



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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Paying Tribute to Mata Ramabai Bhimrao Ambedkar

(February 7, 1898 – May 27, 1935) on her Birth Anniversary

Prem K. Chumber (Editor-in-Chief)
Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba



Ramabai Bhimrao Ambedkar (February 7, 1898 – May 27, 1935) was the first wife of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. She had been married to him for 29 years. She passed away on May 27, 1935, after a prolonged illness, at Rajgruha, Bombay. She was not only a homemaker but also played a significant role in facilitating Dr. Ambedkar to pursue and attain higher education, which he recognised in one of his voluminous writings entitled Thoughts on Pakistan, published in 1941. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar dedicated this book to Ramabai. In the preface of the book he put on record that it was Ramabai who transformed him from an ordinary Bhima to Dr Ambedkar.

Ramabai has been remembered reverently by the followers and admirers of Babasaheb. She belonged to an ordinary family. She lost both her parents in very young age and had to abandon her native place, Mahapura locality within the village of Vanand near Dapoli Ratnagiri, along with her three sisters and a brother to live with her uncles Valangkar and Govindpurkar in Bombay in Byculla market. When Ramabai married Dr. Ambedkar in 1906, she was only eight years old and Ambedkar's age was 15 years. Ambedkar lovingly used to call her "Ramu" and she called him "Saheb". She gave birth to Yashwant, Gangadhar, Ramesh, Indu (daughter) and Rajratna. Except Yashwant (1912-1977), the other four children died in their childhood.

Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba Weeklies congratulate all its contributors, readers and well-wishers on the Birth Anniversary of Ramabai Bhimrao Ambedkar.

Samata Sainik Dal (Social Equality Corps) Hope and Inspiration of the Marginalized Sections

The Samata Sainik Dal (SSD) is a Volunteer Corps of the Scheduled Castes formed in Bombay in March 1927 by Dr. Ambedkar. The organization was established, as its name implies, to bring about a reorganization of the Hindu Society with a view to find for the Depressed Classes a place of equality in the Hindu Society. Its aim was to strive for the removal of all inequalities based on race, religion, caste, sex or class and to unite all members of the Scheduled Caste communities for a struggle to build a society based on freedom and equality for all. To achieve its aim it would unite and organize the Scheduled caste youths under its banner; promote all social, cultural and other activities among the Scheduled Castes particularly among the youth so

under a Company Commander elected by the Platoon leaders. Four Companies i.e. 384 Sainiks would constitute a Battalion under the command of a Lieutenant elected by the Company Commanders. Three Battalions i.e. 1152 Sainiks would form a Regiment under the Command of a G.O.C. or General Officer Commanding. 2500 all such G.O.Cs from all districts and provinces would make a Division. The leader elected for the Division would be called as All India Commander-in-Chief 2.



Col. Prithvi Raj Kumar
91-94648-94941



as to cultivate self respect, self reliance and a spirit of self sacrifice in their minds. It was affiliated to the All India Scheduled Caste Federation. The President of the Federation on the advice of the Executive Council would appoint a nominee of the Federation to supervise the affairs of the Samata Sainik Dal in each town and province, and it would work under the guidance of a supervisor so appointed. It would cooperate with all such organizations and movements that helped to further its aims and objects. A person entering the SSD was required to take the following oath:

"I, a member of the Scheduled Caste Community, entering the ranks of the Samata Sainik Dal, do hereby take an oath and solemnly swear to be an honorable, brave, disciplined and resolute fighter in the glorious cause of the emancipation of my class from all oppression, exploitation and slavery. I shall ever be ready at the Command of the S. S. D. to go forward for the defense of the just and human rights of the people of my class and community. Should it be out of weakness, cowardice, or evil design, I violate this oath and betray the interests of my people, I shall be ready to suffer the full measure of punishment at the hands of the Dal" 1.

Any person belonging to the Scheduled Castes above the age of 18 who agreed with the aims and objects of the organization could join the Samata Sainik Dal on payment of yearly subscription of 12 Annas. Its structural formation was on the pattern of army i.e. Section, Platoon, Company, Battalion, Regiment etc. A group of 12 Sainiks made one Section with two elected Section leaders. Two sections i.e. 24 Sainiks made one Platoon with its Platoon leader elected by the section leaders. Four Platoons i.e. 96 Sainiks constituted a Company

The All India Samata Sainik Dal would have its branches functioning in all Indian provinces and also in Indian States where possible. The provincial branches would organize its District Committees and each District Committee in its town would organize Town and Village Committees. The General Body of Samata Sainik Dal in a Town or a Village would select a Town or a Village Committee of 5 members, one President, two Secretaries and also select delegates (one delegate for 1 to 25 members, 2 delegates for 25 to 50 and so on) from among themselves to the District Conference. District Conference would select a District Committee of 10 members, one President and two Secretaries as also delegates to the Provincial Conference from among themselves according to their ranks (for 5 delegates to the District Conference one delegate to Provincial Conference, and above 5 to 10 district delegates, two to the Provincial Conference and so on).

The Provincial Conference would select according to their ranks a Provincial Committee of 20 members, one President, two Secretaries and also delegates to the All India Conference. The number of such delegates to the All India Conference would not exceed 5% of the total strength of membership in each Province. The All India Conference of the SSD would select an All India Council consisting of one President, one Vice-President, One General Secretary, two Joint Secretaries and one member from each Province selected by the All India Central Committee. All Provincial units affiliated to the All India SSD would pay an affiliation fee of Rs. 25 per annum to the All India SSD and also 5% of their gross annual income. An All India Conference of the Samata Sainik Dal would meet at least once in a year³.

(Contd. o next page)

Samata Sainik Dal (Social Equality Corps)-Hope and Inspiration of the Marginalized Sections



Picture courtesy:
Dr. Sunita Sawarkar

(Continue from page 1)

The training of Samata Sainik Dal would consist of physical, intellectual and military type. It would organize training camps, schools, clubs, classes, lectures, debates, libraries etc. The Sainiks and the officers were supposed to observe strict discipline and rules regarding dress code. The Sainiks would wear Khaki Half Pant, Khaki Half Shirt, Folding Cap, Brown Canvas Shoes or Pathani Socks and Chappals and carry a 4.5 feet long stick. The dress for the Non-Officers would be Khaki Half Pant, Khaki Half Shirt, Brown Boots, Woolen Socks, Hat Khaki, one cane, one whistle and Khaki Bandage cloth. Officer Superior would wear the dress similar to that of a Non-Officer with the addition of a Bush Coat.

A strict schedule of routine duties and training from Monday to Sunday and general discipline was prescribed for the Sainiks. Monday – Moral; Tuesday and Thursday - Games & Physical Drill; Wednesday and Saturday - Military Drill; Friday – First Aid; and Sunday – Political and Social. Smoking and drinking was prohibited. If any Sainik or Officer was found guilty of smoking, drinking or disobedience to lawful orders or any other mischief by his superior he would be given warning once in a way. If despite a warning he did not improve, his uniform and rank would be taken back and he would be dismissed from the SSD.

The flag of the All India Samata Sainik Dal was to be 4' in length and 2.5' in width with whole ground of deep blue. In the top left corner would be 11 pointed stars in white color and a sun in the middle of the flag in white color. The letters S.C.F. would be boldly written under the sun in blue color. In the bottom right corner of the flag would be letters SSD in white color. The meaning of the flag was Liberty, Equality and Fraternity and to fight to achieve the goal.

It was mandatory for the Dal to meet together not less than once in every six months, and from time to time to make regulations consistent with this Constitution. The President

would fix the dates for the six monthly and other meetings. Fifteen clear days notice for a six monthly and ten days' for a special meeting specifying the agenda, time and place of meeting would be circulated among the members.

The quorum was fixed at one third of the whole members of the house. In the absence of quorum the meeting would be postponed twice, and the business transacted in the third meeting irrespective of the quorum. All questions would be decided by a majority of votes of the members present, the presiding officer, i.e. President, Vice-president or Chairman, as the case may be having a second or casting vote in all cases of a tie.

All the funds of the Dal would be deposited in a Bank or Banks approved both by the Supervisor appointed by the All India Scheduled Castes Federation and the G.O.C. of the Dal and in the name of SSD shall be operated upon by the G.O.C. and the General Secretary of the Dal. All the branches of the SSD would select any Bank or Banks in their own respective Provinces or Districts and such funds would be operated upon by any three persons authorized by the General Body in this behalf 4. Addressing the Samata Sainik Dal Conference at Nagpur on 20th July 1942, Dr. Ambedkar brought out that there was a time when their object was to obtain for their people a place of equality within the Hindu Society as a part and parcel of it. Now they stood for equality with the Hindus as a distinct and separate element in the National life of India. They hoped to achieve it by separation in religion. They had to begin their struggle with a demand for political equality by demanding political separation. This was the most difficult task, for the Depressed Classes could not find a safe and a secure platform to give vent to their political demands. The Congress organization had become so dominant that in Bombay city they would not allow any other Party to hold any political meeting. The Congress volunteers used to come and breakup such meetings. To meet this menace they decided to add to the

original function of the Volunteer Corps a new duty namely to take part in politics and protect their platform from the turbulent and repressive activities of the Congress Volunteers. This proved a most efficacious method of dealing with the menace of the Congress Volunteers. Narrating an incident he said that about the time that he was going to the first Round Table Conference, the Congress held a public meeting in Bombay just near to his house in the name of the Depressed Classes to condemn his going to the Round Table Conference and to declare that he was not true representative of the Depressed Classes. But the SSD volunteers came in a body and to the utter discomfiture of the Congress volunteers captured the meeting. The Congressmen had to run for their life leaving behind their chair, table and bell which was brought by their volunteers as a trophy. The Volunteer Corps was the strongest in Bombay. Nobody had ever dared to challenge their volunteers. If they had carried out their political activities without being molested by anybody it was because of the strength of the SSD. He emphasized the need not only to maintain the Volunteer Corps but its spread in every Province, and further expansion until it had embraced every young man from the Depressed Classes within its membership. Reacting to the objection of some people to such organizations and exhibition of strength, he said that he was himself a believer in Ahimsa. But he made a distinction between Ahimsa and meekness. To him meekness was weakness, and weakness which was voluntarily imposed upon itself was not a virtue. Quoting a story from the Upanishads according to which a lamb lodged a complaint with the God saying that notwithstanding all creatures being brethren children of God every creature was threatening its (Lamb's) life forgetting all brotherly affection. God said that he (lamb) looked so meek that even he (God) was tempted to devour him. Dr. Ambedkar said that his people had been very much like the lamb in the story and that is why everyone had threatened to devour them. He confirmed that he was a be-

liever in Ahimsa in the sense defined by great saint Tukaram to whom it consisted of love and compassion for all creatures and destruction of all evil-doers. To destroy all evil-doers was the principal element in the doctrine of Ahimsa. Without that Ahimsa was an empty shell, only beatitude. So long as they had no evil intention to do harm to anybody and so long as they had confined themselves to destruction of all evil-doers, nobody could cavil at the acquisition and building up of strength. Shakti controlled by sheel was their ideal. Therefore, they should not be afraid of any criticism. They should avoid doing wanton injury to anybody, exert to help everyone who needed their help and they would be rendering great service to their people. Apart from activities concerned with sustaining their political life, they should exert themselves in the towns and villages where their women were being kidnapped and the people tyrannized⁵.

It is almost hundred years back that the Samata Sainik Dal was formed with specific aims and objects. The aim of establishing an egalitarian society and bringing unity among the Scheduled Caste communities is still a distant dream. Unfortunately there are further divisions rather than unity among these communities. The instances of discrimination, injustice, tyranny, and atrocities against these communities continue to be galore. Mass poverty, illiteracy and unemployment continue to be the destiny of most of them. The Samata Sainik Dal has survived to this date and has been active as an apolitical organization in some States but it is far off from its aims and objects. It is high time for the Ambedkarites to introspect, scratch their heads and make this organization a dynamic institution as per its Constitution, guidelines and directives of Dr. Ambedkar to achieve not only its aims and objects but the mission of Babasaheb.

Source: 1. BAWS, Vol. 17/3, pp. 287, 566, 567; 2. BAWS, Vol. 17/3, p. 569; 3. BAWS, Vol. 17/3, pp. 568, 569; 4. BAWS, Vol. 17/3, pp. 568 – 572; 5. BAWS, Vol. 17/3, pp. 287-290

FAREWELL TO MR. AZAD JULLUNDHARY-A LEGEND

Funeral services in the loving memory of late Mr. Azad Jullundhary who bade farewell to this mortal world peacefully at his home in San Jose on May 25th, 2024, were held in Chapel of Chimes, 32992, Mission Blvd., Hayward, California on June 9th, 2024. Since Mr. Azad was an iconic figure in the entire community, a large number of mourners, admirers and sympathizers attended the services as a mark of great respect for the departed soul.

After recitation of Path, Sukhmani Sahib and Ardass, there were an endless number of speakers including many local writers, singers and musical artists inspired by Mr. Azad Jullundhary, paying their glowing tributes and eulogies to his exceptional qualities as an inspirational writer in Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi poetry and songs.

UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE: - Just a few weeks ago I alongwith Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba visited Azad Sahib at his home in San Jose. In spite of his frail health we had an exhaustive discourse with him on many humanitarian concerns and issues which will linger on as a lasting memory for the rest of our life. Though Mr. Azad's demise has left be-



hind a void which can never be filled, but outpouring expression of love, support and sympathy during this difficult time vindicates the impact on the community for this tragic loss. His undying

legacy crossing all barriers of social separatism will perpetuate his invaluable contributions to society as a whole.

Mr. Amrik Chand Lakha, a very close friend and associate of Mr. Azad Jullundhary conducted the proceedings of the funeral services from the stage very responsibly, dwelling also on the progressive history of Azad Sahib's literary writings and published books.

Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, Editor-in-Chief, Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba provided a pictorial and a video graphic coverage of the entire event as a professional journalist (Photos Attached). After the cremation of his mortal remains, religious services were also held in the memory of late Mr. Azad Jullundhary, followed by

Guru Ka langar, at Gurdwara Sahib, Fremont, California.

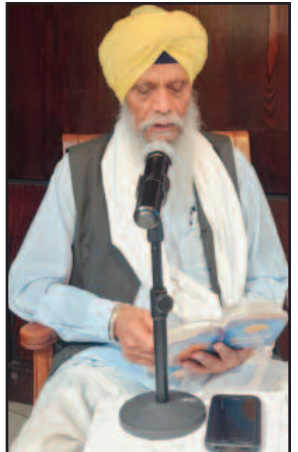
My PERSONAL REMINISCENCES: - I had the opportunity to know Azad

Sahib for over 65 years, including 20 years we spent together in Government of India Service, New Delhi. He was a great visionary with a very soft spoken disposition in his social interactions with others. He had a God-gifted acumen and an intrinsic passion for literature and poetry with a rare blend of pen, music and a vibrant voice which elevated him to the heights of fame and glory during his lifetime, making him a living legend. During the formative years of the establishment of Shri Guru Ravidass Temple, Pittsburg, California Mr. Azad was very helpful with his talented performances on the stage based on the divine preachings of Gurbani. "His name will remain shining as one of the most luminous stars among the galaxy of human intelligentsia"

"May the blessings of a good life lived on earth follow you to heaven" Again with heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family. We will miss you a lot.



O. P. Balley
Founding Member
Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha
Pittsburg, California



Floral Tribute to Janab Azad Jullundhary

"Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" Weeklies pay floral tribute to Janab Azad Jullundhary Sahib, who passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on May 25, 2024. Born on January 12, 1933 in Punjab (India), Azad Sahib settled in the United States of America along with his family.

thorough gentleman, Sh. Azad Jullundhary led an impeccable life. Our heartfelt condolences to the family, and his wide circle of near and dear. May the departed noble soul rest in eternal peace in the celestial abode of the Almighty.



Prem K. Chumber

Editor-in-Chief:

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

A brilliant poet, writer, lyricist, and a

The memory pamphlet was displayed during the funeral service along with pictures.

Provided by Mr. Sunny grandson of Janab Azad Jullundhary

Prem K. Chumber
Editor-in-Chief:
Ambedkar Times

*Those we love remain with us
for love itself lives on,
and cherished memories never fade
because a loved one's gone.
Those we love can never
be more than a thought apart,
for as long as there is memory,
they'll live on in our heart.*

Thank you

The Azad Family would like to express their sincere gratitude for all the kind words, cards, flowers, acts of sympathy and tribute to honor the memory of

Kehar Chand Azad.

In Loving Memory of

Kehar Chand Azad
January 12, 1933 - May 25, 2024

Service
Chapel of Chimes
32992 Mission Blvd
Hayward CA 94544
Sunday, June 9, 2024 | 12pm-2pm

Witness Cremation
(immediately after)

Followed by a Prayer &
Guru Da Langar at
3pm | Gurdwara Sahib of Fremont
300 Gurdwara Rd, Fremont, CA 94536

In Memory Of

Kehar Chand Azad
Born - January 12, 1933 - Punjab, India
Died - May 25, 2024 - San Jose, CA (USA)

Husband of
Gurmitto Azad

Father of
Kusum, Rajan, & Rajinder

Grandchildren
Sunny, Anil, Jindi & Seema

*Great-Grandchildren/
Great-Grandpa (GGP) of*
Rohan & Aasha

Order of Service

- ~Introduction/Welcoming Words
- ~Prayer
- ~Obituary/Eulogy
- ~Acknowledgments/
Closing Remarks
- ~Recessional
- ~Proceed to Crematorium*

*Witness cremation immediately to follow after service on site.

Obituary

Our beloved Azad Jalandhari passed away on May 25, 2024 peacefully at home surrounded by his family. Born on January 12, 1933 in Punjab, India, he came to the United States with his wife Gurmitto, his son Rajan and his daughter Kusum. He lived an extraordinary life and was known to many as a brilliant poet whose words could warm your heart and soul. In our family he was loved as a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather and role model on how to live a life filled with joy. His smile and charisma brightened every room he walked into and although he was tired in his final days, he smiled knowing the legacy he leaves behind. Always the philosopher and often a teacher to us children, even in his final days he spoke to us about living a full life with joy. He died exactly how he lived, which is on his terms and we are so proud to be part of his legacy/a part of his family and a part of his life. He will be missed by so many people whose lives he touched and celebrating his life is how we honor our beloved

Azad Jalandhari



Better Late Than Never – Addressing the Dalit Vote Banks

In my latest blogs on the just concluded Lok Sabha elections, I invariably raised the issues of naming of Adampur Airport after Guru Ravidass, Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabas in Delhi and April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar as International Day of Equality. These blogs may be perused at: <https://diplomaticitbits.blogspot.com/2024/05/an-open-letter-to-voters-of-jalandhar.html> <https://diplomaticitbits.blogspot.com/2024/05/jalandhar-parliamentary-constituency.html>

One can easily observe that all these three issues are of emotive ones

delivery.

My immediate provocation to write again is the letter of BJP Punjab Chapter's President Sunil Jakhar's letter of June 14 addressed to PM Narendra Modi on the issues of name of Adampur Airport and rebuilding of the government dazed Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabad. I welcome this change of tack at its face value. I thanked Sunil Jakhar Sahib by my letter of June 14 which is texted below. There should be no problem in addressing these issues as these directly fall in the per-view of NDA government headed by PM Narendra Modi. I would

affirmative actions on the part of the ruling outfits will not go unrewarded as the followers of Guru Ravidass and Babasaheb Ambedkar know how to pay the debt of gratitude.

IK Tarze Tugafil Hai; So Weh Unko Mubarak,
IK Arze Tammana Hai; Who hum Karte Rahenge

Text of my letter dated June 13, 2024 to BJP President Sunil Jakhar June 14, 2024

Respected Shri Sunil Jakhar Sahib,
I have just seen your letter of June 13 (circulated by Sushil Rinkuji)

sincere to the cause of bring about 'equitable social order' in the society. Many of the BJP/RSS bigwigs in and around Jalandhar and beyond know about this. As such, I have been writing on matters of



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



and are of concern and interest to the dalit communities as these entail sense of empowerment in the changing socio-political scenario. These issues directly come under the jurisdiction of the central government where PM Narendra Modi of BJP adorned the coveted position in the South Block for the last 10 years and again been voted to power as leader of the NDA. I am sorry to say, in spite of repeated efforts and demands, no one paid any attention both in the government and socio-cultural outfits like RSS. Dalit communities are really, it seems, are perturbed with this willful sidelining and even ignoring these issues, if we go by the election results in the Doaba region of Punjab and beyond. The dalit voters are slowly getting aware and concerned. It is time to understand this emerging situation, the sooner the better. PM Narendra Modi tried to placate dalit voters in his eleventh hour rallies in Jalandhar and Hoshiarpur and tactfully mentioned about Guru Ravidass and Adampur Airport and Khuralgarh Sahib etc. . But it was only an election jigjag. There was no mention of Tughlakabad issue and that of International Day of Equality. I think it was a short-sighted approach which backfired. I am confident that the subsequent political analysis (Manthan) would underline these ground realities for the benefit of political players. Babasaheb's dictum – 'Educate; Agitate; Organise' is taking effect slowly but surely; dalits are increasing getting educated and awakened, dalits have definitely started agitating on issues of concern and interest particularly with regard to their duespace in the corridors of power and Panchayats of the society. Dalits are on track on the way to get organized. The things are changing and must change. It is getting increasingly clear, fortunately, that people are no more interested in listening 'goody goody' and they want real

Sunil Jakhar
State President

ਭਾਰਤੀ ਜਨਤਾ ਪਾਰਟੀ
भारतीय जनता पार्टी
Bharatiya Janata Party
ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੇਸ਼ - ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੇਸ਼

Date : 13-6-2024

Honourable Prime Minister,

Your momentous third term in office as Prime Minister of India has provided new vigor to the people of the country, especially the constituents of Punjab, who see you as an embodiment of Viksit Bharat. On behalf of the people of Punjab, I would like to congratulate you for this historic rare feat.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention towards two issues that have a deep emotional-spiritual bearing on the minds of people. These issues also find resonance with your commitment towards the society.
The renaming of the Adampur Airport after the 15th-century spiritual sage Guru Ravidas, as already expressed by you during your recent visit to Punjab, will go a long way to underpin the ethos of spirituality in the diversity that binds India. This has also been a long-pending demand from the people of Punjab.

Besides, now that the Guru Ravidass temple in Tughlakabad in Delhi is to be recreated and remodeled to restore its original glory, it would be worthwhile to consider developing the areas around the Guru Ravidas temple into a serene Vatika (garden). This will enhance the shrine's appeal without tinkering with the layout. This will inspire people from all over to soak in the egalitarian preaching of the revered saint. The temple in Tughlakabad that was demolished on the directions of the Supreme Court in 2019 has cleared the legal glitches. The area around the temple can be aesthetically landscaped into a Vatika that would exude the aura of the sacred Guru. This will be a befitting tribute to Guru Ravidass and an expression of your resolve to uphold the tenets of all faiths.

I thank you in anticipation and look forward eagerly for your kind indulgence on the above issues. Wishing you good health and loads of success.

With warm regards

(SUNIL JAKHAR)

Sh. Narendra Modi Ji,
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Government of India

Off: Amar Shaheed Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Samarak Bhawan, (BJP Office Punjab State)
Sector -37-A, Chandigarh-160036, Tel: 0172-2696636-2685858, Fax: 2694382

only be happy if Jakhar Sahib and other bigwigs in the ruling elite also support the proposal on International Day of Equality to honour one of greatest sons of India, Babasaheb Ambedkar. I am confident that these

addressed to the Hon'ble PM regarding naming Adampur Airport in the name of Guru Ravidass and also the issue of Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabad. I am apolitical votary of 'Samrasta', the prop of RSS, as long as they remain

interest and concern to the dalit communities in my blogs. I list here a couple of these recent blogs for your perusal.
<https://diplomaticitbits.blogspot.com/2024/05/an-open-letter-to-voters-of-jalandhar.html>
<https://diplomaticitbits.blogspot.com/2024/05/jalandhar-parliamentary-constituency.html>

You would observe that both the issues raised in your letter find mention in these write-ups. There is yet another issue – my proposal which I initiated in June, 2015 – April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality. The proposal is resting in the cup-boards of MEA/PMO since then. Unfortunately, I could not attract due attention to this proposal from the BJP leadership, in spite of my level best in this regard. My latest blog on the subject would provide you more information.
<https://diplomaticitbits.blogspot.com/2024/05/an-open-letter-to-candidates-in-lok.html>

You must have observed and realized that BJP fell down to 240 from more than 300 seats in the recent elections. It has been noticed by the political pandits that BJP's dalit vote share came down by 3% and resulted in the said setback. If the BJP leadership had listened to me particularly on the proposal of International Day of Equality, perhaps the position would have been different and pleasant not only in Punjab but also beyond.

I thought of bringing this to your notice with a view to solicit your kind support. It is still not too late. With the assurances of my highest consideration,
Yours truly,

(Ramesh Chander)

Shri Sunil Jakhar
President of Punjab BJP
Chandigarh

Supreme Court Verdict: Camp Cleanup Authority?

I often consider the age-old concept of "the carrot and the stick," which embodies the balance between enforcement and support—a theme that frequently comes up in discussions about how we govern and regulate the homeless community. This balance is crucial but often mishandled by government policies.

The City of Grants Pass v. Johnson case, recently argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, marks a pivotal moment in our approach to homelessness. It prompts us to reevaluate the effectiveness of past policies that have, in many ways, worsened the problem rather than solved it.

For too long, court rulings like the 2018 decision in Martin v. Boise have handcuffed local governments, preventing them from enforcing anti-camping ordinances that are essential for maintaining public order and safety. These legal constraints have allowed encampments to proliferate, contributing to crime, environmental damage, and public health crises, including the spread of diseases and increased drug overdoses right on our streets.

The oral arguments at the Supreme Court indicate a potential shift that could empower local authorities to regain control over this spiraling issue. If the Court sides with Grants Pass, it could mark an end to the era where local officials' hands are tied by overly permissive legal interpretations. This change is crucial; it's about restoring the rule of law in our communities while addressing the humanitarian crisis of homelessness with more than just temporary fixes.

Some politicians and their activist allies argue that enforcing anti-camping laws is inhumane for those without alternatives. Yet, this view overlooks the true cruelty of letting people live in dangerous and unhealthy conditions. It's not merely about clearing tents from the streets; it's about eliminating obstacles to more effective solutions, including mental health services, addiction treatment, and suitable housing for our most vulnerable residents.

The harsh reality is that the current approach has not only failed our homeless population, it has also ignored the rights and needs of the broader community. Residents and businesses bear the brunt of the consequences, from depreciating property values to safety concerns. It's clear that a shift towards more balanced policies is overdue. We need policies that ensure compassion does not cripple our communities, but rather strengthens them.

As we await the Supreme Court's decision, which is expected in June, it's time for local leaders to prepare to act decisively. We should be ready to implement a dual approach that enhances enforcement to clear hazardous encampments and increases support through proven rehabilitation and mental health programs. This isn't

just about taking back control of our streets; it's about taking responsible steps to provide real solutions that address both the symptoms and root causes of homelessness.

Thank you for Reading – and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.gov. Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murietta.

Community Achievement Initiative Recipients

I am thrilled to spotlight the incredible achievements of some remarkable young leaders in our community through our Community Achievement Initiative. These students exemplify dedication, creativity, and leadership, and their contributions are making a tangible difference in the Sacramento region.

These students are the heart and future of our community, and I am so proud of the positive impact they continue to make. Let's support and cheer for these rising stars!

Sacramento Barnyard Bidders

This outstanding group brings together youth from Green Acres 4-H, Rio Linda High School's FFA program, and the Rio Linda Grange. They are engaged in learning essential business skills while also developing strong character and a dedication to community growth. The remarkable support from families, business owners, and club leaders significantly enriches our community by cultivating tomorrow's leaders right in our own backyard.

Prisha Vishnu

Kudos to Prisha Vishnu of Vista Del Lago High School for her stellar academic engagement and leadership in Girl Scouts. Her Gold Award project focuses on promoting safety for young women, showcasing her commitment to making a difference.

Megan Dyer

Celebrating Megan Dyer for her active involvement in sports and her creative contributions at Folsom High School. Her dedicated volunteer work with horse rescue centers is commendable.

Ayushree Beura

Cheers to Ayushree Beura for her leadership in Girl Scouts and her Silver Award project, which has significantly impacted pediatric care at Kaiser Permanente.

Nandika Tiwari

Here's to Nandika Tiwari for her exceptional performance at Vista Del Lago High School and her Girl Scouts project that raised mental health awareness among middle schoolers.

Sacramento County Budget Hearings Set

The Sacramento County Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 has been released. The Board

of Supervisors will begin hearings on the Recommended Budget at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 5, in Board Chambers at the Sacramento County Administration building, located at 700 H Street in Sacramento.

The public is invited to attend the hearings and be heard on any items in the budget, either publicly or through written comments. Budget hearings will also be telecast live on Metro Cable 14 and the County's website.

The hearings will continue beginning at 9:30 a.m. through June 6 and 7, if necessary.

This year's \$8.8 billion spending plan is an increase of 6.9% compared to the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget. Of the total \$8.8 billion budgeted:

\$3.5 billion is in Enterprise and Special Revenue Fund appropriations (utility rates, fees and other dedicated revenue)

\$3.8 billion is in General Fund appropriations (funded with \$990 million in discretionary resources, \$1.5 billion in reimbursements from restricted funds, and the remaining \$1.3 billion in Federal, State and fee revenue dedicated to specific purposes)

\$1.5 billion in Restricted Funds

The Board's budget priorities, based on the budget priority survey results of adult residents in Sacramento County, for the uses of General Fund discretionary resources are:

Complying with the County's legal, financial, regulatory and policy obligations

Optimizing the use of County resources, with budgeted service levels for County programs informed by community priorities, improving effectiveness and efficiency where possible, and limiting the extent to which reductions in dedicated revenue are backfilled with discretionary resources

Funding new or enhanced programs that focus on the most critical and urgent needs, with the priority focus areas being 1) addressing homelessness and its impacts and 2) improving the condition of streets and roads in the unincorporated County

The Recommended Budget's most significant new or enhanced programs include:

Health Services increased by \$28.4 million for increased acute psychiatric inpatient costs, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing funding, increased capacity and services at Permanent Supportive Housing units, and behavioral health services at the Youth Detention Facility.

Child, Family and Adult Services increased by \$5.7 million (\$4.5 million Net County Cost) for Child Protective Services welcome and assessment center services and family resource center court-mandated parenting workshops.

Human Assistance increased by \$4.2 million (\$100,000 Net County Cost) for childcare payments for Cal-

WORKs participants and funding for a position in the County Veterans Services Office.

Sheriff increased by \$3.9 million (\$1.2 million

Net County Cost) for a mobile command vehicle, required software expenditures and required body worn camera licenses and equipment.

Correctional Health Services increased by \$3.4 million (\$300,000 Net County Cost) for a Medication Assisted Treatment Program, additional pharmacy positions (both of which support the County's obligations under the Mays Consent Decree Remedial Plan) and a new electronic health record system.

Community Development increased by \$1.2 million (\$1 million Net County Cost) to support the Infill Acceleration Program, the Climate Action Plan, and two Planning Technician positions.

Homeless Services and Housing increased by \$1 million (before reimbursements) to fund beds at a planned Safe Stay Community and three new positions and services supporting administration for the department.

This year's budget reflects the County's need to address a reduction in available one-time resources that had previously funded ongoing expenditures.

This year, these reductions total \$6 million, which will result in the deletion of 31 vacant full-time equivalent (FTE) positions as well as other budget reductions across several departments. No filled positions were recommended for deletion.

The Recommended Budget's most significant reductions include:

Health Services reduced by \$2.2 million including consulting contracts, operational supplies and the deletion of 14 FTE positions.

Child, Family and Adult Services reduced by \$1.8 million, including the deletion of 16 vacant FTE positions.

The budget letter and a complete set of budget documents may be found online and at the County Executive's Office, 700 H Street, Room 7650.

The Recommended Budget is a preliminary spending plan; the Revised Recommended Budget will be presented to the Board in September for deliberation and adoption.

For more information about the County budget, including the budget process/timeline, key budget terms/glossary, the Budget Explorer Tool and more, visit the Sacramento County Office of Budget and Debt Management website.



Sue Frost
Sacramento County Supervisor

Prayers

It is dusk...and
The temples of all religions
Seem to compete....
Each louder than the other
In pleading to the Lord
To accept and acknowledge
The praises
Offered by the paltry being
Called man!

The same repeats every morning ,too
The neighbourhoods buzzing
With blares from mikes.
No matter whether anyone really
Hears and understands
Beyond the simple sense
Of a reminder
That God of one's own conception
Is being complimented!

Do you seek favours
Like a victory or a gain?
Or a Name ?
No , you say
....As you just shy away!

Then why do you do it?
Does your God need it ,
Or demand it ?
Does it enhance his status?
Does he get annoyed
Like the political leader
If not complimented ?
In case , so does He
Then He is no better than you or me !

Nothing Linear here !

Visibly the things might appear,
Moving in a way straight or linear.
Age moving from zero to last year,
Success leaving things in the rear,
Yet the truth finally becomes clear,
That everything moves in a cycle here !

The sky forms or shows up as a dome
The earth , the moon and stars roam
But in a manner that repeats cycles
So do seasons in an earthly year
So does life!

From infancy to buoyant youth,
Then a decline and finally a fall
Into second infancy!
The wheel coming full circle!
Empires rise and then fall !
From a scratch to zenith
And from the zenith to the nadir
That movement sums up all !

From seed to sapling,
To flowering and fruition,
And seed again!
It is a story that spells a cycle!
Leading to another cycle
In the same succession !

Raindrops are roun,
So are blood cells,
And the body cells
And the atoms
Having circular shells
In which move the electrons
In a circle!
There is no freedom from circles!
Nothing moves in a straight line here!



DESH BIR
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Born in 1951 and brought up and schooled in Kangra district of erstwhile Punjab (now Himachal Pradesh), Desh Bir did his M.A. in English from DAV College, Jalandhar and topped the GND University, Amritsar. Taught at DAV College, Jalandhar for three years before joining Punjab Govt. Education Service in 1976 as a Lecturer at Govt. College Hoshiarpur. He was selected in Central Services based on combined UPSC exam for IAS etc in 1978, but chose to stay in Education. He was promoted as Principal, Govt. College, Hoshiarpur, in July, 2006 and retired in October, 2009. After retirement, he was appointed as Ombudsman, NREGA for five districts of Punjab for four years. Has nearly 170 creative articles published in English Newspapers like Daily Post, Deccan Herald, The Tribune, Daily World, Punjab Advance and Kashmir Vision. Lately, he has taken to poetry for pouring out his intensely felt perceptions

Everything is circumscribed here !

Fall and rise,
Rise and fall,
And , perhaps, that's all !

Tell them...

Tell them 'Papa is not at home!'
That is the first silly lesson
We teach our new generation
As it learns the ways of the world .

Then we blame India
As a land of nasty values
And a system that doesn't care
For men and their sentiments !

Keep two types of books--
One for yours records
Another for the inspectors,
So advise our tax consultants !

Tell masses that service is your forte !
Dole out free food or blankets
And join the trail of social servants !
Let trust find an anchor in their hearts!

Tell conmen to do everything
To spread the word
That you are clean as fresh snow!
That will seeds of faith sow !

Create a halo of public fame
Now start your cherished game ,
Assume a slogan-worthy name
And pitch posters of man-size frame!

Tell disciples to fetch more believers
Who could also be shown the door
Opening on heaven and spiritual clarity!
To win people's confidence
Indulge in all kinds of charity !
Then do what you like
With people's numbed wits !

The success lies in telling this...

And doing that !
If you don't want it,
Flap your wings to fly abroad .
This is what our youth are doing !

I met my God....

Being incredibly credulous,
I believe my awake dreams ,too!
The other day I met my God..
He was feeling helpless !

I found Him contained
Within the precincts
Of a haloed dome
Cooped by noisy admirers!

He told me in a whisper:
"I must remain homeless!
My truth is Freedom
From bondage
Because I pervade All...
All that is ...
And was....
And will be!"

"These creatures of mine
So fond of glittering
And safe, cozy homes
Have put me in shackles
By raising a home for me!
They are proud of the favour
Which they inanely think
They have done to me!"

I never thought
My God would ever feel
As helpless as that !
Yet, as I said
I am credulous
And almost believe
What my God whispered to me!

No Heroes, these !

No two humans think alike
Then how shall two nations do?
Yet it doesn't any way warrant
Flying at each other's throat!
Still clashes between humans
Or between nations persist
Though they know all clashes end
In unequal compromise
At a human cost no one can make good !

If compromise is the final solution
Then why enact the gory drama
Depriving hapless humans
Of a life of peace and dignity?
No one shall answer it...
As either party devises
Plausible excuses to push the agenda!
Self-deifying is the sole motive
Though every war monger knows
That no one celebrates
A villain hungry of innocent blood.

Leaders across the world use
The façade of democratic structures
To arrogate to themselves the right to kill
Or to sign treaties as they might will!
Governments rise and fall
But the masses live for ever!
For rulers History is the evil mentor
But the Truth of history
Is often missed by them all !

CM HANDS OVER CHEQUE WORTH RS 1 CRORE (EACH) AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES OF TWO MARTYRS

VISITS FAMILIES OF MARTYR TARLOCHAN SINGH IN JAKHEPAL VILLAGE AND MARTYR HARSIMRAN SINGH IN BHASAUD VILLAGE

Sangrur, (Daljeet Kaur) Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday handed over cheques

of these heroes in hour of crisis. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the finan-

tressed family in particular and it cannot be repaid at any cost, but the government has made this humble effort

of the country will always remain indebted to these soldiers, who sacrificed their lives for the protection of



worth Rs 1 crore (each) as financial assistance to families of two martyrs of who had attained martyrdom during line of duty while serving the Indian Army.

Handing over the cheques to family members of martyr Tarlochan Singh s/o Raja Singh r/o village Jakhepal (Sunam) and Harsimran Singh s/o Nirmal Singh r/o village Bhasaud (Dhuri), the Chief Minister reiterated the firm commitment of the state government to help the families of the soldiers who sacrifice their life at the altar of the motherland. He said that it is the bounden duty of the Pun-

jab government to bail out the families of these heroes in hour of crisis. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the financial assistance to the families of martyrs is in consonance with the commitment of the state government to ensure the well being of the soldiers and their families.

The Chief Minister said that though it is an irreparable loss for the country in general and for the dis-



in honour of the martyr. He commended these heroes for their unwavering dedication to the nation adding that the state government stands by the families in this hour of grief

and would leave no stone unturned to provide all possible assistance. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that the people

the security and sovereignty of the country.

The Chief Minister said that these heroes have made the entire country and especially Punjab feel proud by displaying bravery, commitment and courage in the line of duty. Bhagwant Singh Mann reiterated that due to implementation of Model Code of Conduct he was not able to come and hand over these cheques to the distressed families. But, he said that as soon as the Model Code of Conduct was lifted he had fulfilled the commitment of his government to hand over the cheques to these families.

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