



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com

Editors: Takshila & Kabir Chumber

VOL - 7

ISSUE - 24

August 5, 2015

www.ambedkartimes.com

www.ambedkartimes.org

Ambedkar remembered at the London School of Economics and the House of Lords

To mark the 124th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, two events took place on 17 June 15: one at the London School of Economics (LSE) and another at the House of Lords (HoL). Both events were organised by the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO UK) in cooperation with the Inequality and Poverty Research Programme, Department of Anthropology, LSE and Lord Harries of Pentregarth, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Dalits. A large number of academicians, members of Parliament, the followers/admirers of Dr Ambedkar and representatives of various organizations from all over the United Kingdom and India came to participate. The aim of these events was to raise awareness of Dr Ambedkar and his contribution to equality and justice in India and his impact on those around the world with an interest in human rights, the theory and practice of equality issues and civil rights movements.

London School of Economics: The seminar at LSE was chaired and hosted by Dr Alpa Shah, Reader in Anthropology at the London School of Economics. The guest speaker was Dr Ramnarayan S Rawat, Smuts Fellow in Commonwealth Studies at the University of Cambridge and Associate Professor of History at the University of Delaware.

In her welcome address, Alpa thanked FABO UK especially its President, Ms Santosh Dass MBE for taking the initiative to arrange this meeting to honour Dr Ambedkar and his legacy of equality and social justice and was delighted to have second annual meeting in a row at LSE.

In his keynote speech, Dr Rawat spoke on 'the political success of Dalit movement in North India'. He provided a historical perspective on the unique strength of Dalit political struggle in the twentieth century. The talk elucidated the critical role played by the Chamars (a dominant Dalit caste) for the empowerment of Dalits. He specifically highlighted the significance of Adi Hindu Sabha under the dynamic leadership of Swami Achutanand who mobilised the Chamars of Western Uttar Pradesh (UP). Because of this consciousness amongst Dalits in UP, Dr Ambedkar's Scheduled Caste Federation and later on Republican Party of India were able to have electoral success in the polls. As a result the Bahujan Samaj Party was able to capture power in UP as a consequence of past struggle. He also demolished the myth that Chamars were doing only leather work and proved with evidence that in UP, most of them had small land holdings and were paying taxes. Commenting on Rawat's study, Dr Jens Lerche, Reader in Agrarian and Labour Studies at School of Oriental

and African Studies while appreciated his historical research on the development of Dalit movement for equal justice, he said that the relationship between the Dalit land holders and others need yet to be explored.

House of Lords: On the same evening, another seminar took place at the House of Lords, British Parliament under the chairmanship of Lord Harries Pentregarth, Chairman, All Parliamentary Group for Dalits. Lord Harries welcomed all the attendees who travelled from all over UK and India to attend Ambedkar related events in London. He said he was pleased to see so many people and representatives from different organi-

called low Caste men and women in India and beyond. Here in the UK, we are against those who want to block implementation of Caste-based discrimination law agreed by Parliament in 2013".

She also announced that the house in London in which Dr Ambedkar had stayed from 1920-22 is on the verge of being bought by the Government of Maharashtra. This follows a proposal from FABO UK last September.

Dr Radha D'Souza, University of Westminster, School of Law, faculty Member spoke on 'Affirmative Action and the Indian constitution'. She explained that Dr Ambedkar

tion as a fundamental right but because of lack of support he was unable to put in the constitution.

Dr Alpa Shah pointed out that poverty in India appeared to be decreasing but discrimination was still going on. More and more cases of atrocities on Dalits are visible. Dr Jens Lerche told that the green revolution in India benefited the small landlords. But these benefits didn't reach to the labour class.

Lord Avebury who could not attend the event due to illness asked his paper entitled 'Ambedkar' to be read out during the meeting. In his paper, Lord Avebury set out his thoughts on Ambedkar. "I suppose I had as good an idea as most native English do of the nature of caste and how deeply embedded it is in the cultures and subliminal thought processes of people in south Asia before I read *The Annihilation of Caste*" He went to add "How is it possible that humans, naturally filled with loving-kindness or metta as it is called in Buddhism, should conceive a murderous hatred and contempt towards those who are slightly different? The division of people into separate categories which are readily identifiable, and which are assumed to be capable of passing on the characteristics which assign them to each of those categories, is the root of the mischief"

On Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism Lord Avebury writes "I imagine that Ambedkar was also influenced by his home state of Maharashtra's rich legacy of Buddhist sites. It made sense to refer back to a past where there was a set of beliefs that specifically included denial of Untouchability and the caste system."

Lord Avebury also highlighted the importance of purchase of 10 King Henry's Road by the Government of Maharashtra "Now the government of Maharashtra has agreed to buy the house in Chalk Farm where Ambedkar lived in the early twenties when he was a student at the LSE. The London-based Federation of Ambedkarites and Buddhist Organisation (FABO UK), which had triggered the whole process by writing to the Indian government to purchase the property as a historically relevant monument, feels it will become a "focal point to spread Dr Ambedkar's message about equality, human rights and social justice". "These messages are desperately needed in the world today, and personally I'm convinced by the evidence that the more equal societies are, the happier and less vulnerable to social ills they become."

At the end of both events, the audience had opportunity to interact with the speakers and ask questions.



Report & picture: Arun Kumar Bedford

sations having an interest in Dr Ambedkar, Dalit issues and Caste-based discrimination law in the UK. He was disappointed that in spite of invitations, no Minister from Government's Equality Office made available to attend.

Ms Santosh Dass MBE, President of FABO UK said, in her short introduction on the life and works of Dr Ambedkar said, "During his lifetime Dr Ambedkar was an Indian barrister, professor, economist, politician and social reformer who inspired the Modern Buddhist Movement and campaigned against social discrimination against so-called Untouchables (now referred to as Dalits) women and labour.

Dr Ambedkar was Independent India's first law minister and the principal architect of the Constitution of India adopted in 1951. Article 46 of this Constitution directs that the State "should promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and protect them from social injustice" He wanted to help improve the socio-economic welfare of the so-called Untouchables.

We know that Dr Ambedkar's life and work has inspired and helped untold millions of people around the world. But alongside this, over 60 years since Dr Ambedkar's Constitution, we hear of atrocities against so

started his campaign for Dalit representation in government soon after he finished his studies. He attended many conferences, appeared before many commissions and gave petitions to provide the rightful representation to Dalits. Eventually Dr Ambedkar was able to achieve his objective of 'Separate Electorate' through Communal Award by which the Untouchables were to chose their own representatives. Though Muslims and Sikhs were given separate electorate, but Gandhi bitterly opposed Dalit separate representation and went on fast unto death against Dr Ambedkar. All country turned against Dr Ambedkar and he had to abandon his demand. An agreement called Poona Pact was signed in 1932 by which modern reservation policy was incorporated. At that time it was a very radical step of positive action. Later on this policy of affirmative action was included in the Government of India Act 1935. As a Chairman of the Drafting committee of the Indian Constitution, he made sure that the affirmative action is included in the Indian constitution. She said, "With the privatization and globalization the government jobs are disappearing and there is no affirmative action in the private sector, it has become very difficult for Dalits to get into government jobs". She also pointed out that Dr Ambedkar wanted right to educa-

The Ram Family and IVACC celebrated the 7th annual picnic honoring the life of Late Commissioner Lahori Ram

Sacramento (Ambedkar Times Bureau)- On August 2, 2015 the Ram Family and the Indus Valley American Chamber of Commerce (IVACC) celebrated the 7th annual picnic honoring the life of Late Commissioner Lahori Ram. People came from all over the State to celebrate the occasion. Raj Brar, voice of Ustad Yamla Jatt, performed musical tribute honoring Mr. Ram. Volleyball and wrestling tournaments were also held as well as other activities for people of all ages. Farmers Insurance, SMUD, and Elk Grove Karate were also sponsors of the picnic. US Congressman Ami Bera attended the picnic and honored Commissioner Ram's legacy.

He said that Indians need to get involved in the political process. He praised Lahori Ram's efforts of encouraging Indo Americans to become active in the US.

Bobby Singh Allen, President of Elk Grove School Board, also spoke on the

importance of Indians in politics and Mr. Ram's constant push for our voice to be heard. Representatives from California State Senator Richard Pan's office and California Assemblyman Jim Cooper's office were present and presented the Ram Family with Certificates of Recognition. Ajaipaul Ram read a an accommodation sent by US Congressman Mike Honda praising IVACC and the life of Mr. Lahori Ram. Lodi Councilmember and former California State Assemblymember Allen Nakanishi spoke



about the importance of Mr. Lahori Rams efforts to bring all minorities in the political arena. Mayor of Lathrop Sunny Dhalwal told about his long standing relationship with the

tion), Surinder Bindra (Gadri Baba Memorial), and Mr. Onkar Bindra among others.

Members of the media such as Prem Kumar Chumber (Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba), Gurjatinder S. Rhandawa (Punjab Mail) and Narinderpal S. Hundal (Indo-American Times) also shared their experiences with Mr. Lahori Ram and praised the family for their continued community work.

Sukh Chan Singh (founder of IVACC) and Pavitar Nahal presented Mrs. Prito Ram and the Ram Family with a vote of thanks award. Jagdev Ram and Ajaipaul Ram thanked all the speakers for their kind words.

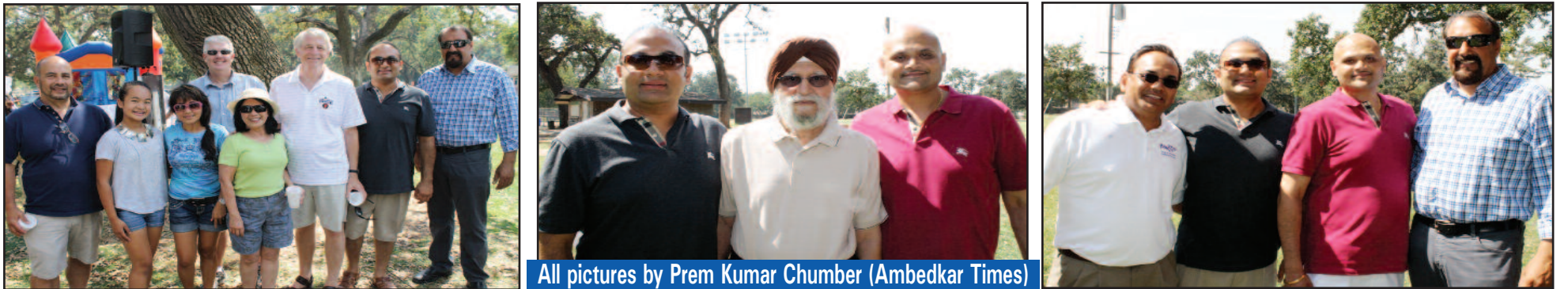
They also thanked everyone in attendance and IVACC for its continued support in organizing the annual picnic in memory of Late Commissioner Lahori Ram.

They invited all members of the community to attend next year to continue to make this annual event a success.



All pictures by Prem Kumar Chumber (Ambedkar Times)

The Ram Family and IVACC celebrated the 7th annual picnic honoring the life of Late Commissioner Lahori Ram



All pictures by Prem Kumar Chumber (Ambedkar Times)

TANDOOR

Indian Restaurant

27167 Mission Blvd. Hayward, CA 95544



ਵਿਆਹ ਸ਼ਾਦੀ, ਬਰਥ-ਡੇ ਪਾਰਟੀ, ਐਨਵਰਸਰੀ ਜਾਂ ਹੋਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਕਿਸਮ ਦੀ ਕੈਟਰਿੰਗ ਲਈ ਸਦਾ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਯਾਦ ਰੱਖੋ

WE ARE SPECIALIST IN CATERING & SPECIAL ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE HERE :

FISH PAKORE, CHILLI CHICKEN, GOAT KARI, SHAHI PANEER, BUTTER CHICKEN, SWEETS, SNACKS AND MORE SPECIAL ITEMS.



ਕੈਟਰਿੰਗ ਦੇ ਮਾਹਿਰ, ਹਫਤੇ ਦੇ 7 ਦਿਨ ਉਪਲਬੱਧ ਮੱਛੀ ਦੇ ਪਕੌੜਿਆਂ ਲਈ ਮਸ਼ਹੂਰ

BUFFET LUNCH 11:00 AM To 3:00 PM

Contact Us:

We are open seven days

Ph. 510-885-1212

11 AM to 10 PM

Fax. 510-885-1532

Kash FABRICS

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਫੈਸ਼ਨ ਦਾ ਨੰਬਰ ਵਨ ਸਟੋਰ

ਸਾਡੀ ਸਪੈਸ਼ਲਟੀ

ਵਿਆਹ ਸ਼ਾਦੀ ਲਈ ਡਿਜ਼ਾਈਨਰ ਲਹਿੰਗੇ ਤੇ ਸੂਟ ਅਤੇ ਨਾਲ ਡਿਜ਼ਾਈਨਰ ਮੈਚਿੰਗ ਜਿਊਲਰੀ

ਖੁੱਲ੍ਹਾ ਕੱਪੜਾ ਵਧੀਆ ਤੋਂ ਵਧੀਆ ਸਾੜੀਆਂ ਤੇ ਡਿਜ਼ਾਈਨਰ ਸੂਟ, ਦਰਜਨਾਂ ਰੰਗਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਪੱਗੜੀਆਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਤੋਂ ਖਰੀਦੋ।



ਸਾਡੇ ਕੋਲ ਹਿੰਦੀ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਰਦੂ ਦੇ ਸੰਗੀਤ, ਡਰਾਮਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਫਿਲਮਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਸੀਡੀਆਂ-ਵੀਡੀਓ ਤੇ ਡੀਥ ਵੀਥ ਡੀਥ ਦੀ ਬਹੁਤ ਵੱਡੀ ਕੁਲੈਕਸ਼ਨ ਹੈ।

ਕੈਲੀਫੋਰਨੀਆ ਤੋਂ ਬਾਹਰ ਰਹਿੰਦੇ ਗਾਹਕਾਂ ਲਈ ਸਮਾਨ ਅਸੀਂ ਯੂਥ ਪੀਥ ਐਸ਼ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਤੁਰੰਤ ਭੇਜ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

KASH FABRICS

ONE STOP SHOPPING CENTRE
29576 Mission Blvd Hayward. Ca 94544
www.kashfabrics.com

Tel: 510-538-1138



FREE WiFi

Ram Gopal



200 "J" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 448-6239

BIG SCREEN TV

Annabelle's Pizza & Pasta Kitchen

IN OLD SACRAMENTO

PIZZA, PASTA, SPAGHETTI, BAKED MACARONI & CHEESE, SALAD BAR (16 Varieties)

Italian Buffets, Indian Foods. (Italian Buffet \$6.99)

Hall free for Jago, Birth Day & Wedding Parties.
Seven days open from 11 AM to 4 PM

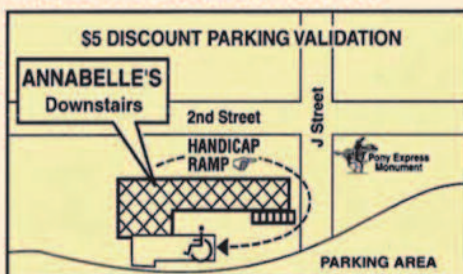


Ram Gopal

Features
All you can eat Italian Buffet

(Our Dough is Freshly Rolled Daily and Made of the Finest Ingredients)

Now Serving Beer & Wine!



Ram Gopal (916) 448-6239
200 "J" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

INDIA BAZAAR



Jai Ram Gaught

Harjit Gaught (Happy)

INDIAN, PAKISTANI & FIJJIAN GROCERIES

WE ARE OPEN
7 DAYS A WEEK
9:00am to 8:30pm

RENT DVDS & BUY CLOTHES
ENJOY YOUR DAY WITH HOPES

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS

CALL TO **HAPPY**

Cell: (415) 706-7027

Ph: (209) 478-0285

Fax: (209) 477-3206

ਸਾਡੇ ਕੋਲ ਏਅਰਲਾਈਨ ਟਿਕਟਾਂ ਵੀ ਉਪਲੱਬਧ ਹਨ।

EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY SPECIAL DISCOUNT ON GROCERIES

1304-E HAMMER LANE, SUITE 12, STOCKTON CA, 95210

EMAIL: indiabazaar08@yahoo.com