



Ambedkar Times

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DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor-In-Chief: Ambedkar Times

Democracy and social justice are interrelated social processes. The one is incomplete in the absence of the other. Democracy offers freedom space to realize equality and experience fraternity. Equality and fraternity are the two essential ingredients of social justice, which achieves its true form with the addition of liberty. Thus the trinity of liberty, equality and fraternity constitutes the essence of social justice and the institution of democracy provides the requisite realm for its realization. Though many scholars' boasts of ancient origins of democracy in India but it would be prudent to argue that democracy achieves its roots in the real sense of the term with the adoption of the constitution in independent India. Bodhisattva Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Chairman of Constitutional Drafting Committee, worked very hard to incorporate various provisions for the realization of social justice in the Indian society. He was of the firm views that if social and economic parity remains an elusive to the multitude of poor and historically socially excluded people in the country, then the very purpose of having parliamentary democracy would not be served efficiently. He reiterated the seminal point during his engaging discussions at various important forums within and outside the Indian parliament that for social justice to prevail in the country, India needs effective participation of the downtrodden in all the different spheres of the society.

The demand for social justice was also raised at various platforms during the freedom struggle movement in colonial India. Ad-Movements in North and South India, Justice Party in South India, Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia from Punjab, Swami Achhuta Nand Ji from Uttar Pradesh, Baba Ghasi Das Ji from Madhya Pradesh, Ayyankali and Sri Narayana Guru from Kerala raised a consistent campaign for the prevalence of social justice in the Indian society. Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia presented a number of resolutions to the British Government for the removal of untouchability and special provisions for the inclusion of socially excluded sections of the society in the public realm of power and social domain.

India's Greatest Freedom fighter and founder of Ad-Dharam Movement Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia joined hands with Bodhisattva Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar in his struggle for equal rights for the socially excluded people of India. When Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar spreaded its movement into the political agile lands of Punjab with the formation of Punjab chapter of Scheduled Castes Federation, there was a tremendous response from the grassroots. That was precisely the contributions of Ad Dharm Mandal Punjab movement which laid the foundation stone of social justice campaign in the state in the mid-1920s. But the irony of the matter is that even after more than seven decades of India's independence, Dalits in the country are still subjected to various types of atrocities and social discriminations. Though the Indian state, while making the optimum use of various anti untouchability clauses of the constitution, is doing its best to bridle the monster of caste, but still is more needed to be done at the social level where the people should come forward to internalize the values of liberty, equality and fraternity in order to realize the true sense of democracy and social justice.

Strong protest over Violence against Dalits in India



O.P. Balley

San Francisco: As the whole world knows that some members of the Dalit community in Gujrat, India were tied and severely beaten by so-called devotees of cow-protection, for carrying a dead cow to skin its hide off.

Even after 70 years of Independence and constitutional safeguards against untouchability in India such events of violence and social discrimination are becoming a frequent occurrence which is nothing but a matter of national shame.

A very strong and peaceful protest was organized in San Francisco from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday, August 13th 2016, on the corner of Montgomery and Market streets in San Francisco

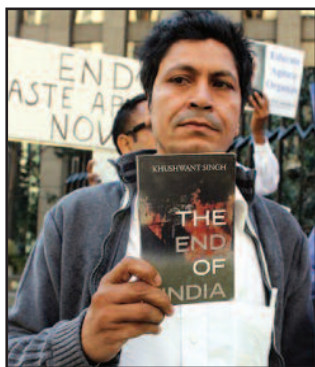
against this deplorable act of violence against the helpless. People from all segments of Indian society participated in the protest to voice their concerns and condemnation of such acts of violence against the down trodden community.

Some of the prominent members of the Indian community addressed the gathering with their views expressing their solidarity and urging stern action against those who are responsible for such inhuman acts of violence based on the teachings of Manuwad. In the words of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who struggled his entire life for liberation of the oppressed "Political democracy without social democracy is meaningless."

O. P. Balley

Founder Member

Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Pittsburg, California



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70th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA CELEBRATED IN BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA

Fremont: (Ambedkar Times News Bureau) -India Day parade was organized by Festival OfGlobe (FOG) in Fremont on August 14, 2016, to celebrate Independence Day of India.

Large number of people participated in this function. People from various groups and States had their floats in the

parade. People were dancing with joy on the floats and on the road.

Members of Dr. Ambedkar Education Aid Society, Ambedkar International Center from Fremont, Pittsburg, Sacramento and other cities in Bay Area made a beautiful float with Baba Sahib's pictures, cutouts and banners with his

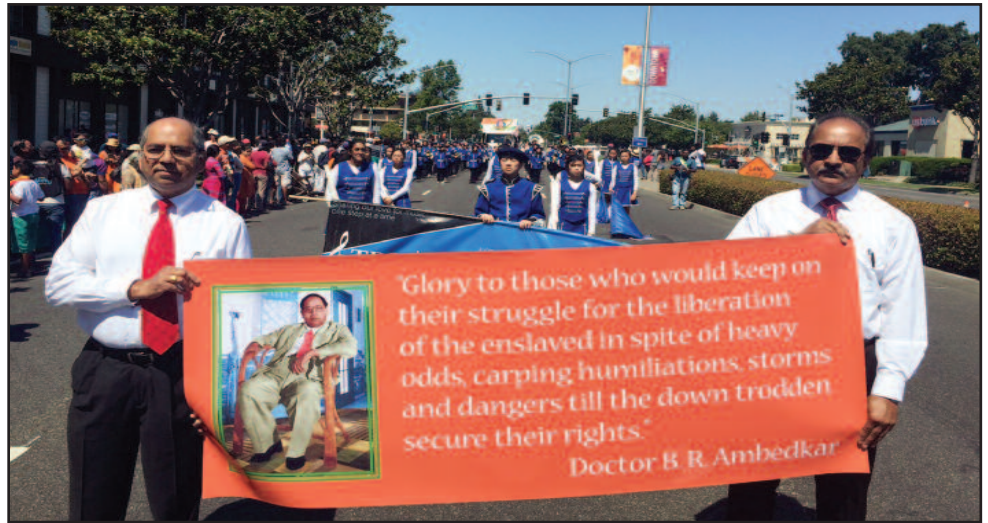
quotes and also pictures of Shaheed Bha- gat Singh & Ghadri Baba Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia Ji.

This float acknowledged Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to India. His biggest contribution is authoring the Indian Constitution.

As the float was passing by the

crowded on both sides of the street, lots of people shouted "DR. AMBEDKAR AMAR RAHE". There was a huge band with the float that was a big hit. We are thankful to the students for their great performance. I am sure next year we will have more participants.

- Ramesh Suman



70th INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA CELEBRATED IN BAY AREA, CALIFORNIA



Dr Romesh Japra honoring Rittu Mahedhwari for media chair



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