



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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Lecture by P. K. Chumber at Free Coaching Centre

run by SC Employees Welfare Association of I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University (SEWAPTU)

Jalandhar: - Working on footsteps and ideology of Babasaheb Ambedkar, the SC Employees of IKGPTU have formed an Association, working from last 2 years, with the objective of paying back to society. SEWAPTU has been running a Free Coaching centre for recruitment exams for banks, railways, and other sectors, from last 1 year and has successfully completed 3 batches of this centre. Coaching is being given by experienced faculty to the economically weaker sections of the society who do not afford the expensive coaching provided by the private coaching centres. SEWAPTU has succeeded in recruiting many of its students in various organizations. The Association has also taken initiative to aware the masses about the life and ideology of ideals who had dedicated their life for justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. A lecture was arranged in this series to commemorate the 126th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Ambedkar Bhawan Jalandhar.

Well known Ambedkarite Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, editor Ambedkar Times (USA) was the key speaker on this occasion. He talked about the life and struggle of Ambedkar to achieve highest education and to win rights for women and oppressed peo-

ple of this land. He also emphasized that the Ambedkar's contribution to the society is being confined to only Scheduled Castes, is a conspiracy formed by the biased intellectuals,

women such as maternity benefit bill and mines maternity bill truly reflects him as true humanist. His work in field of power, water management and mineral resource management

tional thinking among the people.

Dr. G.C. Kaul, Chairman Ambedkar Bhawan Trust welcomed the key speaker and shared contribution of Prem Kumar Chumber and Late C. L. Chumber to the society. Dr. Sandeep Mehmi, General Secretary SEWAPTU thanked Mr. Chumber on visiting the free coaching centre. Speaking at this event he told that SEWAPTU has planned to open more fee coaching centres in diversified fields to provide the opportunity to the students from economically weaker sections. While addressing the students he said that acquisition of fresh knowledge is necessary for social progress and it must be preceded by love of inquiry and spirit of doubt. The students must shed the notions, beliefs and opinions held by them which lacked any basis and keep only those that have been tested on scientific and logical reasoning. Mr. Naresh Kumar, Finance Secretary SEWAPTU apprised the achievements of the Association in last year. Mr. Balwinder Kumar and Mr. Noor Malik were also present at this event.

**Report by Dr. Sandeep Mehmi
Assistant Registrar I.K. Gujral
Punjab Technical University
Jalandhar May 05, 2017**

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historians and religious fanatics. However, his work for labour rights including recognition of trade unions, holidays with pay, formation of National Service Commission, formation of labour commission, Factory Act and industrial Dispute Act, enactment of legislations on compulsory and contributory Health Insurance Schemes, etc. and especially for

and public works has benefitted all the citizens of India, therefore restricting him to the cause of Scheduled Caste is unjustifiable. In fact he is a nation builder. He also said that the duty of media is to bring truth before the society without any biasness. Ambedkar Times in English and Desh Doaba in Punjabi are working in this direction to spread logical and ra-

Prem K. Chumber visits Chandigarh

Chandigarh (Ambedkar Times Bureau):- Friends from Panjab University, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGI) and the city beautiful welcomed Mr. Prem K.

man Nahar, Dr. Pankaj Vaidya, Dr. Ajay Ranga, Dr. Parveen and S. Fateh Jung Singh. Sh. K.C. Sulekh, who has the honour of enjoying the company of Babasaheb Bodhisattva

lies throughout Punjab before his moving away to UP. Dr. Pankaj Vaidya, a senior Child Specialist based at PGI, shared his thought on the Buddhist movement in the coun-

Sacramento CA. Prof. Ronki Ram welcomed Mr Prem K. Chumber and also congratulated him for singlehandedly managing the herculean task of bringing out "Ambedkar Times and Desh



Left to right: Dr. Pankaj Vaidya, Prof. Ronki Ram, Mr. K. C. Sulekh, Prem K. Chumber, Prof. Emanual Nahar & S. Fatehjung Singh

Chumber on his recent visit to Chandigarh. Mr Chumber shared his rich experiences on the successful journey of his popular weeklies – Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba. He also discussed the current state-of-affairs of the day-to-day life of the emigrants after President Trump got elected as President of the US. Among the present were Sh. K.C. Sulekh, Prof. Ronki Ram, Prof. Em-

Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, in his informal conversation touched upon many important issue concerning the social mobility of the socially excluded community and impressed upon Mr Chumber to bring such issues in his weeklies published from Sacramento, California. S. Fateh Jung Singh shred his days of activism with Sahib Shri Kansai Ram, especially during his historic cycle ral-

try in general and the recent initiation to Buddhism during the current Budh Purnima in the city in particular. Prof Emmanuel Nahar presented his recent book on the teachings and philosophy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to Prem K. Chumber Ji and appreciated the hard task that he has been doing continuously since 2009 in bringing social consciousness among the Samaj through his papers published from

Doaba" uninterruptedly for so many years. He also shared his nostalgic memories of meeting many Ambedkarite friends in the US during his visits to New York & California and thanked Mr Chumber for carrying detail reports about the same in his weekly papers. Later on Mr Chumber also visited the residence of Prof Ronki Ram at the PU Campus.

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Prem K. Chumber visits Chandigarh



Tributes paid to Dr Ambedkar at the House of Lords



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On 26 April, a seminar to mark the 126 birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar, was organised by the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO UK) and hosted by Lord Harries of Pentregarth at the House of Lords.

A number of members of both the houses of British Parliament, academics, representatives of various organisations, followers and admirers of Dr

event at the House of Lords and other Ambedkar related events in London. He was also encouraged by the show of organisations present at this third event in April dedicated solely to Dr Ambedkar in Parliament. It is reminded that first event of April was at India House on 14 April and second- a musical tribute to Dr Ambedkar at the Nehru Centre on 24 April. Both events were arranged by FABO UK.

Ms Santosh Dass MBE, President of FABO UK remarked that the contribution of Dr Ambedkar is as relevant today as it was in his life time. She added "This key FABO UK event follows ones at the High Commission on 14 April and a concert by Mr Ra-

who are learning about Dr Ambedkar and his significance as a great social reformer."

Santosh Dass MBE is also the Vice Chair of the Anti Caste Discrimination Alliance. Santosh gave a presentation on the latest the recently launched consultation on the Caste discrimination in the UK. In a powerful speech she said "The UK Government has been developing law to prohibit caste-based discrimination since 2010. This has been as a result of the robust lobbying by organisations for over a decade. In 2013, legislation (under the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act) made the inclusion of caste as an aspect of race in the Equality Act 2010 a 'duty'.

recognition he deserved as a result of many reasons. So far Dr Ambedkar is tagged with one community and all his followers and admirers must let him go to the wider audience in and outside India.

Paying tribute to Dr Ambedkar, Lord Alton said, "Ambedkar made untouchability a burning topic and gave it global significance. For the first time in 2500 years the insufferable plight of India's untouchables became a central political question. Among untouchables themselves he awakened a sense of human dignity and self respect. He repudiated the helplessness of fate, the impotent, demoralised incapacity that insisted that everything is pre-ordained and ir-



Ambedkar from UK, India and Europe attended. The most of notable of them in addition to Lord Harries were Lord Alton of Liverpool, Lord Parekh, Baroness Flather, Baroness Verma, Rob Marris MP, Dr Alpa Shah, Associate Professor (Reader) in the Department of Anthropology at London School of Economics, Rajesh Dhabre IRS, Commissioner of Customs & Excise and Direct General of Babasaheb Ambedkar Research Institute, Pune, Ven Bhikkhu Sadanand, President of All India Bhikkhu Sangha, Siddhartha from Sweden. Siddhartha represented his father Dr Pradyumna Kumar, author of, the story of the man who cycled from India to Europe for Love – PER J ANDERSTON. This annual FABO UK organised meeting to mark Dr Ambedkar's birth anniversary was one of (if not the best) attended meetings of this nature.

In his welcome remarks, Lord Harries said that Dr. Ambedkar made overwhelming significant contributions to reform the Indian society through his framing of the Constitution. His work in the field of human rights can never be forgotten. He has also made paramount contributions to India's economy and the rights of women. Lord Harries was delighted to see so many attendees who have travelled from all over the UK, India and Europe especially to attend the

Rajesh Dhabre and his wife Dr Bhavana Dhabre – both of whom are here today - at the Nehru Centre in Mayfair on Monday. Alongside these events, excellent progress is being made on the refurbishment of the house that Dr Ambedkar lived in Primrose Hill from 1921-1922. Bonny Dobson – the well known singer song writer who is present here today lives on the same road as the Ambedkar House. Mr Gautam Chakroverty and I are on the Dr Ambedkar House Advisory Committee. Hopefully the refurbishment of the House that spread over four floors will be complete before the end of this year. When complete it will be a fully functional memorial and resource centre solely dedicated to Dr Ambedkar in London. FABO UK is making this dream come true" She added "Spreading the word about Dr Ambedkar's life and works is very important. There are enough who would like no mention of his great achievements. And those who would diminish his work and legacy assign reduce to being a leader of the untouchables. So the work FABO UK is doing and the significance of having a bricks and mortar memorial to Dr Ambedkar in London is really important. And of course spreading the message to beyond the India diaspora is vital. So I'm delighted that I have a new generation of children and young people

However the government has not complied with this 'duty' to date. At present, therefore, the Equality Act does not expressly prohibit discrimination on grounds of caste. This has made it difficult for those facing caste-based discrimination to get legal redress". Santosh explained that "On 28 March the Government launched the long awaited consultation. We have been waiting eagerly for this because the consultation was due to be the beginning of the implementation of the law agreed in April 2013. I repeat 2013. Sadly it's not that. Given Parliament's expressed direction to legislate, we believe the consultation should have been about how best to legislate as was originally envisaged in 2013. Instead, the consultation is presented as choosing between a preferred primary option of developing case law, which takes years and is very costly, and the second best option of agreeing with Parliament's direction to legislate". Santosh stressed that it was vital for the community and organisations to respond to the consultation by 17 July 2017 and demand implementation of the law agreed in Parliament in 2013.

Lord Bhikhu Parekh termed Ambedkar "the most controversial and misunderstood politician of his time" he added "He didn't get the

retrievable."

Dr Alpa Shah updated the meeting on her latest research on Caste, tribe and inequality in contemporary India. Alpa expressed her anguish over tribal people's displacement on the name of development and their struggle for their land rights. She said, "Dr Ambedkar fought for all minorities and was able to provide some provisions in the constitution. As a result we may have achieved a little comfort in our lives but there are millions still suffering. As human beings it is our duty to help them achieve a better life. India achieved a freedom from British but it is still far from a free democratic country that Babasaheb dreamed of."

Speaking on "Social harmony -the facts and challenges in India....An Ambedkarian Perspective", Mr Rajesh Dhabre stressed that Dr Ambedkar didn't work for Dalits only but his contribution is enormous for whole of India. He worked tirelessly towards gender equality, labour movement, power regeneration, dams, agriculture, industrialisation, education, finance etc is often ignored. He further added that "he not only emancipated women and Dalits but whole of India. The fundamental rights and directive principles in constitution has helped to keep social

Continued on next page

Tributes paid to Dr Ambedkar at the House of Lords

harmony in society. We cannot imagine modern India without Dr Ambedkar." Mr Rob Marris MP from Wolverhampton said that Dr Ambedkar and Karl Marx were both socialists but they differed to bring change and set up socialistic pattern of society. Dr Ambedkar believed that changes can be brought in a peaceful manner. As a Labour politician, Rob considered himself more an Ambedkarite than Marxist. Two young adults aged 13 and 11, David and Adam Orsulik explained that they read about Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and others in the school next books but never heard anything about Dr Ambedkar until Santosh Dass talked to them about him. They said, the more they learn about him, the more they are fascinated by his personality and work. They advocated for the inclusion of Dr Ambedkar to the curriculum in UK schools.

Baroness Flather robustly spoke against caste discrimination here and in India and treatment of women in India. She appealed to the Government of India to remove these two black spots from Indian society if they want to progress.

Siddartha represented his father Dr Pradyumna Kumar (PK), author of, the story of the man who cycled from India to Europe for Love – PER J ANDERSTON. Siddartha registered his father's apologies for not being able to attend meeting. He said his mother Charlotte was from the Swedish aristocracy and had driven with a group of friends from Sweden to India in her early years.

It was there she met his father PK who was living as a painter in New Delhi. PK later cycled from India to Sweden to meet Charlotte again. They later married. Siddartha said his father PK never forgot his Dalit background and the significance of Dr Ambedkar. Seminar concluded with a vote of thanks from the Chair, Lord Harries. He remarked that the contributors were heartfelt, considered, challenging and academic. The meeting was very relevant and went well the Ambedkar thought.

REMEMBERING 91st AD DHARM DAY JUNE 11-12

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor: Ambedkartimes.com

Caste system based on the fourfold division of the Hindu society into Brahmin, Kashtriya, Vaishya and Shudra and the fifth avarna category of Ati-Shudras has led to serious denial of Human rights of the Scheduled Castes people variously nomenclatured as panchamas, achhuts, dheds, pariahs, Harijans and Dalits. These large number of avarna people who were condemned to live in segregated localities in the periphery of villages throughout India without having any rights on the natural resources and the local structures of power. They were forced to perform 'begar' hard manual labour without any remuneration. If the men folk had to work in the agricultural farms of the landlords, their women folk were pushed into an equally hard work of cleaning the cow-sheds of the landlords. Scheduled Castes were not allowed to possess land, weapons, valuable metals and milch castles. They were only allowed to keep the beasts of burden to assist them in performing the hard manual labor without any payments in return.

Tathagat Gautam Buddha raised a revolutionary voice against this cruel system of extreme denial of human rights based on low birth. He welcomed the Ati-Shudras into his Sanghas and treated them equal without any prejudice whatsoever. After a long gap and with the advent of Sikh faith in Punjab, once again a serious attempt was made to remove the deadly caste boundaries from the Hindu society while spreading the message of unity of mankind. It was in Punjab, the sacred land of Gurus and Pirs that on June 11-12, 1926 the first mammoth annual function of the Ad Dharm movement was organised in the native village of Gadhri Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the founder of the Ad Dharm in Punjab in 1925 after his return from USA where he

reached in 1909 and became one of the pioneers of the Gadhar Movement. It was at this mammoth Ad Dharm conference where he publicly announced the launch of tirade against the pernicious system of untouchability and the restoration of the lost glory of the indigenous people of Bharat.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia exhorted his people to get organized and say definitive no to caste discrimination and social segregation. He called upon his people to live with self-respect and dignity and started the movement for equal rights of the Dalits.



He approached the then British rulers to empower the Depressed Classes (at that time the term Scheduled Castes was not coined nor the term Harijan had come) while declaring their separate religion of Ad Dharm at par with other mainstream religions of the region. Consequently the British government declared Ad Dharm as a separate religion of the Dalits in Punjab 1931. About 5 lacs Ad Dharmis recorded themselves under this new religion category in the Census of 1931. Under the able and strong leadership of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the Ad Dharm movement turned party contested the 1937 Punjab

Province Assembly Elections and won seven out of eight seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

When Ambedkar movement for the annihilation of caste took roots in India, it was the solid groundwork prepared by the Ad Dharm movement in Punjab which helped raise a strong support structure for Babasaheb Dr. B.R Ambedkar who visited Punjab thrice during his life. The forum of Ambedkartimes.com takes immense pleasure and proud to congratulate all its readers, contributors and supporters on the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the first mammoth conference of the Ad Dharm movement held at village Mugowal near Mahilpur in District Hoshiarpur on 11-12 June 1926.

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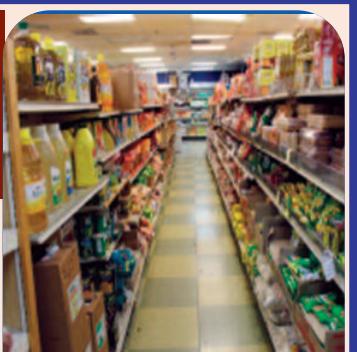
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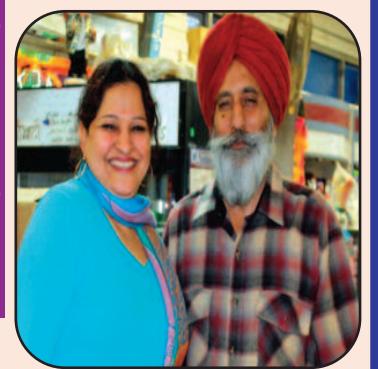
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