



# Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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## Babasaheb Dr B.R. Ambedkar and his Vision of Prabuddh Bharat

Prem K. Chumber

Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba



India is a land of many religions, cultures, languages, and festivals. It has a great heritage of spiritual scholarship: Home of four Vedas, Six schools of philosophy, and various other forms of scholastic literature. However, with the passage of time, some deviant social practices entered into its social setup and eventually got entangled with its legal order of social regulations and administration. There is a common perception that caste came into operation in Indian society between 2nd BC to 2nd AD. Some scholars of Indian sociology are of the opinion that caste became a force to impact day-to-day life with the complication of Manu Smriti. It laid down the oppressive fourfold principle of low and high status based on the Varna system. Consequently, the society got segmented into four mutually exclusive segments with a large number of a fifth segment that was not allowed even to live near its four main segments. Dr Ambedkar devoted his whole life for the emancipation and empowerment of the fifth segment of the society and also to create a legal framework for the growth of egalitarian and cohesive social existence. He wanted to see India free from caste and all sorts of communal contradictions. His vision of Prabuddh Bharat is based on the trinity of liberty, equality, fraternity where no one should be discriminated against on the basis of birth. For the realization of his vision, he helped prepare the Constitution of Independent India as a Chairman of the Drafting committee for the preparation of the Constitution. A few months before his Mahaparinirvan on December 6, 1956, Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar took Diksha to embrace Buddhism again in order to get rid of the menace of the vicious social institution of caste and its resultant atrocious system of graded inequality. His vision of Prabuddh Bharat is based on all inclusive, socially cohesive and egalitarian social living. Let us take an oath on this great day to dedicate ourselves to the egalitarian mission of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar.

## BHARAT RATTAN DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR

### A GLOWING TRIBUTE ON HIS 66th MAHA PARINIRWAN DIVAS

Today, the December 6th 2022 marks 66th MAHA PARINIVAN Divas of Bharat Rattan Dr. B.R Ambedkar, the founder of modern India through his contributions as the principal architect of Indian constitution and an undaunted social liberator. Glowing tributes are pouring in for this most luminous star in the galaxy of human intelligentsia. **PARINIRVAN DIVAS:** - Pririvan Divas is a Sanskrit term that means liberation or freedom after death and is considered one of Buddhism's major doctrines and aspirations.

I bow my head in reverence to his unrelenting struggle for the emancipation of the voiceless people from the shackles of social degradation going on against them for centuries at the hands of the so called upper sections of society. Born in a Mahar family of Maharashtra on April 14, 1891, Dr. Ambedkar grew up in the midst of harsh and severe social disabilities of the time which inspired him to raise his inner voice to stand against this unjust social order. With his profound arguments in the debates of the constituent Assembly he was able to secure the justifiability of reservation for the down trodden communities.

**AS A CONSTITUTIONALIST:-** Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who had an extensive knowledge of more than fifty constitutions of the world proved himself as a nation builder who welded the entire nation after the end of British colonialism into one unified entity through his charismatic skills and wisdom in drafting the constitution of free India. Because of his penetrating intellect and profound scholarship and lucid exposition he was able to tackle the diverse intricacies inherently built in, in the social hierarchy of India ,for which he is admired all over the world.

**FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE WOMEN:** - His painstaking and pioneering work as the first Law Minister of Free India resulted in the enactment of Hindu Code Bill for equality of women who had been deprived of their rights for centuries. Dr. Ambedkar had to face lot of opposition from Hindu Samaj against his daring courage to ameliorate the lot of the women.

**DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIST:** - With his exceptional expertise and versatile knowledge in the field of Economics Dr. Ambedkar was highly instrumental in his recommendations before the Hilton Young Commission in 1934 in the establishment of Reserve Bank of India. Dr. Amartya Sen, a Nobel Prize winner in Economics was highly inspired by the writings of Babasaheb and recognized him as the father of his Economics.

**Dr. AMBEDKAR AS NOMINEE OF UNTOUCHABLES IN LORD LOTHIAN COMMITTEE:** - In 1932 the British Government appointed a committee with Lord Lothian as chairman to review some structural changes in Indian Government. Dr. Ambedkar was nominated as representative of untouchables and Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia appeared as president, Shri Hazara Ram as General Secretary of Ad-Dharam Mandal and Shri Hans Raj

in Punjab Assembly Hall, Lahore. This bears ample testimony to the fact that Babasaheb and Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia were together on the same forum for safeguarding the interests of untouchables as a separate identity.

**MR. PREM KUMAR CHUMBER MEETS PROF. MARK JUERGENSMEYER:-** During a recent meeting in Santa Barbara (CA) between Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber Editor-in-chief, "Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" and Prof. Mark Juergensmeyer, an eminent scholar who did his PhD. with his thesis "Religious Rebels In the Punjab", Prof. Mark



reaffirmed the intimate relationship and consensus between Babasaheb and Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji, who strongly supported the leadership of Babasaheb, sending telegrams during Round Table Conferences in London in 1932.

We adore Prof. Mark who met Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia personally many times in Punjab, for his diligence, initiative and energetic efforts to study the depths of Ad-Dharam movement and its challenges in the pursuit of his thesis. Prof. Mark also keeps in regular contact with Prof. Ronki Ram Ji, departmental head in Chandigarh University, updating his concerns on the current issues.

**MY PERSONAL GLIMPSES OF BABASAHEB:** - As I have already mentioned on many earlier occasions I was blessed with a rare opportunity of meeting Babasaheb and listening to his speeches in person in the years 1955-56 and attending his funeral procession in Delhi on December 6, 1956, so deeply embedded in my memories which can never be erased as long as my heart and soul are together. There is inexhaustible treasure available on the immortal legacy of Babasaheb and this small message can hardly cover even a fraction of his crusades and sacrifices in almost every sphere of his life.

Our best tribute to his immortal contributions will be to **CARRY ON HIS CARAVAN FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AS A PERPETUAL SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.**

**"GLORY TO THOSE WHO WOULD KEEP ON THEIR STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ENSLAVED IN SPITE OF HEAVY ODDS, CARPING HUMILIATIONS, STORMS AND DANGERS TILL THE DOWN TRODDEN SECURE THEIR RIGHTS"- B.R.AMBEDKAR**

O.P. Balley

Founder Member and Ex-Chairman  
Shi Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg (CA)

Learn to live in this world with self-respect. You should always cherish some ambition of doing something in this world. But remember that the age of selflessness has ended. A new epoch is set in. All things are now possible because of your being able to participate in the politics and legislature of your country.

- Dr. Ambedkar



**We pay glowing tribute to Bharat Rattan Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 66th Prininirvan Divas.**

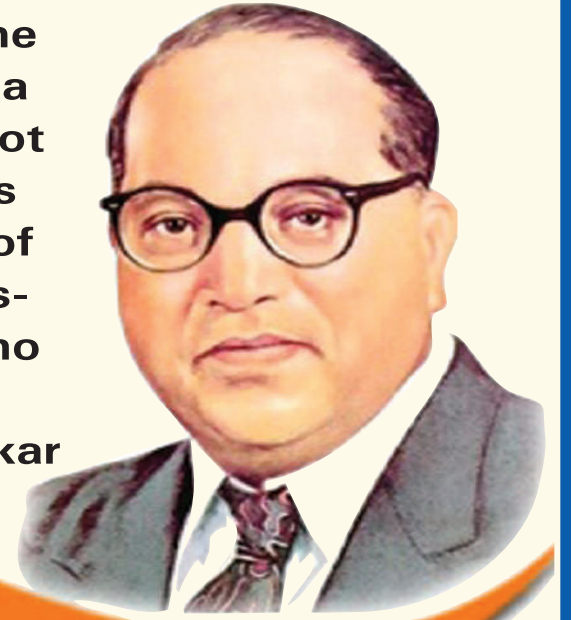


**Momi Brothers**



The minorities in India have loyally accepted the rule of the majority which is basically a communal majority and not a political majority. It is for the majority to realize its duty not to discriminate against minorities. Whether the minorities will continue or will vanish must depend upon this habit of majority. The moment the majority loses the habit of discriminating against the minority, the minorities can have no ground to exist. They will vanish.

Dr. Ambedkar



Amardeep Chahal with his wife Promila Chahal

We pay glowing  
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Rattan Babasaheb  
Dr. Bhimrao Ramji  
Ambedkar on his  
66th Prininirvan  
Divas.

ਸਮੂਹ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਬਿਹਾਰੀ ਲਾਲ ਚਾਹਲ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ

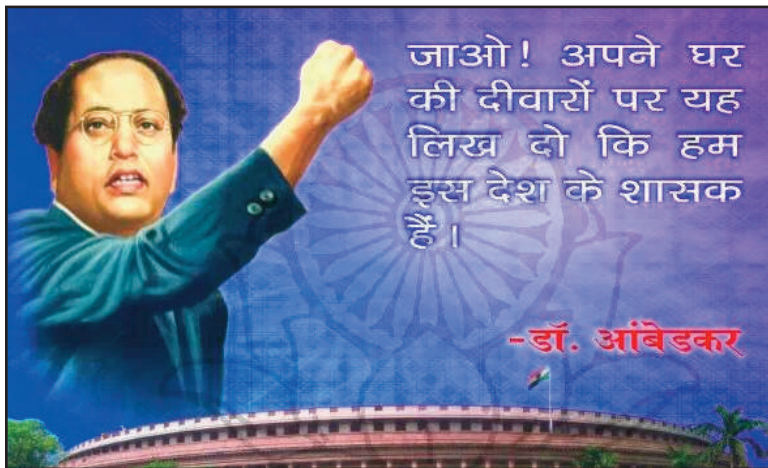
## Tribute to Babasaheb on his Mahaparinibbana Day – 06 December

## "Struggle and more struggle, Sacrifice and more sacrifice"

The publishers of 'Jai Bheem' Madras proposed to bring out a Special Number of the magazine on Babasaheb's 55th Birthday in April 1947. They approached him to give a message to be published on the occasion. Babasaheb was not in favor of celebration of his birthday as here garded man-worship as perversion of democracy, and demoralizing to leader and his followers. He asserted that the sufferings and sufferings alone without counting the sacrifices or sufferings would bring the emancipation of his people. He emphasized that the Untouchables must develop a collective will to rise and resist and must believe in the sacredness of their task and develop a command determination to achieve their goal of fully recovering their manhood, come what may. He said greatness could be achieved only by struggle and sacrifice. Neither manhood nor Godhood could be obtained without going through the ordeal of fire. According to him most of the down-trodden men fail to achieve greatness in this race of life because they have neither the courage nor the determination to sacrifice the pleasures of the present for the needs of their future. His inspiring message to the readers of 'Jai Bheem' is beacon for the people of marginalized sections.

Babasaheb said in his message of 13 April 1947: "You have asked me to send you a message on my 55th birthday for your Special Number. It is an unfortunate fact that in India the political leader is placed on the same footing as the Prophet. Outside India, people celebrate the birthday of their Prophets. It is only in India that the birthdays of both Prophets as well as the politicians are celebrated. It is a pity that it should be so. Personally, I do not like the celebration of my birthday. I am too much of a democrat to relish man-worship which I regard as perversion of democracy. Admiration, love, regards and respect for a leader, if he deserves them, are permissible and should be enough for both, the leader and the followers. But worship of the leader is certainly not permissible. It is demoralizing to both. But I suppose this is all beside the point. Once a political leader is placed on the same footing as the Prophet, he must play the role of the Prophet and give a message to his followers in the same way as Prophet did. "I cannot give the Untouchables a message but I can tell them a tale from Greek Mythology and point out the moral. This tale is contained in a Homeric Hymn addressed to the Greek God-

dess Demeter. This Hymn to Demeter relates how the great Goddess, in the course of her wanderings in search of her daughter, came to the court of Keleos. No one recognized the Goddess under the borrowed form of a humble wet-nurse; and Queen Metoneira entrusted to her care her latest born child the infant Demophoon, afterwards known as Triptolemos. Every evening, behind closed doors, while the household was asleep, Demeter took little Demophoon out of his comfortable cradle and with apparent cruelty, though moved in reality by a great love and desires of bringing him eventually to the state of Godhood, laid the naked child on a glowing bed of embers. The child, Demophoon endures the fiery charcoal; he gathers strength from the ordeal. Something Superhuman is fostered in him, something robust, and something beyond all hope glorious. But Metoneira becoming anxious, says the legend, burst sud-



denly one evening into the room where the experiment was being carried on and guided by her mistaken fears, thrust aside the goddess at her work of foregoing the superman, pushed away the embers and took away the child with the result that she saved the child but lost the Superman and eventual God.

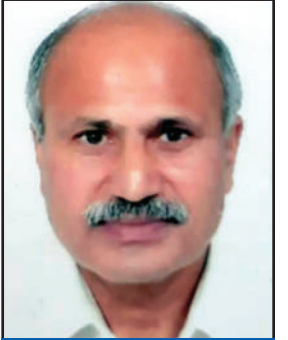
"This tale teaches that greatness can be achieved only by struggle and sacrifice. Neither manhood nor Godhood can be obtained without going through the ordeal of fire. Fire purifies, fire strengthens, so does struggle and suffering. No down-trodden man can achieve greatness unless he is prepared for struggle and suffering. He must be ready to sacrifice the comforts and even the necessities of the present for building up his future. To use the language of the Bible for the race of life all are called but only few are chosen. The reason is obvious. Most downtrodden men fail to achieve greatness in this race of life because they have neither the courage nor the determination to sacrifice the pleasures of the present for the needs of their future.

"Can there be a better and a greater message than what is contained in this legend? I can find one. It is the best and the most appropriate message I can think of for the Untouchables. I am aware of their struggle and their sufferings. I am

aware that in their struggle for liberty they have suffered more than I have. With all this, I can give them no other message. My message is 'struggle, and more struggle, sacrifice and more sacrifice'. It is struggle and struggle alone without counting the sacrifices or sufferings that will bring their emancipation. Nothing else will. The Untouchables must develop a collective will to rise and resist and must believe in the sacredness of their task and develop a command determination to achieve their goal. Their task is so great and the purpose so noble that as Untouchables should join in a prayer and say: "Blessed are they who are alive to the duty of raising those among whom they are born. Blessed are they who vow to give the flower of their days, their strength is of soul and body and their mite, to further the campaign of resistance to slavery. Blessed are they who resolve - come good, come evil, come sunshine, come tempest, come honor,

1956, Babasaheb said in voice choked with emotion: "... Whatever I have been able to achieve is being enjoyed by the educated few, who, with their deceitful performance, have proved to be the worthless lot, with no sympathies

for their downtrodden brethren... They live for themselves and their personal gains.. My lieutenants in whom I had full faith and confidence to run the movement are fighting among themselves for leadership and power... Tell my people, Nanak Chand, that whatever I have been able to achieve for them, I have done it single-handed,



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passing through crushing miseries and endless troubles fighting with my opponents as also with some of my own people who deceived me for their selfish ends... With great diffi-



come dishonor - not to stop until the Untouchables have fully recovered their manhood" (BAWS, Vol.17, Pt. 2, pp. 83-85).

The message of Babasaheb is as apt and relevant today for his people as it was then. Not only the legend has a message but the life itself of Babasaheb is living example of struggle and sacrifice for the cause of the unfortunate children of lesser God and the country. He sacrificed three sons, Ramesh, Gangadhar, Raj Rattan and a daughter Indu and suffered from multiple physical ailments for the cause of the people. But he stood like a rock that did not melt but turned the course of rivers. He served his people till his last breath. On the fateful day of 06 December 1956, he finalized typed draft letter to Buddha Shasana Concil and typed copy of Preface and Introduction to the book 'Buddha and his Dhamma' before breathing his last. His solemn vow "...to die in the service and cause of those down-trodden people among whom I was born, I was brought up and I am living. I would not budge an inch from my righteous cause "was, thus, redeemed. (Nanak Chand Rattu, Last few years of Dr. Ambedkar, pp. 112-116 and BAWS, Vol. 17, Pt. 3, P. 416).

In last message to his people delivered through his Personal Secretary, Mr. N.C. Rattu on July 31,

culty, I have brought the caravan where it is seen today. Let the caravan march on and further on, despite the hurdles, pitfalls and difficulties that may come in its way. They must rise to the occasion if they want to live an honorable and respectable life. If my people, my lieutenants are not able to take the caravan ahead, they should leave it where it is seen today; but, must not under any circumstances, allow it to go back. This is my probably the last message in all my seriousness, which I am sure, will not go unheeded. Go and tell them; go and tell them; go and tell them." (Nanak Chand Rattu, Reminiscences and remembrances of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, pp.190-193)

Much water has flown down the rivers since the messiah of humanity attained Mahaparinibbana. This day is marked by celebrations, seminars and debates as a tribute to him year after year by millions of organizations of his people at their individual level in the country and abroad. But, unfortunately instead of moving forward, his caravan is rather going down the slope. Isn't it a matter of concern and shame for his people particularly the beneficiaries of his struggle and sacrifice? Can there be any meaningful tribute to him other than pulling the caravan as a cohesive force with a collective will to its destination?



It is your claim to equality which hurts them. They want to maintain the status quo. If you continue to accept your lowly status ungrudgingly, continue to remain dirty, filthy, backward, ignorant, poor and disunited, they will allow you to live in peace. The moment you start to raise your level, the conflict starts. Untouchability is not transitory or temporary feature; it is eternal, it is lasting. Frankly it can be said that the struggle between the Hindus and the Untouchables is a never-ending conflict. It is eternal because the religion which assigns you the lowest status in society is itself divine and eternal according to the belief of the so-called high caste Hindus. No change warranted by change of time and circumstances is possible.

- Dr. Ambedkar

**We pay glowing tribute to Bharat Rattan Babasaheb  
Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 66th Prininirvan Divas.**

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"Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realise that our people have yet to learn it.

Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic."

— B.R. Ambedkar, Annihilation of Caste

I pay glowing tribute to Bharat Rattan Babasaheb

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 66th Prininirvan Divas.

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Chairman

### Shri Guru Ravidas Sabha Bay-Area (CA)



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## Neeraj Kumar Chander Tajpuri and his Family

# An Assessment of Conference of Parties – 27



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Former Professor, Department of  
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The Conference of Parties-27 ended on November 20 in the Egyptian city of Sharm el-Sheikh. This conference was supposed to start from November 6 and last until November 18, but it ended on November 20 as no result was reached by November 18. In this conference, the item named Loss and Damages Fund has been passed, which is being considered as a major achievement of this conference. This item was an issue of discussion for a long time, but the developed countries were avoiding it with various excuses.

In the historical background, developed countries have mercilessly used large amounts of natural resources like air, water, and forests while developing their economies and have also polluted them badly. These countries have achieved huge milestones of industrial development by using coal, diesel, petrol, wood, and the like as energy sources and have emitted tons of greenhouse gases in the environment. As a result, the earth's average temperature has increased by 1.1 degree Celsius above the Pre-Industrial Revolution Period temperature. The rise in temperature has triggered rapid changes in climate, leading to a rapid increase in the frequency and severity of natural disasters such as droughts, floods, heat and cold waves. In this regard this is the year 2022, in which almost every country in the world has been affected by natural disasters. What is worth noting here is that the poor and developing countries are more affected by these natural disasters than the rich and developed ones. Therefore, poor and developing countries have been demanding for a long time from developed countries to compensate for the damage caused by natural disasters. Developed countries have been avoiding their responsibility so far. In this conference, while accepting this responsibility, they have agreed to compensate for the losses caused by natural disasters, which is considered a major and historic achievement of this conference.

One of the main reasons for holding the Conference of Parties-27 in Egypt in the African continent this year is that the 54 countries of Africa emit only 4 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emissions, while China alone emits 30 per cent of total emissions, the United States of America 15 per cent, European Union countries 9 per cent and India 7 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. If we look at the historical background, the United States of America alone emitted 24.6 per cent of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere during 1750-2020. All African countries have emitted only 2.8 per cent of greenhouse gases in these years. Pakistan releases only 1 per cent of the greenhouse gases into the environment. This year (2022), one-third of Pakistan was affected by floods and 1700 people died. Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and some other countries in Africa have been in the grip of drought during the last four years due

to which approximately 37 million people have faced starvation this year. Hundreds of people died and millions of people became homeless due to heavy floods in the countries of Nigeria and Uganda on the continent of Africa. According to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Index, Africa emitted only 1.1 metric tons of carbon dioxide per capita in 2019. The United States of America alone emitted 16.1 metric tons of carbon dioxide per capita during this period, which is 11.4 metric tons more than the global average (4.7 metric tons) and while 54 African had emitted 3.6 metric tons less carbon dioxide per capita than the global average. Even with such low carbon dioxide emissions, these countries many times suffer from more natural disasters than developed countries. According to a survey con-

ducted in 55 poor countries, climate change has caused losses of 525 billion US dollars during the last two decades, but according to experts working in this field, the losses are much higher. can get financial assistance on time. Many issues related to this fund are yet to be discussed. The biggest question is which country will pay how much and what criteria will be taken for it. The United States of America and European countries want China, which is currently emitting more greenhouse gases than any other country in the world, to contribute to the fund. The United Nations has currently placed China in the category of developing countries. All such issues will be discussed at the next year's Conference of Parties-28. So, this fund will remain in the files for one more year.

At the beginning of the Conference of Parties-27, it was said that this conference would focus on concrete implementation of the promises of rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but this conference, like

diesel) but while this is not expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly, there may be benefits in the long term. European Union countries and the

United States of America supported the proposal, but oil-producing countries opposed it. This item was not included in the final conference draft in written form. In the Conference of Parties -26 India and China diluted the term phased out of coal into the phase down of coal into the final text.

All these reports came before the Conference of Parties-27 and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres was of the opinion that the representatives of all the countries in this conference would be aware of the alarming warnings of these reports. Taking serious view of natural disasters like droughts, floods, heat and cold waves experienced in 2022 the world leaders of the different countries of the world would take concrete and serious decisions to reduce greenhouse gases emissions, but nothing happened. Guterres in his welcome speech to this conference has strongly said that now we do not have time to think and delay any more, we must all come together to make such an agreement that we will protect all countries of the world from the effects of climate change. Guterres also said that let's save or else be ready for a mass suicide. This serious issue was not openly discussed in the conference which is a matter of great concern. Smaller issues were discussed, such as that European countries proposed that all the countries in the world should submit a detailed report every year on the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, which is now scheduled to be done every five years.

Currently, China, the United States of America, and India rank first, second, and third respectively in the use of coal for energy. China reiterated last year's pledge to begin reducing coal use after 2026. The United States of America has pledged to reach net-zero carbon emissions in the power sector by 2035 and in all other sectors by 2050. India has pledged to generate 500 Giga Watt of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. According to the Economic Survey 2021-22, coal consumption in India could increase by 1.3 to 1.5 billion tonnes by 2030, which would be 63 per cent more than the coal consumption of 2019-2020. These three countries China (30 per cent), the United States of America (15 per cent), and India (7 per cent) are releasing 52 per cent of the total greenhouse gases into the environment. Therefore, China and the United States of America should rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide financial assistance to developing and poor countries that



ductured in 55 poor countries, climate change has caused losses of 525 billion US dollars during the last two decades, but according to experts working in this field, the losses are much higher.

With the passing of the Losses and Damages Fund item, there is a ray of hope for the developing and poor countries that perhaps the developed countries will begin to compensate for the losses caused by natural disasters. One such promise was made by the developed countries at the Conference of Parties-15 in Copenhagen in 2009 to provide developing and poor countries with clean technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of US\$100 billion annually by 2020 in the name of the Climate Finance Fund. Developed countries have been avoiding providing these funds. Every year they used to postpone giving the amount of fund by making some excuses. So far, developed countries have not provided the full amount as per this promise in any year. Only 78 billion US dollars in 2018 and 80 billion US dollars in 2019 were given in the name of the Climate Finance Fund.

In view of such behavior of developed countries, in order to make this promise of the COP-27 successful, similar items should be on the agenda and passed in the conferences being organized for climate change so that the needy countries

the previous conferences, has been very weak. There was no serious discussion of greenhouse gas emission reductions at this conference, while according to a United Nations report dated 26 October 2022, current greenhouse gas emission reduction pledges are limited to 1.5 degree Celsius by the end of this century. The pledge does not come down to doing. Temperature could increase by 2.5 degree Celsius by the end of the century and greenhouse gas emissions could increase by 10.6 per cent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels. According to a 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), greenhouse gas emissions would need to be cut to 45 per cent of 2010 levels by 2030 in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius by the end of the century. According to a 2022 report by the Global Carbon Budget, if greenhouse gas emissions continue at current levels, there is a 50 per cent chance that the earth's average temperature would exceed the limit of 1.5 degree Celsius in the next nine years. According to this report, emissions of some greenhouse gases may increase by 1 per cent in 2022 over 2021. Greenhouse gas emissions could increase by 1.5 per cent in the United States of America and up to 6 per cent in India.

India proposed to reduce the use of all fossil fuels (coal, oil, wood,

(Contd. on next page)

# An Assessment of Conference of Parties – 27

(Continue from page 7)

suffer from natural disasters due to the increase in average global temperature every year through the Climate Finance Fund, and the Losses and Damages Fund. Although India emits a very small amount of greenhouse gases in the environment compared to these countries, it should contribute in this regard. With this, along with other countries, India will also be saved from natural disasters. European countries have also reduced greenhouse gas emissions this year by 0.8 per cent from 2021 level despite the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war and severe drought in 2022, which is

a positive trend. European countries have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 from the 1990 level. These countries have already reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 24 per cent from 1990 level during the period 1990 to 2019. In European countries, public transport is very smartly designed to reduce the use of private transport for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The French government has banned short-flights (air travel) from April 2022 where there are train or bus service options of two and a half hours or less. This ban has been imposed to reduce the emission

of greenhouse gases in the country. In addition, almost all of the European countries have sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides of the roads for pedestrians and cyclists.

The United States of America has pledged to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by 2035, but most cities have only nominal public transportation facilities. Markets, food stores and places of work are so far from residential areas that even a common man cannot go without a private car/vehicle. According to the third installment of the Sixth IPCC Report, if greenhouse gas emissions are to be

rapidly reduced to save the earth, organisms, and people, modes of transportation, food, and living will have to be changed, otherwise every year millions of people and animals will fall victim to natural disasters. The governments of all the countries of the world should take the path of their economic development which passes through conservation of natural resources instead of depleting them. There is a dire need to make conscious decisions at conferences that are being held to save the earth and people from natural disasters for improving the environment. Time to act is now, tomorrow will be too late.



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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# G-20 Presidency: A Proud Moment for Indian Diplomacy

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising 20 countries and the European Union. It works to address major issues related to the global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development. The members of the G20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. The G20 was formed in 1999, in the wake of the Asian financial crisis, to unite finance ministers and central bankers from twenty of the world's largest established and emerging economies. The main purpose of G-20 is to bring together important industrialized and developing economies to discuss key

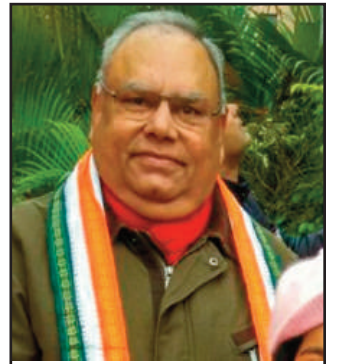
security scenario. Indian political and economic leadership and also the diplomatic establishment are fully geared up to host the occasion and realize the professed and proclaimed lofty ideals of "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

India has formally assumed the Presidency of the G-20 on December 1, 2022 with great enthusiasm and earnestness. In a story, the Indian Express rightly termed the occasion as a 'watershed moment' and said, "India has formally assumed the presidency of G-20 on December 1 and the Heads of Government Summit has been planned for the second half of 2023. The G20 summit would be qualitatively different from any of the previous multilateral summits that India has hosted. None of the previous summits had the world's largest economies assembled in one place nor did they have the entire P-5 (per-

scale public participation through various Jan Bhagidari activities are planned throughout the year. It was stated in a Press Release of the Ministry of External Affairs. The Press Release further said, "Drawing inspiration from its G20 Presidency theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - 'One Earth One Family One Future', India will host over 200 meetings in over 50 cities across 32 different work streams, and would have the opportunity to offer G20 delegates and guests a glimpse of India's rich cultural heritage and provide them with a unique Indian experience." India has fully risen to the occasion to host the G-20 Summit in association and co-operation of all the members of the august body and stake holders. G-20 Secretariat is fully functional under the stewardship of one of the experienced and competent administrators, Amitabh Kant, as the Sherpa of G-20

ond half of the year. On December 1, all the important buildings and monuments were fully illuminated with a view to encourage public participation and appreciation of the historic and proud movement of India.

EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar underlining the point said, "Given its significance, we would like G20 to be not a Delhi-centric event but one that is celebrated across the width and

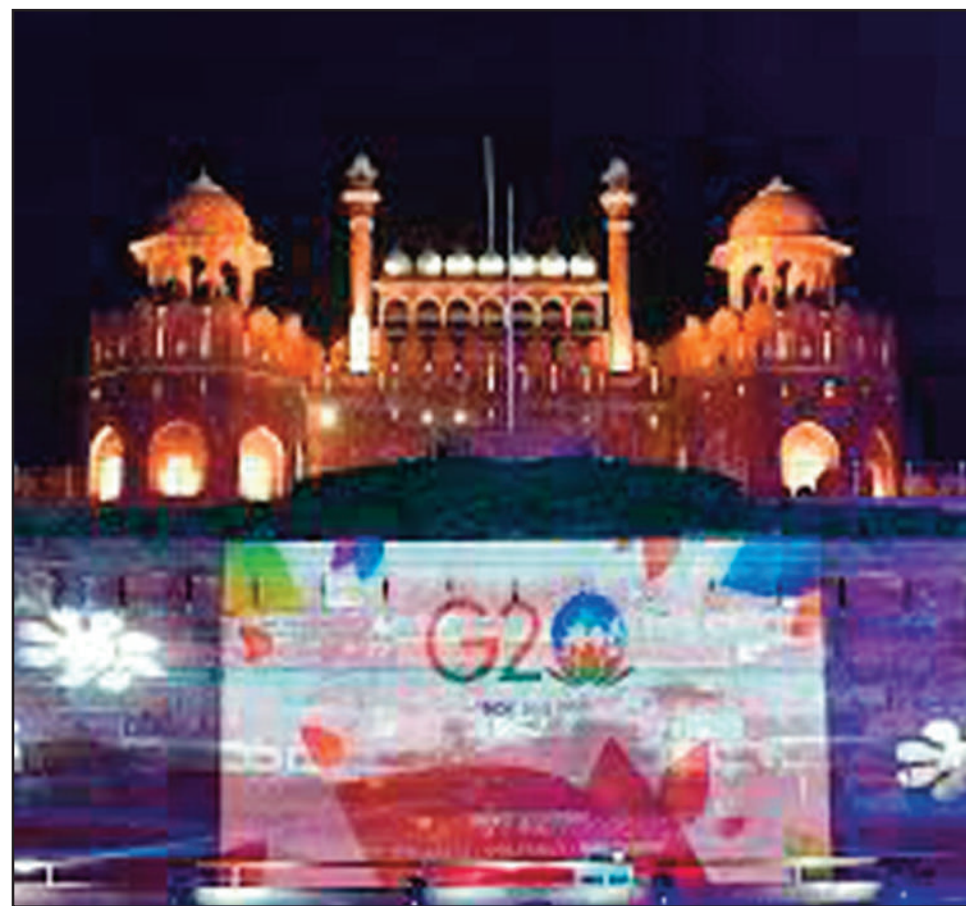


**Ramesh Chander**  
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)  
91-99885-10940



issues in the global economy. The G20 Countries together represent around 90% of global GDP, 80% of global trade, and two thirds of the world's population. The objectives of the G20 are: a) Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth; b) To promote financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises; and c) To create a new international financial architecture.

India's participation in the G-20 process stems from the realization that as a major developing economy India has a vital stake in the stability of the international economic and financial system. India has been actively involved in the G20 preparatory process both at the Sherpas Track and the Financial Track since its inception in 1999. The movement of glory for the Indian diplomacy came at the G-20 Summit held at Bali (Indonesia) on November 26, 2022 when the baton of the next Summit of G-20 to be held in New Delhi was formally passed on PM Narendra Modi by the President of Indonesia. Accepting the great responsibility and honour, PM Narendra Modi, while stating the agenda, said, ". India's Presidency of G-20 would be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented". Earlier the logo and theme of the G-20 Summit to be held under the Presidency of India was released and it was rightly underlined the importance of the G-20 Summit to be held in New Delhi in November, 2023 under challenging times for the world's emerging economic and se-



manent members of the UN Security Council) represented. In that sense, the G-20 summit would be the first of its kind in Indian history." PM Narendra Modi, in an article on the subject, highlighted the over-all reach of the G-20 and said, "India looks forward to a Presidency of healing, harmony and hope." A key element of India's G20 Presidency will be taking the G20 closer to the public and making it truly a 'People's G20'. To realize this, Citizen engagement and large

- A Sherpa is a guide in the Himalayas, taking mountaineers to the summit. Similarly, #G20 Sherpa spearheads the Presidency to the final Leaders Summit; fully supported and assisted by the finest diplomats of India; Harsh Vardan Shringla, Muktesh Pardeshi, Abhay Kumar along with their team of young diplomats. The Envoys of the members countries and others concerned were fully briefed of the preparations and nitty gritty of the G-20 Summit in the sec-

breadth of the country," and added, "The countrywide spread of the event will help Indian citizens to understand that as a result of the G-20, India will be "more world-ready" and the "world more India-ready". EAM Jaishankar termed G-20 Presidency as "unparalleled, a crucial responsibility" and further said, "This is not a development that should be regarded as one more diplomatic happening. On the contrary, it is a crucial responsibility that is being assumed by India at a very challenging time in world politics and at an inflection point in India's own history".

All said and done, G-20 Summit 2023 is proud moment and a timely opportunity to show and register India's strength as the biggest democracy of the world on one hand and a humane and civilized society standing for 'peace and equitable world order' as a responsible member of the comity of nations. With a view to achieve this lofty goal, we need to be strong and resilient at home as a 'secular, socialist and democratic' country as stipulated in the Constitution of India. It is said that foreign policy of any country is an extension of its internal situation. India needs to be strong and stable from within. We need to push for 'political consensus' across the political spectrum. It is a matter of gratification to note that GOI under PM Narendra Modi has already started the process by calling an all party meeting on the subject - Agaz To Acha Hai; Anjam Bhi Acha Hi Hoga.

मैं नहीं संदेश स्वर्ण का लाया;  
इस भूतल को ही स्वर्ण बनाने आया

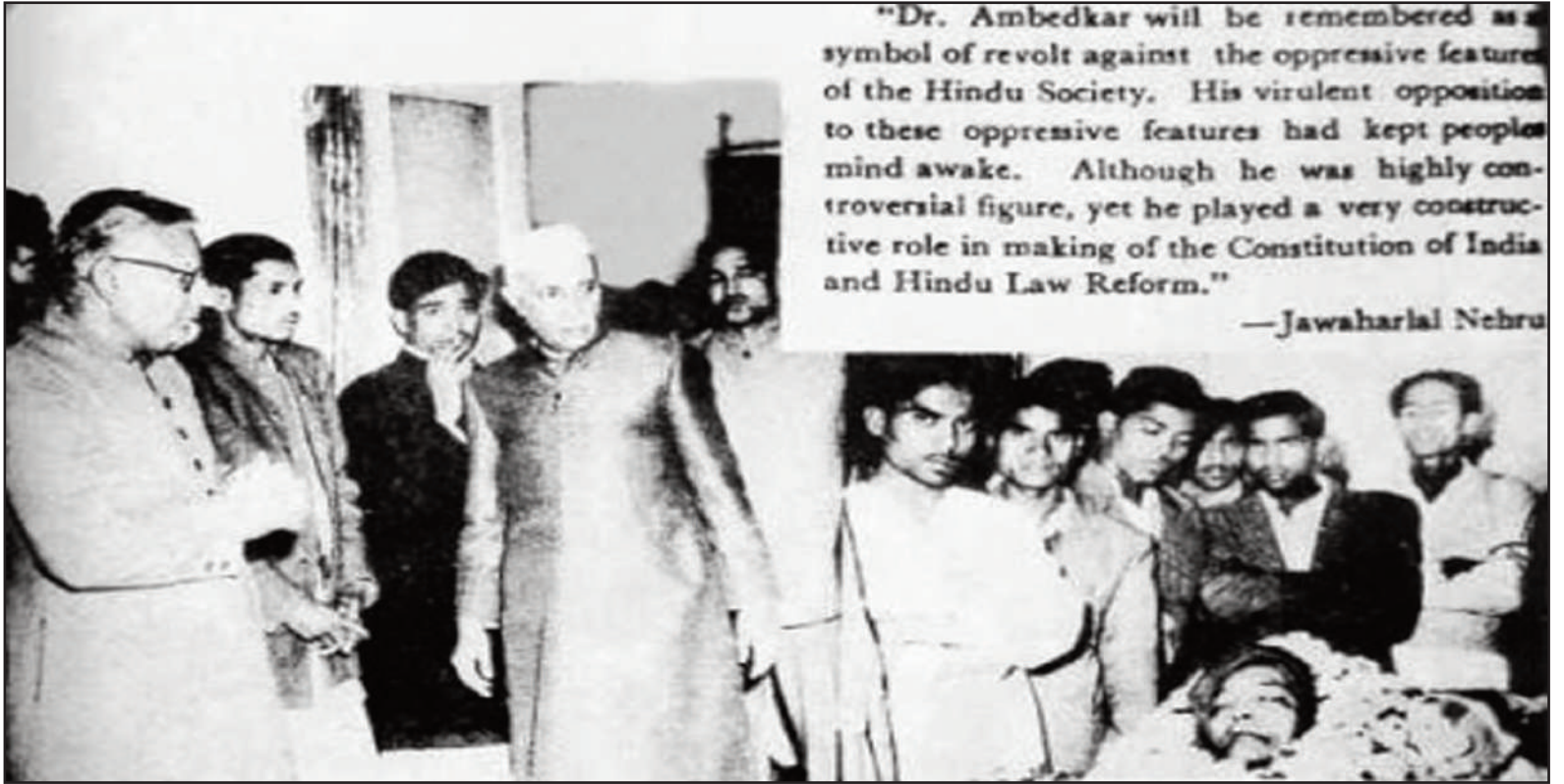
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# 06 December 1956: Obituary in Rajya Sabha

## Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on demise of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar

"Mr. Chairman, I deeply regret to inform the House that a member of this House who had played a very leading part in many matters passed away a short while ago. I refer to Dr. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar from many many years had been a controversial figure in Indian public affairs, but there can be no doubt about his outstanding quality, his scholarship, and the intensity with which he pursued his convictions, sometimes rather with greater intensity that perhaps required by the particular subject, which sometimes reacted in a contrary way. But he was the symbol of that intense feeling which we must always remember, the intense feelings of the suppressed classes in India who have suffered for ages past under our social systems, and it is as well that we recognize this burden that all of us should carry and should always remember. It may be that some of us thought, as I have just said, that he



"Dr. Ambedkar will be remembered as a symbol of revolt against the oppressive features of the Hindu Society. His virulent opposition to these oppressive features had kept peoples mind awake. Although he was highly controversial figure, yet he played a very constructive role in making of the Constitution of India and Hindu Law Reform."

—Jawaharlal Nehru

overdid the expression of that feeling, but I do not think that apart from the manner of utterance or language, anybody should challenge the rightness of the intensity of his feelings in that matter which should be felt by all of us and perhaps even more so by those who have not in

themselves or in their groups or classes had to suffer from them. He was that. Therefore, he became this symbol.

But we in Parliament remember him for many other things and more particularly for the prominent part he played in the making of our

Constitution and perhaps this fact will be remembered even longer than his other activities. I am quite sure that every Member of this house will want us to send our deep condolences and message of sympathy to his family and to express our deep sorrow at his demise."



"Humans are mortal. So are ideas.  
An idea needs propagation as much as a plant needs watering.  
Otherwise both will wither and die."

— Bhim Rao Ambedkar

We pay glowing  
tribute to Bharat  
Rattan Babasaheb  
Dr. Bhimrao Ramji  
Ambedkar on his 66th  
Prinirvan Divas.



## Hans Raj Kajla and Kajla Family

# Greetings to Punjab De Sher Puttar Dharmendra on his 88th Birthday

## Dharmendra Deol : Bollywood's Real Macho-Man

Six decades ago, an unknown tubewell mechanic from Sahnewal(Ludhiana) set out on a journey to the 'City of Dreams' to realise his ambition of becoming a hero in the Bollywood. He is none other than 'Punjab da SherPuttar'Dharmendra. He is a born entertainer, acting is not a profession for him but it's his beloved. A director's actor, he could don a dhoti with the same ease with which he could sport a Roman Toga, he could be smoldering in a tuxedo and set a million hearts ablaze. The way his face emotes expressions is unparalleled and his sensitive eyes create an intriguing romance wooing his heroines. Simply dashing Dharmendrawith indelible romantic aura, remains true to his image of the lovable prince charming.

He blasted the silver screen and the movie halls were drowned in

often travelling miles to watch Suraiya's "Dillagi"(1949) many times. He was a star-struck teenager who devoured film magazines and greatly admired actors like Motilal and Dilip Kumar. He would often try to copy these actors while looking himself in front of the mirror. He came across an advertisement for 'Film Talent Hunt' in the fortnightly Filmfare. The curious Dharmendrarushed to Malerkotla to get his portfolio done by Jaan Mohammed of John & Sons. The august panel comprising of Bimal Roy and Guru Dutt selected the debonair Dharmendra with top rank. In 1958, he came to the Mayanagri(Bombay) with the starry eyes toget hero's role on a platter but no offers came his way.

He approached producer S.Mukherjee of Filmistan, who curtly responded that they wanted an actor

dar and AbrarAlvi crafted his acting skills in films "Haqueeqat" (1964), "Akash Deep" (1965) and "Baharein Phir Bhi Aayengi" (1966).Hrshikesh Mukherjee presented Dharmendra as an accomplished actor in "Anupama" (1966), "MajhliDidi" (1967) and "Satyakam" (1969), where he played an idealist torn between his lofty ideals and the selfish mortals.

He performed soft, emotional and romantic roles in the early days of his career and shunned away from being trapped in any particular image. With his sensitive face and eye-candy looks, he became the perfect choice for women-centric films. He portrayed a sensitive jail doctor in "Bandini" (1963) while "Anupama"(1966) gave him the patina of an actor. He willingly experimented to do the villain's role in "Aayee Milan Ki Bela" (1964)

moments in "Johnny Gaddar" (2007). "Yamla-PaglaDeewana" (2011) etched Dharmendra as a comic actor far beyond his years.

During his early career, he was eager to act in Punjabi movies. In

1964, he got the plum role of Geeta Bali's brother-in-law in Rajinder Singh Bedi's "Rano". However, the film got scrapped due to the tragic death of Geeta Bali. Shocked Dharmendra decided to shun Punjabi films except doing guest or special appearances in friendly Punjabi ventures post 1970.



**Bhim Raj Garg**  
91+98765-45157



a thousand whistles merely on his entry. He took rapid strides to become the poster boy for the tendon. He is known as the most handsome actor to have ever walked the soil of Indian showbiz. A top draw at the box office, his towering talent got overlooked because the industry didn't know how to deal with his Greek god looks. He connects with the world through social media and is a regular twitter, sharing glimpses from his old movies.

During his initial career years, he countered the mercurial rise of Shammi Kapoor and then contended with Rajendra(Jubilee) Kumar. In 1970s, he lived and thrived under the shadow of the Rajesh Khanna phenomenon. The marquee crown continue to elude him with the entry of angry young man Amitabh Bachchan. But Dharmendra was the rock that wouldn't budge and he remained industry's most favourite leading man. He earned the epithet of 'bankable star' because his films earned the proverbial big bucks.

Dharminder Singh Deol (Dharmendra) was born to a school teacher KewalKrishanSingh Deoland Satwant Kaur in Nasrali village, (District Ludhiana, Punjab) on December 8, 1935. He received his early education from Government School,LaltonKalan(Ludhiana) and did his intermediate from Ramgarhia College, Phagwara. He was fascinated by the films right from his childhood. As class IX student, he saw his first film "Shaheed" (1948) and he was spell-bound. As an adolescent, he got addicted to films,

not a football player. He and his contemporaries Manoj Kumar and Shashi Kapoor used to sit on a bench in the studios and wait endlessly for a much needed break. Frustrated, Dharmendra decided to return to Ludhiana, but then the lady luck smiled on him. With the persistent efforts of Filmfare editor L.P. Rao, he got a second lead role in Arjun Hingorani's film 'DilBhiTera Hum BhiTere' (1960) and was paid a signing amount of Rupees Fifty One.

During the preview show of the film, the financiers disapproved Dharmendra and advised the producer to replace him with an established actor. However, director Arjun Hingorani stuck to his guns. Dharmendra started as a nervous and overtly concerned actor playing the role of an unemployed youth Ashok, who advertised for Cavander cigarettes on busy streets by wearing high stilts and spent his nights on the footpath. Ironically, no body recognized Dharmendra at the premiere of his first movie and he returned home by a local train. This film tanked at the box-office and he was again on the roads.

Once again, Mr. Rao came to his rescue and got him role in Bimal Roy's "Bandini" (1963). Simultaneously, his first signed film "Shola Aur Shabnam" (1961) also got started. This time he was lucky and both the films proved box-office success. His performance was greatly appreciated in Anpadh (1962) and many offers came in his pocket. Renowned directors like ChetanAnand, PhaniMajum-

outshining the hero Rajendra Kumar. The bare-chested Dharmendra looming over MeenaKumari in PhoolAur Patthar(1966) became the most striking image of the film that catapulted him to stardom.

He did James bond type action spy roles in "Ankhen" (1968), "Jugnu" (1973), "Loafer" (1973) and "Shalimar"(1978). In "Khamoshi" (1969), he has briefly shown his gorgeous rear profile and left the audience wanting more. He played overly sensitive writer in "NayaZamana" (1971) and "Phagun" (1973) and a shy romantic poet in "Black Mail" (1973). In his new incarnation, he played the flirtatious Veeru in "Sholay"(1975) and Professor ParimalTripathi in "ChupkeChupke" (1975) where his comic timing practically anchored the entire film.He donned a black frock and indulged in lance fights in swashbuckler "Dharam Veer" (1977).

His later films like "Ghulami" (1985), "Hathyar"(1989) and "Batawara"(1989) showcased a mature Dharmendra. However, the masala-action super hit film "Hukumat" (1987) transformed him into a veritable 'Action Icon'. During the 1990s, Dharmendra did a lot of average films simply because he wanted to be in the midst of what he loved the most. After a four-year hiatus from acting, he staged a comeback with character roles in "Apne" (2007) and "Life in a... Metro" (2007), both the films were critically and commercially successful. Dharmendra is a hungry actor and he gave superb improvised

His first Punjabi film was Kankan De Ohle (1971) in a special role with Asha Parikh. In DukhBhanjanTeranaam (1972), he played a brief role of a cartman. In Do Sher (1974) he was a police officer who disguised as Malang to nab the criminals. Next year, his special appearance as BholuRickshawala in Teri MerilKJindari (1975) was to launch his cousin Veerendra. He continued to do small roles off and on as guest appearances in films like "Main Papi Tum Bakhshanhaar", "Giddha", "Nachdi-Jawani", "Ambri", "Putt Jattan De", "Santo Banto", "RanjhanMeraYaar", "QurbaniJatt Di", "Double DI Trouble" (Double role), "Jora 10 Numbaria" and "Jora- the Second Chapter" etc. The leading ladies in B-town were swooning over Dharmendra, the India's answer to James Dean. He was chivalrous and his soft etiquette with the ladies was well known. He acted opposite a bevy of beauties of the day Nutan, MeenaKumari, Saira-Banu, Mala Sinha, Tanuja, Nanda, Sharmila Tagore, Mumtaz, Parveen Bobby and ZeenatAman etc. But his most popular pairing was with the dream girl HemaMaliniin more than 20 films.They fell in love on the sets of "Tum Haseen Main Jawan" (1970) and finally got married on August 21, 1979. They have two daughters Esha and Ahana out of this wedlock. He appeared with his daughter Esha in HemaMalini's venture 'Tell me O Khuda' (2012).

His first marriage with Prakash Kaur was solemnised in  
(Contd. on next page)



Untouchability has ruined the Untouchables, the Hindus and ultimately the nation as well. If the depressed classes gained their self-respect and freedom, they would contribute not only to their own progress and prosperity but by their industry intellect and courage would contribute also to the strength and prosperity of the nation. If the tremendous energy Untouchables are at present required to fritter away in combating the stigma of Untouchability had been saved them, it would have been applied by them to the promotion of education and development of resources of their nation as a whole.

-Dr. Ambedkar

I pay glowing tribute to Bharat Rattan  
Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar  
on his 66th Pr Nirvan Divas.

**Amrik Chand (CPA)**

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## Dharmendra Deol : Bollywood's Real Macho-Man

(Continue from page 11)

1954 when he was yet to make his Bollywood debut. They are blessed with four children Vijeta, Sunny,

During his illustrious career spanning six decades, he has enacted every conceivable role in over 250 films out of which 78 films have cel-

got a very little recognition by way of awards. He once told that after he missed Filmfare's 'Black Lady Statuette' for either Anupama (1966) or

pullovers made him king of fashion. Even today, he's one of the most stylish men around. He was voted as one of the World's Most Handsome Men



Satyakam (1969), he decided not to take his acting seriously. As a consolation, he was given Filmfare Life-

time Achievement Award in 1997. He won National film Award as producer of the film "Ghayal" (1990). He is a recipient of the prestigious Living Legend Award by the FICCI. He was felicitated with Padma Bhushan by Government of India in 2012. He was elected a Member of Parliament in 2004 from Bikaner constituency.

Dharmendra used to liven up film dos like a true-blue showstopper. Sartorial sense was another dimension of his success story. His textured suits, slim fit pants and fancy



and 'Stardust magazine' gave him the title of "Hot Dharam". This title does not let him grow old, even at the age of eighty-seven, macho Dharmendra is handsomely young and a crowd-puller.

Bobby and Ajeeta. In 1981, Dharmendra established Vijeta Films to launch his son Sunny Deol, who debuted with the blockbuster 'Betaab' (1983). He produced Barsaat (1995) to launch his younger son Bobby. Vijeta Films has since continued with a storied tradition of introducing new talents like Amrita Singh, Twinkle Khanna and Abhay Deol. The banner has also shown faith in first time directors like Rahul Rawail, Rajkumar Santoshi, Sunny Deol, Imtiaz Ali and Shreyas Talpade.

celebrated silver/gold/diamond jubilees at the box-office. More often than not, his performance-oriented roles were overshadowed by his dashing good looks. He is still busy making films, doing Organic farming in his Lonavala farm house and frequently gracing various TV reality shows as a guest. His upcoming projects include "Apne 2" and "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani".

Despite his ample talent and equally remarkable heroic performances in all genres of movies, he has



# Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor. District 4



Sue Frost

## Election Results That Impact Sacramento County

Since the election on November 8th, I have seen a tremendous amount of analysis from people about how it will impact things on a national level with regards to the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate. But on the state and



local level, there were some issues that were voted on that will have major importance to us on the local level that I have seen very little coverage on - even by local papers. For my monthly article, I want to highlight the three most impactful ones so that you can know what to expect. And even though the votes are still being counted, each of these three I am going to describe below have enough votes counted for us to know with high confidence how they are going to wind up.

First is Measure A, which was a local vote for all residents of Sacramento County that would have raised the sales take by a ½ cent per \$1.00 spent, raising around \$212,500,000 annually until 2063 to spend on various transportation purposes like roads, public transit, vehicle emission reduction. Normally when local taxes are voted on, if the measure discloses exactly where the money will be spent (which was the case here) it needs to get 66% or more votes in favor in order to pass. But a quirk in the law allowed this one to only need to get above 50% in order to pass, which made it seem like a foregone conclusion that it would easily get enough votes in order to pass. But in a huge surprise, even though the "yes" campaign spent well over \$2,000,000 the measure failed - which will likely put a stop in the near future to more local transportation taxes showing up on the ballot.

Second is Measure B, which was a local vote in Sacramento County to allow the County to tax cannabis. This failed to reach the 66% needed, which means we will not be having cannabis stores popping up in the unincorporated parts of the County. This will likely not be the end of the efforts to pass this, and I would expect future tax proposals like

this to appear on the ballot - but at least for now the status quo will remain.

Lastly is Proposition 31, which was a statewide vote that would ban the sale of most flavored tobacco products across California. This passed overwhelmingly, which means these products will soon be banned. Sacramento County earlier this year put a ban in place in the unincorporated county, but these products could still be bought in neighboring cities like Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Roseville. With the ban in place, these cities will not be allowed to sell these products anymore.

*For a complete list of all my past newsletters, which each contain a commentary like this one, click here.*

## Round 2 Small Business & Nonprofit Grant Now Open

Round 2 of the Sacramento County Small Business & Nonprofit Grant Program is now open. Small businesses and nonprofit organizations adversely affected by the pandemic are invited to apply for relief grants.

The application is available through the [sac4smallbiz.org](http://sac4smallbiz.org) website and will be open from November 1, 2022, at 8 a.m. PST through December 15, 2022, at 5 p.m. PST.

Funded with a portion of the County's American Rescue Plan Act allocation, the County Board of Supervisors has approved this Program to support 750 small businesses and nonprofit organizations with grants of \$10,000 in one-time financial assistance. Grant funds for this Program



can be used to reimburse small businesses and nonprofit organizations for costs related to the negative economic impacts they have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related health and safety restrictions.

To be eligible, applicants must operate from a commercial location within the unincorporated County, received \$2.5M or less in annual gross

revenue in 2020 and have 25 or less full-time equivalent employees. Applicants can check whether their address is within the unincorporated County online at [assessor-parcelviewer.saccounty.gov](http://assessor-parcelviewer.saccounty.gov).

For a complete list of eligibility criteria and for additional information about the Program, please visit [sac4smallbiz.org](http://sac4smallbiz.org).

## Hazel Avenue Improvement Project Completed

In 2008, the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SacDOT) began work on transforming Hazel Avenue. That's when the first phase kicked off at the Highway 50 interchange. The entire project would stretch from Highway 50 up to Madison Avenue. It was broken up into three separate phases, with Phase 1 running from the highway to Curragh Downs Drive. Constructing this project resulted in big changes to the look and feel of Hazel Avenue. The biggest change was widening the road from four to six lanes. Other upgrades include constructing new bicycle and pedestrian facilities, traffic signal modifications, and replacing the center turn lane with a raised/landscaped center median.



One of the biggest challenges in Phase 1 was adding extra lanes on the bridge over the American River. Before that could occur, engineers needed to complete the design, secure environmental permits, and acquire the land rights necessary for the project. The alignment for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the project required the purchase and removal of over 40 houses, as well as relocation assistance for the impacted residents.

A year after the design was completed and three years after the Board of Supervisors gave its 2006 greenlight for the project, construction crews started work. The first phase officially finished in 2011, with a ribbon cutting at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery.

The second phase kicked off in 2010 with the important pre-construction work of design, environmental studies, and the acquisition of

properties before construction began. The heavy lifting started in 2016, as construction began from Curragh Downs Drive to Sunset Avenue. This phase of the project included a partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and the telecom utilities to underground the overhead utility lines. SacDOT also partnered with the Fair Oaks Water District to replace their aging water distribution system within the project limits. Construction on Phase 2 was completed in 2018.

With two phases down, SacDOT turned its sights onto the homestretch of Phase 3. SacDOT began that construction from Sunset Avenue to Madison Avenue in November 2020. As Phase 3 started, residents and commuters began to see how this facelift was helping to rejuvenate Hazel Avenue. After the end of Phase 3, the 2008 vision for new sidewalks and bike lanes came to fruition. These new amenities provided alternative modes of trans-

portation for those wanting to get out of their cars. The construction also brought new bus stops that allow traffic to flow while buses pull into a turn-out giving passengers a safer way to board and exit.

Along with the road construction, the skyline along Hazel Avenue was decluttered. This occurred because SacDOT collaborated with SMUD and the telecom utility companies to remove overhead wires that crisscrossed the area. SMUD and the other utility companies removed nearly 100 utility poles and placed their lines underground. With the undergrounding of utilities and the installation of continuous sidewalks and bike lanes, the public can safely stroll or ride bikes from Madison to the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, and see birds instead of a power line overhead as they enjoy the outdoors.

It's been 16 years since the Board of Supervisors approved the \$70 million project, and as construction crews put the finishing touches to Hazel Avenue, SacDOT would like to thank everyone for their patience throughout the three phases of  
**(Contd. on next page)**

# Naman to Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar

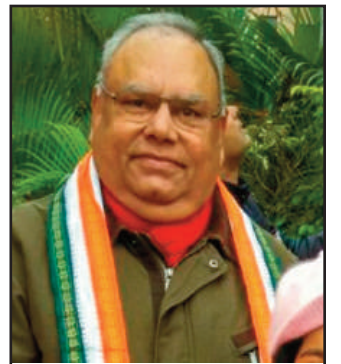
**T**oday, December 6, is the Mahaparinirvan Diwas (death anniversary) of the great icon of humanity, Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar (April 14, 1891 – December 6, 1956). I wrote on the day several times in my blogs in the successive years to pay my humble tributes to the great leader. Due to busy schedule, I intended to remain silent this year. But today I read something about Babasaheb in the media and I thought of picking up the threads and make some observations as Naman to Babasaheb on his Mahaparinirvan Diwas.

PM Narendra Modi, paying Tribute to Babasaheb rightly said, "Remembering the great Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on Mahaparinirvan Diwas; his thoughts and ideals continue to give strength to millions. We are committed to fulfilling the dreams he had for our nation." It is a befitting tribute to Babasaheb. Yet another interesting aspect, which hitherto remained under the carpet, came to light. "B.R. Ambedkar was a life-long Public Diplomat" – an article appeared on the editorial page of the HindustanTimes on December 6. It has been written by two prominent public personalities; Guru Prakash Paswan and Sudarshan Ramabadrnan, co-authors of the book 'Makers of Modern Dalit History'. It must be a well researched book though I am yet to lay my hands on the book. The following quote from the article justifies the title of the article, "Public diplomacy has many definitions but broadly speaking, it means a country communicating its values, culture or

policies to a foreign audience. B.R. Ambedkar, an Ambassador of Human Rights epitomized this in many ways. He was a strong global communicator of what plagued India and what India ought to do to overcome its challenges to be a model for the world. He also championed soft power much before the term came into the foreign policy lexicon – never resorting to violence in pursuit of social change nor backing anything that called for violence." The authors termed Babasaheb as "Ambedkar was an inveterate diplomat." Some days ago, I also saw

Shashi Tharoor wondered that how come PM Narendra Modi, who clearly and loudly, considered Ambedkar his icon in the face of perceived perception that BJP and RSS and the Hindutva leadership in general would be able to stomach 'candid and asserive' views of Babasaheb Ambedkar on Hinduism and Hindu traditions like Varanvibashtha (Caste system). RSS Sanghsanchalak Mohan Bhagwat also in the recent past rightly and publically owned the legacy of Ambedkar with regard to bring about 'Samrasta' in the society. I would not

Hindu leadership as to how would they synchroize, assimilate and harmonize their views and position with that of B.R. Ambedkar's. Followers of



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Ambedkar and the marginalized segments of the society should be rather happy that the so-called 'opponents' of Babasaheb Ambedkar are voluntarily willing to appropriate him and his legacy for the larger interest of the country and the society at large. It should be appreciated and welcomed, to my mind.

As I said that I did not intend to write a long piece today. I would like to mention about April 14, birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as 'International Day of Equality' under the aegis of UN; a proposal resting the GOI (MEA) since June, 2015 and earnestly urge PM Narendra Modi and solicit support of Sarsanghchak Mohan Bhagwat to kindly re-visit the proposal afresh in pursuance of India's Soft Diplomacy of which B.R. Ambedkar was the early proponent as asserted by Guru Prakash Paswan and Sudharshan Ramabadrnan. Ambedkar in himself is a potent force which cannot be suppressed for long.



a video interview MP Shashi Tharoor on The Wire conducted by Karan Thapar on his recent book 'Ambedkar: A Life' in which both Karan Thapar and

go into the details of this and leave the matter here as, I think, it is up to PM Narendra Modi and Sarsanghchak Mohan Bhagwat and the hardcore

Naman to Babasaheb Ambedkar on his Maha-Parinirvan Diwas

**(Continue from page 13)**  
construction. Sacramento County hopes these improvements will benefit residents, businesses, and travelers for decades to come.

**SMF Named Wall Street Journal's Top Airport**  
Sacramento International Airport (SMF) was named the top airport in the nation according to the Wall Street Journal's 2022 Airport rankings. Compared to the 50 other airports surveyed, SMF received the highest score overall.  
The top 50 busiest airports were surveyed and then divided into two sizes - 20 large and 30 midsize. The airports were then measured on 19 categories including experience from on-time performance and security waits to customer-satisfaction

scores and ticket prices. The categories ranked were further grouped into three broad categories – reliabil-



ity, convenience, and value.  
SMF ranked highest among all airports surveyed in the reliability category and also ranked high in arrival

and departure times, low flight cancellations, quick taxi and security clearance times, and a max walking

distance of only 1,213 feet.  
"The SMF team consistently provides our customers with a safe, comfortable and enjoyable travel ex-

perience," said Cindy Nichol, Director of the Sacramento County Department of Airports. "Living our values every day clearly makes a difference, as we make our customers our top priority. We see each day as an opportunity to improve and accomplish more together by collaborating; communicating and taking pride in what we do."

In 2019, SMF similarly won the top midsize airport award - the award was not issued in 2020 or 2021 due to the pandemic.

The Sacramento County Department of Airports is responsible for planning, developing, operating and maintaining the county's four airports: Sacramento International Airport, Executive Airport, Mather Airport and Franklin Field. For more information, visit [sacramento.aero](http://sacramento.aero).

# SRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHA, PITTSBURG (CA)

## 2150 Crestview Drive, Pittsburg, CA 94565

Learn to live in this world with self-respect. You should always cherish some ambition of doing something in this world. But remember that the age of selflessness has ended. A new epoch is set in. All things are now possible because of your being able to participate in the politics and legislature of your country.

- Dr. Ambedkar



**We pay glowing tribute to Bharat Rattan Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar on his 66th Prininirvan Divas.**



**Chairperson**  
**Kulwant Kaur Banga**



**President**  
**Vinod Kumar Jakhu**



**General Secretary**  
**Dharam Pal Chonkria**



**Treasurer**  
**Sunita Bangar**

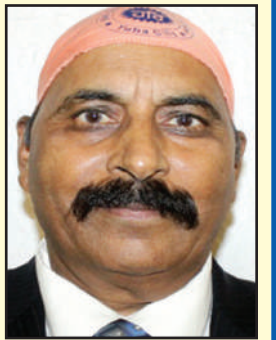


**"Freedom of mind is the real freedom.**

A person, whose mind is not free though he may not be in chains, is a slave, not a free man. One whose mind is not free, though he may not be in prison, is a prisoner and not a free man. One whose mind is not free though alive, is no better than dead. Freedom of mind is the proof of one's existence."

— Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar,  
Writings And Speeches

We pay glowing tribute to  
Bharat Rattan Babasaheb  
Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar  
on his 66th Prininirvan Divas.



**ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ  
ਦੇ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ**

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