



Ambedkar Times

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CASTE WITHIN AND ABROAD

Prem K. Chumber (editor@ambedkartimes.com)

United Kingdom has become the first country outside South Asia to raise a great deal of concern to bring caste within the fold of law bringing an end to caste-based discrimination at work and in the society. Indian constitution has outlawed untouchability and passed many more laws against caste-based atrocities. Since caste is being practiced at the social domain, it is imperative that unless and until the society in general rises above caste, the effectiveness of state measures will continue to face challenge on one or other end. State is not an abstract institution in the real sense of the term. Basically, it gets operated through the agency of individuals in the society. In other words, some of the individuals in a society take on some of the specific roles of the state. In that regard, they remained the same individual but in different role categories. It is generally believed that some of the state functionaries failed to rise above the factor of caste and indulge in shameful practice of an evil which they are supposed to act stringently against.

The legal sanctions against the practice of caste in UK would definitely going to be very effective given the non-caste character and texture of the British society. Yet another aspect which highlighted by the engaging debate over the draft bill among the lords is the presence of caste among the Indian Diaspora in UK. It revealed the harsh reality about the caste-based discrimination of about four lakhs Dalit population in UK. The proposed law would go a long way in proving a big relief to the victims of caste based discrimination.

Caste is not only divides people, it also induces in the minds of its votaries a feeling of high and low; purity and pollution. It not only creates permanent boundaries of social exclusion but also vitiates minds that preclude them ushering into a viable civil society. It was in this crucial context that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar declared caste not only anti social but also anti nation. It is high time that India should make stringent efforts to stamp out the insidious institution of caste from its society and body-politic to help herself achieve global glory.

LANDMARK VICTORY FOR DALITS Caste Discrimination Outlawed in the UK

Arun Kumar, Ambedkar Mission Society, Bedford



UK becomes the first country outside South Asia to outlaw caste discrimination. On 23rd April, the British Government made a historic decision by accepting a long standing demand of various Dalit groups to declare caste based discrimination (CBD) illegal. The Business Secretary, Vince Cable announced in the parliament, "caste is to be outlawed in the UK". Jo Swinson, the Equalities Minister, told the House of Commons that the government recognized that caste discrimination existed in the United Kingdom and it was "unacceptable". She said "very strong views have been expressed in the Lords on this matter and we have reconsidered our position and agreed to introduce caste-related legislation". With this law the present and future victims of CBD will have legal remedy and pave the way for real reform and eradication of this unacceptable form of discrimination in the UK. Equality Act

origin but did not specifically refer to caste.

When the news of this announcement came, all the campaigners from numerous groups such as Ravidassi, Valmiki, Buddhist and

2010 prohibited race discrimination, harassment and victimisation in the workplace. The definition of "race" within the Act includes colour, nationality, ethnic or national

Ambedkarites gathered in front of parliament in support of the amendment started celebrating. Everybody was congratulating and offering sweets not only to each other but also to passersby. Women were dancing with delight.

Atmosphere was so much charged with happiness that it appeared that as if there were a big festivity going on in the Parliament Square. Many members of the House Lords and MPs joined this gala and spoke on the hard work put by the campaigners.

The journey for this achievement was not an easy one. It was a herculean task to convince the academics, politicians, media and general public to acknowledge the existence of discrimination in the British society. Dalits often are the victims of silence. They were not prepared to

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LANDMARK VICTORY FOR DALITS

Caste Discrimination Outlawed in the UK

Report & Photos-
Arun Kumar,
Ambedkar Mission
Society, Bedford

come forward and talk on this issue as they were scared to get exposed that they belonged to lower castes. Consequently they kept on suffering silently. The followers of Dr. Ambedkar were continuously engaged in bringing awareness amongst the people by way of organising seminars, public talks and numerous functions.

position of caste based discrimination (CBD) in the UK. In October, 2010, NIESR submitted its report "Caste Discrimination and Harassment in Great Britain" to the government and confirmed the existence of caste based discrimination covered in the Equality Act 2010-employment, education and provisions of services.

nation was outlawed in India and should be banned in Britain too. Campaigners had said legislation was needed because thousands of people suffered abuse and prejudice because they were considered low caste. Legislation against caste was purely a human right issue and not targeting any particular religion. Even then Hin-

about this scenario but we are still running after those religions which have made us second class citizens. The best speech in favour of this legislation came from Mr. Richard Fuller, MP from Bedford. He argued, "Does the Minister not see that the provision of education without the provision of legal remedy is the worst



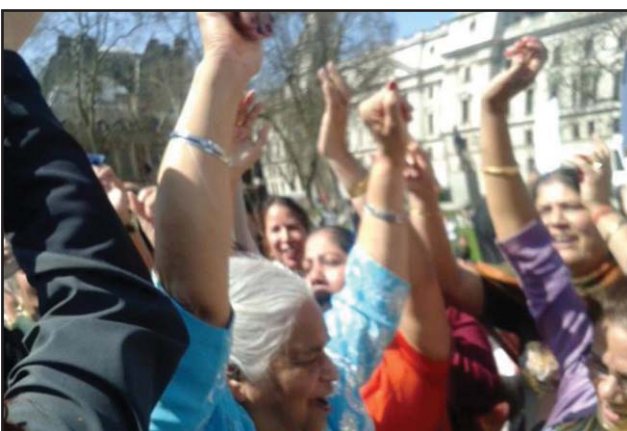
As a result some of the victims of CBD came forward and started talking. During 80s and 90s, numerous TV documentary films on caste were made and national newspapers ran stories on the caste prejudice in the British society. It is evident that the ground work to bring consciousness was done by Ambedkarite groups especially Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations, UK. In late 90s and early 2000, numerous groups targeting caste discrimination came into existence; the most prominent is Dalit solidarity Network (DSN).

The issue of CBD gained prominence in 2004 when the British government introduced a Single Equality Bill. Dalit groups including Federation of Ambedkarite & Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO, UK), Caste Watch UK, Forum for Social Justice, Dalit Solidarity Network UK, Voice of Dalits International, UK expressed strong reservations and concerns about many of the proposals. The legislation under discussion was designed to outlaw discriminations based on colour, race, religion, gender and age. Various Dalit organisations wanted caste to be included in the bill as an aspect of race and be legally protected. During this period many reports showing the existence of caste discrimination were published. 'No escape- Caste Discrimination with UK' by Dalit Solidarity Network, UK, 'Evil of Caste' by Federation of Ambedkarite Buddhist organisations, UK, 'Hidden Apartheid-Voice of the Community' by Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance, UK and testimonies submitted by Catch Watch UK, Voice of Dalit International were some of the reports because of which the 'caste' was included in the 'Section 9(5) a' of the Equality Act 2010. But to activate this article government needed more evidence.

The British Government's Home Department commissioned an independent research through National Institute of Economic and social Research (NIESR) to ascertain the

After repeated requests the government have not taken any action for two years to activate 'Section 9(5) a' of the Equality Act 2010 to include caste based discrimination in the British legislation.

In the last two months events took many twists and turns. On 4th March, Lord Harries tabled a motion on caste in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill and after forceful debate the amendment was passed in the House of Lords (Upper House) with 135 votes. On 16th April the amendment was again discussed in the House of Commons (Lower House). Some of the MPs spoke in favour of this amendment very passionately. As the government opposed the amendment, it was rejected by 63 votes and the bill was sent back to House of Lords again for reconsideration. On 22nd April, House of Lords passed the amendment again. On the 23rd, a large number of campaigners gathered outside parliament in support of the bill and against the government's attitude. Looking at the number of people coming in favour of legislation, cross party support of various parties both in the House of Lords and House of Commons and defeat in the House of Lords twice, the government didn't have any other option than to accept the demand. The monumental decision was taken on 23rd April and the caste discrimination was outlawed. On 25th April, the Queen gave her assent to the bill and it became a law and Dalits recorded a landmark in the United Kingdom. The campaigners argued that caste existed in all people migrated from South Asia and caste based discrimi-



thus began to campaign against this piece of legislation saying it was targeted at their religion. It shocked everybody when some of the Sikh organisa-

tions also joined Hindus and started writing to the government and the MPs to oppose this amendment. In Parliament Joe Swinson, the equalities Minister, gave a statement that "the Sikh Council UK, the National Council of Hindu Temples UK, the Rita Trust, the Hindu Forum of Britain, Vishwa Hindu Parishad UK, the National Hindu Students Forum UK and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK. All those organisations have expressed their concern about legislating, and we need to listen to their voices." Sikh Council UK is a body representing all Sikh organisations including Sikh worship places the UK. On the Sikh opposition, one of the MPs, Mr. John McDonnell pointed out, ".....My Sikh constituents have also taught me a lot. In Sikhism, caste discrimination is outlawed. I will quote from the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book. It says: "do not consider social class or status; there are no classes or castes in the world hereafter". To those Sikh organisations that have expressed consternation about some of the debate around caste, I say that what we have a chance to introduce today into British legislation is Sikh principles. The Sikh community in this country should be proud of that, and this House should be proud to say that we will outlaw caste discrimination once and for all. Let us do it on a cross-party basis". Sikh's opposition to this legislation made it crystal clear that Dalits have no friends whenever issue of their rights come in. Dr. Ambedkar already warned

possible solution, because it raises knowledge but doesn't afford consequences or discriminatory actions?" Talking on the evidence, he acknowledged the contribution of his constituents, "On whether there is evidence of a problem, I have received a petition signed by more than 300 of my constituents in Bedford and Kempston. I have received representations from the Valmiki community, Ravidassia community and the Dr. Ambedkar Mission Society in Bedford. Those who saw "News Night"- a current affairs programme on BBC-will have seen, towards the end of the programme, personal testimonies from three of my constituents." Later on he addressed the protesters and said, "This is a straightforward issue, caste discrimination in the work place is wrong and the people who suffer from it deserve legal protection. That's it. Beginning and end." Though this legislation has gone through, yet there is a lot work to do yet. The government has put a two months consultation period with different communities to find the ways how to implement this law. The Hindu and Sikh lobby are trying to delay this issue as far as possible and they will also try to dilute the legislation by proposing some educational devices. Dalits must keep the pressure going. Actual celebration will take place after two months when the government issue an order and come up with guidance how to implement it.

This monumental work was not done by any single organisation or community, but it was a united effort. After many years all Dalit organisations, Ravidassia community, Valmiki Community and Ambedkarite and Buddhists communities came together and campaigned for the legislation; they all deserve deep appreciation, especially the front organisations, Anti caste Discrimination Alliance, UK, Dalit Solidarity Network UK, Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations, UK and Caste Watch UK.

DR. JAGAT RAM RECEIVE "BEST OF THE BEST AWARD"

IN THE CATEGORY OF NEW TECHNIQUES FOR SURGICAL VIDEO IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

Dr. Jagat Ram, Professor, Advanced Eye Centre, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh won "Best of the Best Award" in the category of New Techniques for surgical video in Ophthalmology on April 22, 2013 at the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Society Conference held at San Francisco from April 19-23. He



demonstrated most innovative and new surgical technique that has been performed for the first time anywhere in the world.

He received "Best of the Best Award" in the category of new and innovative technique for implantation of customized intraocular lens in a

child with double crystalline lens. Dr Ram performed surgery and implantation of a specially designed intraocular lens in the centre of both the lenses in the same eye. This technique has opened a new option for the management of difficult cases of cataract in newborn chil-



dren. Dr. Jagat Ram is one of the best friends of Dr. Harmesh Kumar (Community Leader, Concord), from Chandigarh, as they did their training together from Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India.

He stayed with Dr. Harmesh

Kumar during his recent visit to San Francisco to receive his "Best of the Best Award".

Ambedkartimes.com congratulates to Dr. Jagat Ram on winning this prestigious award "Best of the Best Award" and also congratulates his best friend Dr. Harmesh Kumar, who is licensed clinical psychologist. He is a founder of Therapeutic Residential Services, a private agency providing services to clients in the Bay Area and Central Valley of Fresno and also the founder of South Asian Behavioral Health and Training Foundation Inc. to focus on mental health needs of South Asians in USA.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA TO INCLUDE SIKHISM IN WORLD RELIGIONS COURSES

Logue (Perea): Postsecondary education: instruction in world religions: Sikhism passed with 76/0 votes in the Assembly and 36/0 votes in the Senate. It was Chaptered by Secretary of State - Res. Chapter 23, Statutes on May 2, 2013. Its official summary is as follows.

Summary: This measure would recognize the need for the inclusion of Sikhism in world religions,

Eastern religions, Asian, and South Asian courses at all postsecondary educational institutions and advise the concerned academic governing bodies, deans, and department chairs to include Sikhism in their institution's world religions, Eastern religions, Asian, and South



Asian courses. The Chief Clerk of the Assembly will mail its copies to the concerned in California's all public

Dr. Onkar S. Bindra

post-secondary institutions (112 Community Colleges, 23 universities in the California State University System and 10 universities in the University of California System), and

interested parties, a list of whom has been sent to him.

In order to ensure prompt action at the instructor level the Sikh community will need to follow up. Prof. Onkar Singh Bindra, (osbindra@sbcglobal.net), who prepared the bill's initial draft and led the follow-up action, will be glad to provide consultations for the action needed.

A CRUCIAL STEP AGAINST CASTE DISCRIMINATION

We are delighted to learn that the British Parliament, recognizing the need for providing legal protections against caste discrimination in U.K, has passed a crucial legislation against this deeply rooted bias which has been eating into the very vitals of human civilization for centuries. It is a glamorous feather in the cap of

those who waged a relentless campaign for this landmark victory. It will definitely provide legal and meaningful avenues to seek redress against this social evil.

We earnestly feel it as a befitting tribute to



Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's vision who fought for annihilation of caste with unwavering commitment till the last breath of his life. It is a giant step forward in moving his caravan for social justice.

We also urge other

nations for similar steps against this social stigma to help in promoting social interaction and harmonious relationship among different sections of society.

O.P. Balley
General Secretary
Supreme council, Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA

SHRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHA SELMA (CA)

2650, Blaine Avenue, Selma 93662

Heartiest congratulations to all on Bharat Rattan Babasahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's 122nd birth anniversary

We would like to request all to join us on Baba Sahib Dr. Ambedkar's 122nd birth anniversary celebration on SUNDAY, May 12, 2013 at Shri Guru Ravidass Temple, Selma (California).

For more information, please contact:

Head Granth Bhai Avtar Singh Bhatia (559) 891-8286



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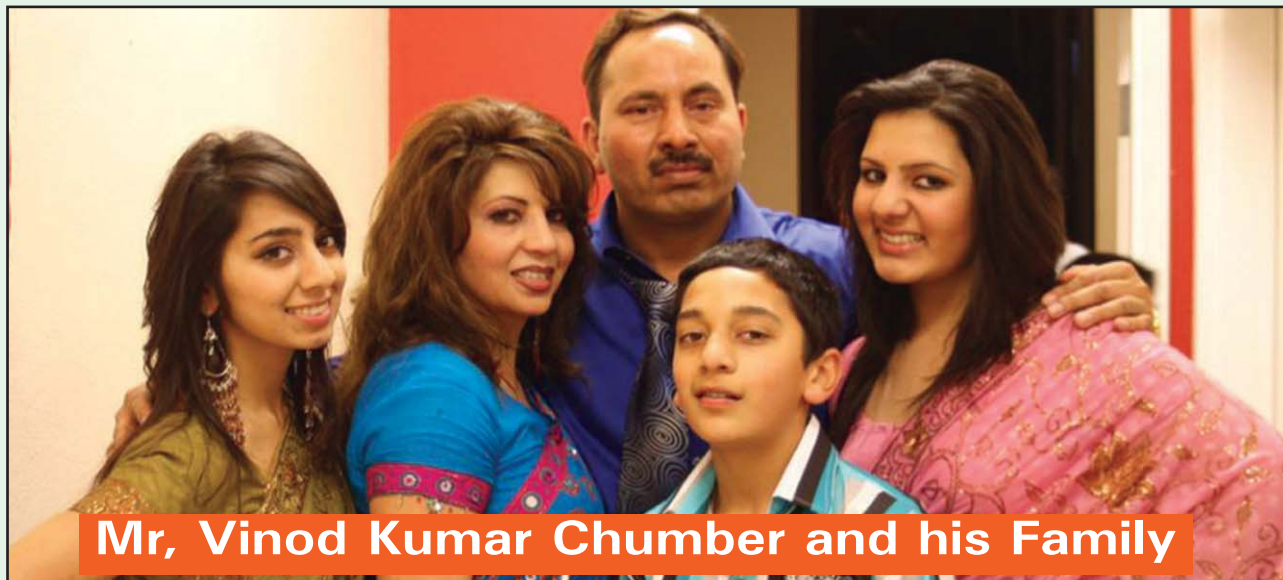
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HARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to request all to join us on
Baba Sahib Dr. Ambedkar's 122nd birth anniversary celebration on
SUNDAY, May 26, 2013 at Mehran Restaurant Pittsburg (California).



Mr, Vinod Kumar Chumber and his Family



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

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Bhagwan Das: A True Ambedkarite

S. R. Darapuri, I.P.S.(Retd)

Mr. Bhagwan Das was born in an Untouchable family living at Jutogh Cantonment, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) India on 23 April, 1927. He served in the Royal Indian Air Force during World War II and after demobilisation served in different capacities in various departments of Government of India at Saharanpur, Shimla and Delhi. He did MA. in History (Punjab University) and LL.B from Delhi University. He did research on the 'Indianisation of the Audit Department from 1840-1915.' He had been contributing articles and short stories to various papers and journals published in India and abroad.

His father Mr. Ram Ditta was fond of reading newspapers and was a great admirer of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. Inspired and encouraged by his father, Mr. Das worked with Mr. T. R. Baidwan who was one of the most prominent leaders of the Untouchables in Shimla Hills, and joined the Scheduled Castes Federation at the tender age of 16. Since then he had been actively associated with the Ambedkarian Movement and did a great deal to promote the ideas of Babasaheb Ambedkar and to unite and uplift the downtrodden not only of India but also of other countries of Asia. Mr. Das was associated with many organizations of Lawyers, Buddhists, Scheduled Castes and Minorities in India. He was General Secretary, United Lawyers Association Supreme Court, New Delhi; General Secretary, Bouddh Upasak Sangh, New Delhi; Founder Chairman, Ambedkar Mission Society, which has branches in many parts of the world. He revived Samata Sainik Dal (Volunteers for Equality) founded by Dr. Ambedkar in 1926-27. He was Regional Secretary (North) Indian Buddhist Council; Founder, Society for the Protection of Non-Smokers. He was also founder President of Society for Promoting Buddhist Knowledge and Edited Samata Sainik Sandesh (English) from 1980-1990. Mr. Das was associated with the 'Peace Movement' since the end of World War II in which he served on the Eastern Front (Burma) with the Royal Air Force (R.A.F.) as Radar Operator under South East Asia Command.

He was one of the founder members of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) (India

and participated in its Conferences held in Kyoto, Japan (1970); Princeton, USA (1979); Seoul, Korea (1986); Nairobi, Kenya (1984) and Melbourne, Australia (1989). He was also appointed Director of Asian Centre for Human Rights of Asian Conference on Religion and Peace (ACRP) in 1980 and continued to serve in this capacity- monitoring the news of violation of human rights in Asian countries and organising camps for training of human rights workers, speaking and writing for the cause.

Mr Bhagwan Das acted as advisor to the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), an International NGO based in Japan. He also delivered presentation about the problem of discrimination against oppressed caste in India at Buraku liberation and Human Rights Research Institute (BLHRRI) in Osaka. Mr. Das was also invited to deliver a lecture on 'Discrimination' by the Peace University, Tokyo (1980) and he also addressed several meetings organised by the Burakumins of Japan. He gave a historical testimony before the United Nations in regard to the plight of Untouchables in South Asia, in the meeting of Sub-Committee on Human Rights held at Geneva, Switzerland in August 1983. He visited England in 1975, 1983, 1988, 1990 and 1991 in connection with lectures and seminars.

He participated in the seminar held in Hull University in 1990 as a representative of the Ambedkar Centenary Celebration Committee UK and also held a seminar on Human Rights in India at London University, School of Asian and Oriental Studies in February 1991. He was invited to deliver Ambedkar Memorial Lectures in Milind Mahavidyalaya, Aurangabad (1970); Marathwada University (1983); Nagpur University, PWS College, Nagpur; Ambedkar College, Chandernagpur and Amraoti University 1990. Mr Das also visited Nepal (1980 and 1990), Pakistan (1989), Thailand (1988), Singapore (1989) and Canada (1979 to study the problems of deprived and disadvantaged members of society, women and children. He delivered lectures in Wisconsin University (USA) in 1979 and North- Field College (USA) on Castes in contemporary India. He was invited to give lectures on Dr Ambedkar at

the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow in June, 1990.

Mr. Das practiced law in the Supreme Court of India. With a view to improving the professional competence of and helping upcoming advocates belonging to Untouchable and Indigenous Groups he founded 'Ambedkar Mission Lawyers Association and Legal Aid Society in 1989. He was General Secretary of 'Professions for People', an organisation founded in Delhi to elevate professional standards.

Mr. Das was invited to preside at the Dalit and Buddhist Writer's Conference held at Akola in 1989 and was closely associated with various organizations of Dalit Writers.

Mr. Das wrote more than five hundred articles, papers for seminars, short stories for various newspapers and journals. His papers on 'Revival of Buddhism', 'Some problems of Minorities in India'; 'Reservation in Public Services' have been published in Social Action magazine brought out by Indian Social institute, New Delhi and Delhi University Buddhist Department. He also wrote many papers on Reservation and Representative Bureaucracy, Discrimination against the Dalits in Public Services, Minorities etc. He was a member of the 'Committee for evolving new strategies for the development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes - VIII Plan' set up by the Government of India and also a member of Ambedkar Centenary Committee of the Government of India. Mr. Das wrote many books in Urdu, English and Hindi on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, untouchables, Scavengers and Sweepers, Human Rights and Discrimination, etc. Prominent among them are 'Thus Spoke Ambedkar (Vol 1 to 4, Ed)'; 'Ambedkar on Gandhi and Gandhism (Ed)'; 'Ambedkar ek parichey ek Sandesh (Hindi)'; 'Main Bhangi Hoon, (the story of an Indian sweeper told in the first- person)'. This book has been translated into German, Punjabi, Kannada and Marathi; 'Valmiki aur Bhangi Jatiyaan (Hindi)'; 'Kya Valmiki Achoot they? (Hindi)'; Valimiki (Hindi); Dhobi (Hindi); 'Dr. Ambedkar aur Bhangi Jatiyaan (Hindi)', 'Dr. Ambedkar: Ek Parichay Ek Sandesh (Hindi)'; ' Bharat Mein Baudh Dhamm ka punar Jagran evam Samasyaen (Hindi)'; Revival of Buddhism in India and Role of Dr. Ambedkar.

He translated into Urdu former President of the USA, Lyndon Johnson's book 'My Hope for America', Dr Ambedkar's Book 'Ranade, Gandhi and Jinnah' besides editing Bhadant Anand Kaushalyayan's 'Gita ki Buddhi wadi Samiksha'.

He was also writing on Reservation and Representative Bureaucracy in India; Untouchables in the Indian Army (Mahar, Mazhbi, Chuhra, Pariahs, Mangs, Dhanuks, Dusadhs, Chamars, Kolis and Bheels), Mandal Commission and the Future of Backward Classes; Twenty- Two Oaths of Buddhism and Conversion; Ravidassias and Balmikis of Northern India; Buddhism and Marxism; Ambedkar as a Religious Leader but unfortunately his untimely death deprived him of completing these books.

Mr. Das had toured almost the whole of India to study the problems of Hindu-Muslim riots, religious conflicts, atrocities committed on the Untouchables and Tribal people, with the group 'Threat to Diversity', 'Swaraj Mukti Morcha' and as Chairman, Samata Sainik Dal.

Mr. Das attained Nirvana on 18th November, 2010. He was a staunch Ambedkarite, a crusader against Untouchability, an iconoclast, a practicing Buddhist, a renowned writer on Dalits, Buddhist and Ambedkarite Movement, Human Rights and Law, a politician and a committed Social Activist.

In order to commemorate his memory and his work at Nagpur it has been decided to dedicate a section of the library being set up at Deeksha Bhoomi Nagpur. It will be a befitting homage to his historical contribution to the Ambedkarian literature and movement. Similarly one Bhagwan Das Memorial Award has been instituted in School of Ambedkar Studies of BabaSaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow (U.P.) Like Karl Marx's call "Workers of the World Unite" Bhagwan Das gave a call " Dalits of World Unite" which is quite relevant today.

His pioneer work for internationalising the problem of Untouchability will be viewed as his historical contribution to the eradication of caste based discrimination. I am sure his legacy will live long to guide the Dalits in their fight for emancipation. No doubt he will be remembered as a True Ambedkarite.

DANCING FINGERS / Ramesh Suman

We were in Sri Guru Ravidass Gurudwara in Sacramento, where I watched Jaspreet Singh, better known as Jesse, play Tabla for several hours accompanying his father, Giani Harjinder Singh "Rasia", on the stage. His fingers were just dancing on Tabla with the lightening speed creating melodious music. Wow, what an incredible performance by a young artist.

I have known Jesse for about 2 years now. He does the Tabla sewa every Sunday in Sri Guru Ravidass Temple in Pittsburg, CA. Jaspreet Singh, is a young man who migrated from India a few years ago to

be with his father. As I was told by his parents, he started learning Tabla at the early age of 6, when his hands did not quite reach the top of the Tabla properly. He learnt music from his grandfather, father and uncles before he even went to a teacher. His mother the driving force behind him, she constantly encouraged and guided him while his father was traveling. Whole family is dedicated to Gurubani sewa so the music in his blood. He is a big fan of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Sahib, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and Ghulam Ali. Jesse recites their ghazals beautifully. About a year there was a Rahat Fateh Ali Khan show in

California. Jesse wanted to meet Khan Sahib but he could not get closer to him. Nevertheless, he was just ecstatic to see and hear him in person. Playing Tabla with Khan Sahib is his dream and goal. He understands the concept of Indian rhythm, particularly as evident in Indian classical music. He can play most of the Indian Instruments very well. Waheguru gave him a great voice. He did SHABAD KIRTAN in Pittsburg Gurudwara and had everyone mesmerized. Jesse has drawn attention of numerous local musicians for his talent and knowledge of playing



Tabla. . His gift from God, training and dedication has made him a very good musician in young age. . His performance on the stage is incredible.

He will be a famous musician soon. I hope he continues to do Kirtan sewa in Gurughar. May Waheguru bless him with success in his instrumental and vocal music. I look forward to seeing him on bigger stages in his life. **With best wishes.**
Ramesh Suman

Ambedkar International Center Washington DC, USA

<http://ambedkarinternationalcenter.org/>



Ambedkar International Center (AIC), is a Washington DC based organization representing Dalit groups in North America. Ambedkar International Center was formed to strengthen unity among the Bahujan and their movements, to establish a think tank with an umbrella organization, to campaign for peace and justice, as well as create a support base for dalit upliftment.

AIC's emphasis is to motivate, mobilize, connect, consolidate and coordinate the activities of the Ambedkarites and their organizations and establish an enlightened collective leadership that would work to build an enlightened society in South Asia based on Ambedkar's principles and vision, including special campaigns for removal of caste-based prejudices and for bringing a change to society through communal harmony and brotherhood.

AIC has embarked on an initiative to build the first ever world class Ambedkar Center in Washington DC. A large number of dalits across the world have committed already to fund the construction of Ambedkar Center building at Washington DC. We appeal to all dalits across North America to donate generously to this noble cause.

Further information on donations can be obtained from:

secretary@ambedkarinternationalcenter.org

Secretary

**Ambedkar International Center
Washington DC , USA**

Ph : 12402945447, Fax: 12405541440



United Awareness Committee of Ravidassia Community Californial USA



We, United Awareness Committee, of the State of California are pleased to announce that the Ravidassia Community of California will be holding a Community Awareness Event on Sunday, May 12, 2013 at the State Capitol in Sacramento, California. The program hours are from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The chief aim of this event is to inform and create awareness of the opportunities available to the community and serve as a networking event with the attendance of many successful individuals.

The members of Ravidassia Community are the followers of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji, who advised and adopted democratic strategies to resolve the social inequalities prevalent in the society and preached for equality, universal brotherhood, oneness of God, and faced the contemporary kingdoms for natural and legal human rights for disadvantaged classes. Consistent with His teachings, our goal is to create awareness of ethical social aspects in our succeeding generation and help make them responsible citizens of this great nation on the planet.

In political environments, the teachings of Guru Ravidass Ji can be weighed against various Civil Rights Acts, or recognized with a modern name like Affirmative Action, EEO policies, and FEHA etc. And in this ongoing evolution of socio-economic and globalization environment, His teachings are quite compatible with the First Amendment of the United States Bill of Rights.

On this auspicious occasion, many high officials and high dignitaries are invited from all over California to attend this unity and awareness event. Therefore, United Awareness Committee would like to invite you to join in this approaching commemoration. We would feel honored and privileged to have you join us in this celebration.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please call any member listed below. Thank you.



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Shri Guru Ravidass Ji

United Awareness Committee, California

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