



## Social Exclusion, Dalit Struggle and Question of Equality

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Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times

Freedom in India is not a singular meaning concept. It has multitudes of striking resonations. Social and economic freedom, to realise ones potential to the fullest degree, is the prerequisite for the viable realization of Political freedom. In a country like India, where oppressive social hierarchies suffocate inter-community interaction at personal level and exclude a large section of the highly segmented society from the interactive socio-economic public domain, mere constitutional provision of one person, one vote, one value would not lead to social emancipation and empowerment of the socially excluded people. Political freedom without being backed up with social and economic empowerment of each and every person of the historically disadvantaged people simply because of their so-called low birth is an empty cry. Joytirao Phule, Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, E.V.RamasamiPeriyar and Babasaheb Dr B.R Ambedkar were of the firm views that political freedom based on socially egalitarian settings with equal opportunities to excel in the economy of the country will strike hard to step out the roots of social exclusion as well economic divisions to the benefit of downtrodden.

During the freedom struggle, the widely accepted Dalit leadership equally emphasized on social freedom of the millions of downtrodden without the achievement of which they reiterated political freedom would be simply an eyewash with serious ramifications in the near future for the entire society. Keeping a large section of the society out of active enterprising endeavor of the economy and deny them equal opportunities to contribute in the advancement of the economic settings would not only be detrimental for them but also for whole of the society. It is for this reason that the pioneers of the Dalit Struggle in India choose the way to political freedom via equality, liberty and fraternity. Equality in all spheres would generate fraternity. Fraternity lies at the base of genuine liberty. Liberty is not to extend one's self while sacrificing the interest of the multitude but to usher in common good in a socially progressive and welfare oriented socio-economic order. Consequently, the entire Dalit Struggle during the long course of India's freedom struggle kept on laying emphasis on the social, economic and political empowerment of the socially excluded sections of the society. Jyotirao Phule introduced education to empower the Dalit population to rise for their economic growth, Periyar wanted them to fight for self-dignity and justice so that they can become equal partner in the common wealth of the nation, Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia struggled hard to get them their long denied share in the local structures of power and Babasaheb Dr B.R. Ambedkar taught them educate, agitate and organize for enabling their them to enter into the national mainstream where they would be second to none.

After more than 70 years of India' independence, alas to say that the vision shown by the Dalit icons is still to be realized and at the same time hindered by many hurdles. Equality is still a far cry in our society. Despite a large number of constitutional provisions for the safety and protection of Dalit's human rights, hardly a day passes when the front pages of national newspapers shame all of us for torturing the socially excluded people of our society and outraging the modesty of their women folks. It seems that the administrative state has its limits in ensuring complete equality in a historically segmented society. There is an urgent need to awaken the dormant civil society to the long neglected cause of the socially excluded people for the benefit of all its sections lest we become isolated in the contemporary neo-liberal market on account of our being backward Looking and deeply mired in archaic social practices.

"Ambedkar Times" congratulates on India's 72nd Independence Day celebrations

## REORGANIZED MANAGING COMMITTEE SRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHA, PITTSBURG

Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha had an election on August 12, 2018. 9 New members were added to the existing committee. We are very thankful to the

Mr. Balbir Chand, Mr. AjaiPaul Ram and Mr. Jaila Jaggi for processing the applications and assisting in the selection of the committee.



previous committee members for their dedication and service. 7 Members retired after doing their 2 year sewa, Jagtar Bhatia, Salinder Bhatia, Deo Raj Singh, Vinod Kumar, Harbans Kalu, Sohan Lal and Gina Bhatia.

This committee was unanimously selected by Sangat. The committee selection was very peaceful. We are thankful to all the Sangat for the cooperation and help during this process. We wish new committee all the best. We hope this committee with do the sewa with TAN, MAN and DHAN to keep this Gurughar in Chardikala.

We are also thankful to the election committee members, Mr. Om P. Balley, Mr. Shashi Paul,

### New committee:

Chairman Ramesh Suman, Vice Chairman - Dr. Ravi Thind, President - Kashmiri Bhatia, Vice President - Kulwant Kaur Banga, 2nd Vice President - Dharam Pal, General Secretary - Dilbag Singh, Assistant Secretary - Jagir Singh, Treasurer - Narinder Chahal, Assistant Treasurer- Nranjan Singh

**Directors:** Simar Kaur Singh, Satya Mati Rattu, Gian Kaur Rattu, Satya Dass, Karnail Singh, Som Nath Bhatia, Harmesh Bangar, Hem Raj Rattu

**Advisory Committee:** Balbir Chand, Om P. Balley, Jaila Jaggi, Dr. Harmesh Kumar, Jagdev Ram

**Legal Committee:** Shashi Paul & Ajay Paul Ram

## SUPREME COUNCIL SHRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHAS, USA

To: Consulate General of India,  
SAN FRANCISCO

### Regarding: Burning the constitution of India

It is absolutely shocking and disgraceful to learn, which has now become viral all over the world, that constitution of India, the supreme law of the land, has recently been burnt publicly in New Delhi among chanting of slogans against Dr. B.R. Ambedkar by some disgruntled elements of society. Such an act of disgrace is not only criminal in intent but a flagrant desecration of the sanctity of this unique, sacred and exhaustive document created so laboriously by legal luminaries and human intelligentsia of the Nation.

Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a fervent nationalist widely known as the father of the constitution welded the entire nation into one unified entity through his charismatic skills and penetrating intellect and profound knowledge of the constitutional law. Constitution of India promotes unity in diversity with ultimate power resting in the hands of the people. Liberty, equality and fraternity are its outstanding features which make it a unique document in the polity of nations. It builds bridges of unity instead of creating gaps of separatism. Any constitution does not belong to any one section of society but represents the en-

tire nation.

While condemning such an abominable act of burning the constitution, we strongly urge upon the Government of India to take stern action against those responsible for inflaming tensions and divisions among different segments of society.

We, therefore, earnestly hope that the President and the Prime Minister of India will take all possible safeguards to prevent any such occurrence in future.

This memorandum issues with the concurrence and support of the following six temples functioning under the banner of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas.

1. Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Pittsburg (CA) 94565
2. Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha (BAY AREA) Union City (CA)
3. Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Rio Linda, Sacramento (CA)
4. Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Yuba City (CA)
5. Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Fresno (CA)
6. 5. Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Selma (CA)

Truly Yours,

O.P. Balley General Secretary  
Executive Committee members

# REORGANIZED MANAGING COMMITTEE OF SRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHA, PITTSBURG



All pictured: Prem K. Chumber Ambedkar Times



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All pictured: Prem K. Chumber Ambedkar Times



ਕਮਲਜੀਤ ਕੌਰ ਭਾਟੀਆ ਅਤੇ ਕਸ਼ਮੀਰੀ ਭਾਟੀਆ

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਸਭਾ ਪਿਟਸਬਰਗ (ਕੈਲੇਫੋਰਨੀਆ) ਦੀ 12 ਅਗਸਤ 2018 ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਦੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਸਰਬਸੰਮਤੀ ਨਾਲ ਚੁਣੇ ਗਏ ਅਹੁਦੇਦਾਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਦਾਸ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਅਤੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਨੂੰ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਦਿਲੀ ਹਾਰਦਿਕ ਵਧਾਈ ਦਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਉਥੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ ਜੀ ਦਾ ਵੀ ਦਿਲੀ ਹਾਰਦਿਕ ਵਧਾਈ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ-ਨਾਲ ਧੰਨਵਾਦ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ, ਜਿਹਨਾਂ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਵੀ ਫਿਰ ਤੋਂ ਮੁੱਖ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਨਿਭਾਉਣ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਦਾ ਮੌਕਾ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ।



ਵਿਨੋਦ ਕੁਮਾਰ (ਜੋ ਹੁਣੇ ਹੀ ਕੈਸ਼ੀਅਰ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਤੋਂ ਮੁਕਤ ਹੋਏ ਹਨ) ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਸੁਪਤਨੀ ਬੀਬੀ ਬੀਨਾ ਰਾਣੀ



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