



Ambedkar Times

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Ambedkar Times Forum Remembers SAHIB SHRI KANSHI RAM ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

March 15th, 1934 - October 09th, 2006

Prem K. Chumber

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Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji was born on March 15, 1934, in Khawas Pur village of Ropar District of Punjab. He belonged to the Ramdassia community (Ad Dharmi) of the Scheduled Caste group, which is the largest group in Punjab. He was named Kanshi because after his birth the midwife placed him in a tray made of Kansa metal. His father owned some land and his uncles were in the armed forces. In Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram's own words, "I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..." Despite his low caste background, he earned a bachelor's degree in science from the Government College at Ropar (Punjab). Soon after, he joined the research staff of Kirki's Explosive Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) in Pune 1957. While working in Pune, he quit his job after becoming involved in the famous Deena Bhan case. Deena Bhan, a Rajasthani Scheduled Caste employee and senior colleague of Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram was suspended. His fault was that he protested against the decision of ERDL management for the cancellation of holidays for Dr. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha Jayantis and their replacement by the Tilak Jayanti and one additional holiday for Diwali. Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram decided to fight against such a caste ridden and dictatorial behavior of the management. The fighter in Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram got the suspension orders of Deena Bhan revoked and Dr. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha Jayantis holidays were restored.

This was the beginning of the long battle for the emancipation of the Dalits in the country that Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram had to lead till his last breath. He resigned from his job and totally dedicated his entire life for the cause of the community. He never married nor visited his home since then. His struggle was not for the home and family. He devised a new strategy to regain the lost glory of the original (Adi) inhabitants of Bharat. He gave utmost importance to the culture of work and democratic method of struggle. He also expanded the circle of the Dalits by incorporating other Backward Classes and Minorities into it.

He criticized the post-Ambedkar leadership of Dalits in India. For that he declared Poona Pact as the main reason. He said that "Poona Pact made Dalits helpless. By rejecting separate electorate, Dalits were deprived of their genuine representation in legislatures. Several and various kind of Chamchas were born in the last fifty years. As and when India's high caste Hindu rulers felt the need of Chamchas and when the authority of the upper castes got endangered by real and genuine Dalit leaders, Chamchas were brought to the fore in all other fields".

In his "The Chamcha Age", a well-argued and polemical tirade against the pseudo Dalit leaders, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram sharpen the contradiction for the legitimate acquisition of political power by the downtrodden in electoral democracy in India. In, the Chamcha Age, "he focused very much on the Poona Pact which was a point of a rather decisive Gandhian victory over Dr. Ambedkar after a long duel between the two at the Round Table Conference". Ambedkar Times Forum remembers to The Great Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji on his birth anniversary.

Sri Guru Ravidass Parkash Utsav A remarkable success in Pittsburg (California)



All pictures by Prem K. Chumber Ambedkar Times

Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Pittsburg, CA celebrated 642nd Parkash Utsav of SATGURU RAVIDASS JI on Sunday, February 24, 2019 with great enthusiasm. Akhand path began on February 22, 2019 and concluded on Sunday February 24. Guru Ji, once again, granted us a Sunny day on Sunday in middle of the rainy days. Thousands of devotees came to pray and get Guru Sahib's blessings. Committee had arranged additional parking at 4 different locations and still was not enough for all the Sangat.

Nishan Sahib Hoisting Ceremony was held on February 23rd 2019, Saturday at 11:00 AM. In the evening Sangat participated in Shobha Yatra and Guru Ka Kirtan by Bhai Suveg Singh Ji's Jatha and our Gurughar Jatha of Giani Gurnam Singh Ji and Giani Ompal Singh Ji

After completion of Akhand Path and Ardass on Sunday, Bhai Harcharan Singh Ji Khalsa (Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib Amritsar), Giani Gurnam Singh & Giani Ompal Singh delighted Sangat with Shabad Kirtan.

Famous singer Amrita Virk mesmerized Sangat with melodious Kirtan. Darbar hall was completely filled with Sangat. A group of young Sikhs, Gurpreet Singh, Rayman Singh, Lovleen Kaur and Kashika recited a Shabad from Gurbani. It was great effort by the kids and their parents. We hope more kids will participate in singing Gurbani in future.

Consulate General San Francisco was represented by Consul Sumati Rao. She congratulated Sangat and the members of Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha on the auspicious occasion of 642nd PARKASH UTSAV of Guru Ravidass ji. She emphasized universal brotherhood and unity. She ensured helping community with VISA or Indian Passport issues. Chairman Ramesh Suman thanked her, on behalf of the Gurughar Committee, for her visit and honored Consul Sumati Rao with Siropa. She talked about equality and recited lines form Gurbani:

ਤੋਹੀ ਮੋਹੀ, ਮੋਹੀ ਤੋਹੀ ਅੰਤਰ ਕੈਸਾ।
ਕਨਕ ਕਟਿਕ ਜਲ ਤਰੰਗ ਜੈਸਾ।

Mayor of City of Pittsburg, Juan Antonio Banales came to Gurughar first time after becoming the mayor. He met members of the committee and Sangat. He enjoyed Langar (blessed food) and the festivities. He visited all the stalls and tasted some of the dishes.

Mohan Lal Sondhi, Chairman of Sri Guru Ravidass International Birth Ashram from England, shared information about this new project of helping our older citizens and other needy families in India.

President Kashmiri Bhatia, Chairman Ramesh Suman and the entire Gurughar Committee thank all the volunteers for helping with cooking, serving, parking, JODA SEWA and other SEWA. Especially to following Sewadars:

(1) Chicago Pizza, Malkit Singh and Sukhwinder Singh (2) Sargam Restaurant – Rashpal Singh for Kari- Chawal stall (3) Santokh Madhar, Balwinder Kumar, and Ajay Kumar for BhatureChholestall. (4) Karnayal Singh Narabat for Mango Lassi Stall (5) Spice of India Pami and Pardeep Kumar for Gol-Gappe stall (6) Frontier Spice Indian Cuisine for Samosa Chaat stall (7) Hari Singh and Jarnail Singh for Hot Jalebi and Badam Milk (8) Kundan Lal Paul and Ricky Paul for ChholeBhature Stall (9) Jarnail Singh Jaggi for Saag and Maki Di Roti (10) Gurnam Rattu, Jasvir Chahal and family.

We are also very thankful to Santokh Madhar, Balwinder Kumar and BalwantSalhan for painting Gurughar hall,

kitchen, Langar Hall and bathrooms.

We sincerely thank Mr. Charan Dass Banga and Asa Ram for decorating Gurughar with flags and JHANDIAN. Abhishek Narebat and Navdeep Narebat were a tremendous help at the JODA GHAR. The whole family spent all day doing this Sewa. Ashoo Rattu and Amandeep Singh were tremendous help with parking arrangements.

We thank our Kitchen Sewadars for cooking and preparing sweets etc. for over a week. Satya Dass, Kulwant Banga, Simer Kaur, Surjit Kaur, Gyan Suman, Mrs. Sandhu, Gian Rattu, Satya Mati Rattu, Jassi Gumber, RenuMadhar, BabitaChahl, Baksho Jaggi, BenuChabbra, Bhajno, Reena, Antia, Gankaur, Kamaljit Bhatia Resham Kaur, Roni Narebat, Taro Bhatia, Shinder Paul Narebat, Dharam Pal, Karnayal Singh, Rajinder Kumar, Jasvir Kumar, Prem kumar and Harbans Kalu. Vinod Balley and Lajja Balley accompanied by their children, Monika and Naveen Balley also helped in cooking and cleaning.

We are thankful to Salinder Bhatia, Gian Salhan, Ramesh Ralh, Ompal Singh and Gurnam Singh, Chanchal Heera for maintaining the lawns. Roni Narabat, Simer Kaur and Santokh Madhar came back on Monday to remove trash and clean kitchen and surroundings.

Our media Sewadar, Prem Kumar Chumber, Chief Editor, Desh Doaba and Ambedkar Times stayed overnight in Gurughar on Saturday to ensure a professional and a live coverage on the Facebook as well as through the esteemed columns of his Newspaper, to this auspicious occasion. Satnam Singh Khalsa from Sade Lok, Vijay Kumar and Ricky Paul were a great help in covering this event. We are very thankful to them for their contribution. Prem Chumber Editor of Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba weekly newspapers was honored by Siropa. Ricky Paul was honored for making video and taking Pictures.

Gurdwara Managing Committees came from Bay Area, Sacramento, Fresno and Yuba City to participate in the Gurdwar. We appreciate the dedication and services of all the members who came to attend the celebrations.

General Secretary Dilbag Singh and Treasures Narinder Chahal and Naranjan Singh managed this event very efficiently with the help of Lekh Raj, Vinod Kumar, Nimi Rattu, Harbans Rattu and Anita. We thank our founding member, Mr. O. P. Balley for managing the stage on Saturday night. May Waheguru shower his Blessings on all the Sewadars, volunteers and entire SANGAT.

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Since the Sangat is a dynamic force behind the success of a function of this importance and magnitude, the Managing Committee appreciates and applauds Sangat's generous donations and dedicated efforts to make this celebration a magnificent success. This unprecedented attendance by Sangat without any undesirable incident will go in the annals of the history of Pittsburg Gurughar as a memorable day.

Such celebrations with a spirit of unity tie a badge on the name of the entire community.

May Waheguru Bless all the Sewadars, Volunteers and Sangat with love, peace and prosperity.

Ramesh Suman
Chairman

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