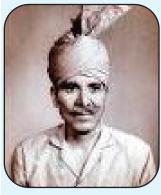


# **Renaming Schools after the names**



Heartiest congratulations on 138th birth anniversary of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia







#### Prem K. Chumber

Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba The Punjab Government in its recent praiseworthy decision renamed 12 Punjab Government Schools after the names of our freedom fighters, martyrs, and eminent writers, who made great contributions in their own respective fields in varied laudable ways. This commendable act of the current Punjab Government would go a long way in generating awareness among the youth about the lives and works of such eminent personalities of the great land of Punjab. This also reminded us of the great contributions made by Ghadrite Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the precursor of the historic Ad Dharm movement of Punjab, and Gurdass Ram Alam, Charan Das Nidharak, Lal Singh Dil and Sant Ram Udasi, all renowned poets of downtrodden, whose poetry created a deeper sense of selfrespect and living with dignity among the masses in the periphery. We appeal to the Punjab Government to rename schools after the names of these great heroes of the weaker sections of our society for their immense contribution in their own inimitable ways. Such an important step will help the government to get lots of respect from the vast Schedule Caste population of the state. The issue of renaming Government Schools in Punjab after the names of SC heroes has been raised at different intervals earlier also but to no avail. Let us hope that the current government will fulfill this long overdue demand of the SC people of the state.

#### **UNCARED FOR - JEWEL** of the Heroes of Scheduled Castes BABU MANGU RAM JI MUGOWALIA

P. K. Chumber

E ver since his childhood Babu Mangu Ram Ji Mugowalia was haunted with a thought of seeing the welfare of his community by giving it a new direction to enable the depressed people to lead, like others, a life of a normal human being. What did actually inspire him with such a thinking?. Since the days of his childhood Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia had faced caste discrimination and abusive behavior at the hands of so called higher caste people in every phase of his life. He could, no more, continue to tolerate and live a life of humiliations, hatred and abusive behavior. Thereafter, he was determined to spend his life for the promotion and betterment of his community.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia had a fair complexion like an apple, had a sound physique, dexter-

ity and a short height. He had a very sweet temper and disposition. He used to talk to people in a very mild and simple language which everybody could understand. That is why that even after his return from USA he kept up the importance of his mission as his first priority. Immediately on his return to India he was engaged in his a activities to ameliorate the condition of his people.

First of all he travelled from village to village and convened meetings which were attended by women too. In these meetings the issues relating to the promotion and welfare of the community were discussed at length, giving topmost priority to the importance of education of the children. Irrespective of any gender you must greet each other with the words "Jai Gurudev" while meeting. We

should work hard to be employed in good jobs without doing any forced labor (Begaar). We should stop carrying other peoples' filth and dirt including any landlord's dung and rubbish. We should stop grass cutting. We should pay much more attention to our children than the -like better education for children, better food and clothing, better place for living and no working as slaves for others. Instead of working in a peasant's field we should learn some technical skills. We should join police and military force. Our children should try to work as teachers, patwaries (maintaining land ownership records), Tehsildars, SSP and D.C.

We should spend less money on wedding ceremonies with a complete ban on dowry. No female should below 11 years and no male to marry under 16 years of age.(A big revolution of that time). We should be devoted to our Guru and Guru Ravidass Ji is our Guru whose preachings want us to refrain from consuming liquor, meat eating, smoking and keep away from bad company. It teaches us to treat a human as a human being. The gates of schools, colleges, temples and Gurudwaras should be open to us. We should have the right to buy and sell the land. Education, Industries and Banks should be nationalized with special reservation of jobs therein for us. Laborers (Daily wagers) should be paid reasonable wages. We are all human beings and should have the right to live as such. This will be possible only when break the shackles of dual slavery.

The most important issue is that we all (depressed people) should have a common platform with a common mission for which we should be ready for any possible sacrifice to achieve our goal. We should have one voice, loud and clear, with its substance, meaning and purpose. If we don't do that we shall

continue to live a life worse than the cattle as has been going on for centuries and thus depriving us of living as human beings.

Babu Ji laid special emphasis on the fact that our religion, our caste and our symbol are distinct from others. We should follow the preachings and footprints of our Guru Ravidass Ji. Our Guru also raised his voice against these so called higher castes six hundred years ago. Our welfare lies in the fact that we should get united and guards our rights. He believed it very firmly in his heart and soul from the very beginning that our legitimate rights can be restored to us only when we struggle for it. After visiting people from village to village he came up with a new plan and formed Ad Dharam Mandal. He spoke his mind that we were the real inhabitants of this land of India and our religion is

> Ad Dharam. Religion has no particular name and we belong to Ad Dharmi caste and community.

In 1926 Ad Dharam Mandal was established and its name was registered in 1930. Its main office was opened at the place where, at present, Guru Ravidass High School for girls and Art and Craft College is located at Jalandhar. Earlier this office was located at Krishan Steam Brass building Railway Road Jalandhar. Our ancestors still call it the office of the Ad Dharam Mandal. When the Ad Dharm movement became popular with its deep roots, lot of people started to join it. It became so strong that most of the Chuhras and Chamar castes enrolled themselves as Ad Dharmi in 1931 census. Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia's mission has the same relevance and importance as it was 60 years ago.

**My Personal Observations** 

While translating the above article written by

Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, I was given to understand that this was his maiden attempt to ventilate his expressions relating to the life, mission and contributions of Babu Mangu Ram Ji Muggowalia in the establishment of Ad Dharam Mandal in 1926 after his return from USA. Mr. Chumber who is an ardent exponent of the ideals and philosophy of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, as can also be seen from his weekly publications, "Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba". It will be no exaggeration to say that Mr. Chumber's first step in the ladder of professional journalism paid him the dividends to reach where he is at present, running two popular publications in USA, mentioned above.

I also admire late Mr.C.L.Chumber,Editor-in-Chief "Kaumi Udarian" Jalandhar and elder brother of Mr.Prem Chumber, who has been a source of great inspiration for the entire community to continue the legacy of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji.

I wish Mr. Prem Chumber all the best in his future endeavors in the field of professional journalism in the service of the community.

**O.P. Balley** Founder Member, Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg, (CA) USA



Courtesy: Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Souvenir 1985

### Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Race vs Caste



Dr Amritpal Kaur (Dental Surgeon) Writer on Ambedkarism, Buddhism and Feminism, Founding member National Council of Women Leaders

One of the people who publicly burnt the Manusmriti in an act of rebellion initiated by Baba Sahib, was a Brahmin named Gangadhar Neelkanth Sahastrabuddhe. For a Brahmin to burn his most authoritative religious text comes as a shocking fact. There were many Brahmins and non-Brahmins who supported Baba Sahib in his fight for the human rights. It was because of the impeccable character of Baba Sahib that we all need to learn from.

Baba Sahib said that nothing could be achieved by hating a Brahmin. He does not hate Brahmins but hates Brahminism by which he meant the spirit of negation of liberty, equality and fraternity. In his speech delivered to the members of the Poona District Library in 1952, he gives the example of Reverend Michael Scott, saying that just as he is fighting against racism being a white, in the same way, the upper caste people must come forward in the fight to end the caste system. Reverend Michael Scott was a British anti-apartheid activist and promoter of Namibian independence. According to his biography, he was the first white priest to fight apartheid in South Africa.

Explaining the difference between race and caste, Baba Sahib said that the caste system does not demarcate a racial division; it is a social division of people of the same race. That is why the caste system could not become visible like racism.

An English film based on the issue of apartheid, " A Time To Kill " deals sensitively with the conflict arising from the confrontation between different points of views involving both the oppressor and the oppressed. The lesson one draws after scrutinising the film is that in order to annihilate all the oppressive systems of the world like racism, caste system, patriarchy, the cooperation of the oppressor is of utmost importance.

The example cited by Baba Sahib in his speech also carries the same message. The annihilation of the caste system is also not possible without the initiative of Brahmins, which is difficult to anticipate. The oppressor as well as the oppressed are both beneficiaries of the caste system. It is a matter of great regret that even after becoming a Buddhist, casteism and gender discrimination could not end, nor has there been a significant decline in our tendency to traditionalize Dr Ambedkar's Thought.

Kindly spare some time to watch "A Time To Kill "

## BABU MANGU RAM MUGOWALIA ARCHITECT OF AD-DHARM MOVEMENT

Ad-Dharam Movement founded by Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia on June 11th-12th, 1926, was established with a missionary zeal to live a dignified life as a separate entity for the neglected segments of society who were the original and the real inhabitants of ancient India.Before paying our tributes to this noble mission envisioned by Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia it becomes imperative for us to have a few glimpses of the trials and tribulations which he had to confront during this arduous struggle.

2

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia was born in a small village, (Muggowal) in Hoshiarpur District of East Punjab in Doaba Area in an untouchable family on January, 14th, 1886. His father, Mr. Harnam Dass and mother Mrs. Attri had a flourishing business in leather hides because of increasing demand from British Army. Realizing the lack of adequate education as an hinderance in the growth and marketing of his business, his father wanted his son to be well educated tohelp him in his growing business.

**CASTE DISCRIMINATIONS AND SOCIAL PREJ-UDICES:** - The stigma of caste system codified by Manusmriti for thousands of years was the greatest hinderance for untouchables to seek higher education. Among all the social limitations and carping humiliations Mangu Ram Mugowalia was able to complete his high school education as a good student in three different schools.

MIGRATION TO USA: - In 1909 his father who, being financially stable in his business managed to send his son to USA to better his prospects in life. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, who had an impassioned fervor of patriotism, joined the Ghadar movement in California, fighting for freedom from the British rule, pioneered by prominent leaders like Lala Hardyal and Sohan Singh Bhakna. While in USA Babu Mangu Ram experienced a spirit of relief and social equality which he aspired to see back in his home country too.

JOURNEY BACK TO INDIA: - After a few years of his active participation in the activities of Ghadar party in USA he was chosen with four other members of the party to smuggle a shipment of weapons to India for use by Ghadarites in India. On being captured by British agents on his way back to India, he was lucky and cleverly escaped with the help of some German supporters and remained in hiding for many years including Manila in Philippines during the First World War period.

**BACK IN INDIA:** - While travelling back to his home in India he passed through many towns in South India where he was shocked and dismayed to see social discriminations worse than slavery which agitated his conscience to start his crusade for social emancipation. On reaching back his home village he felt a new spark to work against social degeneration, so rampant in the entire spectrum of social order. He wrote back to Lala Hardyal and Sohan Singh Bhakna, the pioneers of the Ghadar Movement apprising them of the social deterioration who agreed with him to work for the freedom of his brethren from the shackles of the higher caste tyrannies.

**AD-DHARAM MOVEMENT FOUNDED:-** On June 11th and 12th, 1926 Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia convened a large conference of his supporters in the primary school where he was a teacher too, from every nook and corner of Northern India and announced the foundation of Ad-Dharam Mandal of which he was chosen as president, the position he retained during the entire journey of his struggle.

Since this article is specifically dedicated to commemorate the foundation of Ad-Dharam Movement, some of the salient and structural features of his mission which became a legacy for future generations, are as under:

The most important and significant contribution of his movement was the establishment of a Separate and a Distinct Society of Ad-Dharmi community ,completely separate from Hindu hierarchy ,claiming to be the Original and Native inhabitants of India long before the invasion of ARYANS from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ad-Dharam Mandal soon became a household name with awakened conscience for Dalit mobilization and empowerment, throughout the entire Northern India with its headquarters at Jalandhar-Punjab.

Greeting salutations of Jai Gurudev and Dhan Gurudev as the symbols of unity and fraternity were the products of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia's innovative mind.

DR. RAJINDERAPRASAD'S VIEWS ON AD DHARM: - A very authentic book written by Dr. RajinderaPrasad, first president of free India, more than seventy five years ago contains a very vivid illustration of Ad-Dharam as a separate religion for the first time like Jains,Parsies,Jews and Christians based on the report of Census Commissioner in 1931.This completely negates and invalidates the assertion that untouchables and other lower castes are parts of Hinduism. It also reduces their numerical strength which they always claimed with untouchables as part of Hinduism.

**POPULARITY OF AD-DHARM MANDAL:** -Ad-Dharm Mandal became so strong and popular as a separate entity that in 1937 Babu Mangu Ram's party won seven out of eight seats in the provincial legislature of pre-partition Punjab. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia believed that the real way of breaking the centuries- old caste system was to destroy the religious notion upon which the system is based and thrives.

**REVELATIONS BY PROFESSOR MARK JUER-GENSMEYER:** - A renowned professor and an eminent scholar of international fame, now accredited with the University of Santa Barbara, met Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia personally more than fifty years ago and made an extensive research on Ad-Dharam Movement as illustrated in his book "RELIGIOUS REBELS IN THE PUN-JAB THE Ad-Dharam challenge to caste".

STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF BABASAHEB FOR SEPARATE ELECTORATES:- Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia and Babasaheb were contemporaries and he supported Babasaheb strongly like a rock in his efforts for Award of separate electorates for the backward classes in the Round Table conferences in London by sending telegrams, reiterating that Babasaheb was their national leader and the sole representative of the depressed classes, thus rebuffing the claims of Mr. Gandhi that untouchables were the part of the Hindu community.He even started his counter fast against Mr. Gandhi's ending in the signing of Poona-pact in 1932.

PERSONAL MEETING WITH BABU MANGU RAM MUGGOWALIA:- In the year 1963 I happened to meet Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia in person in a wedding ceremony. He narrated to me the entire history of his life struggle. As I learnt from him,Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia saw no possibility ever of untouchability going away from the social structure of India.Hence the movement launched by him almost a century ago, carried a very meaningful message but its luster which seems to be fading for lack of leadership and other reasons, needs to be reinvigorated to live a life of dignity and honor.

THE AD-DHARAM POPULARITY IN FIJI IS-LANDS: - The Ad-Dharam movement was so popular and impacting on the minds of our ancestors in 1930's and 1940's that first Sri Guru Ravidass Gurughar outside India was built in SUVA FIJI Islands by Punjabi migrants and registered under the name of Ad-Dharam.

This fact was personally ratified by late Mr. Devraj Singh Sandhu a long-time resident of FIJI Islands before his migration to USA, in an interview held with him by Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber himself at our Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburg on September 1, 2018.(Which can be also verified at this link: https://www.facebook.com/ 281660605268327/videos/1794754177307074)

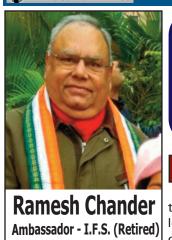
I also appreciate Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, Chief Editor "Desh Doaba" (Punjabi) and "Ambedkar Times" (English) (Both Weekly Newspapers) for inspiring me to write this ar-

ticle for the esteemed columns of his publication. With best wishes and congratulations on the occasion of 138th Birth Anniversary of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji.

**O.P.Balley** Founder Member Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg (California)



Ambedkar Times



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# RENAMING OF SCHOOLS IN PUNJAB A WELCOME DECISION

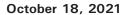
he great philosopher, Plato had said, "There are three classes of men; lovers of wisdom lovers

three classes of men; lovers of wisdom, lovers of honour and lovers of gain." The lovers of wisdom and honour should

get, and rightly so, due recognition and felicitation by the establishment and the society at large. We in India have had the tradition of honoring our eminent personalities from different walks of life right from our independence. Apart from honours of head and heart and professional excellenceto our soldiers, police personnel, scientists, among others, we established civilian awards like Bharat Ratna and various Padma Awards. Obviously, it is a much appreciable activity.

I have come to know from a media report that Punjab Government has recently renamed 12 government schools in order to give due honour to freedom fighters, martyrs and eminent writers to create awareness among youth about these personalities. It is a welcome decision. This news has given me an opportunity to recall that in October, 2021, I wrote to the then Minister of Education of Punjab, Pargat Singh to honor two of the sons of the soil; Ghadrite Baba and Founder of Ad Dharam-Movement, Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia of Hoshiarpur and Peoples Poet, Gurdass Ram Alam of Jalandhar by naming schools after the name of these two personalities belonging o the weaker sections of the society for their immense contribution to the cause of social justice and empowerment. My letter of October 18, 2021 in this regard is appended below for quick reference. I thought of revisiting my humble suggestion and writing to the current Education Minister of Punjab, Harjot Singh Bains, a young and dynamic Minister who is alive to the public-centric issues of concern and interest. Again my letter of January 5, 2023 is also appended below for perusal. Since birthday of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia an falls in the month of January itself, this refreshed submission to honour the eminent personalities may be treated as a tribute and Naman to him. Let us join hands in requesting and urging the Government of Punjab to honour Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia and Gurdass Ram Alam. In fact, the issue of naming of schools/colleges in the name of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia is not new. It was first raised by Late Shri C.L. Chumber in a Souvenir to honour Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji in 1985 through a Demand Memorandum (MangPatar) to the Central and Punjab Governments.

JigarMuradabadi wrote:apnāzamānaaapbanātehaiñahl-e-dil hamvonahīñkijinkozamānabanāgayā Text of the letter dated October 18, 2021:-



Dear Minister Sardar Pargat Singh Ji,

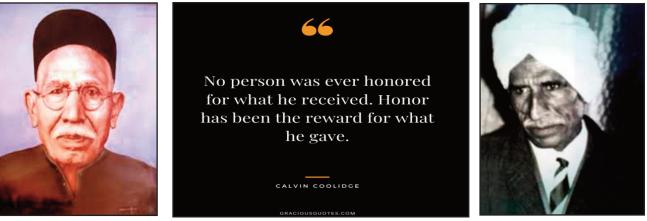
I am writing this on a matter of public interest and importance pertaining to Departments of Education under your charge.

You may be knowing about two important and renowned personalities of Punjab – i) Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia (1886-1980) of Village Mugowal in Garhshankar (Hoshiarpur), a Ghadrite Baba and Founder of Ad-Dharam Movement in the January 5, 2023

Hon'ble Minister Sardar Harjot Singh Bains,

I read in the media that 12 schools have been renamed to give due honour to martyrs, freedom fighters and eminent writers with a view to generate awareness among the youth about these prominent personalities. It is an appreciative gesture extended by the Government of Punjab.

Whereas, I don't have the details of the schools which have been renamed, I thought of



mid-1920s and ii) Gurdas Ram Alam (1912-1989) of Village Bundala (near Goraya) in district of Jalandhar, a literary personality and a poet of standing and also a social activist. Both these personalities are the icons of Dalit communities on not only Punjab but also India and beyond. There is a lingering feeling in the community that these sons of the soil have not been given their due by the ruling dispensations so far. May be the time has come to consider and honour Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia and Gurdas Ram Alam. My proposal in this regard is that schools/colleges in and around their respective villages may be named after them to recognize their contribution to the society. It will be a befitting gesture which would also send a right and positive message to the younger generations of their respective areas under your guidance and stewardship as the Hon'ble Minister of Education of Punjab. More information on these great sons of Punjab, if required, may be provided for your kind perusal.

I am confident, Sir, my humble submissions in this regard will find due and fair consideration. With personal regards,

Yours truly,

(Ramesh Chander)

Sardar Pargat Singh,

Minister of Education, Sports and NRI Affairs, Chandigarh

Copy to: Shri Krishan Kumar, Secretary, Departments of Higher Education, Sports and NRI Affairs, Chandigarh

Text of the letter dated January 5, 2023:-

sharing with you my letter dated October ,2021 which I wrote to he then Minister of Education MLA Pargat Singh which exactly caught the imagination of the AAP Government in Punjab. I wrote to honour and recognize Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, Founder of Ad Dharam Movement and a Ghadrite Baba of Garhshankar (Hoshiarpur) and Gurdass Ram Alam, a people'spoet of Bundala in Jalandhar. I attach that letter for your kind perusal and consideration.

I will be grateful, Sir, if you kindly consider and honour these two personalities, if not already done. Both these sons of the soil belonged to the weaker sections of the society. I am confident that decision of the APP Government to give them due honour would send a correct signal to the people of Punjab and would be highly appreciated.

I am, to introduce myself, a retired career diploma of the IFS (1984 batch) now settled in Jalandhar. I briefly joined active public life under the banner of AAP in 2016-17 but left it on my own volition as I felt that active politics was not my cup of tea. Nevertheless, I continue to engage myself in social work in my humble way with a view to pay back to the society my debt of gratitude. I would be happy if I could do something to serve the people of Punjab with the AAP Government at the helm.

With personal regards Yours truly, (Ramesh Chander) Sardar Harjot Singh Bains, Minister of Education, Chandigarh



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Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

We speak your language: Panjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic and Spanish

Goodie Takhar, PhD

#### CHETNA ASSOCIATION OF CANADA **OBSERVED PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS**



Vancouver (Ambedkar Times Bureau) - January 9, 2023 marks the 17th PravasiBharatiya Divas (PBD) and it was observed on the same day by the Chetna Association of Canada at Delhi-6 Restaurant in Vancouver.

Chief Guest for the occasion was Mr. Manish (Consul General of India, Vancouver) and the quest of honour was Mr. AmarjeetKaypee, former cricket player who earned his name for scoring 7623 runs for the Ranj Trophy. Mr. Kaypee is on a personal visit in Canada and is being welcomed by the diaspora and lovers of cricket, including Mr. Anil Khanna of BC Cricket Club.

Both Mr. Manish and Mr. Kaypee were recognized and appreciated for their contributions by Chetna Association of Canada represented by Jai Birdi, Surjit Bains, Jai Bains, Subhash Chander and of Ambedkarite International Coordination Society's vice-president, Param Kainth. Anil Khanna of BC Cricket Club and former cricket player, Harry Kalkat were also present to celebrate

his contributions to cricket and proary 13 every year. moting fraternity and nation building

through sports.

Sonia West of FYI Entertain-

Mr. Manish expressed his greetings and gratitude to people of Indian origin for making contributions in various fields, including administration, commerce, trade, health care, and service industry. Mr. Kaypee also congratulated the diaspora for their contributions to Canada as well as India.

On behalf of the Consulate, Mr. Manish presented Jai Birdi, General Secretary of Chetna Association of Canada, with a shawl, as a gesture of respect and appreciation for increasing awareness and enhancing inclusion.

PravasiBharatiya Divas is celebrated in India to mark the contributions of 'non-residents of India' to the development of India and to strengthen ties between India and the global Indian community, a size of approximately 32 million.



the occasion and contributions of both Mr. Manish and Mr. Kaypee.

Mr. Manish and his team were recognized and appreciated for their tireless service to the diaspora and Canadians through consular, commerce, education, and cultural activi-Mr. Kaypee was honored for ties.

ment and a member of Chetna's Empowerment Committee, welcomed Mr. Manish by gifting him with sweets and a package of 'Mungfali and Revadeenas', a gesture of renewal and new beginnings, an appropriate gift for the Lohri, celebrated as a folk festival in Punjab around Janu-

