



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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Relevance of The Teachings of Tathagat Buddha In Contemporary Times

Prem K. Chumber

Editor-in-Chief: www.ambedkartimes.com

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Weekly Newspapers



Teachings of Buddha are based on his long journey on the unknown path of self-realization – a path which everyone has to search for oneself. One has to lit one's own lamp! Tathagat Buddha began his search for an answer to an eternal question: Why one encounters *dukha* (suffering – physical, mental, moral & social). He abandoned his palace

and sought the company of recluses of his time. His sufferings did not emerge from any scarcity of material resources or physical ailments. In fact, It was the outcome of subtle realization on his part after a chance encounter of sickness, old age, and death – a realization that nothing is permanent in this world. It went so deep into his mind that if someone faces sickness, turned old and become dead then this will also be the fate of every human being irrespective of his status, age and place including his very self. Though Buddha was neither sick, nor old but his encounter with the sufferings of others made him convinced that every human being will pass through all such stages and finally has to face death. Such a realization forced him to renounce his palacial living, King father, beautiful wife, a very small son and to live a mendicant life full of self-invited sufferings. He began his search for the emancipation of sufferings of all sorts outside the palace and in the company of the known renouncers. He did what was told to do to attain the 'truth'. He practiced every formula, yogic exercise and put himself to self-severe physical afflictions to the extent of turning his body frame into a mere skeletal. Living for days just on a single grain. None did work. Finally, it became clear to him that answer to suffering cannot be found outside. It might have occurred to him that how come an answer to sufferings that experienced within could be located in the outer-world? This led him to chart a new journey in search of the 'truth' – a journey within his very self. It also made him realize that on this journey, the best way is the middle way – in between extreme indulgence and total renunciation! But what distinguished Tathagat Buddha from all other practioners of spiritual way of finding truth is his scientific approach to know 'thyself'. He taught us there is *dukha* in life. It has a cause. The cause can be tracked down. And the answer to get rid of that has to be found.

Another insight of the realized truth that he shared with the humanity is that all human beings are same. There is no upper and lower caste. Freedom, equality and social justice are the fundamental foundations for such a journey to launch within by each one of us. Sufferings begin in craving and it never ends at any stage of life. The only exit is to lit one's own lamp within. Babasaheb Dr B.R. Ambedkar found the noble way to the emancipation and empowerment of the lower castes in embracing Buddhism, which for him not a religion of rituals but of social justice, freedom and equality. It taught us to struggle for salvation through our own efforts. It did not ask for any mediator between the sufferers and the God. It called upon us to understand what caused our suffering and to find a way out. The way he suggested is: Educate, Agitate, and Organize!

132nd BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF BABASAHEB, DR.B.R. AMBEDKAR IN PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA



Report by O.P. Balley

132nd Birthday of Bharat Ratna, Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, was celebrated in Shri Guru Ravidass Temple, Pittsburg, California on May 7th, 2023 (Sunday) with a spirit of enthusiasm and devotion. Besides recitation of Path Sukhmani Saheb and melodious Shabad Kirtan by Guru Ghar Jatha led by Bhai Balwinder Singh, the following speakers well versed with the life, contributions and sacrifices of Babasaheb, addressed the congregation. Mr. O.P. Balley, Mr. Dashvinder Paul, Mr. Jaswant Singh, Consul (Indian Consulate General, San Francisco) Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber and Mr. Ramesh Suman paid their hearty tributes to Babasaheb. All the speakers also lauded the passage of SB-403 bill through the various panels of California State Senate and its final approval by the full Senate will add caste to the list of protected categories.



Honorable Consul Mr. Jaswant Singh

Mr. Dharampal Chonkaria General Secretary of the Sabha conducted the stage with the proceedings of the program in a very efficient manner.

Mr. Prem Chumber, as usual, performed

a professional service by video coverage of the entire event. He also touched briefly during his address on the rare information that Babasaheb, who was also contemporary of Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia also publicly lauded the establishment of Ad - Dharam Mandal, as a distinct identity with its Agenda for promoting the interests of the exploited.

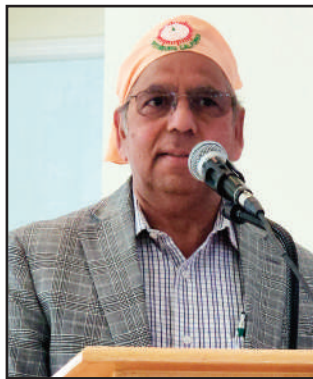
Mr. Balbir Singh, a member of the Managing committee of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Vancouver B.C, Canada who visited Pittsburg Guru Ghar was greeted and honored with a Siropa. He also donated \$100.00 Canadian dollars to Guru Ghar and expressed his thanks to Sangat.

Mr Jaswant Singh, Consul also presented to our Guru Ghar two rare pictures of Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj and Babasaheb, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These oil painted pictures, as explained by Mr. Jaswant Singh were designed and processed by himself. The Management Committee and the entire Sangat appreciated this noble gesture and dedication on his part for making this priceless donation which is a symbol of his God gifted Artistic skills. I again salute to Babasaheb for his dignity as an Icon of liberty, social equality and fraternity.

All Pictures- P K Chumber (Ambedkar Times)



132nd BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF BABASAHEB, DR.B.R. AMBEDKAR IN PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA



Floral Tribute to Sh. R.C. Goel

(18 May 1933 - 29 April 2023)

Ramesh Chand Goel (R.C. Goel 18 May 1933 - 29 April 2023) had the honour to watch from close quarters the seeding and growth of the Panjab University in Indian Punjab after its tragic divide along with the bloody partition of the country in the wake of Indian independence. He was in Lahore during the carnage and was able to save his life, as he told me, hiding behind the shoe racks in the showroom of the Bata Shoe company (BSC) in the capital city of Lahore. His family was closely connected with the clan of Sir Ganga Ram, a reputed architect, iconic engineer, and philanthropist, who carries a vivid legacy across the borders. The grand-daughter (Raj Gupta) of Sir Bhagat Ram, brother of Sir Ganga Ram, was married to Parkash Chand Gupta, elder brother of R.C. Goel. His father, Lala Suraj Bhan had a brisk business, exchanging apples with dry fruits, between Barog (HP) and Lahore. After the loss of his father's business during the partition, R.C. Goel joined Panjab University (Solan Campus), at very young age, to chip in his income. During his long service in Panjab University (PU), he had the distinction of working with many Vice-Chancellors – Suraj Bhan, R.C. Paul, R. P. Bambah and T.N. Kapoor. He was the first holder of the post of Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Vice-Chancellor, primarily created in recognition of his meticulous service and the same continued to exist after his retirement in 1993. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a Son. All of them are now serving at different educational and administrative positions. His son is an engineer. His wife, who is also ninety now, is a graduate and comes from a reputed lawyers' family. One of her nieces is a serving judge in a high court in the country.

After the construction of the PU Campus in the capital city of Chandigarh, R.C. Goel took up his residence in Chandigarh, which also housed his parents, some of his nephews and nieces, two daughters and a son. He brought his nephews to live with him to provide them better education facilities made available in the newly established Capital of Punjab, later the capital of two states: Punjab and Haryana. However, despite busy office schedule and large

family responsibilities, his passion for higher education did not decline. R.C. Goel earned BA, MA and Diplomas in Chinese and Tibetan languages during his service. He was topper among

looking after the publication of the Panjab University Research Journal (Arts). It was during the process of handling the journal publication, R.C. Goel (as he related to me) used to

of few words, supportive and a calm personality.

R. C. Goel also had a lasting passion for writing. He began writing at the end of 1948, immediately after passing

his matriculation examination. In those days, he used to contribute short stories in Urdu Newspapers. Soon after, he started writing short write ups on topically and socially relevant themes for varied Newspapers: Indian Express, The Statesman, The Pioneer, The Tribune, Hindustan Times, The National Herald, Chandigarh Newline, and popular journals: Niti, Art of Living, and Yuva Bharat. He loved discussing current national and international issues and used to watch news channels and debates on TV screen. He lived long life full of vigor and contentment. Even during the last days of his mortal journey that he spent in a hospital because of old-age related common ailments, his habitual smile playing on his lips. He was deeply health conscious and meticulous about the quality, quantity and timings of his meals. His strict diet regimen and regular Yoga exercise, said his doctors, could have helped him to survive on ventilator in the hospital for almost a month-long duration.

Ramesh Chand Goel lived a very simple and calm life. Whenever I went to meet him, I found him well-dressed and active. He never indulged in talking about bygone time and others. His best advice used to be: never miss your routine walk, must concentrate on Akal Purakh, though for a short while, and help the needy. He was fond of home-made food and talking about current national and international affairs. He will be remembered for his many good deeds and gregarious nature.

My floral tribute to Sh. R.C. Goel, my father-in-law. May the departed noble soul rest in eternal peace!



Sh. R.C. Goel

his batchmates in the Chinese and Tibetan language examinations. Before joining VC office, R.C. Goel served in the Department of English, PU, where he also had the additional charge of

meet Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India, who was then teaching in the Department of Economics, PU.

He talked about him as a man



Prof. (Dr.) Ronki Ram

Dean (Faculty of Arts)
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair Professor
Dept of Political Science
Panjab University, Chandigarh (India)

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Forum Pays Heartfelt Condolences on the demise of Mr. R.C. Goel, The Father-in-Law of Prof. (Dr.) Ronki Ram

The Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba forum is deeply expressing its grief on the demise of Mr. R.C. Goel, father-in-law of Prof (Dr.) Ronki Ram, who has been associated with us since the very beginning of our both Weeklies (Ambedkar Times (English) & Desh Doaba (Panjabi)). It is an eternal truth that whosoever is born has to leave this mortal world behind on one's determined time. But it is also a hard reality that losing one's parents irrespective of at any age is an irreparable loss that can never be fulfilled and

forgotten. At this grief time, we deeply think of the bereaved family and send our heart felt condolences and sympathies to its all members and near and dear. May Akal Purakh grant peace to the departed noble soul and give courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss!!

Prem Kumar Chumber
Editor-in-Chief

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Weeklies (CA, USA)

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES ON THE LOSS OF FATHER-IN-LAW OF PROF. RONKI RAM



O.P. Balley
(General Secretary)
Supreme Council,
Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA

It was very sad-
dening to learn
from Mr. Prem
Kumar Chumber
(Editor-in-Chief
Ambedkar
Times & Desh
Doaba) about
the loss of your
respectable Fa-
ther-in-law, Mr.
R.C. Goel. As
observed from

his biographical
sketch written by you, he remained
very closely associated with the be-
ginning and growth of Panjab Univer-
sity, Chandigarh and was a man of
dignity and principles to which he
adhered to till his last breath.

I also learn that he had close
family ties with Sir Ganga Ram who
is world famous for his philanthropic
contributions in the building and de-
velopment of the city of Lahore be-
fore the partition of India. He was, in
fact, known as the father of the
modern city of Lahore and its infra-
structure.

It is a universal fact of life
that everybody in flesh and bones
has to go sooner or later but the im-
mortality of soul is eternal. Though
Mr. Goel lived a long and an abun-

dant life but
the loss of a
loved one is
a l w a y s
painful. A
person like
Mr. Goel
gifted with
m a n y
human val-
ues never
dies, he lives
in the hearts
and memo-
ries of those
who happen
to know
him.

pray
to Almighty
to grant
eternal rest
and peace to
the departed
soul and
give solace
and strength
to the be-
reaved family
to bear this
irreparable
loss. Please
convey my
condolences
to your wife
also for this
personal
loss of her
father.

With due regards
O. P. Balley



Sh R.C. Goel

for several years.
Goel Sahib was a writer
and communicator of his
own standing contribut-
ing regularly to the daily
newspapers like the Trib-

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

I was saddened to learn about the
passing away of Shri R.C. Goel (May,

1933

–

April, 2023)

father-in-law

of my friend

Dr. Ronki

Ram of Pun-

jab Univer-

s i t y

Chandigarh.

My

Shri R.C.

Goel was an

educational

administrator

of standing

who worked

with the re-

puted VCs

of the Pun-

jab Univer-

une and other

publications in-

cluding the Pun-

jab University

Research Jour-

nal. He was a lin-

guist with a

good command

on the Chinese

and Tibetan lan-

guages. My

thoughts go to

Dr. Ronki Ram

and his gracious

wife (daughter of

R.C. Goel Sahib),

both highly placed

academics at the

Punjab University. I

offer my humble

tributes to Shri R.C.

Goel.

May God grant

peace to the

departed soul and

enough strength

to the bereaved

family to bear the

loss?



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

Heartfelt sympathy and condolences

I am terribly sorry to learn sad news of passing
away of Shri R.C. Goel, father-in-law of Prof. (Dr.)
Ronki Ram. May whole of the fam-
ily find some solace in their grief by
thinking of those lively times spent
with him. My heartfelt sympathy
and condolences for the loss.

Arun Kumar
Bedford (UK)



Lala Suraj Bhan and Smt Maya Devi (father and mother of Sh R.C. Goel)

॥ क्रिया व रस्म पगड़ी ॥



Late Shri Ramesh Chand Goel

18th May 1933 to 29th April 2023

रस्में देती नहीं इजाज़त, सुबकने तक की हमें,
सर से छत क्या गयी, धूप पगड़ी हो गयी।

With Heavy Heart we wish to inform you that our beloved Father left
for His Heavenly Abode on 29th April 2023 and Kriya / Rasm Pagadi is
scheduled on

**11th May, 2023 (Thursday) from 2 pm to 4 pm
at Yadav Bhavan, Sector 12, Panchkula**

Grief Sticken
Ardhangini : Gaitri Goel

Son : Chaturbhuj Singh Goel
Daughter in Law : Archana Soni
Grand Daughters : Gauri & Vani

Daughter : Preeti Mahajan
Son in Law : Ajay K Mahajan
Grand Son : Akshay Mahajan
Grand Daughter in Law : Sunidhi

Daughter : Seema Goel
Son in Law : Prof. Ronki Ram
Grand Children : Sahaj & Daksh

98726 67659 / 9501233333

Bedford Celebrates Dr Ambedkar's Birthday



To celebrate the 132nd birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar, on 30th April, 2023, a function was arranged jointly by the Ambedkar Mission Society (AMS), Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha (SGRS) and BhagwanValmik Sabha (BVS), Bedford, at the Shri Guru Ravidass Community Centre Bedford. Keeping in view the Local Council Election in Bedford on 4 May 2023, this function became very significant as the candidates for the election had an opportunity to share their point of view on a number of issues that affected the community. A number of councillors from different political parties participated.

Jaswinder Kumar, President, SGRS welcomed everybody and said that Bedford is the only town in whole of the UK that all these organisations are working together and have been celebrating Babasaheb's birthday jointly for a number of years. As a result of joint efforts by Ravidassi, Ambedkarite and Valmiki communities, a man was charged for the hate speech on social media and got 18 months imprisonment and a £240 fine. He used derogatory and casteist remarks against the Ravidassi and Valmiki Communities. Jaswinder said "Whenever such incidents happen we get together and take action". Prithavi Randhawa, General Secretary, SGRS termed Ambedkar as an iconic figure who sacrificed whole of his life for the welfare of humanity.

TarlokGharu, President, BVS also spoke about the contribution of Dr Ambedkar to uplift the conditions of suppressed people of India.

Arun Kumar, General Secretary of AMS talked about the recently published book 'Ambedkar in London' co-edited and co-authored by Dr William Gould, Ms Santosh Dass MBE and Dr Christophe Jaffrelot. This book explores the lesser known facts about Dr Ambedkar's time at the London School of Economics, Gray's Inn, Round Table Conference (1930-32) and during his visit in 1946. It also explores his legacy in matters of the anti-caste and Ambedkarite movements in the UK. The book includes a detailed account of the purchase and converting into an Ambedkar Museum, 10 King Henry's Road property where Dr Ambedkar stayed during his studies at the LSE and Gray's Inn. He further added that he was honoured to share a chapter with Santosh Dass. Arun expressed his happiness that our proposal to declare Babasaheb's birthday as an equality day is getting wider support. In India, state government of Tamil Nadu and a number of city councils in Canada, America and here in Coventry have declared 14 April, Dr Ambedkar's birthday as a day of equality. He hoped that all councillors here in Bedford would also support this proposal and hopefully next year we would be celebrating Dr Ambedkar's birthday in

Council Chambers as a day of equality.

Mohammad Yasin MP spoke about the discrimination Dr Ambedkar faced in his life and chose to fight the prejudice. He added "Dr Ambedkar is credited for the drafting of the Indian Constitution in which he made provisions for eradicating this evil of caste discrimination". Mohammad Yasin said he fully support the legislation against caste discrimination in the UK, even he raised the question in the Parliament.

Councillor PinderChauhan, parliamentary candidate from Bedford, was happy to see that the Ravidassi, Valmiki and Ambedkarite communities are working together and celebrating Dr Ambedkar's life and his works together.

She said "Dr Ambedkar fought against caste discrimination and was ardent feminist. He saw that women were marginalised in society and brought provisions of equality through education, employment, social and economic rights. It is due to Dr Ambedkar's legislative reforms that today women in India can be self-dependent".

Ram Pal Rahi, Vice President, Federation of Ambedkarite & Buddhist Organisations, UK (FABO) said "Dr Ambedkar is generally considered as a Dalit leader. It is not true. When Dr Ambedkar talks about equality, liberty and fraternity, it is not for one section

of society. It's for everybody. By giving the wonderful Constitution and the Hindu Code bill, he has transformed the lives of millions of men and women of India".

Sudesh Rani, a candidate for Council, said that she is actively involved in the union. In the next meeting of Unison, she would be bringing a resolution condemning caste discrimination and bring into their policy statement. If she is elected, she would fully support equality day.

Suresh Sunda, Harish Thapar, Jas Parmar (Council Election candidates), BalrajSidhu, Councillor Collin Atkins also gave their best wishes Dr Ambedkar's birth anniversary and acknowledged Dr Ambedkar's life long contribution to society. Councillor Faujia, Councillor Nasreen, Councillor Abu Sultan also attended the celebrations. Popular singer from Punjab, Roop Lal Dhir entertained with his melodious voice. GianiRakesh Singh and Ms Santosh Gill also recited songs.

Arun Kumar and Binder Baroli anchored the proceedings.



Arun Kumar
Arun.kumar@ntlworld.com

An Open Letter to BJP Leadership

April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar as International Day of Equality

May 6, 2023

Respected Sirs
(Decision Makers in the BJP),

We made a proposal to the GOI through the then EAM Sushma Swaraj in June, 2015 to declare April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality under the aegis of the UN. The proposal was duly acknowledged and we followed up the matter with the concerned authorities and the stakeholders accordingly. Forum of Scheduled Caste MPs and MLAs under the leadership of Former Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly, Sardar Charanjit Singh Atwal took up the matter with PM Narendra Modi and submitted a Memorandum to him in this regard in November,

carry forwarding and promoting the lofty ideals of the 'Soft Diplomacy' of India and to give further impetus to its agenda of 'Empowerment' by supporting and upholding the principles of 'Equality' with a view to achieve the goals of the world body to establish a 'Just and Equitable World Order.

My latest blog on the subject which would provide some more details of the position so may be accessed at: <http://diplomaticitit->

the greatest sons of India, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar under the UN as we did for International Day of Non-violence and International Yoga Day in the recent years.

I will continue to do my bit in this regard. With regard, इक तर्जे तुंगफलि है; सो वह उनको मुबारक, इक अर्जे तमन्ना है; वह हम करते रहेंगे।

Yours truly,
(Ramesh Chander)
Ambassador - IFS
(Retired)
Jalandhar (Punjab)
T e l e h o n e :
9988510940

sent dis- patches to the MEA on the sub- ject and you would be aware of these develop- ments.

You are a well in- f o r m e d and a com- p e t e n t EAM to our good fortune. I have no intension to say something more except to invite your attention to the proposal on International Day of Equality and re-



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



2015. For the first time to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, our PMI to the UN in New York observed the day at the UN on April 14, 2016 in which a semi-official delegation headed by Sardar Charanjit Singh Atwal participated and mentioned about the proposal on International Day of Equality in his speech which was highly appreciated and acclaimed not only at the meeting at the UN but also by the followers of Ambedkar in India and abroad. On return, Atwal Sahib in a letter in May, 2016 to PM Narendra Modi, briefed him about the UN meeting on Ambedkar and informed him that the proposal on International Day of Equality was duly registered by him and requested the PM to kindly take up the matter by way of an official demarche to the UN to honour the icon of equality, Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Since then, we have been pursuing the matter with all concerned not with any agitational approach but with a suggestive and harmonious intent. Forum of Schedule Caste MPs and MLAs also submitted a Memorandum to the then Mahamahim Rashtrapati Ram Nath Kovind also in the course of follow up of the matter. But it is a matter of regret and concern that GOI has not shown any visible interest in the proposal to date. GOI, under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, has done many things internally in the country to recognize and honour Babasaheb. It is surprising that as to why the GOI is indifferent to the proposal which very well serves the twin purpose of

bits.blogspot.com/2023/04/international-day-of-equality-when-will.html

With a view to revisit the subject, I wrote again on May 6 to remind EAM, Dr. S. Jaishankar with the hope to get some positive response. The letter is appended below for information and perusal.

Through this open letter, I would like to request the BJP leadership to kindly consider and urge the BJP Government of PM Narendra Modi to kindly consider and take an early decision to make a diplomatic demarche to the UN to declare April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar as International Day of Equality. It is a matter of satisfaction to note that taking the lead, due to the efforts of my fellow Ambedkarites living abroad, many prominent cities and states of Canada, UK, USA, Australia and many other developed and democratic countries have already declared April 14 as 'Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality' in their respective places. The potent legacy of Babasaheb Ambedkar is strong enough to carry forward itself and the day will come, sooner than later, when the proposal on International Day of Equality would see the light of the day. It is time for the ruling dispensation at the center that is BJP to take due note of this before things get too late. I am confident that the decision in this regard to take the matter to the UN would get full and hearty support of not only all political outfits but also the masses in India and abroad.

I conclude this with the hope that the BJP leadership would listen and come forward to honour one of

Enclosure: Text of the Letter of May 6, 2023 to EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar
May 6, 2023

Dear Sir,
I am writing this again on the proposal of April 14, birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar as International Day of Equality resting in the cup-boards of the esteemed MEA since June, 2015. We have been reminding you and others concerned occasionally but nothing has been done by the GOI in this regard as far as I know. My last letter of July 25, 2021 to you, Sir, refers, which is appended below for ready reference. My last blog on the subject gives some more details of the matter which may be seen at: <http://diplomaticititbits.blogspot.com/2023/04/international-day-of-equality-when-will.html>

It is by chance or design, I don't know, you may agree, that Ambedkar never got anything easily throughout his life and after his demise. But at the same time, I believe that it is and would be difficult to ignore him any longer. Not only in India but also beyond, increasing recognition of Ambedkar is happening and rightly so. The proposal on International Day of Equality is catching the attention of the international community over the years. The local authorities of many cities and states of Canada, the USA, the UK, Australia and other countries of the democratic and developed world have already declared April 14 as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality in their respective places. I am certain that our diplomatic missions around must have

quest kind consideration with a view to bring the matter to its logical appropriation before the next UNGA in September, 2023. With this, Sir, you would not only be carrying forward and promoting the 'Soft Diplomacy' of India as we did in declaring International Day of Non-violence and International Yoga Day but also honouring one of the greatest sons of India, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

I count on you, Sir. With regards,
Yours truly,
(Ramesh Chander)

Dr. S. Jaishankar,
Minister of External Affairs,
South Block, New Delhi

Enclosure: Text of the letter of July 25, 2021 to EAM: -
July 25, 2021

Dear Sir,
Ever since you have taken over as the EAM in May/June, 2019, I have been writing to you about the International Day of Equality, my last letter dated April 1, 2021(copy enclosed for ready reference) refers. The proposal to declare April 14, birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality was first made in June, 2015 to your predecessor EAM Sushma Swaraj ever since the proposal is resting with the esteemed MEA.

I thought of reminding you on the subject in the run up to the forthcoming UNGA in September, 2021. You would appreciate, Sir, Babasaheb Ambedkar is increasingly getting international recognition. It is surprising
(Contd. on next page)

Rs. 4.07 CRORE RUPEES ACTION PLAN RELEASED TO PROMOTE HORTICULTURE IN SANGRUR AND MALERKOTLA DISTRICTS

Cultivation of fruits, flowers, honey, mushrooms and vegetables will get full response with financial assistance



Daljeet Kaur

Sangrur, May 9, 2023: Keeping in view the growing potential in the horticulture sector for the economic empowerment of farmers, the Sangrur district administration has released an action plan of Rs. 4.07 crore. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Development) Varjeet Walia, during the meeting of the Horticulture-based District Management Mission Committee, said that in view of the abundant potential of horticulture in the district, the farmers will be encouraged to plant gardens by providing financial assistance under the National Horticulture Mission Scheme on the directions of Deputy Commissioner JitendraJorwal.

Additional Deputy Commissioner said that after analyzing the statistics of horticulture in Sangrur district, it was clear that due to the

continuous efforts of the Punjab government to promote crop diversification, the trend of farmers towards this



subsidiary occupation has increased significantly. He added that the number of farmers interested in growing various fruits, flowers, honey produc-

tion, mushroom cultivation, poly houses, vermicomposting units, hybrid seed and vegetable production has also increased.

Varjeet Walia said that providing self-dependent environment to the farmers was their main objective and horticulture has huge potential to increase income. Varjeet Walia said that this

action plan has been prepared on the demand of the farmers of the district and to boost the production of horticulture crops so that the progressive

farmers of these two districts come forward to increase the area under orchards and avail horticulture based schemes of the government. He said that the officials concerned have been directed to promote guava, Kino, strawberry, peach as well as flowers, net house, plastic mulching, low tunnel, poly house and high quality vegetables, beekeeping, mushroom production units, Mushroom Spawn Lab, Hybrid Seeds and Seed Infrastructure Unit, Onion Storage, Vermi Compost Unit etc. and various other units, machinery and equipment's.

Deputy Director of Horticulture Department Dr. Nirwant Singh said that under the national horticulture mission scheme, any farmer can apply for financial assistance by contacting the block office or district office of the department.

An Open Letter to BJP Leadership

(Continue from page 6)

that our own government, which has taken many initiatives to honour one of the greatest sons of India otherwise, is taking time to consider the proposal and take a decision to make an appropriate demarche to the UN in this regard. I may inform, which you may already be aware, that the State of British Columbia in Canada proclaimed to declare April 14 as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day of Equality in April, 2021. Some days ago in July, 2021 itself the Gray's Inn in London has named and opened Ambedkar Room and unveiled his portrait to recognize Babasaheb. You may know that 'Dr BR Ambedkar is the first person of

the Indian origin and the very second jurist in the world to have a room dedicated to him at the Gray's Inn. The Inn, previously had a room dedicated to Rose Heilbronn, England's first woman queen counsel and judge' as reported by the Tribune of July 22, 2021

I don't feel any need to say much, Sir, as you very well know and understand how to go about and what to do to get declared April 14 as International day of Equality. There may not be more opportune time when India will occupy the HeadChair at the UNSC and UNGA -76 in September, 2021 will be presided over by Foreign Minister of our friend Mal-

dives, Abdullah Shahid

I am confident that my submissions would find an urgent consideration and a favourable decision is taken to see that the proposal is sent and taken up at the UN appropriately. It would send a very positive political signal within the country and to the international community in underpinning the 'Soft Diplomacy of India' to move towards establishing a just and equitable world order.

With personal regards,

Yours truly,

(Ramesh Chander)

Dr. S. Jaishankar,

Minister of External Affairs,
South Block, New Delhi

Copy to:

1. Shri Narendra Modi, PM of India, PMO, South Block, New Delhi
2. Dr. Varinder Kumar, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi
3. Shri Ramdas Athawale, MOS, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi
4. Shri Som Parkash, MOS, Ministry of Industry and Trade, New Delhi
5. Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, MOS, MEA, New Delhi
6. Shri Vijay Sampla, Chairman, National SC Commission, New Delhi
7. Shri Dushyant Gautam, MP, New Delhi



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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Goodie Takhar, PhD

Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

Standing Up for Crime Victims
 Last week I joined Crime Victims United for National Victims Rights Week and Victims Day at the Capitol. We heard heartbreaking stories from parents who have lost their children as a result of California's broken policies. It's time for the Legislature to prioritize reforms that ensure justice for these victims and prevent future victimization in our communities.

That's why I have authored AB 1071, a bill that would authorize and encourage schools to provide teen dating violence prevention education. That bill was passed this week by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and now heads to the Assembly Floor for a vote in the near future.

Hiring a Scheduler in my Office

My office is currently in the process of accepting applications for a scheduler in my capitol office downtown. If you, or anyone you know might be interested - you can view the job announcement here. They do not need any prior legislative experience, but do need to be able to manage a dynamic calendar and respond to scheduling requests. Please

spread the word to anyone you think might be a good fit!

Tour of Golden State Water

This week I had the honor of receiving a tour at Golden State Water to learn about the investments in Rancho Cordova's water infrastructure

the Sacramento Valley online with the money approved via Proposition 1 from 2014, which has taken far too long to get built.

Interview w/ California Association of Realtors

I recently had the privilege of sitting



system that are critical to delivering reliable, quality water.

As your Assemblyman, I view water infrastructure as a major priority - and will continually put pressure on the State Government to deliver on the mandate the people have put forward for above ground water storage. This starts with getting the Sites Reservoir Project on the west side of

down for an interview with the California Association of Realtors alongside my colleague in the Assembly, Joe Patterson (District 5) to discuss our legislative priorities for 2023, housing, homelessness, and a variety of other issues.

Contact Our District Office for Assistance



Our District Office is your source for help with any state government agency or program. Here are just a few examples of what we can help you with:

- Assistance with state agencies
- Legislative updates
- Certificate requests

And more

To contact, you can call 916-294-9774, or visit in person at 13405 Folsom Blvd, #700. We are open Monday-Friday, from 9am-5pm.

New Business Ribbon Cuttings

This week my office was thrilled to attend ribbon cuttings for two different businesses in Folsom. It's so encouraging to see businesses opening up left and right after the pandemic shut so many down.

Designing Dreams opened a commercial remodeling showroom at 21 Natoma St, suite 150. Big Wave Coffeehouse opened their coffee shop at 189 Blue Ravine Rd.



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