Thousands gathered outside the palace cheered and clapped as the hearse swung around a roundabout in front of the queen's official residence and through the wrought iron gates. King Charles III and other royals waited to greet the casket. More than 26,000 people, as per an official count, paid their respects in Edinburgh to the Queen Elizabeth II at St. Giles Cathedral, queuing up through the night to file past her coffin.

Earlier in the day, King Charles III, the U.K.'s new monarch, and his wife, Camilla, the 'Queen Consort' as she is now known, visited Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, where the King met with a diverse group of political leaders at a reception, and faith leaders from various backgrounds [including Chinese, Muslim and Hindu] at a church service for the Queen. British Prime Minister Liz Truss was also in attendance at the church. There, he pledged to "seek the welfare of all the inhabitants" of Northern Ireland.

Sinn Fein, the de facto political wing of the former Irish Republican Army (IRA), did not attend the ceremony proclaiming the King over the weekend, but its first minister-designate, Michelle O'Neill participated in the King's visit on Tuesday and offered her condolences.

Queen Elizabeth II's death has brought the British royal family together after a long time. While



Prince William and Kate Middleton showed a united front with the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle — who were in the UK for some charity events and extended their trip after the queen's passing — Elizabeth's four children were also photographed in public together for the first time since her death in Balmoral last week.

The new monarch King Charles III was seen with Anne, Princess Royal, Prince Andrew, and Prince Edward, as they walked behind the hearse carry-

ing the late monarch's coffin at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh.

The second-born and only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh — who has accompanied her mother's casket ever since it left Balmoral — was dressed in her Royal Navy ceremonial uniform. According to the report, she will continue to stay with the coffin until the queen lies in state in London's Westminster Hall.

### Queen Elizabeth II's will to be locked in a safe for 90 years in London

The will of Queen Elizabeth II, if the public could see it, would provide rare insights into the late monarch's wealth, but unlike those of ordinary British citizens hers will be sealed and locked in a safe for at least 90 years.

The practice of sealing the wills of deceased royals dates back to 1910 and the seldom remembered Prince Francis of Teck, whose will is one of more than 30 kept in a safe in an undisclosed location in London, under the care of a judge. By convention, after a senior royal dies, the executor of their will applies to the head of the London High Court's Family Division for the will to be sealed. Successive judges in that position have always agreed.

# Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg (CA) New Committee # 2022-2023



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# Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg (CA) New Committee # 2022-2023



# Diplomatic Musing – The Name Game

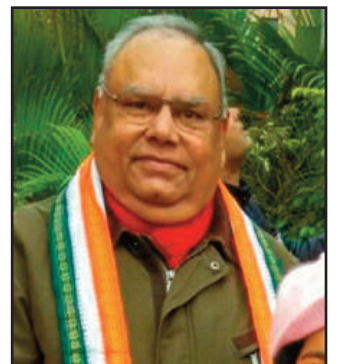
**W**e, rightly or wrongly, are engaging ourselves in changing names of roads, buildings, cities, railway stations, airports, institutions and so on 'to set the wrongs of history right in their right perspective' as seen by the ruling elite. PM Narendra Modi reiterated its resolve in his address to the nation on August 15 from the rampart of the Red Fort and said, 'कसिी भी कोने में गुलामी का अंश न रह जाए। अब हमें शत-प्रतिशत उन गुलामी के वधियों से पार पाना है, जसिने हमें जकड़कर रखा है। हमें गुलामी की छोटी से छोटी वीज भी नजर आती है तो हमें उससे मुक्ति पानी ही होगी' The thought and process could be a matter of debate but I see no point in taking it that far. Let us see how things are folding up.

PM Narendra Modi threw

kept spot of the Lutyens' Delhi. Nobody should dispute and negate the fact that the current government has done a good and appreciative job in redoing and improving its infrastructure and ambiance betting to the stature of India. PM Narendra Modi in his speech at the inaugural function said and explained why the name of Raj Path has been changed to Kartavya Path, 'ये बदलाव केवल प्रतीकों तक ही सीमिति नहीं है, ये बदलाव देश की नीतियों का भी हिससा बन चुका है। आज देश अंगरेजों के जमाने से चले आ रहे सैकड़ों क़ानूनों को बदल चुका है। भारतीय बजट, जो इतने दशकों से ब्रिटिश संसद के समय का अनुसरण कर रहा था, उसका समय और तारीख भी बदली गई है। राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति के जरिए अब वदेशी भाषा की मजबूती से भी देश के युवाओं को आजाद किया जा रहा है। यानी, आज देश

our Protocol, I don't recall it exactly, that all was not well and Saint Martin Marg cannot be changed as the Christian community and Jesus and Mary College were dead against it and they had started some sort of protest and sit-in (dharna) at the site. Presidential banquet hosted in the honour of President Akayev was in progress at Rashtrapati Bhawan. My immediate boss Joint Secretary Alope Sen was also there. I rushed to Rashtrapati Bhawan, as there were no mobile phones available to us at that time, and informed him of the position. It was a big fiasco. Alope Sen immediately informed the Secretary and EAM Jaswant Singh. Without delay a new decision was taken,

Gandhi was the lead player or actor in our struggle for freedom from the British colonial rule, we all know. Obviously, the British colonialists were not happy with him. PM Winston Churchill called him as a 'naked fakir'. But Mahatma Gandhi is a much celebrated personality not in India alone but throughout the world including the UK. While even after 75 years of



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



open the Central Vista Avenue in the national capital of New Delhi on September 8. Name of the historic landmark – Raj Path – adorned by the majestic Rashtrapati Bhawan on one end and the magnificent India Gate on the other has been changed to – Kartavya Path as



"It symbolizes a shift from erstwhile Rajpath being an icon of power to Kartavya Path being an example of public ownership and empowerment. The canopy at the India Gate has been uplifted by a 28 feet tall statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to provide a due and rightful space to the national hero. Again, I will refrain from sitting on judgment of the decision expect saying that PM Jawaharlal Nehru named the 'road leading to the seat power' as Rajpath in 1955 by changing the Kingsway and an intersection called the Queensway as Jan Path. Just to add to the story, I may add that I learnt from a reliable source, when I was working as a junior official in the PMO in 1974-77, that the iconic writer, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, father of the legendary actor, Amitabh Bachchan, suggested these names of Raj Path and Jan Path as a friend of PM Nehru and the Hindi Advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Raj Path and its soundings has been the most attractive and well

का वधियार और देश का व्यवहार दोनों गुलामी की मानसकित्ता से मुक्त हो रहे हैं। ये मुक्ति हमें वकिसति भारत के लक्ष्य तक लेकर जाएगी।

Now I come to my musing with regard to naming of a road not far from the Kartavya Path. It was sometime in 2000 when I was working in the Ministry of External Affairs as the Director of the Central Asia Division. President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev was on a visit to India. The Hindi version of the Kyrgyz epic Manas was officially released by the visiting President and PM Atal Bihar Vajpayee at Hyderabad House. It was also decided that a road in Delhi will be named after the Manas and accordingly Saint Martin Marg, where Jesus and Mary College is located in Chanakyapuri, was identified to rename it. All arrangements were put in place by the NDMC and the next day it was to be officially opened in the presence of the visiting dignitary. Late in the evening when I was still in my office in South Block, I got a call from either NDMC or Police authorities or



while I was still, late in the night, sitting in the ante-room. It was decided, may be in consultation with NDMC and PM Atal Bihar Vajpayee, that another road close by will be named after the Manas. NDMC and CPWD would make all necessary arrangements immediately in the night itself and the opening function will be held as was planned. It was a big relief. One small road close by, now near Lovely Unisex Saloon, was named as The Manas Marg which is still there signifying India-Kyrgyz friendly relations. Naming or renaming may be problematic sometimes.

India is a dignified member of the comity of nations. With a view to understand and appreciate each other, we name roads or institutions in the name of international dignitaries as a gesture of goodwill. Similarly in reciprocation, India also gets the same treatment and rightly so. Since we are talking about the 'remnants of slavery', I have yet another musing in this regard. Mahatma

our independence, we are busy in removing the 'Gulami ke ansh', Mahatma Gandhi is celebrated and honoured in the UK. Since we are talking about the name change of roads, I have something to share here. A road leading to

one of the main gates of a prominent park in Edinburgh, which also has a beautiful and majestic statue of Mahatma Gandhi, was named as "Mahatma Gandhi Avenue". It was my honour and pleasure to be there at the ceremony, led by the Lord Mayor of Edinburgh, at the park sometime in 2008 as the Consul General of India when we were observing the International Day of Non-violence on October 2, the birthday of the Mahatma. Is there any message in this?

One may think and decide one's own. History of 'good or bad: glorious or shameful' past will remain. It cannot be erased. Let us join hands to make India a self-relent India as visualized by PM Narendra Modi in his Mantra of 'Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikash and Sab Ka Vishvas. There is no other way to transform India into Bharat.

Zarā dekh us ko jo kuchh ho rahā  
hai hone vaalā hai  
Dharā kyā hai bhalā ahd-e-kuhan kī  
dāstānoñ meñ

# 'Naram Garam' Dharmendra: The Real He-Man of Bollywood

Six decades ago, an unknown tubewell mechanic from Sahnewal set out on a journey to the "City of Dreams" Bombay to realise his ambition of becoming a hero. He is none other than our "Punjab da Sher-Puttar" Dharmendra. A director's actor, he could don a dhoti with the same ease with which he could sport a Roman Toga, he could be smoldering in a tuxedo and set a million hearts ablaze. He had the looks of a real gentle man, the masculine body of a he-man and when it came to his films, he had a very humorous touch in his dialouge-delivery and the timing, especially. The way his face emotes expressions is unparallel and his sensitive eyes create an intriguing romance wooing his ladies. The heroics in his films are all quite remarkable and unforgettable.

Many stars got sidelined, but Dharmendra was the rock that wouldn't budge. He took rapid strides to become the poster boy for the tendon. A top draw at the box office across several decades, Dharmendra's towering talent got overlooked because the industry didn't know how to deal with his Greek god looks. Simply dashing Dharmendra remains true to his image of the lovable Prince Charming. Surprisingly, the outline of his hairstyle has not changed throughout his career.

Dharmendra (Dharam Singh Deol) was born in Nasrali village (Ludhiana, Punjab) on December 8, 1935. His father Kewal Kishan Singh Deol was a school teacher and his mother Satwant Kaur was a housewife. He spent his childhood among other children in the village Lalton, where his father was the headmaster in the local school in the fifties. His family shifted to Sahnewal, when he was about seven years old. He did his intermediate from Ramgarhia College, Phagwara. His early life was simple, playful and naughty. He got the job of a tubewell mechanic in an American company. He lost his innocence at 19, married, barely an adult, first tasted alcohol. During a conversation with the author, he recalled how he picked up first fight when he was tipsy.

He was fascinated by the cinema right from his childhood, often travelling miles to watch Suraiya starrer "Dillagi" (1949) at least 40 times. He was die-hard fan of bollywood stars Motilal and Dilip Kumar. In Sahnewal, he saw Dilip Kumar's movie, Shaheed, which stirred a desire in him of becoming an actor. The moment he saw a movie, the handsome men and the beautiful women, he aspired he was meant for the cine world. In early 1950s, he went to Bombay to try his luck in films. But success eluded him and he returned empty-handed. However, his zeal and desire to be a star, prompted him to participate in the Filmfare's 'Spot-The-Talent' competition held in January, 1958. The august panel comprising of great filmmakers like Bimal Roy and Guru Dutt selected the debonair Dharmendra with top rank.

After the selection, he was transfixed and could not eat his food when Bimal Roy casually broke the news that he was doing the role of Devendra in his forthcoming movie "Bandini", over a shared meal of 'maach' (fish). However, "Bandini" took three to four years to happen. Meanwhile, he got "Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere" (1960) and few more movies to his credit.

He came to the 'City of Dreams' Bombay with the hope of getting hero's roles on a platter. But no offers came his way, when he approached producer S. Mukherjee of Filmistan, he curtly responded that he wanted an actor not a football player. Dharmendra used to sit on a bench in the studios and wait endlessly for a much needed break. Finally, the lady luck smiled on him and he secured a second lead role in 'Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere' (1960). He was paid a signing amount of Rupees fifty one and a daily breakfast that was to contain strictly of tea, two toasts and butter but no jam.

During the preview show, the financiers disapproved Dharmendra and advised the producer Bihari Masand to replace him with an established actor. However, director Arjun Hingorani stuck to his ground. A very skinny and young Dharmendra played the role of Ashok, who advertised for Cavander cigarettes on busy streets by wearing high stilts and spent his nights on the footpath. Ironically, after all the struggle he went unrecognized at the premiere of the film and he sneaked back home on a local train. Though the film tanked at the box-office but Dharmendra got accolades from the critics.

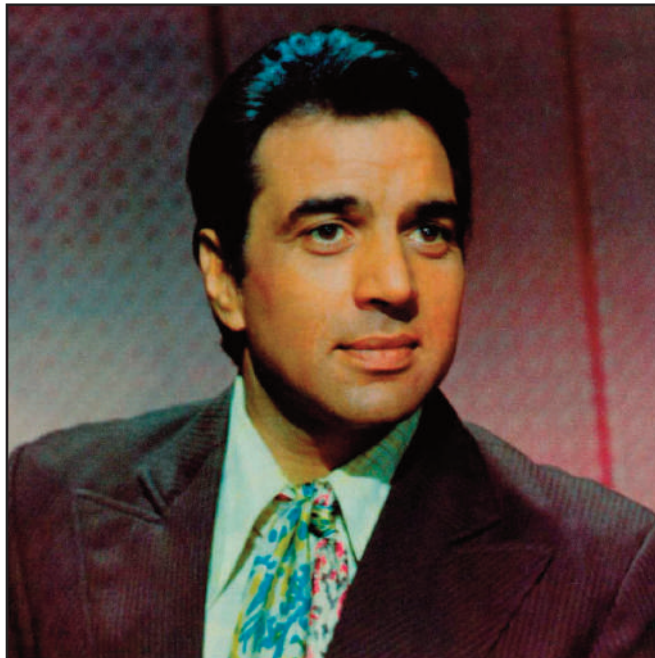
Dharmendra had his fair share of struggles during his initial days in the movies. New films offers came from Bimal Roy (Bandini) and Ramesh Sehgal (Shola and Shabnam). Phani-Majumdar, Chetan Anand Dulal Guha, Asit Sen and Abrar Alvi crafted his acting talent. Rishikesh Mukherjee presented him as an accomplished actor in Anupama, Manjhi Didi and Satyakam. The bare-chested Dharmendra looming over Meena Kumari in Phool Aur Patthar is the most striking image of the film that catapulted him to stardom. Dharmendra, with his sensitive face and eye-candy looks, became the perfect choice for women-centric films. Then, followed an amazing period of creativity with a horde of films like Ankhen, Aaye Din Bahar Ke, Shikar, Mere Hamdam Mere Dost, Jeevan Mrityu, Sharafat, Mera Gaon Mera Desh, Seeta Aur Geeta, Yaadon Ki Baraat, Black Mail, Pratigya and Sholay etc.

Dharmendra shunned away from being trapped in any image. A sensitive jail doctor of 'Bandini' donned a black frock and indulged in lance fights in s w a s h b u c k l e r 'Dharam Veer'. In Satyakam, he played an idealist torn between his ideals and the changing world.

He did James bond type action spy roles in Ankhen, Jugnu, Lofar and Shalimar films. He played a shy romantic poet in Black Mail and overly sensitive writer in Naya Zamana and Phagun. He played the happy-go-lucky Veeru in Sholay and Professor-Parimal Tripathi in Chupke Chupke

## Bhim Raj Garg

Flat No. 157, Sector-45A,  
Chandigarh-160047  
Mo: +91-98765-45157



where his comic timing practically anchored the entire film.

Dharmendra has played dual roles in many films such as "Yakeen" (1969) as both the hero and the villain; "Samadhi" (1972) as father and son; "Ghazab" (1982) as twin brothers; unrelated identical person in "Jhuta Sach" and "Jeeo Shaan Se" (1997) in triple roles. His later films like Ghulami, Hathyar and Batwara showcased a mature Dharmendra. However, the masala action super hit film Hukumat (1987) finally trapped him in the action star image that he is mostly known for.

During the 1990s, Dharmendra did a lot of average films simply because he wanted to be in the midst of what he loved the most, the shooting of a film. Some of his recent films include Johnny Gaddar, Apne, Life in a... Metro and Yamla Pagla Deewana etc. He played a double role in the Punjabi film Double Di Trouble (2014). Dharmendra is a hungry actor and gave superb improvised moments in "Johnny Gaddar", a great performance is still a kid's stuff for him. After doing every conceivable role in every imaginable genre across decades in over 250 films his greatness as an actor would be an addendum.

During his early career, he was eager to act in Punjabi movies. In 1964, he got the plum role of Geeta Bali's brother-in-law in Rajinder Singh Bedi's "Rano" while Meena Rai was the lead opposite him. However, the film got scrapped due to the tragic

death of Geeta Bali. Shocked Dharmendra decided to shun Punjabi films except doing guest or special appearances in friendly Punjabi ventures post 1970. His first Punjabi film was "Kankan De Ohle" (1971) in a special role with Asha Parikh. Two popular songs 'Haye Ni Main Sadke..' and 'Sohniye Ni ..Kankan De OhleOhle..' were performed by the pair. In "Dukh Bhanjan Tera Naam" (1972), he played a brief role of a cart man. In "Do Sher" (1974) he was a police officer who disguised as Malang to nab the criminals. The theme song 'O Karni Bharni.. Dena Pinda Til Til Da Lekha' was picturised on him. Next year his special appearance as Bholu Rickshawala in "Teri Merilk Jindari" (1975) was to launch his cousin Veerendra. He continued to do small roles off and on as guest appearances in films like "Main Papi Tum Bakhshanhaar", "Giddha", "Nachdi-Jawani", "Ambri", "Putt Jattan De", "Santo Banto", "Ranjhan Mera Yaar", "Qurbani Jatt Di", "Double Di Trouble" and "Jora 10 Numberia" and "Jora-The Second Chapperr" etc.

In 1981, Dharmendra established 'Vijayta Films' with a storied tradition of introducing new talents to the industry. This banner provide a launch pad for his son Sunny Deol, who debuted with the blockbuster movie "Betaab" (1983). Vijayta Films has launched the careers of actors like Sunny Deol, Amrita Singh, Bobby Deol (Barsaat-1995), Twinkle Khanna and Abhay Deol (Socha Na Tha-2005). Sunny Deol's son Karan Deol was introduced in the movie "Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas". It has also shown faith in first time directors like Rahul Rawail, Rajkumar Santoshi, Sunny Deol, Imtiaz Ali and Shreyas Talpade besides introducing outstanding story-tellers to the Industry. Following the footsteps of Vijayta Films, Sunny Sounds Pvt. Ltd., popularly known as 'Sunny Super Sounds' was created in 1983.

His first marriage with Prakash Kaur was solemnised in 1954 and they are blessed with four children Sunny, Bobby, Ajeeta and Vijeta. An on-screen pairing with Hema Malini in around thirty movies triggered a relationship. Dharmendra (Dilawar Khan Kewal Krishn) reportedly converted to Islam to marry Hema Malini (Aisha Bi R. Chakravarty) as Hindus are not allowed second marriage. Their marriage at a mehr of Rupees one lakh and eleven thousands was solemnised on 21 August 1979 in Bombay in accordance with Islamic rites. Both have two daughters Esha and Aahna out of this wedlock. He appeared with his daughter Esha in Hema Malini's venture 'Tell me O Khuda' (2012). He was awarded Padma Bhushan in 2012. He got Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 and was awarded National film award as producer of the movie "Ghayal" (1990). He was elected a Member of Lok Sabha in 2004 from Bikaner constituency. In 1970, Stardust magazine gave him the title of 'Hot Dharam'. Now this title does not let

# Someone who has a deep seeking for the truth, for them the spark of lightning would start to shine within them



**JEEVAN MALLA**

National President  
Bahujan Dravida Party  
New Delhi  
94426 08416

**D**e a r Bahujan Dravida Brothers and Sisters...

W h y are we holding such a national level event on the important days of Mahatma Ayyankali? We are holding this

programme to commemorate his great deeds on his 159th birth anniversary and to recollect whether his dreams were fulfilled or not.

We need an event like this to stimulate the liberating thought which is dormant within you and to

wherever they move. The same command was given by the Namboothiri Brahmins to the Sudhras that women should not hide their chest and another command that the Sudhra stood 64 feet away from the Nair Community and 128 feet away from the Namboodiri Brahmins. Sudras were called as an unseeable community or unapproachable castes

During this dark age of Sudhraat Kerala, Mahatma Ayyankali was born on 28th August 1863 in an agricultural family in Perumkattuvila, Thiruvananthapuram. He belongs to the Pulia Caste.

When I read the history of Mahatma Ayyankali, I felt it was similar to that of the history of Mahatma Phule's life.

Mahatma Phule faced caste discrimination when he went to attend the marriage ceremony of his upper caste friend's home, just like the same, Ayyankaalso faced the caste discrimination in his childhood

there will be a rebellious provoke within you, that rebellion will automatically consolidate you as a sanga. At the Age of 30, Mahatma Ayyankali started his awareness programme to the Bahujan Dravida Masses through his "bow cart" Rally. He rode a "Bow Cart" against the ban on untouchables from accessing public roads by caste Hindus.

To crush the chain of slavery built in the name of the castes, Mahatma Ayyankali wrapped a robe around his shoulder, tied a turban and travel with his bow cart on the public streets and markets. Although this event refreshed the oppressed people, it annoyed and surprised the upper caste hindus

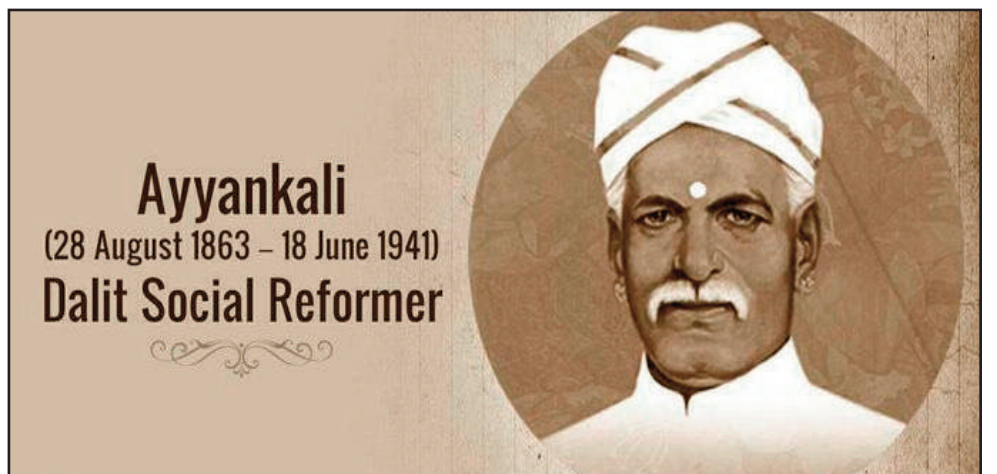
Ayyangali held a rally in Balaramapuram demanding the rights of the 'untouchables. The rally was called the "Walk for Freedom." The rally was infiltrated by upper caste Hindu Gundas. Thus, the great riot broke out. The riot was known as the

to.

Inspired by Sree Narayana Guru, a social reformer from Ezhava caste, Ayyankali started "Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham" which later raised funds to start their own schools. In 1916 he established Theeyankara Pulaya School. Later, Hundreds of offices of "Sadhu Jana Paripaalana Sangham (SJPS) were turned into schools.

He removed the sub caste contradictions that existed among the scheduled caste in Kerala and united them to travel under one umbrella. Moreover, he was a pioneer in empowering the Bahujan Dravida in Educationally, socially and he also fought to politicize the Bahujan Dravida Masses

In 1912, Ayyankali was nominated as a member of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly – a position he held till his death. Mahatma Ayyankali was the first Scheduled Caste person to be nominated to the legislature in



revive your inspiration.

For centuries, we taught in the absence of gurus. The life journey of many Bahujan dravida individuals got enlightened by their own seeking. Through their enlightenment, we people got our gurus.

We all know that the character of Ekalaivan in the history, In the absence of Guru, Ekalaivan rose to become the greatest Archery player who could defeat Arjuna. Then what happened to the Ekalaivan, The Brahmins were not tolerated this, finally Ekalaivan's thumb slipped.

Really, for someone who has a deep seeking for the truth, for them the spark of lightning would start to shine within them.

During the golden period of Sanathana Dharma, the great Mahatma Ayyangali was born from the Sudhra class.

I do not know if all of you know or do not know, but I want to tell one important history which I have read from the books that the two most brutal law enforced in India, one was Pesuva Brahmins in the Pune, Maharashtra and the other Namboodiri Brahmins in the State of Travancore in Kerala.

The command given by the Pesuva Brahmins to the Sudhras was to have a mug around their neck, broom at their waist and bell on their hands. Sudhras should carry this

days while playing football with his caste Hindu children. He was being beaten up by upper caste Hindus. On that same day, he vowed not to play with upper caste Hindus.

Even before Baba sahib Ambedkar, Mahatma Ayyankali used the formula "Educate, Agitate & Organise". His struggle was to create a casteless society. Mahatma Ayyankali's life struggle was to achieve "Equality, Liberty and brotherhood" in Indian Society. Your education should be aimed at social transformation and economic emancipation. If your education remains as an education that

fills your stomach, it will destroy not only you, it will destroy your own community too.

if you get the right education,



"Chaliyar riots". Hundreds of Bahujan Dravidians were injured in this riot, But they fought very bravely under the leadership of Mahatma Ayyankali and won fundamental rights.

As the Scheduled Caste students were not allowed to enter schools, Mahatma Ayyankali encouraged Pulaya farmers to go on strike and declared, "If our kids are not allowed to enter your schools, your paddies will grow mere weeds." This was the first strike of the working class in Kerala conducted by Mahatma Ayyankali. After the long struggle of Mahatma Ayyankali with the working-class people,

On March 1 1910 the Travancore government ordered that Pulaya children to be admitted in all schools which Ezhava children have access

colonial India. In the Assembly, Ayyankali consistently raised the problems being encountered by Pulayar children in acquiring education, poor representation of Bahujan Dravidas in jobs, unemployment and land for Bahujan Dravidas. That forced the government to sit up and take notice and in 1914, an order was issued, stipulating strict adherence to the educational policy.

Ayyangali passed away on 18 June 1941, but his immense struggle of history did not reach at the national level. If Mahatma Ayyankali had not been struggled for the social change, the situation of the Bahujan Dravida in Kerala would have been much worse.

Some social group leaders, who worked on the basis of Ayyankali have become stooges of the Brahminical forces and also uphold the policy which was against Ayyankali's policies.

But the true followers of Ayyankali have been continuously fighting for the highest goal of equality, liberty fraternity. Such people are the ones sitting in this zoom meeting today.

On this historical day, I would like to invite you to join the Bahujan Dravida Party, to fulfil the dreams of Mahatma Ayyankali.

**Jai Kanshiram  
Jai Mahatma Ayyan Kali**



Ishwar Das Pawar  
District and Sessions Judge (Retd.)

# My Struggle in Life

## The Passport Affair

**I**t 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.

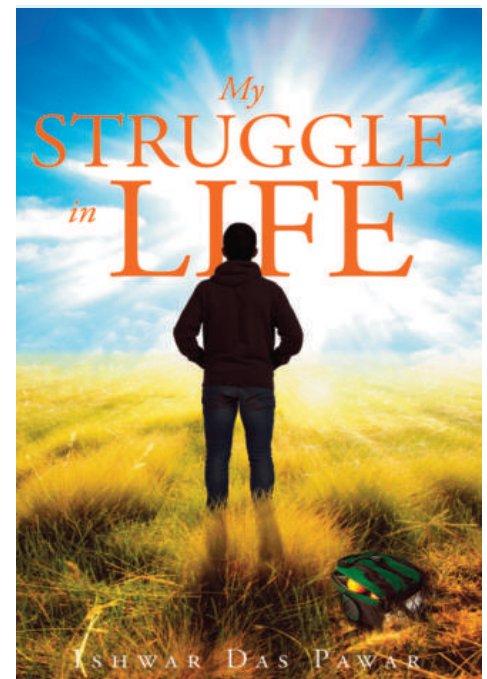
Yours Sincerely,  
I. J. Broughton

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)

# My Struggle in Life

(Continue from page 7)

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.

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