



Ambedkar Times

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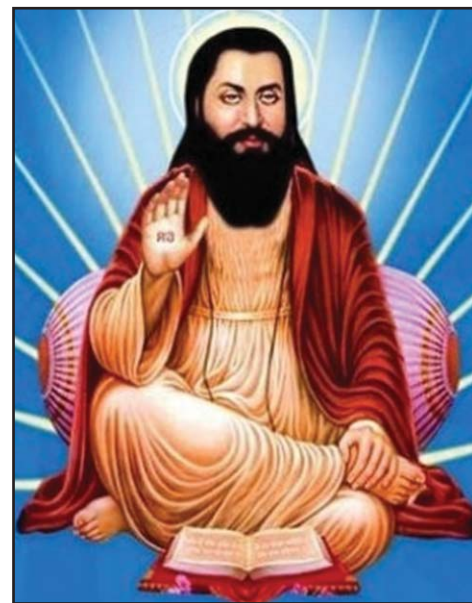
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CONGRATULATIONS ON THE GURPURB OF SAHIB SHRI SATGURU RAVIDASS JI

Prem Kumar Chumber (Editor-In-Chief)



Sahib Shri Satguru Ravidass Ji Maharaj, whose 637th birth anniversary is being celebrated throughout the world, was a great Guru of medieval Bhakti movement of North India. He belonged to the lowest of the low castes in India whose touch used to be considered polluting to the Savarnas. He opened a frontal attack against the system of Untouchability. He rejected the tradition of Brahmin mediator to reach the Supreme Being. He also said that one need not to hide his caste or leave his low profession to reach God. He became a model for his fellow beings to overcome the hierarchical barriers of Brahminical Social Order and to establish

Begumpura - a state without fear and sorrows. Satguru Ravidass Ji elevated the status of the labor by emphasizing on the fact that honest labor is empowering. He completely rejected the concept of living on charity or miraculous wealth obtained by Paras.

By defeating the famous Kashi Pundits in a formally organized Shastrartha, Guru Ravidass Ji proved that merit is not the fiefdom of so called upper castes alone. Everybody is capable of worshipping Him. The fourfold division of Hindu society is a big lie and a trick to make and keep a large section of the Indian society under the cruelty and control of the few in the name

of purity-pollution principle made by the so-called Brahmins. It is against this very system of religiously sanctified social differentiation that Guru Ravidass Ji envisioned establishing a state where there would be no place for untouchability and social oppression.

For the social transformation of the society, Guru Ravidass Ji laid emphasis on labor, compassion, virtue, prohibition of alcohol and all bad deeds. He also reiterated on the urgent need of remembering the formless God whom he addressed by varied names. Some scholars are of the view that Guru Ravidass Ji did not form an organ-

ization nor he launched any consistent and systematic agitation against the system of untouchability. This is true.

But to raise a loud voice at his times was no less than a clarion call to dismantle the unjust system of Brahminical social order. It is also true that the path told by him has become the beacon light for the Dalit movement in the country and abroad.

Another Feather in the Cap of Professor (Dr.) Ronki Ram



"Ambedkar Times" congratulates Honorable Prof. (Dr.) Ronki Ram on his joining as Honorary Director of ICSSR, North-Western Regional Centre at Chandigarh on February 1, 2014. Prof. Ram was the first incumbent of ICCR Chair Professorship of Contemporary India Studies jointly hosted by Leiden University and International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), Netherlands. Currently he is Shaheed Bhagat Singh Professor of Political Science in Panjab University, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Guardian Professor of Government College Hoshiarpur and member of Senate.

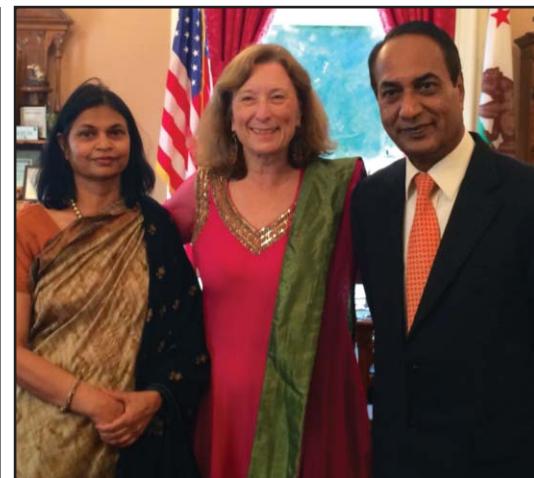
Prof. Ronki Ram is a regular contributor of our Web site and we are proud of him and wish him more laurels in his academic career. Read more on www.ambedkartimes.com

Prem K. Chumber (Editor-in-Chief)

Senator Corbett Celebrates India Republic Day in California Honors Prominent East Bay Indian Americans on Senate Floor

SACRAMENTO – Senate Majority Leader Ellen M. Corbett (D-East Bay) today celebrated India Republic Day by honoring several prominent Indian Americans from the 10th State Senate District and California in a special ceremony

on the Floor of the California State Senate. "Today is an important day as we come together to honor and celebrate India's independence, its constitution and its thriving democracy," Senator Corbett said. "I thank the Indo-American community in my district and throughout California for sharing the joy of this wonderful occasion with us. I am honored to represent one of the most dynamic and culturally diverse Senate districts in



California, so it is my pleasure to celebrate India Republic Day today. I know that my legislative colleagues greatly enjoyed sharing in this celebration and I look forward to continuing to share with them the tremendous vitality and

character of my East Bay district." During the India Republic Day observance on the Senate Floor, Senator Corbett also recognized several Indian American community leaders, business persons and public officials in attendance from her district and California, as well as Consul General of India in San Francisco, Mr. N. Parthasarathi. The flag of India was flown on the Senate Floor in celebration of India Republic Day. The Senate Floor presentation may be viewed on Senator Corbett's website at the following location: <http://sd10.senate.ca.gov/>



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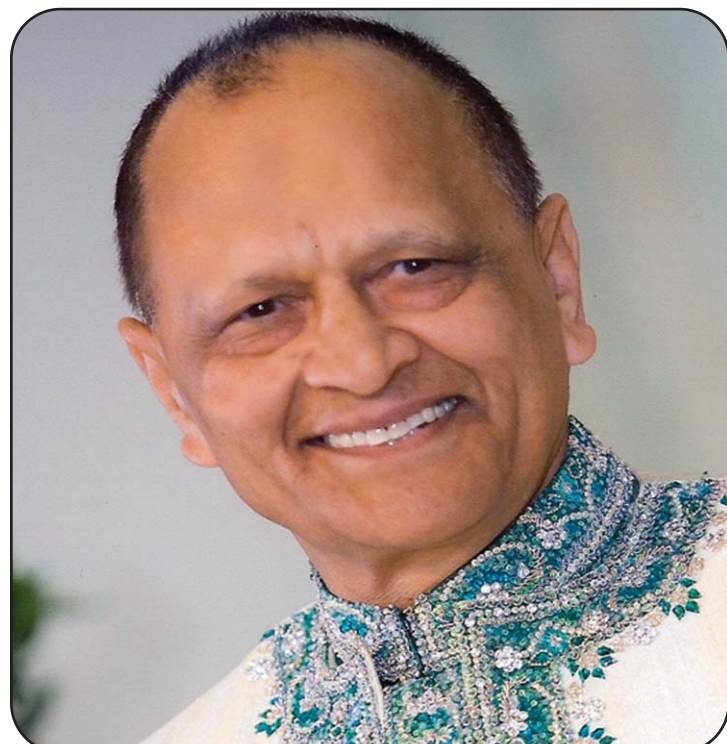
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ਜੀ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ

ਸਵਰਗੀ
ਸ੍ਰੀ ਲਾਹੌਰੀ ਰਾਮ ਜੀ
(ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ)

Supreme Council, Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA Congratulates on 637th Birth Anniversary of Satguru Ravidass Ji

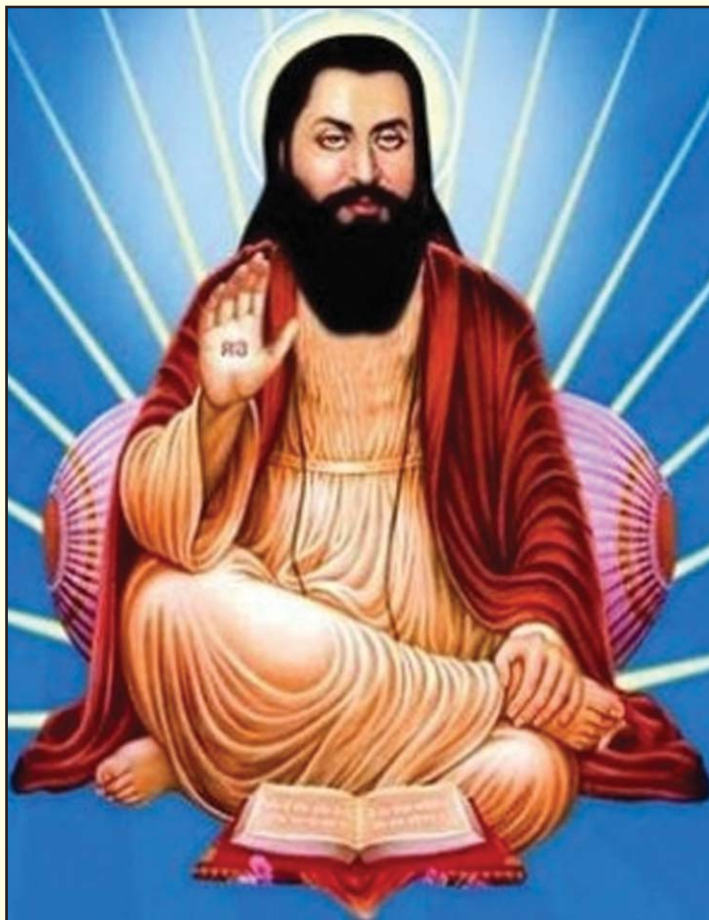
SATGURU RAVIDASS JI'S MISSION IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The great men do not die even in this world, embalmed in books their spirits walk abroad.

First of all let me convey my hearty congratulations on this auspicious and historic occasion of celebrating 637th Birth Anniversary of our revered Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj all over the world.

I would like to take the opportunity to share my humble thoughts and views about the life and teachings of our great spiritual saint of 15th century who became the savior and spiritual light for millions of ignorant souls in India and the world.

Guru Ji's teachings- A Glimpse: - Guru Ravidass Ji incarnated on this planet when unruly forces of social repression, bigotry and casteism in the name of religion were rampant everywhere. The noble message in Satguru's teachings, as enshrined in the holy pages of Guru Granth Sahib Ji as well as through re-



cent revelations of eminent research scholars, was that the divisions and social fragmentations of society are all man-made and have no place or meaning in the home of God.

BEGAMPURA: - The CONCEPT OF BEGAMPURA SHEHAR KA NAO is the name given by Sri Guru Ravidass Ji to an idealized society wherein there is no pain, suffering or fear and all are equal. This also speaks for an exalted state of Guru Ji's spiritual attainments.



"The preamble of the charter of United Nations Organization promul-

gated in 1945 at the end of the second world war was, in fact, prepared exactly in conformity with the theme of this hymn."

From humble beginnings Guru Ravidass attained great piety and fame. It staggers one's imagination to think how in

those tradition ridden times an individual born in a down trodden, unprivileged and neglected community could reach such sublime heights of godliness. It clearly affirms the fact that a person's worth cannot be measured from his material possessions, but from his character, morality and contributions to society.

All religions emanate from the same source of godliness and teach us good and moral things. No religion preaches to resort to violence and kill people. All religious institutions can play a vital role in creating an environment of love and harmony across

the entire spectrum of society.

The need of Satguru's preachings of love and universal brotherhood have assumed greater dimensions today when people all over the world are aspiring for a perpetual peace and harmony to transform this planet into a better place to live.

Our best tributes to the celebrations of Guru Ji's Birth Anniversary is to adopt and follow the tenets of his philosophy and teachings and make them a part of our day-to-day lives.

**O. P. Balley (General Secretary),
Supreme Council, Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA**



ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ॥

ਜੋ ਤੇਰੀ ਸਰਨਾਗਤਾ ਤਿਨ ਨਾਹੀ ਭਾਰੁ॥
ਉਚ ਨੀਚ ਤੁਮ ਤੇ ਤਰੇ ਆਲਜੁ ਸੰਸਾਰ॥੨॥
- ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀ



ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ॥

ਸਤ ਸੰਗਤਿ ਮਿਲਿ ਰਹੀਐ ਮਾਧਉ
ਜੈਸੇ ਮਧੁਪ ਮਖੀਰਾ॥੨॥
- ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀ

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀ ਦੇ 637ਵੇਂ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੁੱਚੀ ਲੋਕਾਈ ਨੂੰ ਲੱਖ ਲੱਖ ਵਧਾਈਆਂ



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