

INSTEAD OF BEING RULED LET US BE RULERS

It is my duty to prepare my people not to get reservation but to grant reservation. Who can grant reservation? Only rulers can grant reservation. Hence, I will prepare my people to become rulers. If we do not become rulers, our problems will remain forever, Kanshi Ram said. In order to become rulers we must learn how to handle caste. Dr. Ambedkar, Nehru, Gandhi and Indra Gandhi were experts in handling caste. Nehru handled caste so well that he made Dr. Ambedkar helpless and retain the Brahminical Social Order. Indra Gandhi also handled caste well to benefit the Brahminical Social Order. Dr. Ambedkar prepared the SC/ST to handle Caste. That is how we could get many benefits from the British, he added. Mr. Kanshi Ram expressed concern for 10 crores slum dwellers who are deprived of proper drinking water and electric supply. People migrating from villages to cities are also being denied of many facilities and end up in polluting the environment. But those refugees who came from Pakistan after independence were duly taken care of by the then government and a special budget was allocated to meet their basic necessities, he pointed out to the delegates. According to Mr. Kanshi Ram, slum dwellers presently living in urban areas are the Dalit refugees who have migrated from the villages because of acrimony & atrocities committed by upper caste Hindus. They have not been able to influence the Planning Commission and the Government of India to allocate separate budget to provide them bread, clothes and shelter. A decent life is a matter of fundamental right of every citizen in accordance with the constitutional mandate, Mr. Kanshi Ram asserted. He advocated separate settlement for dalit people as once formulated by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. He was very critical of the evil impact of caste-system in India. Wherever the Indians went they never failed to carry with them this spreading disease he told the laughing and cheering crowd.

The Indians are prepared to leave anything behind. They leave behind their little property, small land and their huts. But they will never leave behind their caste. They carry with them wherever they go, he said. While urging the dalits to unite he also called upon the Dalit intellectuals to shed away the approach of existing analysis only. They should instead come with forward-looking approach in education, economic and social problems. They must also come up with some sort of effective solution programme, Mr. Kanshi Ram added. Mr. Kanshi Ram impressed upon the delegates that Dalit problem can only be solved through political power to rule the country. 'We must become the rulers instead of being ruled,' he told the cheering and applauding delegates.

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Bhan Prasad, presented findings from his study of Uttar Pradesh. His interestingly titled presentation, "Sab kuch ulta hogaya Sahib", showed how dalit assertion in UP has dramatically changed social, political and economic relations in the last two decades. Akshay Kumar's finely nuanced study of dalit poetry not only brought its changing tone and tenor but also the different variations with this genre. Shyam Babu's theoretical intervention focussed on interrelated issues of dalit mobility, identity and integration. In the second session, Jagpal Singh noted that despite the popular notions that ideology is dead, ideology is still relevant. The dalit movement has always been influenced by some ideology and therefore the ideological positions have been considered for a thorough understanding of contemporary dalit politics. Darshan Tatla, while comparing social mobility of dalits in Punjab and UP pointed out that the role of the dalit Diaspora should not be ignored. This session was chaired by Dr Ramnarayan Rawat. In the final session which focussed on religion and social mobility, Prof Raj K Hans and Dr Kuldip Singh focussed the relationship between Sikh religion and dalits in Punjab. All panels were followed by intense discussion session. The seminar is being attended by scholars, intellectuals and activists who have been engaged with the issue of dalit politics. They include among others, Dr Jagpal Singh (IGNOU), Prof Ram Narayan Rawat (U-Penn), Chandra Bhan Prasad, Raj K. Hans (MSU, Baroda), Dr Kuldip Singh (GNDU), Dr. Ronki Ram (PU), and D Shyam Babu (RGF). Students, researchers and teachers from the university and many colleges in Punjab are also attending the two day national seminar.

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of the Arya Samaj benefitted caste Hindus more. Questioning the existing models of conversion and sanskritisation used to make sense of Dalit mobility, Dr Ronki Ram put forward an alternate agenda. He said that the existing models are unable to explain dalit mobility in Punjab and showed how the Ad-Dharam movement was different from both.

These findings were based on his long-term engagement with the subject over the past many years.

In the second session, Dr Mujibur Rehman made a very fascinating presentation on the missing Ambedkar among Indian Muslims. He brought to light the plight of Muslim dalits and how they had been completely ignored. Dr Himanshu Roy and Dr Bhupinder Yadav also presented papers in this session.

In the concluding session, Afroz Alam, Utkarsh and Mogallan Bharati focussed on the issue of dalit mobility and mobilisation in UP. Ramesh Nayak study looked at the issue of social mobility among safai karamcharis. All panels were followed by an intense discussion session in which students, researchers and teachers from the university and many colleges in Punjab participated.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Congratulations to all on birth anniversary of Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji who was founder of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji was the great leader of Mulnivases after Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar & Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia.

"I will complete the unfinished mission of Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. I will look after the welfare of my Samaj. I will spend each and every moment of my life for the cause of the Samaj" said Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji. He did his best to full fill the words which he said on April 14, 1965 . Once again, we congratulate to all on Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji's birth anniversary.



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