



DALIT SOCIETY CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND SHRI GURU RAVIDASS JI

**Ramesh Chander
Ambassador (Rtd. I.F.S)**

Centre of Indian Languages of Jawaharlal Nehru University organized and hosted a two day Inter-disciplinary International Seminar on Guru Ravidassji at JNU On February 23-24, 20015.

Though I am not an authority on the subject yet the organizers, particularly the Convener of the Conference Dr. Rajesh Paswan, was kind enough to invite me as an observer. As such, I attended the opening plenary session and also participated in the first technical session of the Seminar on February 23. Both the functions were very well organized and attended. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Dr. Rajesh Paswan and his colleagues at the Centre of Indian Languages particularly Dr. Ram Chander for the excellent arrangements and hospitality.

The opening plenary was inaugurated by Shri Bindeshwar Pathak of Sulabh International who was one of the co-sponsors of the Seminar. The theme of his speech was the Motivational Message of Guru Ravidass and the Sulabh Movement. He said that to fight the problem of caste system and establishment of healthy and harmonious social order, there was no better remedy than the path shown by the great visionary Guru Ravidass. The session was chaired by Dr. Vaishna Narang, Dean of Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies Centre of the JNU. Some of the renowned intellectuals and academics namely Prof T.V. Kattimani, Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Dr. Chander Bhan Prasad, Prof. Vivek Kumar, Prof. Chauthiram Yadav, Shri Sunil Sardar spoke with convincing and impressive voices and underlined the importance and relevance of Guru Ravidassji's message and philosophy to meet the challenges of the 21st century. I was very much impressed by the scholarly presentations of Prof Vivek Kumar of JNU and Prof. Chauthiram Yadav of BHU.

The first technical session of the Seminar on the afternoon of February 23 was chaired by Shri Rajesh Bagha, Chairman of Punjab SC Commission and conducted by a young intellectual Dr. Manoj Kumar. The theme of the session was Guru Ravidass: Diverse Dimensions. It was a very well attended session by the cross sections of students and teaching community. The speakers namely Shri Sriram Arsh, Prof K.P. Singh of USA, Dr. Sneh Thakur of Canada, Dr. Rahul Dipankar of USA, Prof. Chandra Sadayat, Shri F.C. Mall spoke on different facets of Guru Ravidass and his philosophy from academic and intellectual perspectives. I spoke as a layman and a humble follower of the great Guru on the theme: The Concept of Begumpura with particular reference to the lofty idea of an ideal state or welfare state in the contemporary times. Prof. Chandra Sadayat of NCERT said that it was gratifying that, of late, the compositions of Guru Ravidass were included in the school syllabus. Shri Sriram Arsh in his scholarly speech said that Guru Ravidass was not only a pioneer of the Bhakti Movement but also a great revolutionary to transform the society. Dr. Ram Chander of JNU gave the Vote of Thanks and summed up the proceedings of the session with utmost competence and flare.

The Seminar was a befitting tribute to Guru Ravidassji in the month of his Prakash Utsav on February 3, 2015.

THE SIKH GURDWARA SAN JOSE CELEBRATES SHRI GURU RAVIDASS JI'S GURPURAB

We should all rise above the backwardness of Caste System and work together- Jagdev Ram



Images: Prem K. Chumber (www.ambedkartimes.com)

San Jose (Ambedkar Times News Bureau):- On Sunday March 1, 2015 the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose (California) celebrated the 638th Gurpurab of Sahib Shri Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj. The committee of Sikh Gurdwara Sahib started the Akhand Path on Friday, February 27, 2015 and the Bhog was on Sunday March 1, 2015. The San Jose Gurdwara San Jose (California) is one of the largest Gurdwaras (Sikh Temples) outside of India.

After the Bhog ceremony, the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose (California) committee honored many prominent members of the Community and the Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas in California. Jagdev Ram, son of Late Commissioner Lahori Ram, spoke about Shri Guru Ravidass' contribution to the Sikh religion. He said that we should all follow the core principles of Sahib Shri Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj and the Sikh religion which preach universal brotherhood and equality of all people. He said that we should all rise above the backwardness of Caste System and work together as a united front to achieve the common goals of humanity.

Balvir Chand Mall thanked the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose Committee for celebrating Shri Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj's Gurpurab.

Vinod Kumar Chumber spoke about the importance of following the Sikh teachings. SomNath Bhatia thanked the committee for inviting the Guru Ravidass Sabha to this celebration.

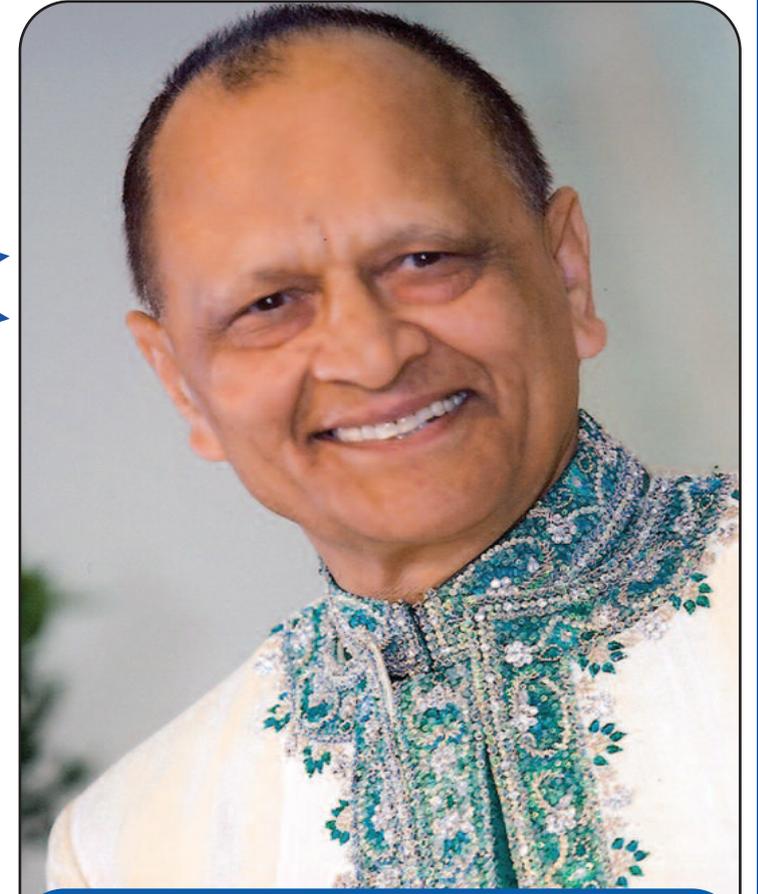
Pritam Singh Grewal was the stage secretary. He said that politicians have used the caste system to divide our people. He appealed to the congregation to follow the Sikh religion and not use caste in their everyday lives.

The Sikh Gurdwara San Jose (California) committee and the Head Priest Bajwa presented Siropas (the highest honor given to everyone in a Sikh Temple) to Jagdev Ram, Ajaipaul Ram, (both sons of Commissioner Late Lahori Ram Ji), Balvir Chand Mall, Vinod Kumar Chumber, SomNath Bhatia, Jagtar Bhatia, Jaswinder Banga, SantokhSaroya, Vinod Jakhu, Kulwant Singh Sidhu, Surinder Singh Patvari, and the general secretary S. Pritam Singh Grewal thanked the media "Ambedkar Times" & "Desh Doaba".



ਐਸੀ ਲਾਲ ਤੁਝ ਬਿਨ ਕਾਉਨ ਕਰੈ॥ ਗਰੀਬ ਨਿਵਾਜ ਗੁਸਈਆਂ ਮੇਰਾ ਮਾਥੈ ਛਤ੍ਰ ਧਰੈ॥ ਰਹਾਉ॥

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਸਭਾ ਸੈਕਰਮੈਂਟੋ (ਕੈਲੇਫੋਰਨੀਆ) ਅਤੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਗੁਰੂ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਧੰਨ-ਧੰਨ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀ ਦਾ 638ਵਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਅਤੇ 15ਵਾਂ ਮਹਾਨ ਸਾਲਾਨਾ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ 8 ਮਾਰਚ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਏ ਜਾਣ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਮਾਨਵਤਾ ਨੂੰ



ਸਵਰਗਵਾਸੀ
ਸ੍ਰੀ ਲਾਹੌਰੀ ਰਾਮ ਜੀ

ਆਓ ਆਪਾਂ ਸਾਰੇ ਰਲ-ਮਿਲ ਕੇ ਇਸ ਪਵਿੱਤਰ ਦਿਹਾੜੇ ਮੌਕੇ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਰਿਓਲਿੰਡਾ (ਸੈਕਰਮੈਂਟੋ) ਕੈਲੇਫੋਰਨੀਆ ਵਿਖੇ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕੇ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀਆਂ ਲਗਵਾ ਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਖੁਸ਼ੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰੀਏ।



ਮਾਣਯੋਗ ਕਮਿਸ਼ਨਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਲਾਹੌਰੀ ਰਾਮ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ
(ਖੱਬੇ ਤੋਂ ਸੱਜੇ) ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਜੈ ਪਾਲ ਰਾਮ, ਲੜਕੀ, ਸੁਪਤਨੀ, ਨੂੰਹ, ਪੋਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਸਪੁੱਤਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਜਗਦੇਵ ਰਾਮ ਜੀ

Supreme Council
Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA
CONGRATULATES ALL ON 638th
THE "PARKASH UTSAV" OF SAHIB
SHRI SATGURU RAVIDASS JI MAHARAJ



SPECIAL MESSAGE- 638TH "PRAKASH UTSAV" OF SHRI GURU RAVIDASS JI

On the auspicious occasion of 638th "Prakash Utsav" (Birth Anniversary) of Shri Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj, Supreme Council, Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA conveys its hearty congratulations to the followers of Guru Ji's vision and mission. Shri Guru Ravidass Ji, through his spiritual attainments emerged as the greatest source of divine light and inspiration in the darkest period of human history when deeply rooted ignorance and prejudice in the minds of the people had caused social degeneration and fragmentations in the entire structure of human life. Guru Ravidass Ji, throughout his long life of 125 years, showed them the path of righteousness which knows no limitations or barriers created by man himself.

Satguru Kabir Ji, Guru Ravi-

dass Ji and Guru Nanak Dev Ji, being the contemporaries, had a historic meeting and discourses together in the city of Banaras to alleviate the society from the age-old shackles of social inequality. They were the pioneers of the Bhakti Movement during the 15th and 16th centuries.

The greatest and the noblest lesson we learn from the life and teachings of Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj is that any human being, irrespective of his caste, creed, color or occupation can, through meditation and worship, reach the sublime heights of spirituality and godliness. Crusades in the Modern Era: -Unrelenting efforts for social justice launched by Bharat Rattan, Baba Sahib Dr. B.R Ambedkar, a distinguished jurist and a jewel of academics, Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia, a

former Gadharite and founder of Ad-Dharm Mandal Punjab movement and Babu Kanshi Ram, founder of BAMCEF, DS4 and Bahujan Samaj Party are living examples of their crusades in the modern era. The core value of the vision and tenets of the philosophy of Guru Ravidass Ji finds its clear reflection in their efforts for social emancipation.

Special Message for Interfaith Harmony: - Today when the whole world has been overtaken by cult of violence, social divisiveness and other forms of extremism, the teachings of Guru Ravidass Ji are very relevant. We should treat every religious faith with respect and dignity which is bound to be a clarion call for universal humanism.

We congratulate and complement the devoted and sustained ef-

forts of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Rio Linda (Sacramento) for advancing the noble and lofty ideals and teachings of Guru Ravidass Ji through Annual display of Nagar Kirtan (parade) with great dedication, spirit and enthusiasm.

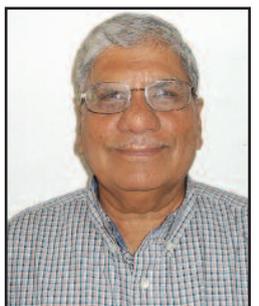
Our best tribute to the memory of Guru Ravidass Ji will be to adopt his humanist vision as a way of our day-to day life.

With best wishes

Sewadar,

O.P. Balley,
 Gen. Sec.,
 Supreme
 Council,

**Shri Guru
 Ravidass
 Sabhas, USA**





ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀ

ਤੁਮ ਜੁ ਨਾਇਕ ਆਛਹੁ ਅੰਤਰਜਾਤੀ॥ ਖੂਭ ਤੇ ਜਨ ਜਾਨੀ ਜੈ ਜਨ ਤੇ ਸੁਆਮੀ
ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਸਭਾ ਸੈਕਰਾਮੈਂਟੋ (ਕੈਲੇਫੋਰਨੀਆ) ਅਤੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਗੁਰੂ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ ਵੱਲੋਂ
ਪੰਨ-ਪੰਨ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਜੀ ਦਾ 638ਵਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ ਅਤੇ 15ਵਾਂ ਮਹਾਨ ਸਾਲਾਨਾ ਨਗਰ
ਕੀਰਤਨ 8 ਮਾਰਚ ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਏ ਜਾਣ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਮਾਨਵਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਲੱਖ ਲੱਖ ਵਧਾਈਆਂ।

ਆਓ ਆਪਾਂ ਸਾਰੇ ਰਲ-ਮਿਲ ਕੇ ਇਸ ਪਵਿੱਤਰ ਦਿਹਾੜੇ ਮੌਕੇ
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ਵਿਖੇ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕੇ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀਆਂ ਲਗਵਾ ਕੇ
ਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਖੁਸ਼ੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰੀਏ।

ਸ਼੍ਰੀਮਾਨ ਸੁਖਰਾਜ ਚੋਪੜਾ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਜ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰਾਂ ਦਾ ਉਦਘਾਟਨੀ ਰਿਬਨ ਕੱਟਣ ਦਾ ਮਾਣ ਹਾਸਲ ਹੈ।
ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੇ 2 ਜੂਨ 1985 ਨੂੰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਪਿਟਸਬਰਗ, ਸਤੰਬਰ 1997 ਵਿਚ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਰਿਓਲਿੰਡਾ,
10 ਅਪ੍ਰੈਲ 1998 ਨੂੰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ, ਨਵੰਬਰ 2004 ਵਿਚ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਫਰਿਜ਼ਨੋ,
13 ਫਰਵਰੀ 2005 ਨੂੰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਟੈਂਪਲ ਯੂਬਾ ਸਿਟੀ ਦਾ ਰਿਬਨ ਕੱਟ ਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਮਹਾਰਾਜ ਦਾ ਆਸੀਰਵਾਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕੀਤਾ।

ਸਮੂਹ ਚੋਪੜਾ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ



**SHRI SUKHRAJ SINGH CHOPRA
& MRS. ROSHNI CHOPRA**