



May Day Celebrations & Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar's Contributions for Laborers in India

Prem K. Chumber

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

Bharat Ratan Bodhisattva Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji's contribution towards the emancipation and empowerment of the working class in India both during the freedom struggle as well as after India's independence is worth remembering on the historic May Day: celebrated worldwide as International Workers' Day, also known as Workers' Day and Labour Day. It was chosen to be International Workers' Day at the International's second congress in 1891 to commemorate the 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago wherein on 1 May workers of various industrial units observed general strike for the eight-hour workday. On 4 May when the Chicago police tried to disperse a public assembly in support of the general strike an unidentified person threw a bomb, which led to police firing resulting in the death of seven police officers, at least four civilians and wounding of sixty police officers and unknown number of civilians. This was led to the arrest of hundreds of labour leaders and their sympathizers. Later on, four of the arrested ones were executed by hanging. It was coincidence that Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar was born in 1891 and came to acquire higher education in the United States of America in 1913. What he learnt during his three years (1913-16) stint at Columbia University in New York City in the class room sessions of his great professors - John Dewey, James Shotwell, Edwin Seligman and James Harvey Robinson - made him struggle for the emancipation and empowerment of the laborers on his return in his own country during the British as well as after India's independence. During his tenure as a Labour Minister and as the Labour Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council between 1942 and 1946, he worked hard for the reduction of working hours from 12 to 8 Hours a day. His contributions towards granting the rights of the laborers are manifold: establishment of Employment Exchange, Employees State Insurance (ESI), Indian Statistical Law, Compulsory Recognition for Trade of Union, Indian Factory act, Dearness Allowance (DA), Paid Holidays, Health Insurance, Extra pay for Overtime, Legal Strike Act, Provident Fund (PF), Labour Welfare Fund, Technical Training Scheme, Mines Maternity Benefit Act, Women Labour Welfare Fund, Women and Child-Labour Protection Act, Maternity Benefit for Women Labour, Equal Pay for Equal Work irrespective of the Sex, Restoration of Ban on Employment of Women on Underground Work in Coal Mines.

As far as the public domain of working class activism is concerned, Dr Ambedkar was always acted as front soldier for the rights of workers. His contribution in highlighting the plight of Dalit workers access in the highest paid textile mill weaving departments is well known. Dalits were not allowed to work in these textile mills for the fear of pollution caused by their saliva to wet the thread during the weaving process to tie the knot, each time the weft bobbin required a replacement. Dr Ambedkar brought this issue in the public during the famous 1928 Bombay Textile Strike. He threatened to dissuade Dalit workers from joining the strike if his demand for Dalits' access to all kind of jobs in the mills was accepted. His contributions towards the bill to abolish the Mahar Watan and Khoti abolition bill were among the several prominent labour welfare measures undertaken by him. Abolition of Punjab Land Alienation Act of 1900 was yet another legal relief to the non-agriculture classes, including Dalits, to overcome their exclusion from the land ownership rights. Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba Weekly newspapers congratulate all on the May Day Celebrations the world over and also fondly remember the rich contributions made by Bodhisattva Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar towards the emancipation and empowerment of workers in India!

Book Launch – Bootan Mandi: Nerve Centre of Dalit Chetna authored

Jalandhar (Ambedkar Times Bureau)- The book - Bootan Mandi: Nerve Centre of Dalit Chetna edited and written by Ambassador Ramesh Chander, a Bootan Mandian himself was launched on April 28, 2024 at an impressive function at Ambedkar Bhawan in Jalandhar. The occasion was graced by the prominent ladies of Bootan Mandi holding coveted positions in government services as Guests of Honour; Ms. Babita Kler, IAS, Chief Executive Officer of Punjab State Health Agency, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Kapurthala and Phagwara, Ms. Anupam Kler, PCS- the Nari Shakti of BootanMandi and Retired Dy. CAG, Mr. Onkar Nath. Ambassador Ramesh Chander, a retired career diplomat welcoming the guests said that the book on

Vice Chair of Ambedkar Mission Society in his brief remarks thanked the author for choosing Ambedkar Bhawan as the venue for the release of his book as the site proudly remembered the visit of Babasaheb Ambedkar to Bootan Mandi -the Mecca of Dalits in 1951. Prof. Balbir was appreciative of the yeomans service of the author of the book. Community activist, Paramjit Mahey said in the Vote of Thanks that Ambassador Ramesh Chander has made 'We the Bootan Mandians' proud not only by adorning the coveted positions in the diplomatic representation of India abroad but also writing several books, articles, blogs etc. on matters of concern and interest for the larger benefit of the community and the society at large. Paramjit Mahey also contributed to the book with his piece 'Bootan Mandi - Dalitan Di Rajdhani' - an informative and thought-provoking narration. Harnesh Jassal, Manohar Lal Mahey and Harbans Virdi also spoke at the function. Representing younger generation of the Bootan Mandi, Mahesh Chander anchored the book launch function with great aplomb. It may be mentioned here that Ambassador Ramesh Chander, after retirement from a long diplo-



Bootan Mandi was one of his cherished wishes, as a son of the soil, to register the role and contribution of Bootan Mandi and its worthy front-runners in the much desired awakening among the deprived and weaker sections of the society. The book has rightly been dedicated to the stalwarts namely; Seth



Kishan Dass, Seth Khushi Ram, Seth Munshi Ram, Swami Lalji Dass and Bibi Malavi among others. Babita Kler spoke with a sense of belonging to Bootan Mandi and said that she was a proud Bootan Mandian. Yet another Kler, Anupam Kler was fully nostalgic and said that we all should try our best to carry forward the caravan of our icon, Babasaheb Ambedkar. Onkar Nath said that Ambassador Ramesh Chander was kind to associate him with the book launch function and added that the book would be received well by the readers. Dr. Gian Kaul, an intellectual face of the community who also wrote the Foreword of the book briefly spoke about the book and said that it was a much appreciable work done by the author, Ambassador Ramesh Chander which would be received well by the community around. Prof. Balbir Chander,

matic career, returned to his roots in Bootan Mandi and engaged himself in community matters with a view to pay his debt of gratitude to the community.

Bootan Mandi: Nerve Centre of Dalit Chetna is his third book in a row - Some Random Thoughts on Babasaheb Ambedkar and his Legacy was released in November, 2023 and Reminiscences and Reflections of a Novice - The Bits and Pieces in 2019. Several prominent personalities of the area graced occasion to register their appreciation for the role and contribution of Bootan Mandi, the centre of dalit awakening in the contemporary times which, inter alia, included, Manohar Mahey, Harish Mahey, Vinod Kaul, Prem Shant, Ram Murti, Surinderbir Singh among others.

April 28, Jalandhar

I Was Trying to Help, But I Made A Mistake

Last month the Board of Supervisors heard a presentation about broken families and the struggles of our region's most vulnerable children. The numbers were startling, and the stories were heartbreaking. We heard about the impact of families suffering from economic stress and children pushed into courts that could result in removal from their families.

We also heard about a grant for a pilot program that purports to help – one that other jurisdictions claimed was reducing incidents of children being pushed into the family court system. I joined my colleagues in supporting this pilot project.

But upon reflection, I shouldn't have. I so was focused on the numbers, the needs of these families, and the struggles of the children – as well as the grant dollars from the state for a pilot project that wouldn't cost county taxpayers or reduce other services we provide – that I didn't take the time to consider the broader issues.

Families are the building blocks of our society – and I will always step up to strengthen families and support parents. However, I should have looked deeper and realized that this pilot program isn't really the best way to help families and the data presented didn't tell the whole story. Even though my vote wouldn't have changed the outcome, I should have voted "no."

I made a mistake – and I have to own that.

After looking more closely at the pilot program, I'm concerned that it sets a precedent that could be used

to justify a wider use allocation of public resources based on racial preferences. In fact, the pilot project itself violates the California Constitution – which prohibits the state from granting privileges or immunities to a citizen or class of citizens that are not granted to the same terms to all citizens. (See California Constitution, Declaration of Rights, Article 1, Section 7B.)

I'm also concerned that throwing money at a problem – even though it isn't county tax dollars – without addressing the deeper issues plaguing so many families isn't going to make things better.

Instead of throwing money at the problem, we should be focused on supporting parents. And instead of dividing people by race, we should be celebrating our shared commitment to our families. The pilot project isn't a panacea – it has insufficient restrictions and not enough accountability and doesn't address the underlying causes of family crises.

The challenges families face in these often conflicting times, the incidents of abuse, and the growing number of children struggling with school or getting into trouble won't disappear with a \$750 check. And doling out those dollars based on race, rather than need, perpetuates divisions in our society.

I know it's not politically expedient to admit you made a mistake, and there was little media attention, so I could have just remained quiet and few people would have noticed. But I think you deserve to know the truth – not

just when it's convenient, but also when I mess up.

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.

Sac International Airport Seeks Artists

Two of the most loved visuals at the Sacramento International Airport (SMF) are pieces of public art: "Leap," the giant red rabbit jumping through the glass ceiling of Terminal B and "Samson" the whimsical stacks of luggage located in Terminal A baggage claim.

The County of Sacramento is now inviting artists and artist teams residing in the United States to submit their qualifications for four major public art projects at SMF. This call is for the first four artwork opportunities, with artwork budgets ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.75 million.

The four projects are part of the \$1.3 billion expansion program, collectively known as SMForward, that will reshape SMF to accommodate projected passenger growth. The SMForward expansion represents a historic opportunity to integrate art into the traveler's experience while reinforcing and contributing to the Sacramento region's identity.

"The art on display at our airport is beloved by the millions of travelers we serve," said C i n d y



Sue Frost

Nichol. Director of Airports. "We are inspired by this historic opportunity to commission new large-scale public art and hope artists will be equally inspired by the possibilities here."

Three primary opportunities for art will be in the new pedestrian walkway, which will break ground this summer and connect Terminal B and Concourse B.

As travelers make their way between Terminal B ticketing and Concourse B security and gates, the entryways of the pedestrian walkway on either side hold key positions for works of art to welcome guests. As portals to the next stage in a traveler's journey, these sites can use captivating visuals to draw them forward.

This call also includes artwork for the exterior of a new garage, a canvas with five potential locations for art. The new garage will have approximately 5,500 parking spaces, be six stories high, and be visible to travelers from nearly a quarter mile away as they approach the Terminal B entrance by car.

Artists may apply for one or more of these projects. The deadline for submissions is May 7, 2024.



SKY TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS

STRIVE FOR MORE

ਟਰੱਕਾਂ ਵਾਲਿਆਂ ਵੀਰਾਂ ਦੇ ਲਈ
ਸਕਾਈ ਟਰਾਂਸਪੋਰਟ ਸਾਲਿਊਸ਼ਨ
ਦੀਆਂ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ



SPECIAL BIT INSPECTION AND DOT AUDIT COMPLIANCE:

WE PROVIDE ALL TRUCKING RELATED PERMITS AND SERVICES

ICC, DOT, IFTA, IRP Plates, PERMITS, NYP, KYU, OR, Canada Permit, CORPORATION AND LLC FILING SERVICES, 2290, PTI, Trailer plates.

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICES.
ON THE SPOT VIN VERIFICATION SERVICES.
DOT OUT OF SERVICES??
AUTHORIZED IRS E- FILE PROVIDER.
WE HAVE COMPLETE SOLUTIONS FOR OUT OF SERVICE DOT.

SPECIAL DOT COMPLIANCE FOR SAFETY, AUDITS AND RECORD KEEPING.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

PHONE: 209-855-6938, FAX: 209-762-6540

Email: skytransportsolution@gmail.com

Give us a chance to provide you best services

121 E 11th St. Tracy, CA 95376

MAY DAY (LABOR DAY) CELEBRATED World-Wide

International Working Day also synonymous with Labor Day in some countries was observed and celebrated on May 1st, 2024, in commemoration of the rights and accomplishments of the laboring classes all over the world. More than 80 countries celebrate this significant day at national level.

In USA it is observed as a International Working day and as Labor Day it is officially observed annually on First Monday in the month of September which also marks the end of Summer. UNO observes it as an important day under the patronage of UNESCO. In India it is celebrated at federal level as a "ANTAR-R A S H T R I Y A SHRAMIK DIWAS" and the other states observe it with different names in honor of the hardworking people who work for the betterment of our society.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE IN INDIA:

- With the dawn of Industrial Revolution the poor working conditions with hazardous environments for workers in the fac-

tories and other establishments needed improvements. It resulted in

forts of the working people.

ROLE OF Dr. B.R. AMBED-



tice to pinnacle of leadership. As a member of the Executive Council of Viceroy from 1942 to 1946 and as Law Minister of India, Dr. Ambedkar,



O.P. Balley
1-925-252-6085

based on his extensive study of the labor problems and the labour legislations in Europe, was responsible for introduction of many landmark decisions for improving the working conditions of the labour. Some of them are as under:-

1. Reduction in Working Hours (From 14 Hours to 8 Hours)
2. Creation of Tripartite Organization for settlement of Industrial disputes.
3. Ban on employment of women on underground work in coal mines and Maternity Benefit Act.
4. Provision for Dearness Allowance
5. Employees state Insurance Corporation
6. Pay commissions.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF BABU JAGJIVAN RAM:

- As labor Minister in Jawahar Lal Nehru's cabinet, Babu Jagjivan Ram was the first labour Minister to preside over International Labour Organization in Geneva. He got enacted many Bills into laws for the benefit of the labour classes. Alongwith Dr. Ambedkar he was able to steer through many other labor Acts.

1. Industrial disputes Act, 1948
2. Minimum Wage Act, 1948

Assemblyman Hoover Announces Sacramento Splash as the 7th Assembly District's Nonprofit of the Year for 2024

SACRAMENTO - Assemblyman Josh Hoover (R-Folsom) proudly announced this week that Sacramento Splash has been honored as the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year for Assembly District 7.

Sacramento Splash stands as a beacon of commitment and dedication in the realm of environmental education. Comprising a dedicated team of nature enthusiasts, scientists, and educators, Sacramento Splash works tirelessly to ensure that every child has the opportunity to forge a profound connection with the natural world. "We are thrilled to recognize Sacramento Splash as the 2024 Nonprofit

of the Year for Assembly District 7," remarked Assemblyman Hoover. "Their unwavering dedication to environmental outreach and education is commendable, and their efforts are instrumental in shaping the next generation of nature stewards."

At the heart of Splash's mission is their innovative approach to science education. Through comprehensive training programs, they empower teachers to deliver science curricula in a manner that is both engaging and enjoyable for students. By focusing on water pollution prevention, Splash not only imparts knowledge but also instills a sense of re-

sponsibility towards preserving our natural habitats.

With a passion for environmental stewardship and a commitment to community engagement, Sacramento Splash continues to serve as a vital resource for the region's youth, inspiring a new generation of nature stewards.

Josh Hoover represents Assembly District 7, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale, and Rosemont.



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

URGENT CARE CLINIC

DR. TAKHAR'S FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE CLINIC

8191 Timberlake Way, Suite # 400, Sacramento, CA 95823

Phone: 916-688-8888 Fax: 916-688-8837

Clinic Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Saturday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM & Sunday closed

We speak your language: Panjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Arabic and Spanish



Goodie Takhar, PhD

Conformist

I was never born a conformist
Nor a rebel.
Was born a Hindu!
Yet wear a steel bracelet
Brought by a Sikh classmate
From the Golden temple
Way back fifty-one years ago.
Always silently say before meals:
"God Thy Kingdom Come !"
Believe in "Love thy neighbor as thyself"

Have stood against dogma,
Resented sham religiosity
And yet visited religious places
More for tourism
Than for a focused glimpse
Of the Divine.

Call me a skeptic
Or a heretic!
The truth is
That I have not been
Overawed by the divine energy
Said to be felt
In most renowned places
Of pilgrimage
Across the length and breadth
Of our subcontinent!
I find the Lord
Neither present nor absent there!

Call me what you choose!
I think , I can not afford
To barter this stand
For any '-ism'

White Man's Burden
I honestly carry forward
The White Man's burden
Of assisting the judicial process
But am always clad in Black !
That sets me apart from
The ignoramuses !
I am proud of this legacy
Which some try to call
A Colonial Relic !

I am equitable , lawful and everything else
That my vocation warrants me to be .
But I am not sure
Whether I really stand by
The National Tenet-"Satyamev Jayate".
I admit that I do not always
Side with the innocent.
I admit that I do not issue
Actual receipts for the fee received.

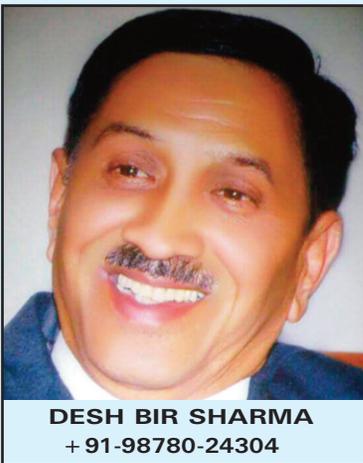
I admit that I talk tall,
But quite often fall too low !
I fail to rise above avarice!
I plead the case as cunningly
As I can do !
That is my pitfall
Because everyone needs to be defended.
So I lose my conscience
Because I must not lose my hefty wages.
The symbolic Black Robes come in handy
As they hide all that is seamy.

I take up the case of a known culprit
I rant hoarse to paint the coal black crime
With white dressings of decency and innocence.
I may fail to stand for justice...
Half of my tribe have no choice !
If they don't do that
They shall starve !
The Black Robes come to my rescue
As they conceal all my white lies !
DESH BIR 5/8/2023

My Shanty Song

I live in a shanty
That stands on the bed
Of a rivulet by the town
Close to the Dussehra grounds.
The rivulet swells hardly once

DESH BIR SHARMA (INDIA)



DESH BIR SHARMA
+91-98780-24304

Born in 1951 and brought up and schooled in Kanga district of erstwhile Punjab (Now Himachal) Desh Bir Sharma did his M.A. in English from DAV College, Jalandhar and topped the GND University Amritsar. Taught as a Lecturer in English at his alma mater, DAV College, Jalandhar till 1978. Got into Punjab Education Service and

joined as a Lecturer in English at Govt. College, Hoshiarpur in August, 1976. Was selected in Central Services, based on combined UPSC exams for IAS etc. in 1978, but chose to stay in Education. Was promoted Principal at the same college on 15 July 2006 and retired from there on 315 October 2009. After retirement, was appointed Ombudsman for NREGA for five districts of Punjab for four years. Has nearly 170 creative articles published in English Newspapers like Daily "Post Deccan Herald, The Tribune, Daily World, Punjab Advance and Kashmir Vision over the last twelve years. Has latterly taken to poetry for pouring out his intensely felt perceptions.

In a year.
And when it does so
We collect our valuables
And hastily wend to the banks
To wait for it to subside.

I know no school
But I know my business.
I sell ball-pens, toys , key rings, balloons,
Candles , Bows n Arrows,
Car shades , dusters n kerchiefs,
And three-coloured flaglets
Twice in a year !
People say these come
From somewhere called China.

My favourite haunts are city crossings
Where idling cars throb
Waiting for a green signal.
I have but only counted seconds
To clinch the deal!
When accosted customers
Just wave me away,
I simply go giggling
To my fellow vendors
To neutralize the rebuff !

I have never entered a car
Nor a Mall , nor a Hotel, nor a Cinema,
Nor the magic show going on in town.
I don't know why children
With shining faces go to school.
I hear people often say 'Jai Hind'
Will anyone tell me what it means ?
DESH BIR 6/8/2023

Dreams ...no More !

In loud whispers
That resonated across the landscape
And even spilled over to neighbouring climes,
You cast a spell on me !
And sold me a precious dream
.... a Utopia which I thought
Could materialize at your bidding.
So I bought the dream
And quietly placed on your palm
The soft petal of my trust!

As feared somewhere
In a remote recess of my mind
You turned oblivious!
Made my faith just a personal convenience
And brushed aside all my solicitations!
I reconciled and blamed you not,

Thinking that you might have your constraints.
However , at your first moment of need
You turned to me
Pleading innocence!
As is my wont---
I forgave and forgot !
Yet again I was shown my place
As to a lamb which has but only one destination

Soon you may turn to me once more
But I doubt if I am sure
Whether I shall be outwitted once more!
That gullibility may be a thing of yore!
That may a thing of yore !

DESH BIR 4/8/2023

They were Neighbours

They became sworn enemies
Flinging for one another's neck !
Someone had played a game
And they were now pawns
Behaving bestially
Bereft of any fellow feeling
As they were guided by
Animal instinct
Craftily aroused
By the masters whose bidding
They thought was in their best interest.

Men became monsters
And women became petty creatures
Fit only to be shamed,
Disrobed and maimed.
And if need be
The poor things became a game
That could be set aflame!
Hapless screams move them not ,
Nor inspire awe in their hearts !

They are trigger-happy today!
They boast of might !
On the strength of weapons looted
From state armory !
Someone is there to patronize
Their monstrous affront to the other tribe
As their barbarity is now a pride
Which their backstage Directors
Would often overlook , or only mildly decry.
They are boors now
Because more cannibalistic minds
Persuade and admire them !
They do so because they are men .
And men will , after all , remain men
And behave like self-destroying demons
Because bigger Demons control them!

DESH BIR 2/8/2023

Balance it all !

They landed on the moon !
The Sun- scan comes soon !
For man of science - a boon !
What to me, I'm just a loon ?

Hundred planes hourly shall take off!
And half a billion to build one kilometer
Of Expressway to Financial Capital.
How shall it benefit me ?

Market of branded apparels
Is expanding exponentially !
Textiles shall prosper under PLI
How does it favour us -You and I ?

Studios and salons to sheer your hair,
To nourish them on keratin!
To rebond them , to sculpt them !
But my barrber stands under a banyan !

My share is hijacked by others ,
Theoretically , my brothers !
I cast lingering looks
And languish in penury !

Learn to balance the extremes !
Or else things shall burst at the seams!

DESH BIR 28/8/2023