



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EQUALITY- APRIL 14, BIRTHDAY OF DR. AMBEDKAR

Jalandhar: The Punjab Chapter of All India Confederation of SC/ST Organizations hosted their Second Annual Meet on August 1, 2015 at Jalandhar. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the matters of interest to Dalit employees both in the Government and Public Sectors and also their social status in the society at large. The theme of the meeting was "Philosophy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and its Relevance in the present Scenario". Hon'ble MOS for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Vijay Sampla was the Chief Guest at the function in which Chairman of SC Commission of Punjab Shri Rajesh Bagha, Shri B.S. Bharti, Shri K.P. Chaudhary, President and General Secretary respectively of the Confederation also



Ramesh Chander speaking at the function

participated, apart from a number of other intellectuals and office bearers of various SC/ST organizations.

Speaking at the meeting, Shri Ramesh Chander, Retired Ambassa-

dor-IFS mentioned about his proposal submitted to Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs Smt. SushmaSwaraj to propose at the next UNGA in September, 2015 at New

York to declare April 14 (Birth Anniversary) of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as "International Day of Equality" in commemoration of 125th Birth Anniversary of the greatest son of India who was the messiah of the down trodden and the under-privileged masses of India and the world at large (Text of the letter dated June 12, 2015) to EAM is append below). The basic tenets of the philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar were Liberty, Equality and Fraternity which is not only a basic and fundamental feature of the Indian constitution but also one of guiding principles of the United Nations. Ambassador Ramesh Chander noted with satisfaction that the Government of India under the stewardship of PM Narendra Modi

(Contd.. on page 3)

Inauguration of Punjab University Institute of Social Science Education & Research (ISSER) Chandigarh August 11, 2015

Chandigarh- Advisor to the UT Administrator, Mr. Vijay Dev today inaugurated the Panjab University Institute of Social Sciences Education and Research (PU-ISSER) at PU. The students would study for five-year in-

society' has been fulfilled. He said that science and social science both stand at the same pedestal and are equally important.

This is the age of convergence and we need to converge be-

Arts in 1925 at PU in Lahore, on the lines of what IISERs, practice in Natural Sciences today. He recalled that former PU VC Prof RP Bambah had also informed him that the idea of broad based curriculum in basic sci-

UT Finance Secretary, Mr. Sarvjit Singh Director, PEC University of Technology, Prof. Manoj Arora, many PU fellows, senior scientists and faculty members from institution-comprising the Chandigarh Region



tegrated programme in Social Science (Honours) course at PU-ISSER. It would function from Guru Teg Bahadur Bhawan, near the PU Market. The course will be a multi-disciplinary course offering choice-based credit electives in other disciplines in the under-graduate part of the course. The three year BA Honours and 2 year MA Honours programme would have an exit option after 3 years. Addressing the inaugural address, Mr. Vijay Dev appreciated the setting up of PU-ISSER and said that the 'academic felt need of the

tween science and humanities, he added. The need of hour is to create students who have good basic grasp of all subjects and I am sure this institute would serve the great purpose in that regard, he added.

Addressing the function, PU VC, Prof Grover recalled the genesis and evolution of PU-ISSER. Referring to 'A History of University of Panjab', authored by Prof. J.F. Bruce and published in 1933, that a serious attempt was made to commence broad based integrated Bachelor and Master programme on behalf of Faculty of

ences, encompassing and synthesizing together different Honours Schools in Science Subjects at P.U. was first articulated during his term as PU VC and Prof. Yash Pal's tenure as UGC Chairman. Chancellor of Central University of Punjab, Prof. S.S. Johl, former PU VC's Prof. M.M. Puri and Prof. K.N. Pathak, Director of IISER, Mohali, Prof. N. Sathyamurthy, Director, PGIMER, Dr. Yogesh Chawla, PU DUI, Prof AK Bhandari, PU Fellow Prof Ronki Ram, Prof BSGhuman, Co-ordinator of the School, Prof Reeta Grewal also addressed the gathering.

Innovation and Knowledge Cluster and PU participated in the impressive inaugural function.

Later, UT Advisor, Mr. Vijay Dev, UT Finance Secretary, Mr. Sarvjit Singh and PU VC visited the Sector 25 south campus of the University to have assessment of new infrastructure and ongoing projects like Alumni House, International Students Hostel, Boys and Girls Hostels, Auditoria Complex. They also crossed by the UIET, Dental Institute and other new academic buildings in the south campus.



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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EQUALITY- APRIL 14, BIRTHDAY OF DR. AMBEDKAR

APPENDIX: Text of Ambassador Ramesh Chander's letter dated June 12 addressed to Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj,
Minister of External Affairs,
South Block,
NEW DELHI - 110011

Dear Madam,

I am one among the IFS fraternity. After retirement in December, 2010, I have come back to my roots in Jalandhar. As post retirement activities, I engage myself in educational and social matters pertaining to the socially and economically weaker sections of the society. I am a dalit and a humble follower of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. After the Government's decision to observe 125th Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, I wrote to Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar (copy enclosed for kind perusal) and offered my services with regard to the programmes to be made and conducted by the MEA in this regard.

The purpose of this letter is to make a humble suggestion for your kind consideration. PM Narendra Modi's government, particularly you as the Minister of External Affairs, has given due weightage to India's "Soft Power" in diplomacy. The latest feather in your cap is the International Yoga Day under the aegis of the UN. With a view to honour Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, one of the greatest sons of India, by celebrating his 125th Birth Anniversary, the Government has taken a right and laudable decision. It will go a long way in assuaging the ruffled feelings of millions of

poor and socially backward followers of the great leader. My humble submission is that it will only be appropriate if India makes yet another proposal at the next UNGA in September, 2015 to declare 14th April, birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as International Day of Equality. You would agree, Madam Minister, that it would not only carry forward the UN goals of "Empowerment" of the weaker sections of the world population but also instill the democratic values of "Equality, Liberty and Fraternity" in the world order. These democratic and humane values were dear to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his spiritual Guru Mahatma Buddha, the greatest son of India.

I am confident that this decision and action of the Government will be much appreciated by the weaker sections of the society. It will also be a befitting tribute to the memory and legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, messiah of the under privileged and neglected sections of humanity at large.

Yours sincerely,
(Ramesh Chander)



(Contd. from 1st Page)

has decided to commemorate Babasaheb Ambedkar in a befitting manner at the 125th Jayanti of the great leader.

He urged the audience at the meeting to support and endorse his proposal and request PM Narendra Modi to kindly include it in his address at the forthcoming UNGA at New

York. It will go a long way in paying befitting tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar but also in strengthening the edifice of Equality and Empowerment, the lofty goals of the UN.

Mr. Ramesh Chander said, I

hereby solicit understanding of my fellow countrymen particularly the followers of Babasaheb Ambedkar and request them to kindly support my proposal to declare April 14, Birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as the International Day of Equality and request PM Narendra Modi to make a demarche to the UNGA in this regard. It may be done through individual and personal communication to Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj and PM Narendra Modi or through ones organization/association to which one is affiliated.



November 2015 Approved as Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month



Dr. Onkar S. Bindra
(osbindra@sbcglobal.net)

Sacramento- California's State Assembly passed an Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR 37). It was introduced by Assembly Member Adam C. Gray (D) of the 21st Assembly District. Fifteen

Sikhs watching the proceedings from the balcony stood

up and clapped in appreciation. They included Dr. Onkar S. Bindra who sponsored the resolution, Nirvail Singh, Harpreet Singh and Manmeet Grewal from Modesto, Prem Chumber of Ambedkar Times, Gurjatinder Randhawa of Punjab Mail, Dalbir 'Dil' Nijjer and others of the Punjabi Sahitya Sabha, Mohinder S. Sandhu.

This is not the first time such a resolution has been passed. In fact, the first such resolution was pro-

Shri Narinder Modi
Prime Minister of India
152, South Block, Raisina Hill, New Delhi-110011

10 August 2015

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

Regarding: Proposal to observe 14th April, Dr Ambedkar's birth as an International Day of Equality

I take an opportunity to congratulate and thank you for setting up a committee under your able leadership to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar in a big way. It is a right and commendable decision taken by you and I believe that it will help to promote Dr Ambedkar's ideal of equality and empowerment of the economically and socially backward people. As a part of celebrations to recognise the contribution Dr Ambedkar has made, and continue to make on human rights, equality and social justice, I humbly submit a proposal for you to make to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to observe 14th April, birthday of Dr Ambedkar as an International Day of Equality.

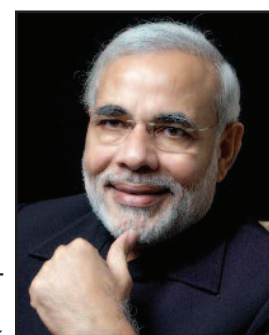
Dr Ambedkar is internationally renowned as the chief architect of India's Constitution, a social reformer, a civil rights movement leader. His stature is not less than Dr Martin Luther King Jr or Dr Nelson Mandela. He devoted whole of his life to empower the unprivileged people of India and set up a society based on equality liberty and fraternity, the basic principles enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To declare birthday of Dr Ambedkar, 14th April as an 'International Day of Equality' will be a befitting tribute to the one of the greatest sons of India. It would not only inspire untold generations to come and the human right movements around the globe but also enhance the prestige of India, our motherland. I hope the Government of India under your stewardship would recommend this proposal to the next UNGA in September and pay tribute to the memory and legacy of Dr Ambedkar.

Looking forward for your positive response in the matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Arun Kumar
General Secretary, FABO UK
44- 7909828750



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EQUALITY

Addressing a meeting of the Punjab Chapter of All India Confederation of Scheduled Castes/ Tribes Organizations on August 1, 2015, Mr. Ramesh Chander, IFS (Retired Ambassador) mentioned about his proposal submitted on June 12, 2015 to Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj to propose at the next UN General Assembly in September, 2015 at New York, USA to declare 14th April, birthday of Dr. Ambedkar, as an "International Day of Equality" in commemoration of 125th birth anniversary of the greatest son of India and the messiah of the down trodden and under privileged masses of India. As the basic tenets of Dr. Ambedkar's ideology of equality, liberty and fraternity are guiding features of the United Nations, it is time that his contribution to the equality and human rights movement is recognized

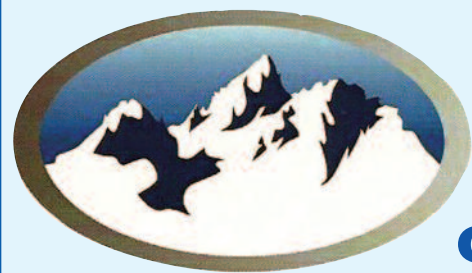
by the United Nations. He requested everybody to write to the Prime Minister of India for taking this issue to the UNGA.

Mr. Ramesh Chander published this appeal on his blog 'Diplomatic Titbits' and www.ambedkartimes.com from where UK based organization, the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organizations UK (FABO UK) picked up this story and immediately started a campaign on social media. Ambedkar Times also appeal to everybody to become a part and parcel of this appeal and write to the Prime Minister of India to propose 14th April as an "International Day of Equality". This will be a befitting tribute to Dr. Ambedkar on his 125th Birth Anniversary.

Editor
Ambedkar Times
(Weekly Newspaper)

posed by Dr. Jasbir S. Kang and introduced by Assemblyman Dan Logue in 2010. Similar resolutions were proposed by Dr. Bindra to Assembly members: Henry Perea in 2012, Bob Wieckowski in 2013, and Roger Dickinson in 2014. Each time, at the request of Dr. Bindra, the State Superintendent of Instructions endorsed the resolution to the County Education Superintendents, District Superintendents of Education, and

Administrators of Charter Schools, advising that appropriate events be arranged in their schools for diversity education in view of the lack of Sikh awareness and appreciation. The Sikh community is requested to e-mail this reporter, stating what successful events were arranged by them or by the schools of their neighborhood, and what are their suggestions for obtaining maximum benefit from ACR 37.



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