



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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A dream finally coming true

An International Memorial to Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar in London

On 24 January 2015, Mr Vinod Tawade, Minister for School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare, Higher and Technical Education tweeted that Government of Maharashtra (GOM) will buy 10 King Henrys Road NW3 (where Dr Ambedkar lived in 1921-22), and turn it into a memorial for Dr Ambedkar. There has been considerable worldwide media interest in this since the news broke that the house had been put up for sale. Mr Tawade's announcement has been received with considerable delight and pride by Ambedkarites here in the UK and around the world.

10 King Henrys Road is already regarded as a significant and culturally historic site for Ambedkarites. It is in this house, Dr Ambedkar enriched his academic studies at the London School of Economics and Grays Inn, and strengthened his resolve to challenge Untouchability, and British Rule in India. As part of the celebration of the centenary of Dr Ambedkar's birth organised under the auspices of the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO UK), English Heritage recognised in 1991, 10 King Henrys Road, NW3 and installed a 'blue plaque' on the exterior of the property with the words "DR BHIMRAO RAMJI AMBEDKAR 1891-1956 Indian Crusader for Social Justice lived here 1921-22".

When the house came on the market for £3.1 million and was brought to the attention of Ambedkarite groups by Mr Harbans Lal Virdee at the end of August 2014, Ms Santosh Dass MBE, President FABO UK immediately wrote to Mr Prithviraj Chavan, the former Chief Minister Maharashtra with a request that GOM fund the purchase of the house and allow Ambedkarites to turn it into a

fitting memorial for Dr Ambedkar. She followed this up with letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi too. Since then, Ms Dass and colleagues in Mumbai - Padma Shri Kalpana Saroj, Mr Ramdas Athawale MP, Mr R K Gaikwad, IAS (Former Secretary GOM), Mr Ramesh Katke,

Deputy Registrar Department of Cooperation, GOM have worked non-stop to secure the house - particularly in the last 14 days when there was a serious risk the house would be sold to a

private developer. Mr Gautam Chakravarty FABO UK together with Mrs Saroj also lobbied the Government of India and met Mr Ajit Doval in Prime Minister Modi's office on 31 December 2014 and handed copies of Ms Dass's letters to the CM GOM and Prime Minister Modi. This coincided with Mr Chakravarty's visit to India for his very successful World Peace Buddhist Convention in Surat, Gujarat, in January 2015 in which over 30,000 people participated.

After months of email exchanges, phone calls and meetings, on 22 January 2015 by Ms Dass and colleagues in India, Mr Rajkumar Badole, Minister for Social Justice and Special

Assistance finally (with the thanks to Mr Gaikwad) emailed an official letter to the Estate Agent with copies to Ms Dass and the High Commission in London. On the same day Tawade, who was on an official visit to London, invited Ms Dass to a meeting with him on 23 January at



10am in London where he broke the news personally about the GOM's decision to buy the house. Ms Dass invited the minister to view the house and straight after that she accompanied the Minister to a meeting with Mr Ranjan Mathai, India's High Commissioner to London.

In response, to Mr Tawade's announcement Ms Dass said, "I am delighted that the Government of Maharashtra has begun the legal process to secure the Architect of the Constitution of India - Dr Ambedkar's - former residence in north London. This follows my letter to the former CM of the Government of Maharashtra, on 1 September 2014 and the robust lobbying since. Mr Vinod Tawade gave me this good news on 23 January 2015 in person at meeting in London. I invited the Minister to come with me and visit 10 King Hen-

rys Road NW3. Fortunately he was able to adjust his diary and obliged just before he flew back to India. Straight after visiting the house we met India's High Commissioner in London where the Minister asked the High Commission to begin the legal process to acquire the house.

I am thrilled with Mr Tawade's public statements that the house will be turned into a memorial to Dr Ambedkar. We have a lot of work to do still to make sure we achieve this and deliver Dr Ambedkar's legacy. Just for this initiative to get this far has already brought so many people together from across the continents wherever the South Asian diaspora has reached. For untold generations of people to come, 10 King Henry's Road will become a place of pilgrimage for people around the globe inspired by the fractious history of civil rights, the potential successes of social activism and, of course, Dr Ambedkar's legacy. With this fillip, the cause can only grow from strength to strength."

GOM's decision to buy the house on 22 January - at such a critical point in the sale of the House - will be remembered by Ambedkarites around the world.

Arun Kumar, General Secretary, FABO UK said, "After a prolonged suspense, timely decision is made to secure this property otherwise we would have lost a very important piece of our heritage and history. This is the biggest tribute to Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution on the Republic Day of India. This memorial can provide a national and international centre for people to visit to learn about Ambedkar, his life, his ideas, his achievements, and his work."

Tribute to Professor Tulsiram Ji

I join Ambedkartimes.com in offering our sincere condolences to the bereaved family and wider circle of missionaries of Babasaheb mission of which Professor Tulsiram Ji remained an integral part. Professor Tulsiram Ji expired on



scholar of Buddhism and International Studies, he worked consistently towards spreading the ideas and principles of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and travelled extensively to share his knowledge on the difficulties

and social exclusion faced by Dalits in the country. He was a prominent critic on Indian literature and Buddhism, and wrote many books and articles in peer reviewed research journals.

RonkiRam

Fellow & Syndic

Dean, Faculty of Arts

Hon. Director, ICSS (NWRC)

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Professor

Panjab University, Chandigarh

A Universal Message to Youth by Founder President of the Ghadar Party, Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna

Coinciding with the birth anniversary of Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna, on January 4, and share it with readers in California-America, I received this message in an article as attachment from Professor Malwinder Jit Singh Warraich last week. The message is obviously directed to the Indian youth but I have no doubt of its universal appeal: "Young men!

Let me ask if you are doing your job sincerely as a patriot? If your answer is 'yes', I feel motherland should be proud of you.

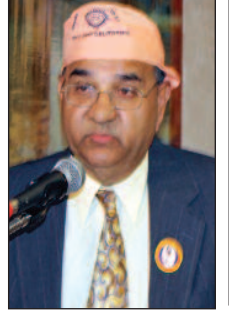
But if not! You are letting, both yourself and your motherland down! I call upon all of you to live like self-respecting, responsible citizens of a free country"! Born on January 4, 1870, Baba Ji would have been 145, if he were alive today. Despite the hard and tough treatment meted out, fighting the British with his bare hands; despite numerous successful but lengthy and soul-destroying hunger strikes during his life long sentence in jails, Baba Ji came out in such high spirits that he never said no to other calls of duty for his motherland until he died at the ripe age of 98 as a true patriot.

By making tireless efforts to procure doc-

uments and literature pertaining to the almost forgotten Ghadar movement, Professor Waraich has put together some very valuable information. Besides the Lahore conspiracy martyrs, he has also written on Chandar Shekhar Azad, Bhagwati Charan Vohra and Durga Bhabhi. He has also written books on the 'trial of Madan Lal Dhingra, the hanging of Ram Prasad Bismil and other Ghadrates.

Modestly calling himself "Munshi" of the Ghadrates he constantly keeps reminding us citizens, our proud heritage through his brilliant findings/writings about the heroic history that had been kept marginalized by the powers to be. Since it is more relevant for the youth today who are at a crossroads of "Character (Kartav) Crises" for want of role models, I take the pleasure to share Prof. Waraich's article with the readers of Ambedkar Times. By courtesy Ambedkar Times, this article will be followed by publishing in Punjabi from the book "Jeevan Sangram" also compiled by Prof. Waraich. Please stay tuned and leave a comment in Ambedkar Times Weekly newspaper, on Prof. Waraich's website or on my website, if you like.

Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Yuba City & entire Sangat celebrated 638th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji



All pictures by Prem K. Chumber www.ambedkartimes.com & www.deshdoaba.com

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਯੂਬਾ ਸਿਟੀ ਦੀ ਸਮੂਹ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜੇ ਮੌਕੇ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਦੀ ਰੌਣਕ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ, ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਲਈ ਮਾਇਆ ਦਾ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਵੀਰਾਂ-ਭੈਣਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸੇਵਾ ਕਰਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਭੈਣ-ਭਰਾਵਾਂ ਦਾ ਕੋਟਿ-ਕੋਟਿ ਧੰਨਵਾਦ, ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਰੁਝੇਵਿਆਂ ਭਰੇ ਸਮੇਂ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਸਮਾਂ ਕੱਢ ਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਦੀ ਰੌਣਕ ਵਧਾਈ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਦੀ ਤਰੱਕੀ ਲਈ ਆਪਣੀ ਕਿਰਤ ਕਮਾਈ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾ ਰਹੇ ਹਨ।

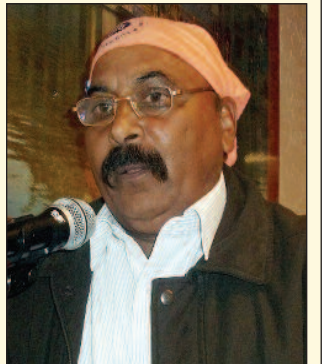
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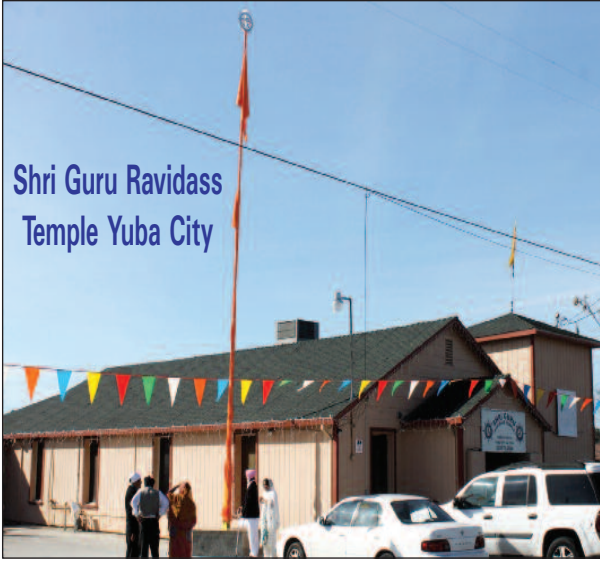
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