THE MESSIAH OF THE DOWNTRODDEN
SAHIB KANSHI RAM JI

Sahib Kanshi Ram, the messiah of the downtrodden and an organic scholar, was born on 15 March 1934 in a Dalit family of Ramdassia (Ad-Dharmi) community in Khasuw Pur village of Ropar district in Punjab. He did his M.A. in 1956 from Punjab University. And thereafter he joined the research cell of Kirki’s Explosive Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) at Pune in 1957. It was at this very place where he encountered a crucial situation when a fellow Scheduled Caste employee (Deena Bhan) was suspended by the management of the organisation for protesting against the discriminatory polices of the ERDL. Deena Bhan was raising his voice against the cancellation of holidays for the legal case charges to the advocate. As a result, Bhan’s suspension was annulled and holidays for the Jayanties of Lord Buddha and Baba Sahib Dr. R R Ambedkar were restored. This particular event changed the course of the Shudra life of Baba Sahib Ram. He left his lucrative job and jumped into politics for the rest of his life for the cause of the community. His involvement was so intense that he decided to remain bachelor and also not to return home. He also wrote to his mother, Mata Bishan Kaur Ji, about his decision that he dedicated his entire life for the emancipation and empowerment of the downtrodden. On 14 April 1965 Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji took the oath that “I will complete the unfinished mission of father of modern India Bharat Rattan Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. I will look after the welfare of my Bahujan Samaj, I will spend each and every moment of my life for the cause of the Bahujan Samaj”. After that Baba Sahib never went to the office of ERDL. From 1965 to 1971 he meticulously spread the mission and message of Baba Sahib among the Dalits. In 1978 he launched his first organisation: All India Backward (SC, ST, OBC) and Minority Communities’ Employees’ Federation, popularly known as BAMCEF. Three years later, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji founded another organisation: DS-4 (Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangharsh Samiti). And on 14 April 1984 , Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji announced the formation of the Bahujan Samaj Party. In 1996 Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji elected to the Lok Sabha from the Hoshiarpur constituency, from where 50 years ago Great Gandhiji, Baba Babu Mangoo Ram Mugowalia founder of the Ad Dharm Movement had been returned to the Punjab assembly in 1946. Interestingly, it was at Hoshiarpur, the stronghold of Ad Dharm, that the BSP celebrated the 75th year of the Ad Dharm movement on 16 February 2001. On this occasion Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji exhorted the Bahujan Samaj to follow the principles of the Ad Dharm movement of which the BSP has now become the torch-bearer. Km. Mayawati (Bahan Ji) took the struggle to great heights by repeatedly forming government in the heartland of Chaturvanya system. For her the next target is Delhi - the highest seat of political power in the country. Punjab , the birth place of Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji, which has been housing the largest (29 percent) proportion of Scheduled Castes in comparison to rest of the country must learn lesson from the UP experience. This would be a true tribute to

MAYAWATI AND THE SECOND SOCIO-CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN UTTAR PARDESH

Mayawati, the BSP supremo, sworn in as 40th Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on March 14, 2007. This is the second socio-cultural revolution in the history of Uttar Pradesh where during the medieval Bhakti movement Guru Ravi Dass, an untouchable poet-saint of very high repute, convinced the Brahmins that it was not caste but ones deeds which are important. Brahmins and Rajput Kings prostrated before him and Ranis and Maharanis of the upper castes, and at the same time sticking to their dominant occupation he, probably, tried to show how to transcend the traditional caste system. For her the next target is Delhi - the highest seat of political power in the country. Punjab, the birth place of Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji, which has been housing the largest (29 percent) proportion of Scheduled Castes in comparison to rest of the country must learn lesson from the UP experience. This would be a true tribute to the Bahujan Samaj Party. In April 1984, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji announced the formation of the Bahujan Samaj Party. In

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**The Media & Dalit Empowerment**

Prem Kumar Chumber

I feel delighted to inform the readers of this site that <ambedkartimes.com> is going to complete three years on August 04, 2009. The purpose, for which this site is created, as you all know, was to spread the mission of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, an Angu Buddha based on liberty, equality and fraternity. We are encouraged to receive a great response from various scholars who have contributed to the site in the form of research articles, letters, field work pictures, rejoinders and many more. This web-site has also been functioning successfully as a platform to give visibility to the otherwise ignored Dalit activities and achievements. Shri Guru Ravidass, Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha regularly been covered with prominent space devoted to such columns on the site. Last year, 2008, Professor Ronki Ram visited the headquarters of the site in Sacramento, CA on the invitation of the Editor-in-Chief of www.ambedkartimes.org, Shri Guru Ravidass Sahibs of Pittsburg, Bay Area, Selma, Yuba City, Sacramento and Fresno organized his special lectures on the life and teachings of Guru Ravidass, the philosophy Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and the contributions of the glorious Ad Dharm movement towards the formation of Dalit consciousness in Punjab. Very recently the English site has been reinforced with a Punjabi counterpart under the name <ambedkartimes.org>. We are planning to open similar sites in Hindi and Marathi. The English site has been reinforced with a Punjabi counterpart under the name <ambedkartimes.org>. We are planning to open similar sites in Hindi and Marathi.

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