



# Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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## REMEMBERING KOMAGATA MARU

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor-in-Chief (Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba)

Komagata Maru reminds us of the great sacrifices made by Punjabis for the honour of our motherland and to seek freedom in order to live with self-respect and dignity. Komagata Maru incident also reminds us of the draconian exclusionary laws brought into practice to keep out immigrants from the colonies of the British Raj. The first of such laws was passed on January 8, 1908, which debarred all those persons from entering into Canada who did not "come from the country of their birth or citizenship by a continuous journey and or through tickets purchased before leaving their country of their birth or nationality." In fact, this or any such type of law was enacted to preclude immigration from India. Given the long distance between India and Canada, unbroken or continuous voyage from India was next to impossible then. Generally, such a long distance voyage required some halt in Japan or Hawaii that activated the exclusionary clauses of the above-mentioned laws.

A total number of 376 passengers from Punjab boarded



the Komagata Maru, a Japanese steamship hired by Baba Gurdit Singh Sandhu, who publicly espoused the Ghadarite cause during his sojourn in Hong Kong. Baba Gurdit Singh Sandhu was well aware of the exclusionary immigration laws of the Canadian government. But given his revolutionary spirit, he was determined to challenge such inhuman legislation leading to a prolonged battle with the Canadian white regime. In the due course of whole of the episode, tremendous political awareness was generated. Public meetings were organized by the Canadian conservative political leadership to build up pressure to keep the passengers out. On the other end a "shore committee" was organized under the leadership of Hassan Rahim and Sohan Lal Pathak. Indo Canadians also held protest meetings in Canada and the United States to build up pressure against the exclusionary immigration laws. After a prolonged confrontation which also witnessed some violent outburst from the stranded passengers who were demanding that justice be given to them, only 20 passengers were allowed to enter Canada and the rest of them were deported back on the same ship. The Komagata Maru, which sailed from Hong Kong, Shanghai, China to Yokohama and finally to its destination in Vancouver arrived in Calcutta on September 27, 1914. The political events that surrounded the episode met their thunderous flare up at the Budge Budge leading to the killing of 19 innocent passengers who were already harassed to the core. During the melee some of the passenger escaped and the remainder were arrested and imprisoned or put under house arrest in their respective villages until the end of the World War I.

The Komagata Maru incident provided impetus to the Ghadar movement and sharpened the ongoing freedom struggle in the country. This incident is metamorphosed into a vibrant memory of great sacrifices and candid concern for freedom, dignity and justice. The incident did not stop haunting the conscience of the perpetrators of such inhuman atrocities on the enthusiastic passengers who wanted to take a whiff of fresh air on the promised soil of Canada. On May 23, 2008, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia did penance in unanimously passing a resolution that "this Legislature apologizes for the events of May 23, 1914, when 376 passengers of the Komagata Maru, stationed off Vancouver harbor, were denied entry by Canada. The House deeply regrets that the passengers, who sought refuge in our country and our province, were turned away without benefit of the fair and impartial treatment befitting a society where people of all cultures are welcomed and accepted

## For Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha from Punjab



A Press Conference was conducted by the Navi Umeed Foundation on 23-05-2022 at Press Club Jalandhar which was addressed by L.R.Nayyar IRS Rtd. President Navi Umeed Foundation, Dr .Navjot Kaur Principal Lyallpur Khalsa College for women Jalandhar, Sh Chiranji Lal Member Desh Bhagat Yaadgar Committee and Historian of

Ghadar Movement and other members of Foundation on the issue of nominations to Rajya Sabha from Punjab and a letter has been sent to S.Bhagwant Singh Mann Chief Minister of Punjab as under:

Our constitution declares that India is a Union of States. The upper house of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) gives representation to states so that federal structure of the country can be preserved and strengthened. Rajya Sabha is the house of Parliament where the states needs to be heard.

The people of Punjab have given unprecedented mandate to APP in recently held Assembly elections in February, 2022. So it is the duty of AAP government to respect the aspirations of the people of Punjab.

Unfortunately, the AAP government has done the otherwise when it came to sending the representatives from Punjab to Rajya Sabha in March, 2022. All the five members nominated to Rajya Sabha from Punjab can not give any voice in the parliament to the aspirations of the people of Punjab because **two of them are outsiders and do not belong to Punjab (one of them Sandeep Pathak is from Chhatisgarh and Raghav Chadha is from Delhi).** The other two are such industrialist, who have never spoken for the interests of the people of Punjab. The fifth one is a cricketer who mostly lives at Mumbai and has hardly spoken for the rights of people of Punjab. This has demoralised the people of Punjab at large scale who had given thumping mandate to AAP.

Now, the term of two members of Rajya Sabha from Punjab is expiring in June, 2022 and in their place



two new members are to be nominated from Punjab to Rajya Sabha.

S. Bhagwant Singh Maan, Chief Minister of Punjab has declared publically that his government will follow the ideology and vision of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar and will implement the same in letter and spirit in Punjab.



job. The AAP government has displayed Photographs of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar in all Punjab government offices.

Therefore, we the people of Punjab request you to nominate the following persons to Rajya Sabha as a tribute to Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar as they will be true representatives of the people:

**Prof. Jagmohan Singh:**

An Electrical Engineer by profession and Social Activist (Brief Profile enclosed), is a son of real Younger Sister of Shaheed Bhagat Singh "Bibi Amar Kaur", who was imprisoned during freedom movement for one and half years in 1945 at Ambala Central Jail and he accompanied his mother to imprison at the tender age of one year. He retired as Professor and Head of the Department of Computer Science from Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana. He is well known Scholar of Freedom Movement

and particularly of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and his youth movement.

**Prof. Ronki Ram:**

He is internationally renowned Professor, Thinker, Writer and Social Activist and an authority on the vision and philosophy of Babasaheb Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar (Brief Profile enclosed). He has propagated and written extensively on the struggle of Babasaheb Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar and also on the problems of Dalits of Punjab during last 3 decades. Presently, he is Professor of Political Science at Punjab University, Chandigarh.



# Prof. RONKI RAM

## Education Qualification:

1982: M.A., Political Science (Government College, Hoshiarpur).  
 1985: M.Phil, Political Science (Punjab University, Chandigarh).  
 1992: Ph.D, International Studies (Jawaharlal Nehru University-Delhi).  
 1993: Advanced International Programme in Peace & Conflict Resolution (Uppsala University, Sweden).  
 2016: Warwick International Programme in Leadership and Management of Higher Education (University of Warwick, UK).

## Academic Visits Abroad:

USA, U.K., Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, France, Belgium, German, Estonia, Lithuania, Bahrain, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Denmark, Japan, Poland.

## Areas of Specialization

Identity Politics, Social Mobility, Political Sociology and Peace Studies.

## Current Position:

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair Professor of Political Science PU (Since 2011).

Visiting Professor: Centre for Sikh and Panjabi Studies (Faculty of Arts, Business and Social Sciences), University of Wolverhampton, UK (2020-2022).

Visiting Professor: University of Ladakh (2021-2022).

## Work History

- ICCR Chair Visiting Professor India Studies, Faculty of International Studies, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan (2016-2017).
- ICCR Chair Professor-Contemporary India Studies, Leiden University Institute for Area Studies & International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden University, Netherlands (2011-2013).
- Dean (Arts Faculty) Panjab University (2014-2021).
- Honorary Director, Indian Council of Social Science Research North West Regional Centre, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India at Panjab University, Chandigarh (2014-17).
- Coordinator, UGC-ASIHSS Programme, PU, Chandigarh (2008-11).
- Associate Professor Political Science, PU, Chandigarh (2007- 2011).
- Reader in Political Science, PU, Chandigarh (2004-2007).
- Sr. lecturer in Political Science, PU, Chandigarh (1998-2004).
- Lecturer in Gandhian & Peace Studies, PU, Chandigarh (1995-1998).
- Lecturer in Political Science, Goa University, Goa (1995).
- Research Associate, SIS, CIPOD, JNU, New Delhi (1992-1995).

## Books Published:

- Pagrhi Sambhal Lehar to Samyukt Kisan Morcha: A Century of Punjab Kisan Struggle 1907-2021.
- Dalit Pachhan, Mukti atey Shaktikaran (Dalit Identity, Emancipation and Empowerment).
- Dalit Chetna: Sarot te Saroop (Dalit Consciousness: Sources & Form)
- Globalization and the Politics of Identity in India.

## Service to the Profession – Academic

- Dean (Faculty of Arts), PU, Chandigarh, 2014- 2021
- Member Syndicate, PU, Chandigarh, 2015 & 2018.
- Member of Senate, Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, 2004-2020
- Member of Senate, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPPER), S.A.S. Nagar, 2016-2019.
- Member Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, Ministry of HRD, Government of India 2015 -2019.
- Member 'Think Tank,' PU, Chandigarh.
- Outside Expert on the Board of Punjabi University, Patiala.
- Member of Board of Studies in Political Science for Under Graduates, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, 2019-2021.
- Member of the Committee to discharge the functions of the Board of Stud-

ies in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Centre.

- Member of Academic Committees, Board of Studies and Selection Committees of various Universities.

## Service to the Profession – Administrative

- Chairperson, Department of Political Science, PU, Chandigarh April 1, 2008 to April 1, 2011.
- President Panjab University Teachers' Association (PUTA) 2004-05; 2008-09
- Chairperson, Joint Consultative Machinery for Ministerial, Secretarial, Laboratory & Technical Staff and Class 'c' staff, PU, Chandigarh, 2018
- Chairman Junior Purchase Committee, PU, Chandigarh for the financial year 2011-2012

- Chairman of the Junior Purchase/Tender Committee, PU, Chandigarh for the financial year 2010-11.

- Member Planning & Monitoring Board, Punjabi University, Patiala.

- Chairperson, Standing Committee, PU, Chandigarh, 2015.

## Service to the Profession – Editorial

- Editor-in-Chief of Research Journal (Arts), PU 2014-2019.
- Member of the Editorial Board of Journal of Sikh & Punjab Studies Global Institute of Sikh Studies. New York, USA.
- Member of Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Politics, a Journal of the Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University.

## Publications of Research Articles:

Published more than 200 articles in peer-reviewed research journals/book chapters/popular weeklies & Newspapers.

**Presented papers/Keynote Addresses/Chaired & Extension at International/National Conferences/Seminars & Workshops: More**

**than 500**

## Research Supervised:

**Ph. D. Theses: 10**

**M Phil Dissertations: 13**

## Research Examined:

Books/articles/manuscripts/MPhil/PhD: University of Delhi; North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong; Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh; GNDU, Amritsar; Panjab University, Patiala; University of Jammu, Jammu; M.J.P. Rohilkhand University, Bareilly; School of Social Sciences & School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi; and Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut; IAS Shimla; Contributions to Indian Sociology; Contemporary South Asia, Leiden University, The Netherlands, Hiroshima University, Japan.

## Courses Prepared and Taught

### Panjab University (Chandigarh)

- Modern Indian Political Thought
- Political Sociology with special Reference to India
- International System: An Historical Overview
- Peace and Conflict Transformation Theory & Practice

### Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan

- Contemporary India Studies
- Globalisation and South Asia
- Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building in Colonial and Post-Colonial India

### Leiden University (The Netherlands)

- Reading Indian Nationalism (Graduate).
- Masters in Asian Studies – Contemporary Indian Politics.
- Masters in International Studies – BRICS (India).
- State, Politics and Economy in Modern South and Southeast Asia.

### Goa University (Goa)

- International Relations
- Conflict Resolution and Peace

### Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi)

- Theory of International Relations



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**Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD**



**Goodie Takhar, PhD**

# "PROF. JAGMOHAN SINGH"

Born in 1944 in a village Chack 206 Sialwala of then Dist. Layalpur of United Punjab (now in Pakistan). Mother Bibi Amar Kaur was younger sister of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. She was closely associated with her brother Bhagat Singh in his revolutionary activities. She was imprisoned in 1945 for her forceful and hard hitting speeches against British Imperialistic rule in India and was sentenced for one and half year.

Prof Jagmohan at the age of one year had to play his part against the British imperialism as he accompanied his mother to Prison. Thus he had the privilege to be cradled by the INA soldiers who happened to be in Ambala Central jail. His father Sardar Makhan Singh was a social worker and worked for ideals of Martyr Brother in Law Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

After partition the family settled in village Dialpur, District Kapurthala, from where he passed his matriculation. Passed F.Sc and B.Sc from DAV College Jalandhar. Joined Guru Nanak Engineering College Ludhiana, graduated in Electrical Engineering with honors and National Scholarship in 1967.

Taught in Punjab Engineering College Chandigarh and then Guru Nanak Engineering College Ludhiana. In the mean time, in 1974, he was selected for higher studies at IIT Kharag Pur one of the premier institute of engineering studies. He stood first in his batch.

In 1975 he joined Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) Ludhiana faculty. He invented an electronic device for the farmers known

as self starter for Tube wells. This is an innovative application of electronics which is successfully implemented at the farms. It is first of its kind. As he believed that research is for common benefit of farmers so he refused to patent it but instead made it available in the Public domain without any royalty.

He was awarded UNESCO fellowship to study computer technology and its application in 1983.

Founder Director of Information Technology and Industrial coordination of newly established Punjab Technical University Jalandhar in 1995.

Retired as Prof and Head Department of Computer Sciences from Punjab Agriculture University in 2004.

Awarded Gold Medal by Institution of Engineers (India) in 1986. This was in appreciation for innovative research in developing instru-



ments for special agriculture research. Published widely on Agricultural computer models to improve rural economy. He was Vice President of Systems Society of India.

He is very much socially active in various activities of social importance even after retirement. He is fully involved in rural education programme of Sant Baba Bhag Singh Education Complex, VPO Padhiana

Distt Jalandhar.

He was given responsibility by the associates of Shahid Bhagat Singh and his mother to act as Secretary of Shahid Bhagat Singh Research Committee in 1981. The outcome of that effort is a collection of original documents of Freedom Struggle including first hand information from the living Gadar Party members. He has edited complete works of Shahid Bhagat Singh and his comrades, Autobiography and Speeches of Sardar Ajit Singh uncle of Shahid Bhagat Singh. Edited the jail notebook of Shahid Bhagat Singh.

From 1963 worked under Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna, the first President of Gadar Party. Under the patronage of Baba Bhakna and Mata Vidyawati (mother of Shahid Bhagat Singh) a constructive programme called Youth Centre with Khatkar Kalan house as center was launched in 1966.

Since 1978 he has been serving as general secretary of Association for Democratic Rights. Established a Public library with 25,000 books dedicated to the Memory of his Mother Bibi Amar Kaur at Ludhiana.

He is chair person of ALL India Forum for Right of education. Which is working for education to all particularly depressed classes with state responsibility of free education from KG to PG.



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# Some Random Recent Events – As I Please

Ambedkarites meet to get united: - Some Ambedkaite intellectuals and awakened citizens met at Nakodar Road Ambedkar Bhawan on May 14 on a joint call by Retired IAS Khushi Ram, Retired IRS Dr. Jagtar Singh, Advocate and Social Activist Dr. Santokh Birdi, Social and Community Activist and a prominent businessman Thekedar Bhagwan Dass and NRI Activist OM Parkash Azad among others. The purpose of the meet as explained by Khushi Ram was to discuss and consider the idea of floating

multiple organizations closer to each other, pool our resources and efforts and take up and resolve the issues and problems of the society with one voice as a strong united force.” I responded and wrote to Khushi Ram on May 19, “Savidhan Bachao, Loktantar Bacho, Desh Bachao, no doubt, appears to be a catchy phrase or slogan but has, to my mind, agitational and confrontational connotation. We should avoid such a approach. Let us confine to simple and straight formulation “Matters of concern and inter-

by Dr. Badri Naraiyan and translated by Dr. Paramjit Chumber and Dr. Harjinder Kumar and Mission Babasahib Da – a collection of songs written by Balwinder Puar. I also received a book, Chalo Budh Ki Aur – Behtreen Zindgi Ke Lye - as bonus in the process. I would read these, in due course, and benefit.

बुद्धं शरणं गच्छामि धर्मं शरणं गच्छामि संघं शरणं गच्छामि

Public Talk on the Role of Journalists in Nation Building:- Bharat Vikas Parishad, an outfit of RSS, in-

ing public opinion and that is why the British statesman Edmund Burke termed media as the Fourth

Pillar or Estate of the democratic system. Referring to the assertion ‘Media can never be silent; that is its



**Ramesh Chander**  
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)  
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an outfit of scattered and fragmented organizations and individuals pertaining to socially weaker sections of the society under the overall umbrella of Ambedkar Thought and Legacy with a view to get united to follow and pursue the lofty idea of Babasaheb Ambedkar – Educate, Agitate and Organize under the banner of ‘Bidhan Bachao - Loktantar Bachao – Desh Bachao’. Khushi Ram and other speakers viz. Santokh Viridi, Bhagwan Dass, inter alia, endorsed the idea and underlined that the new organization would be a pan-Punjab. The roadmap given was to hold consultation meetings in various districts of Punjab as Jalandhar meeting was the second in the process after first in Chandigarh on May 4 and the third one was held in Patiala on May 16. Many prominent participants from various walks of life; Tilak Khinder from business, Prof. Balbinder Kumar, Sohan Lal and Dr. Gian Kaul, Prof Balbir Chander from academia, Retired IES M.S. Singh Viridi, Prithvi Raj, R.L. Sandhu, Retired IFS Satnam Singh, Ambassador Ramesh Chander from civil services, Community activists namely Ram Lal Dass, Chanan Wadala, Baldev Bhadwaj, Priya Ambedkar took active interest and participated in the interaction. Veteran Ambedkarite Lahori Ram Balley also spoke at the meeting. The idea of launching an organization, non-political and non-governmental, to find and ensure due space for the socially weaker sections of the society both in the society and polity was widely accepted and appreciated.

Now the organizers led by Khushi Ram have circulated a concept note which, inter alia underlined the idea and said to make the ball rolling, “The idea behind the move is to bring our divided people and their



est to the socially and economically weaker sections of the society with a view to affirm and strengthen the ‘affirmative and empowerment’ intent of the constitution of India”, while giving my comments on the Note circulated by the organizers. Let us see how things move forward.

तू पहले बात फरि बात का अंदाज़ पैदा कर;  
फरि दुनिया में तुझे कोई नज़रअंदाज़ कर नहीं सकता

Buddha Purinima – May 16:- As usual like each consecutive year, Buddha Purinima – Vesakh was observed and celebrated with all solemnity at Sidharath Nagar (Bootan Mandi) Budh Vihar. The day has a special significance for me personally as my daughter Vaishali was born on Buddha Purnima Day in 1975. I generally tend to participate in such events in spite of the fact some of my friends who run the show at the Vihar consider me a ‘pseudo-Buddhist’. Harmesh Jassal and Dr. Gian Kaul spoke about Buddha and Buddhism with good knowledge on the subject. I was invited, courtesy my friend and Master of Ceremonies Ram Lal Dass, to join in releasing the books – Bahu-jana De Nayak – Kanshi Ram written

vited me to preside over a Public Talk on the topical subject of role and contribution of media in nation building – challenges and solutions in conjunction with the Narad Jyanti on May 17 who is considered as the first journalist by them. The Chief Guest and the Lead Speaker on the occasion was Col. Jaibansh Singh, a media personality and also a defense and security analyst. Col. Singh spoke with clear mind and conviction from the historical perspective and also the current situation of the national media with his personal experience as a former executive of the ANI, one of the renowned media organs of India. He dwelt on two important props of journalism - ‘disinformation or misinformation’ and ‘lack of information’ and added in all candidness that Arvind Kejriwal was an expert practitioner of the former and BJP of the latter referring to the recent elections in Punjab. He also added that there was no ‘Goddi Media’ in the country as the narrative is being built by the vested interests. In my brief remarks, as the Chair, I said that in any democratic country media played an important role in creating, molding and reflect-

greatest virtue and its greatest fault. It must speak and speak immediately’ quoted Allama Iqbal:  
“Nahin Minnatkash-e-Taab-e-Sha-needan Dastan Meri  
Khamoshi Guftugu Hai, Be-Zubani Hai Zuban Meri

My story is not indebted to the patience of being heard  
My silence is my talk, my speechlessness is my speech

Ye Dastoor-e-Zuban Bandi Hai Kaisa Teri Mehfil Mein  
Yahan To Baat Karne Ko Tarasti Hai Zuban Meri

**Why does this custom of silencing exist in your assembly?**

**My tongue is tantalized to talk in this assembly**

Journalist and Chief Editor of The Metro Encounter, Rakesh Shanti-doot conducted the proceedings of the function aptly and ably as always and thoughtfully said that this talk cannot be complete if we didn’t mention and remember Babasaheb Ambedkar who launched and spearheaded the Mook Nayak and Bhahiskrit Bharat in difficult times and circumstances. Advocate Bhupinder Singh, Senior functionary of Bharat Vikas Parishad while delivering the vote of thanks said that they would do their best to arrange such useful and informative talks on regular basis. Before the Talk, we were received and conducted at Sarv Hitkari Vidya Mandir now named after Brigadier Jagdish Gagneja, a school established in 1983 for the benefit of the students from the socially and economically marginalized sections of the society. Both the Principal Madam and Sandeep Narang, the dedicated Swayam Sewak, were extremely kind and courteous.