



# Ambedkar Times

Weekly

Editor-in-Chief: Prem Kumar Chumber

Contact: 001-916-947-8920

Fax: 916-238-1393

E-mail: chumbermedia@yahoo.com

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## Tughlaqabad, New Delhi and Dalit Protests

Prem K. Chumber  
Editor:

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

The demolition of the historic Sri Guru Ravidass Temple at Guru Ravidass Marg, Tughlaqabad area of New Delhi has generated deep protests in Punjab. The protests were not only organized by the Ravidass Naam Leva Sangat but also joined by another biggest community among the Dalits of Punjab named Valmikies. Though born in Present



day Uttar Pradesh, Guru Ravidass is revered widely in Punjab, a state with a highest number of Scheduled Castes populations in comparison to rest of the states in the union of India. This is not only first time that an incident of such a socio-religious magnitude has raised all



pervasive protest throughout Punjab. The murder of Sant Rama Nand ji at Sri Guru Ravidass Temple at Vienna had also triggered wide violent protests in Punjab. Teachings of Guru Ravidass occupy central place in the historic Ad Dharam movement of pre-partition Punjab. The founder of the Ad Dharam movement, Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia when asked by Prof Mark Juergensmeyer during his research in Punjab in the late 1970s about the contribution of the Ad Dharam movement towards the formation of Dalit consciousness among its followers, he proudly put on record that this very movement had given the Scheduled Castes of Punjab their Rehbar/Guru who was the pioneer among the restoration of the long lost dignity and self-respect of these historically neglected people. Guru Ravidass and his socio religious teachings became the rallying point for the unity and struggle of the downtrodden and the so called low caste people. These people once became conscious of their rights, the centuries of the denial of such rights to them by the dominant social forces, and the voice of protest by their Guru at a time when even to dream of these rights was considered as blasphemy, how can they tolerate any insult or attack on the proud legacy of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji and the related sacred places dedicated to his fond memory. It is in this context that the demolition of Sri Guru Ravidass Temple at New Delhi and the quick and sharp reaction in Punjab needs to be understood.

## Supreme Council Sri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA Condemns the Demolition of Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Tuglaqabad New Delhi



Supreme Council Sri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA submitted a memorandum to Indian Consulate office in San Francisco (California) USA urging the restoration of centuries old Sri Guru Ravidass Temple in Tuglaqabad New Delhi which was demolished under the order of the Supreme Court of India.

Mr. O. P. Balley, General Secretary of Supreme Council Sri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA joined by the representatives of Sri Guru Ravidass Sabhas: Pittsburg, Bay Area, Sacramento, Yuba City, Fresno, Selma & Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Education Aid Society Fremont, California, Ambedkar Times Forum (Group of

Media) USA and Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Reform Society Fresno (California) presented the Memorandum in person to the Consulate General San Francisco (California) in a peaceful environment in the presence of about fifty members of the Community attending the occasion.

The following prominent members of the Community expressed their feelings of resentment on this unfortunate incident hurting the very core of the religious sentiments of millions of followers of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji all over the world. O. P. Balley, Ramesh Suman, Shashi K. Paul, Kashmiri Bhatia, Joginder Singh Delhiwale, Paramjit Bhutta, Ke

wal Bolina, Hans Raj Kajla & Prem Kumar Chumber from Sacramento (California), Ram Murti Sroay, Vinod Kumar Chumber, Ajaib Singh Sunda, Tarlochan Singh, Amandeep Singh, Ram Lubhaya & Ram Dhan from Bay Area (California), Karam Singh Bangar, Rattan Pal Jassi, Amar Daroch, Malkiat Singh Bangar from Fresno, Kewal Sindhu & His wife from Vallejo (California). Mr. Prem Chumber Editor-In-Chief Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba weekly newspapers also covered the entire event as a professional journalist.

- O. P. Balley  
General Secretary

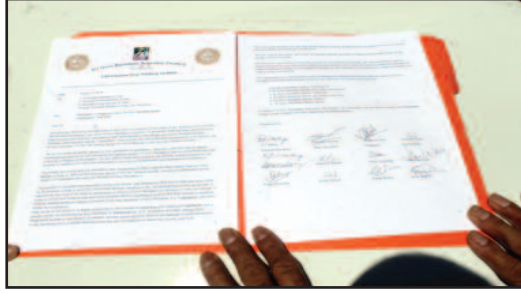


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# SUPREME COUNCIL SRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHAS, USA

## 2150, CRESTVIEW DRIVE, PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA, USA



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TO: -

1. Honorable President of India
2. Honorable Prime Minister of India
3. Honorable Chief Minister of Delhi  
Through Consulate General of India,  
San Francisco, CA

**Reg:-Restoration of Image and status  
Sri Guru Ravidass Temple  
Tughlaqabad, New Delhi**

Dear Sir,

It is extremely distressing and deplorable to learn that in pursuance of the orders of the Supreme Court of India, the old historical temple in the name of Guru Ravidass Ji located in Tughlaqabad, Delhi has been demolished by Delhi Development Authority controlled by Delhi Administration.

This temple was being managed by Guru Ravidass Jayanti Samaroh Samity, Tughlaqabad, Delhi and the site was a adorable reminiscence of an historic visit by Guru Ravidass Ji in the 15th century during the rule of Sikander Lodhi, the then emperor of India.

As per the traditional beliefs passed on from generation to generation, Sikander Lodhi who was so deeply impressed and enlightened with the saintly and spiritual wisdom of Guru Ravidass Ji that he embellished him with a rare title of Rajguru of his kingdom. He also gifted a large tract of land to this divinely inspired prophet for the purpose of preaching his vision and philosophy to promote humanitarianism and international brotherhood.

This temple, as it stood before its demolition, was inaugurated by Babu Jagjivan Ram, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, in 1959 and this land also figures in the old revenue records showing its possession by the villagers of Tughlaqabad who were the followers of Guru Ravidass Ji.

The process of acquisition and demolition of this holy temple was initiated by DDA and no attempts were made by Government of India to avoid this unfortunate decision, resulting in the dismemberment of this sacred site. It has hurted the very core of the religious sentiments of millions of Guru Ravidass Ji's followers in India and abroad. It looks so ironical and hurtful to note that every possible effort is underway to build a Shri Ram temple in Ajodhya while an existing temple so deeply connected to the holy memories of Guru Ravidass Ji in Tughlaqabad, has been thrown out of existence.

India, as we all are proud of, is deeply entrenched in the concept of respecting and creating an egalitarian and a secular society, as envisioned by Sri Guru Ravidass Ji, Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia founder of Ad-Dharam movement, but this recent decision which speaks of authoritarianism, is very disturbing and a complete departure from the very foundations on which this country was built.

This unfortunate decision has sent wide-spread waves of dismay, disappointment and discontentment among the entire Ravidassia community all over the world.

We fully support and stand with a spirit of unification behind any effort to restore the tarnished image and the sanctity of this holy temple.

We, therefore, respectfully and fervently request the honorable Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to restore peace and harmony over the world by intervening personally in this crucial and sensitive matter and assuage the religious feelings so badly hurt amongst the followers of Guru Ravidass Ji, by restoring this religious property to its original image and sanctity.

This organization is a representative body of following six temples functioning under the name of Guru Ravidass Ji and this memorandum is being sent with their concurrence and approval.

1. Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Pittsburg CA.
2. Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Sacramento, CA
3. Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Yuba City, CA
4. Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Bay Area, CA
5. Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Fresno, CA
6. Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Selma, CA

In addition: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Education Aid Society Fremont, CA,  
Ambedkar Times Forum (Group of Media) USA  
and Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Reform society are also supporting this Memorandum.

**Thanking you**

**O.P. Bailey (General Secretary)  
Ramesh Suman, Shashi K. Paul, Tavinder Kazla  
Dated: August 13, 2019**



# Punjab Bandh - August 13

## Sri Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabad – An Open Letter



**Ramesh Chander**  
Ambassador  
IFS (Retired)

**Dear All,**  
I wrote an open letter on August 11 on the demolition of Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabad in Delhi as a curtain raiser of the protests against the said demolition

by the followers of Guru Ravidass. First of all, as the situation unfolded itself, it is a matter of gratification to note that the demolition of the mandir of the

matter with the concerned authorities in Delhi. President of Akali Dal Sukhbir Badal and the Sikh community at large not only condemned the demolition but also showed their willingness to take up the matter with the concerned Minister Hardip Puri and PM Narendra Modi. It has also been reported that SGPC has condemned the demolition of the temple. Even the Punjab Chapter of the RSS came out with a statement and expressed its displeasure on the said demolition at Tughlakabad. It would have been good if RSS should have taken a strong and clear stand on the issue and advised the government to desist from the uncalled for and undesirable demo-

ances of the community with regard to the Tughlakabad Mandir of Guru Ravidass. It is a matter of great worry and concern that the mainstream media has totally ignored the issue in spite of the fact that the mandir was located in the capital city of Delhi. Some days ago when a small and nondescript mandir near Jama Masjid in old Delhi was allegedly desecrated, all the national TV channels were making loud but uncalled for noises and were falling on each other to demonstrate their concern for the secular character of the country and their soft attitude towards the majority community. This lopsided and discriminatory approach by an important pillar

them and contributed considerably to come back to power with an added majority. No party – the Congress, the Akalis, the BJP, the BSP and others considered it necessary to consider the matter and listen to the management of the Tughlakabad mandir and stand by them while the parliament was in session. After the noises and the Punjab Bandh of today, some of them have woken from the slumber. A delegation of BJP, Akalis and their allies have met the Ministers of Social Justice and Ministers of Urban Development and urged them to reconsider the unjust action by the Delhi Administration. Let us see what happens. I may add here my im-



great guru has been taken seriously by the community and by the wide political and social spectrum around except by some narrow-minded and politically motivated voices who were found lacking in understanding the issue or their political constraints. Even some highly placed people, including a junior Minister at the Center found faults with the management of the Tughlakabad Mandir and others who tended to raise the banner of protest. The leadership of BJP could not come around and stand by the community as the mandir belonged to Guru Ravidass, a nobody in the caste hierarchy and the fact that the decision makers in Delhi to demolish the mandir were no others but their political masters. The upper-caste Hindu community, in spite of the fact that the followers of Guru Ravidass are mostly Hindus, as usual, was found disinterested or even disdainful. The caste system which was an anathema to Guru Ravidass and is unlawful and undesirable under the constitution of India, it seems is still at work. It is unfortunate. I think the community will certainly take note of this and respond in due course. CM of Punjab Captain Amrinder Singh took due note of the situation and tried to assuage the ruffled feelings of the community and promised to take up the

lition at Tughlakabad in persuasion of their professed agenda of "Samrasta". I think, it is still a long way to go in shedding the inherit feeling of social discrimination. It is a matter of further satisfaction that the successful bandh, as I write at about 2 in the afternoon of August 13, is by and large peaceful and conforms to the democratic norms of protest and disagreement except some violent happenings at Mukerian in Hoshiarpur. I take this opportunity to appreciate and congratulate the protesters - followers of Guru Ravidass and Babasaheb Ambedkar and their supporters from the society at large for their good conduct and praiseworthy demonstration as law-abiding citizens. I feel the Administration in Punjab was also fully geared and alert to ward off any untoward incident. I was told that the concerned law and order authorities took into confidence all the stakeholders including the Guru Ravidass Deras to manage and control the situation. I must hasten to add that the government and the concerned authorities should not take these positive signs lightly in taking the decisions and undoing the damage of the said demolition. It may be a proverbial 'lull before the storm', if the authorities fail to understand the issue and redress the griev-

of democracy tends to divide the society. The media must understand this. The earlier the better. The aggrieved sections of the society are in no mood any more to swallow this.

By the evening of today, it is a matter of satisfaction again, the fire fighting to rectify the mistake and damage control has started in Delhi. The Supreme Court has suo motto intervened and said that 'it was a serious matter and nobody should try to take shelter under the Supreme Court Orders for political convenience'. The Administration in Delhi – Lt. Governor, DDA, Police Commissioner were taking recourse to justify the ill-conceived and ill-motivated and faultily executed decision in the name of the courts. Only one question in this regard will make their action hollow. The efficiency shown by the Delhi Administration in implementing the so called order of the Supreme Court in destroying the mandir was unprecedented. The order comes in the evening of August 9 and the mandir is demolished in the morning of August 10. The GOI through the Minister of Urban development passed the bulk to DDA and Lt. Governor. Home Minister is blissfully ignorant of the happenings and has no time to appreciate the sensitivities of the people who stood by

mediate apprehension that someone might suggest to allot a piece of land for the purpose somewhere else and end the matter. It will be totally unfair and would amount to high-handedness. The traditional and historical character of the Guru Ravidass Mandir at Tughlakabad should be maintained. The followers of Guru Ravidass should not fall prey to these machinations. There should be no duplicity in dealing with such matters.

I conclude this open letter with the hope that the Delhi Administration under the GOI will take due note of these things and address the issue with all seriousness and sincerity. The followers of Guru Ravidass, on the other hand, should register their protest and demands with cool and pursue the matter with democratic norms as responsible citizens of the country. The incidents of Mukerian should be not repeated to tarnish the image of the great Guru as he said:

Keh Ravidass Khalas Chamara  
Jo Hum Sehri so Meet Hamara!  
With regards and Greetings on the Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan.

**Yours truly,**  
**(Ramesh Chander)**  
**Ambassador – IFS (Retired)**  
**Tele: 9988510940**





# Ambedkar Times Forum Strongly Condemns

Ambedkar Times forum strongly condemns the demolition of the historic Shri Guru Ravidass Temple at Shri Guru Ravidass Marg in village Tughlaqabad New Delhi.

Prem K. Chumber (Editor: Ambedkar Times)  
Posted at [www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com) on August 10, 2019

## SUPREME COUNCIL SRI GURU RAVIDASS SABHAS, USA

### Last meeting of the Council was held in Elk Grove

Sacramento on August, 3rd, 2019. The following members attended the meeting which went through very successfully and harmoniously. O.P. Balley, Ramesh Suman, Shashi K. Paul, Ram Murti Saroay, Vinod Kumar Chumber, Prem K. Chumber, Hans Raj Kajla, Tavinder Kazla, A.S Sunda, Sohan Singh

Kewal Krishan Bolina. The meeting which was opened by Mr. O.P. Balley, General

Secretary of the Council focused around the restoration of its status and image to accomplish the lofty vision and ideals which established this organization.

the momentum of its activities. The dates will be notified later. The meeting was adjourned with thanks to all the participating members for their esteemed views and positive input conducive to the functioning of this body, based on the preachings enshrined in the holy pages of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji



Dhunda, K.S. Sidhu, Jarnail Singh Badhan, Kashmiri Bhatia, Teja Virk &

Secretary of the Council focused around the restoration of its status and image to



It was unanimously agreed to hold six meetings every year to keep up

O.P. Balley  
General Secretary

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## REMEMBERING AD DHARM

Prem Kumar Chumber  
Editor: Ambedkar Times

Caste system based on the fourfold division of the Hindu society into Brahmin, Kashtriya, Vaishya and Shudra and the fifth avarna category of Ati-Shudras has led to serious denial of Human rights of the Scheduled Castes people variously nomenclatured as pan-chamas, achhuts, dheds, pariahs, Harijans and Dalits. These large number of avarna people who were condemned to live in segregated localities in the periphery of villages throughout India without having any rights on the natural resources and the local structures of power. They were forced to perform 'begar' hard manual labor without any remuneration. If the men folk had to work in the agricultural farms of the landlords, their women folk were pushed into an equally hard work of cleaning the cowsheds of the landlords. Scheduled Castes were not allowed to possess land, weapons, valuable metals and milch castles. They were only allowed to keep the beasts of burden to assist them in performing the hard manual labor without any payments in return.

Tathagat Gautam Buddha raised a revolutionary voice against this cruel system of extreme denial of human rights based on low birth. He welcomed the Ati-Shudras into his Sanghas and treated

them equal without any prejudice whatsoever. After a long gap and with the advent of Sikh faith in Punjab, once again a

serious attempt was made to remove the deadly caste boundaries from the Hindu society while spreading the message of unity of mankind. It was in Punjab, the sacred land of Gurus and Pirs that on June 11-12, 1926 the first mammoth annual function of the Ad Dharm movement was organized in the native village of Ghadri Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the founder of the Ad Dharm in Punjab in 1925 after his return from USA where he reached in 1909 and became one of the pioneers of

the Gadhar Movement. It was at this mammoth Ad Dharm conference where he publicly announced the launch of pressed Classes (at that time the term Scheduled Castes was not coined nor the term Harijan had come) while declaring their separate religion of Ad Dharm at par with other mainstream religions of the region. Consequently the British government declared Ad Dharm as a separate religion of the Dalits in Punjab 1931. About 5 lacs Ad Dharmis recorded themselves under this new religion category in the Census of 1931. Under the able and strong leadership of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the Ad Dharm movement turned party contested the 1937 Punjab Province Assembly Elections and won seven out of eight seats reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

When Ambedkar movement for the annihilation of caste took roots in India, it was the solid groundwork prepared by the Ad Dharm movement in Punjab which helped raise a strong support structure for Babasaheb Dr. B.R Ambedkar who visited Punjab thrice during his life. The forum of Ambedkartimes.com takes immense pleasure and proud to congratulate all its readers, contributors and supporters on the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the first mammoth conference of the Ad Dharm movement held at village Mugowal near Mahilpur in District Hoshiarpur on 11-12 June 1926.

P. K. Chumber  
editor@ambedkartimes.com



BABASAHEB DR. AMBEDKAR  
14 April, 1891 - 6 December, 1956

SAHIB KANSHI RAM  
15 March, 1934 - 9 October, 2006

BABU MANGU RAM MUGOWALIA  
14 January, 1886 - 22 April, 1980

serious attempt was made to remove the deadly caste boundaries from the Hindu society while spreading the message of unity of mankind. It was in Punjab, the sacred land of Gurus and Pirs that on June 11-12, 1926 the first mammoth annual function of the Ad Dharm movement was organized in the native village of Ghadri Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the founder of the Ad Dharm in Punjab in 1925 after his return from USA where he reached in 1909 and became one of the pioneers of

tirade against the pernicious system of untouchability and the restoration of the lost glory of the indigenous people of Bharat.

Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia exhorted his people to get organized and say definitive no to caste discrimination and social segregation. He called upon his people to live with self-respect and dignity and started the movement for equal rights of the Dalits. He approached the then British rulers to empower the De-