



Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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Invited Editorial Article

Shaheed Bhagat Singh: A Great Revolutionary and an Erudite Philosopher

Shaheed Bhagat Singh occupies a central place in the Indian freedom movement. His name reached every nook and corner of the country after he and his associates, all young revolutionaries of the Hindustan Socialist Revolutionary Association (HSRA), avenged the death of Lala Lajpat Rai by murdering JP Saunders, ASP Lahore, on December 17, 1928. This dare devil act of killing an IP British officer of the rank of ASP, threw a daunting challenge before them. The spontaneously emerged circumstances forced them to choose between two possible options: to turn underground or oppose the British administration in a direct and open revolt. After deep thoughts, HSRA decided to adopt the latter. The strategy was prepared to give actual shape to direct and open fight by making use of British jails, police stations and courts as revolutionary platforms to widely disseminate the message of peace, freedom, and egalitarian social and political order, chiselled during long discussion among the members of the HSRA. And for this herculean task, it was decided – though with initial reservations on the part of Chandra Shekhar Azad and of course with heavy heart – that Bhagat Singh, one of the most intelligent young revolutionaries of HSRA, will lead the fight.

The decision to launch an open and direct front could partly be due to the thoughts related with the long self-exile of Sardar Ajit Singh for his involvement in 1907 'Pagri Sambhal Jatta' movement and partly for the longer ramifications of the adoption of violent methods for building an egalitarian social set-up and democratic governing order. Bhagat Singh and his associates might have decided to opt for the open fight after their action on December 17, 1928, to further shun violence on the one hand, and to minimize the implied losses of the struggle to keep oneself away from one's own people during the underground period or in exile as was in the case of his revolutionary uncle Sardar Ajit Singh. It was well thought-out strategy which speaks volumes of the political maturity of the young revolutionaries, their deep intellect and love for non-violent democratic means. It was in this context that Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev in their martyrdom defeated the so-called British administration that used to boast of its passion for liberal values and natural justice.

The direct fight began on April 8, 1928. The beginning was made by dropping of two mild bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly Hall at Delhi 'to make the deaf hear'

of the staggered sufferings of the subjugated. It was well-planned and deeply thought about non-violent action of its kind under the British rule in India. After the blast, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt did not leave the hall as decided beforehand. They kept on raising slogans: 'Inquilab Zindabad' and 'Down with Imperialism'. These two slogans, as cogently argued by Chaman Lal, represented the immanent change in the Indian revolutionary thought appeared as 'a sign of the growth of consciousness to a higher level in revolutionary movement of the country ("Revolutionary Legacy of Bhagat Singh, *Economic & Political Weekly*, September 15, 2017, 3712). He continued, 'the catalyst of this change was none



other than Bhagat Singh, who by now, through his experience of the revolutionary movement and from a systematic study of the world revolutionary movement the world over, particularly from his study of the Soviet experience, had reached the conclusion that it is not just enough to 'free the mother India from the chains of foreign slavery', it was much more important to understand the whole system of enslaving and exploiting other nations, i.e., the system of imperialism and then to understand the mechanism of smashing it." (Lal 2017: 3712).

Bhagat Singh started reading and critically analysing national and international unfolding of economic and political events at the very young age of under 15; and the period of

about four months from December 17, 1928 (murder of JP Saunders) to April 8, 1929 (dropping of bombs at Central Legislative Assembly) constitutes the most fertile phase in his revolutionary voyage. He also wrote extensively during this period under pseudonym Vidrohi in *Kirti* and *Balwant* in *Pratap* published from Kanpur. 'Achhut da Sawal', 'Mazhab atey Sadi Azadi de Jang', 'Dharm-Var Fassad atey Uhhna de Ellajh', 'Anarchism ke hai' and 'History of Anarchism' are among his various thought provoking articles carried in *Kirti*. These seminal articles clearly establish him not only as an accomplished scholar of great insights but also an erudite philosopher who captured the complex nature of British

Empire as well as to establish people's democracy where women, Dalits, workers and peasant would have equal rights. He was introduced to the Kanpur circle by his teacher, Jai Chander Vidyalankar



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of National College of Lahore. It was at Kanpur that he also joined the underground revolutionary organisation, Hindustan Republican Association founded by Sachinder Nath Sanyal who he earlier met at Lahore. Lahore, like Calcutta and Kanpur, was also an equally well-known known centre of political thinking and revolutionary activities. Bhagat Singh home at Lahore was frequently visited by the revolutionaries of the Ghadar movement. Before the annexation of Punjab in 1849, Lahore was the capital of Sikh Kingdom of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. And before that it remained a seat of various vassals/subedars of the Delhi Sultanate and Moghul Darbar for a long time. It also provided fertile socio-political space to sow the seeds of Brahmo Samaj and Arya Samaj. During his early years of life, Bhagat Singh came under the influence of religious practices of Arya Samaj as were observed in his family. It was at Lahore that Giani Ditt Singh of Singh Sabha used to engage Swami Dayanad Saraswati, founder of the Arya Samaj movement, in scriptural debates about complex issues of spiritual philosophy. Bhagat Singh developed companionship with Sukhdev and Bhagwati Charan Vohra at Lahore. Bhagwati Charan Vohra sacrificed his life on the banks of Ravi in Lahore while preparing bombs for the release of Bhagat Singh and his associates from the jail. Thus Lahore and Kanpur contain vital clues to understand Bhagat Singh, his revolutionary activities and intellectual growth.

Yet another equally significant, rather more strenuous, phase during which Shaheed Bhagat Singh established himself as an incisive philosopher and became a household name falls between April 8, 1929 and March 23, 1931. After the pronouncement of life imprisonment in the Delhi bomb case, which began on May 7, 1929 and ended on June 12, (Contd. on page 2)

"Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" forum pay its floral tribute on the martyrdom day of our great revolutionaries – Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev - who sacrificed their precious lives for the liberation of our mother land on March 23, 1931. Let us come together to follow their philosophy of nonviolence, egalitarianism and communal brotherhood in letter and spirit.

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

Shaheed Bhagat Singh: A Great Revolutionary and an Erudite Philosopher

(Continue from page 1)

1929, Bhagat Singh and Rajguru were shifted to Lahore and Mianwali jails respectively for the trial of Lahore conspiracy case. During his incarceration in Lahore, Bhagat Singh, along with his other jailed revolutionary associates, underwent long hunger strikes for almost five months one after the other. It was also during this slightly less than two years of period of incarceration, Bhagat Singh wrote many letters to his family, friends, and officials of the jail and courts. 'Why I am an Atheist', 'Jail Notebook', 'Letter in the name of Young Activists' were among the few brilliant texts penned by him in the jail at Lahore where he finally embraced martyrdom along with his co-prisoner revolutionaries Rajguru and Sukhdev.

Bhagat Singh, as mentioned above, had already become a house-hold name throughout the country for his leading roles in the Lahore Conspiracy case and later the Central Legislative Assembly Bomb case, and his extraordinary brilliant writings. His popularity can be gauged from two editorial dedi-

cated to his martyrdom by two leading contemporary thinkers: Periyar E.V. Ramasami in his Tamil Weekly *Kudi Arasu* on March 29, 1931 and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in his *Janata* newspaper on April 13, 1931, entitled "Three Victims". In Punjab the news of the hanging of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev spread like a wild fire. Despite all the efforts of the British administration, thousands of people, mesmerised by his egalitarian vision for the independent India and the rare courage with which he confronted ruthless oppression during his incarcerations, reached the banks of Sutlej during the night of March 23, 1923 and performed the last rites of the remains of their beloved heroes with soulful gratitude and unspeakable emotions. After his martyrdom, people of Punjab in general and rest of the country in India made Bhagat Singh an integral part of their folk. A large number of prose, poetry, novels and academic research articles and books highlighting varied dimensions of his life, mission and philosophy are a living testimony to his being a great revolutionary and an

erudite philosopher. Among the latest international peer reviewed published research papers mentioned can be made of: Kama Maclean, "The History of a Legend: Accounting for Popular Histories of Revolutionary Nationalism in India," *Modern Asian Studies*, published online by Cambridge University Press, 16 February 2012; and Neeti Nair, "Bhagat Singh as 'Satyagrahi': The Limits to Non-violence in Late Colonial India," *Modern Asian Studies*, published online by Cambridge University Press, 01 May 2009. Chris Moffat's *India's Revolutionary Inheritance: Politics and the Promise of Bhagat Singh*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019 is one of the recently seminal books on Bhagat Singh and his philosophy and praxis.

In 2018, Delhi Government established a Bhagat Singh Archives and Resource Centre. With its rich collection of books, rare documents, journals, and archival material, including the socialist revolutionary jail records, this centre has evolved into the first of its kind Bhagat Singh Archives and Resource Centre in the country.

The sole spirit behind this great endeavour is Chaman Lal, a retired academic from Jawaharlal Nehru University and former member of Senate and Dean (Languages Faculty) of Panjab University, Chandigarh.

He has been continuously researching on the life, struggle and writings of Shaheed Bhagat Singh for the last many decades, and has collected from India, Pakistan and many other countries lots of literature and rare references in that regard. Currently, an advisor at the centre, Chaman Lal is said to have donated 2000 books on Bhagat Singh in various Indian languages (Mohammad Ibrar, "Know All About Bhagat Singh Struggle in His Very Own Corner," Times of India, "March 23, 2021).

Such efforts will certainly help us to understand the context and the contributions of our great revolutionaries who sacrificed their precious lives for the freedom of the mother land and left behind a rich treasure of their experiences and meticulously articulated philosophical narratives.



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Babasaheb Ambedkar Writing and Speeches-BAWS volumes donated to the University of Cincinnati Ohio

The Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA) US based Ambedkarite Organization, Ohio State Branch has donated **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Writings and Speeches (BAWS)** volumes to the University of Cincinnati, Langsum Library at 2911 woodside drive, Cincinnati, Ohio on the occasion of

Ms Nimisha, Librarian of Langsum Library, University of Cincinnati has received books from AANA Team. Prof. Shaileja Paik has expressed her sincere gratitude to Ambedkar Association of North America for Donating all the printed writings and speeches of our Hero Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

nonite University, University of Delaware, North Park University Chicago, North Western University Pacific University Oregon, Arizona State University and Michigan State University(digital Catalog <https://baws.in>), and many more in the USA.

AANA is been instrumental to donate books



India's Republic Day on Friday, the 26th January 2024. Total 18 Volumes donated to this University Library. Today was a historical day for AANA and Ohio State Ambedkarite Chapter who are based in the Cincinnati suburb area.

University of Cincinnati (UC) established in 1819, embodies enduring academic excellence, vibrant campus life, and innovative spirit. UC's campus bustles with over 50,000 students and growing. Nippert Stadium, nestled in the middle of our urban campus, echoes with the passionate roars of Bearcats fans. Beyond campus, UC students and alumni find success in Cincinnati, voted a top destination for new college graduates four years in a row. UC's integration into the Big 12 Conference unites top-flight academics and world-class athletics, forging a dynamic path for the university, city and region.

The BAWs books will be available for all students to be accessed in their respective field of studies. As we all know Babasaheb has written extensively on various subjects be it Politics, World Religions, Judiciary, Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Theology, Human Psychology, Social Justice, Social Reforms, Pedagogies and many more including our Indian Constitution. The university is also coming up with similar academic events in the month of April this year she said. It's really a matter of joy for the entire Ambedkarite community that upcoming and future generations of scholars of University of Cincinnati will be benefited by accessing the writings of such an Ocean of Wisdom.

In the past, AANA donated BAWs books to Wayne State University Michigan, University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Eastern Men-

to the local libraries in USA and many books written by Dr Ambedkar are in the circulation. <https://aanausa.org/portfolio/book-donation-in-north-america/>

Ambedkar association of North America formed in 2008 on the guided principle of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's lifelong work and vision to uplift the downtrodden through education. Education provides the suppressed an opportunity to escape their poverty, experience a better quality of life, and have a voice in their communities. AANA also makes it its mission to spread Buddha's message of peace and kindness to humanity through cultural, educational, social and economic activities among the South Asian Diaspora in North America.

www.aanausa.org, aanausa@gmail.com;
<https://baws.in/>; <https://dgps.maharashtra.gov.in/>

Babasaheb Ambedkar Writing and Speeches-BAWS volumes donated to the Harvard University Cambridge Massachusetts

The Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA) US US-based nonprofit Organization donated Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Writings and Speeches (BAWS) volumes to the Harvard University Library at Harvard Yard, 1, Cambridge, MA 02138 on March

8th, 2024. A total of 18 Volumes were donated to this University Library. Today was a historical day for the AANA and Ambedkarite communities who are based in the United States of America.



Dr. Santosh Raut (Maitriveer Nagarjuna) senior research fellow was instrumental in the process of making donation by fulfilling technical formalities and to make a entry in the Harvard Library. The official formalities were initiated with required process to make it happen. Dr Santosh Raut has expressed his sincere gratitude to the faculties who received the books and to Ambedkar Association of North America for donating all the printed Writings and Speeches of our hero and ideal Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The BAWs books will be available for all students to access in their research which is needed thatn ever before in fields of Humanities, Religious Studies, Economics and in relevant field of study. As we all know Babasaheb Ambedkar has written ex-

Harvard University is a private Ivy League research university in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Founded in 1636 Harvard College is the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. Its influence, wealth, and rankings have made it one of the most prestigious universities in the world. 25,266 undergraduate and graduate students, 19,639 faculty and staff, and 400k+ alumni worldwide. Through continued efforts in inclusion and belonging, Harvard has built a community comprising many backgrounds, cultures, races, identities, life experiences, perspectives, beliefs, and values.

It's a matter of joy for the entire Ambedkarite community that upcoming and future generations of scholars of the University of Harvard will benefit by accessing the writings of such an ocean of wisdom.

In the past, AANA donated BAWs books to Wayne State University Michigan, University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Eastern Men-

more USA based Universities.

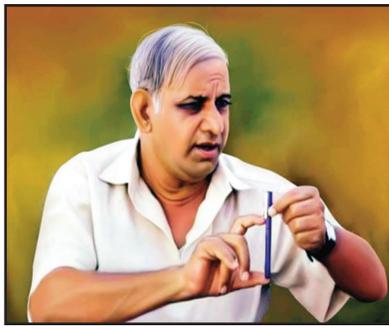
AANA is been instrumental in donating books to local libraries in the USA and many books written by Dr Ambedkar are in circulation. <https://aanausa.org/portfolio/book-donation-in-north-america/>

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<https://baws.in/>; <https://dgps.maharashtra.gov.in/>

Sahib Kanshi Ram and Dalit Emancipation

Prem K. Chumber (Editor-in-Chief)

Ambedkar Times (English) and Desh Doaba (Punjabi)



Sahib Kanshi Ram devoted his life for the eradication of caste from the domestic structures of Indian socio-religious realm. The sole aim his life-long struggle was to facilitate the Bahujan Samaj to acquire power through the medium of ballot. He was a firm believer in the nonviolent power of democracy that he inherited from the teachings of Babasaheb Dr B.R Ambedkar. A chance reading of one of the numerous valuable writings of Dr. Ambedkar transformed his vision and he did not only prefer to live unmarried but also renounced his family life once for all. After he plunged into social struggle for the acquisition of political power for his people he did not look back at all toward his home in village Khauspur in

Rupnagar district of Punjab. He did all this for helping his people to stand on their own feet to get rid of centuries' old slavery and blind faith in the chaturvarna system of social hierarchy, which deny them their bare minimum human rights. He ingrained among his people that the political power is the only key to Dalit emancipation and empowerment in the real sense of the term.

Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji was an innovative thinker and a charismatic mass leader who coined new political vocabulary for the mobilization of

downtrodden. The slogans he chiseled adroitly caught the imagination of all and sundry throughout the length and breadth of India. He told his people unless and until they formed their own social and political organizations, no upper caste political party will allow them to come to rule India. And he was confident that given the 85 percent strength of Bahujan, if the latter joined hands no one in the world can stop them reach Delhi. His untiring efforts and firm faith in his people brought success though in some parts of the country. But as far as awareness among the Bahujan is concerned his was a great success.

Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba weekly newspapers remember to Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji on his 89th birth anniversary and solemnly resolve to continue struggling following into his footsteps.

The Real Impact of Going Green

As a Sacramento County Supervisor, I prioritize the safety and well-being of our community above all. California's ambitious goal to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030 is a testament to the state's leadership in addressing climate change.

Among the measures taken to meet this goal, the California Air Resources Board's decision to ban the sale of new gas furnaces and water heaters starting in 2030 stands out. This policy aims to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, a significant step toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

However, while the intentions behind such policies are commendable, they often come with unintended consequences. For instance, the largest contributor to modern wildfires in our state is not the appliances in our homes but the high-voltage transmission lines that crisscross our forests. These lines, essential for transporting electricity—much of which is imported due to California's dependence on solar and wind power—pose a significant risk of sparking wildfires.

The ban on single-use plastic

bags in 2014 aimed to reduce plastic waste and associated emissions. Yet, a report by the California Public Interest Research Group "CALPIRG," found that the amount of discarded plastic bags per capita increased since the ban's implementation. The thicker "reusable" bags, often used once and discarded, have contributed to a nearly 50% rise in plastic waste. This outcome underscores the complexity of environmental policymaking and the need for careful consideration of policy effects.

Another critical issue is California's water management. The lack of investment in water storage and conveyance has exacerbated cycles of floods and droughts, contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. This oversight not only undermines our environmental goals but also affects the state's agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of countless Californians.

The push for electrification, including the expansion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, is part of the state's strategy to reduce emissions. However, last summer's heat-

wave-induced blackouts, which led to restrictions on EV charging, highlighted the fragility of our current electrical grid. These incidents serve as a stark reminder of the challenges we face in transitioning to a more sustainable energy system.

Additionally, the economic impacts of these policies cannot be ignored. The construction industry, for example, has been hit hard by the increased costs associated with meeting new environmental standards, making homeownership even more elusive for many Californians.

The recent controversy over gas appliances and the Berkeley ordinance banning gas infrastructure in new constructions has sparked a heated debate. While the Ninth Circuit Federal Court of Appeals struck down Berkeley's ban, the broader issue of transitioning away from natural gas remains contentious. Many residents and businesses are concerned about the implications of such bans on their daily lives and the economy.

While the state's efforts to combat climate change through ambitious goals like zero carbon emissions

by 2030 are laudable, we must also critically assess the broader implications of these policies on our community's safety, well-being, and economic stability. The unintended consequences of well-meaning initiatives, from increased wildfire risks due to overreliance on electric power to the paradoxical rise in plastic waste following bag bans, underscore the need for a more nuanced approach to environmental policymaking.

Thank you for Reading – and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.gov. Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murieta.



Sue Frost

Sacramento County Supervisor

Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

Recognizing the State Champion Folsom Bulldogs

Yesterday I had the pleasure of recognizing the 2023 State Champion Folsom Bulldogs football team on the Assembly Floor. They had an amazing season last year, which they capped off with a nail-biting final minute victory to claim their 5th state title in the last 14 seasons. Thank you to Coach Paul Doherty and the rest of the coach-

ing staff for leading these young men and creating a winning culture. The City of Folsom is proud of all you have accomplished!

Golden Apple Award

I was honored to be presented with the Golden Apple Award this week by California Parents for Public Virtual Education (CPPVE) in recognition of my support for school choice

and high-quality curricula for all California students. It was great to meet with so many dedicated parents advocating for their kids!

New Podcast Episode

In this week's episode of the Point of Order Podcast Assemblymember Bill Essayli and I discuss another switch of the clock, the impact social media may be having on today's teens,

the latest updates on the PaneraGate scandal, why California consumers are paying more than the rest of the country, the blue city shift on crime, fixing Prop. 47, the poor showing for Prop. 1, and our Top 3 favorite Netflix original shows.



Assemblyman Hoover



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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