

Ambedkar Times

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A grateful nation remembers:

Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji

We take pride in entering 17th year of our regular publication of "Ambedkar Times". This all has become possible with the uninterrupted support of our supporters, contributors, readers and well-wishers. Congratulations to everyone.

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times

Paying Floral Tribute to Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji on his 91st Birth Anniversary

Prem Kumar Chumber
Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

Babu Kanshi Ram, (15 March 1934-9 October 2006), venerated by his followers and admirers as 'Sahib' and 'Manyavar', carried forward the struggle for the emancipation of downtrodden that began with the advent of Buddhism in India in the 6th century BC and slowly graduated through strenuous efforts first by Jyotirao Phule (April 11, 1827 - November 28, 1890) and afterwards Boddhisattva Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (April 4, 1891 - December 6, 1956). Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram under his dynamic leadership invigorated political churning at the grassroots that instantly made a long-lasting impact on the imaginations of millions of lowest of the low and under-privileged artisans/service class people of India - constitutionally designated as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). His sterling contribution lies in organizing the educated youth and varied SC and OBCs and motivating them with missionary spirit for the social transformation of the Indian society as a whole by emancipating and empowering them to rule the country. To achieve this mega goal - "Change the System" - Sahib Kanshi Ram founded the All India Backward and Minority Communities Employees' Federation (BAMCEF) in 1971 and Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangarsh Samiti (DS-4) in 1981 that eventually culminated into a larger political formation what came to be called Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in 1984. Sahib Kanshi Ram did not confine the strings of his newly launched socio-political process of empowering the lower castes to himself only. He, rather, let it loose to spread among his people who hitherto fore were prevented from entering the corridors of political powers by varied Machiavellian machinations. He based his political

strategy to prepare the way for his people to enter the parliament on the basis of the famous slogan of Dr. Ambedkar: "Educate, Agitate, Organise", and chiseled his innovative '85 vs 15' formula of 'Master Key' to unlock the portal of political power. He taught his people that they should prepare themselves to attain political power on the basis of 'bargaining and not begging'. He cycled day and night for months together to reach the lowest of the low to apprise them of their hidden numerical power that can win for them political power in the state and national democratic electoral processes. His dexterously prepared second line of young leadership belied the centuries old indoctrinated belief that Dalits are born only to serve! He proved the world that they have now come up to take over the reign of the rule into their own hands and became capable of writing their own destiny. The BSP under his pupil Mayawati ruled Uttar Pradesh, one of the most politically powerful states in India, for four terms as Chief Minister. Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram taught millions of SCs and OBCs of this vast democracy how to convert their numerical strength into a potent electoral force to defeat those who thrived by dividing them in the name of caste, religion and false electoral promises.

The forum of "Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" take immense pride in congratulating our contributors, readers and well-wishers on the 91st birth anniversary of Manyavar Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji. We are also feeling proud to humbly state that www.ambedkartimes.com dedicated to teachings and life-works of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Gadri Baba Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia and Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram, has successfully completed its 16years of regularpublication. We seek your support and encouragement and good wishes to continue with our this small effort in you services.

17th Year of Uninterrupted journey of Ambedkar Times Weekly

Prem K. Chumber (Editor-in-Chief) Ambedkar Times (English) and Desh Doaba (Punjabi) It is matter of great privilege and pride to share with the contributors, supporters, readers, and the sympathizers of the Ambedkar Times (English Weekly) that this small initiative being formally taken on March 15, 2009 has successfully completed fifteenth years of its continuance service in the memory of Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji - founder President of BAMCEF, DS4 and Baujan Samaj Party (BSP). It was dedicated to him and his mission for the emancipation and empowerment of the downtrodden to pay back to society. After reading the most valuable writings of Bodhi Sattva Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji renounced the family life and devoted his entire time and energy till his last breath for the uplift of the Baujan Samaj. The Ambedkar Times (Weekly Newspaper) has been named after the name of the messiah of the downtrodden, chief-architect of the constitution of Independent India, world reputed Social Scientist and the first Minister of Law of independent India - Bodhi Sattva Bharat Ratan Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar - to keep ourselves reminded of our immense social debut to him and the moral duty to do our best towards keeping the mission alive and sanguinely going on.

Once again, it is matter of great pleasure to put on records for me that we are grateful to all our supporters, well-wishers, sympathizers, contributors and esteemed readers for immensely helping me in keeping this initiative alive against all odds. I am confident that with the support of all of you, "Ambedkar Times" will keep on serving the community with its bold, transparent and socially valuable inputs.

Breaking Bureaucratic Barriers: Building Better Bonds

As our nation celebrated the Republic sides entrenched in positions of ego, Day on the 26th of January, we were reminded of that remarkable winter morning in 1950 when a nation of millions embraced a constitution that promised justice, equality, and dignity

posturing for victories that meant little beyond the walls of the office. It was, I had found, a 'battle' with no winners. This approach left little space for dialogue, trust, or shared purpose. Early

in my career, however, I stumbled upon a powerful idea that would shape my approach to one particular aspect of communication forever. It was an article I read about negotiation, a simple but profound shift in perspective: instead of taking rigid positions, find solutions that are mutually beneficial. That principle became my touchstone. From 1992 on-

wards, whenever union representatives approached me, I

made it a point to listen—truly listen in the first instance, with patience and empathy. If something could be resolved officially, I ensured that it was

Bureaucratese was no ally of mine in this matter. I gave no quarter to hesitation nor any space to doubt. The decision was taken—simple, swift, and righteous. Where once the matter



Dr. Abhinav Walia

former Addl. Secy./Member (HRD) Postal Services Board Ministry of Communications

document was none other than Babasaheb Ambedkar, who had himself experienced the searing pain of untouchability, yet rose to become one of India's most brilliant minds. Through the fog of prejudice and the storms of discrimination, he illuminated a path that would forever change the destiny of a nation.

to all. The architect of this magnificent

For me, in this backdrop, it was also a moment to reminisce about an experience that resonates deeply within me; it occurred during my tenure as the Head of the Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle in Vijayawada, amidst the throes of the Covid period. It was a time when the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe (SC, ST) Welfare Association of the A.P. Postal Circle and I forged a bond that was shaped not through grand declarations but by the simple act of listening, giving others a voice, recognizing aspirations, and taking decisive action.

My history with Unions, Associations goes back to 1992, when I worked as Senior Superintendent of Post Offices. Back then, Unions, Associations, were sometimes perceived (albeit inaptly) as adversaries to the establishment. Relations between the two were thus at times strained: slogans flew like arrows, discord thundered, and mutual trust lay prostrate. Agitations were frequent; harmonious instances, infrequent. Negotiation, then, was akin to warfare, with both

Fast forward to my posting in Andhra Pradesh Postal Circle—a field assignment that brought me to Vijayawada during the Covid period. I had occasion to interact with different Unions, Associations. Of these, from the SC, ST Association, an issue brought before me was a grievance aged beyond its time. A matter most humble, yet magnified by neglect into a symbol of indifference—the installation of a statue of Dr. Ambedkar within the office premises. For ten long years, it remained in limbo! The only decision was indecision and the only action, inaction!

When the members of the SC, ST Association came to me. I saw not iust representatives voicing a demand but people articulating a long-held aspiration. I listened—not out of mere courtesy but because I understood the weight of their request. For them, the statue of Dr. Ambedkar was much be-

had lingered as a thorn of contention, there now rose a statue of Dr. Ambedkar on the 6th of July, 2023. This marked not just the fulfillment of a re-

> quest but the beginning of a bond, forged in trust and a shared sense of purpose, which continues to flourish even beyond my tenure.

The impact of this simple decision was evident when, in July 2023, the Secretary of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes visited Vijayawada. Accustomed to receiving grievances, complaints, lamentations and instances of strife during such visits, she was somewhat surprised to hear none. Instead, what she and her team encountered were notes for an office culture that had, in a small but significant way, embraced the ideals of inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for everyone to develop their potential. The installation of Dr. Ambedkar's statue was the culmination of such values already flourishing in our office.

As the statue of Dr. Ambedkar stands tall in the premises of the Circle Office at Vijayawada, it serves not just as a tribute to the architect of our Constitution but as a reminder of what is possible—when we choose trust over cynicism, action over inertia, and dignity over division. For me, it remains a moment of quiet pride—proof that empowerment begins with something as simple, and as powerful, as listening and then acting righteously.

done immediately. This earned me their trust and, in some places, gratitude.

Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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Bahujan Samaj to follow the principles of the

"Ad Dharm Movement"

Prem Kumar Chumber
Editor-in-Chief: Ambedkar Times / Desh Doaba

ahib Shri Kanshi Ram was born on March 15, 1934, in Khawas Pur village of Ropar District of Punjab (India). He was the eldest of eight siblings. He belonged to the Ramdassia (Ad Dharmi/Mulnivasi) community of the Scheduled Caste group, which is the largest group in Punjab. He was named Kanshi because after his birth the midwife placed him in a tray made of Kansa metal. His father owned some land and his uncles were in the armed forces. In Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram's own words, "I was born and brought up amongst those who sacrificed themselves but never betrayed the country..." Despite his low caste background, he earned a bachelor's degree in science from the Government College at Ropar (Punjab).

His upbringing was modest. During his education years there was nothing special about him to suggest that he would mature into great social revolutionary. It was only after he took up a government job in the western Indian state of Maharashtra that he began to be influenced by the writings and life of Baba Sahib Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar who voiced the concerns of India's low caste community and worked hard throughout his life for their empowerment. Soon after his graduation, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji joined the research staff of Kirki's Explosive Research and Development Laboratory (ERDL) in Pune 1957. While working in Pune, he quit his job after becoming involved in the famous Deena Bhana case. Shri Deena Bhana, a Rajasthani Scheduled Caste employee and senior colleague of Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji was suspended. His fault was that he protested against the decision of ERDL management for the cancellation of holidays for Baba Sahib Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha Jayantis and their replacement by the Tilak Jayanti and one additional holiday for Diwali. Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji decided to fight against such a caste ridden and dictatorial behavior of the management. The fighter in Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram got the suspension orders of Shri Deena Bhana revoked and Dr. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha Jayantis holidays were restored.

This was the beginning of the long battle for the emancipation of the Dalits in the country that Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram had to lead till his last breath. He resigned from his job and totally dedicated his entire life for the



cause of the community. He never married nor visited his home since then. His struggle was not for the home and family. He devised a new strategy to regain the lost glory of the original (Adi) inhabitants of Bharat (India). He gave utmost importance to the culture of work and democratic method of struggle. He also expanded the circle of the Dalits by incorporating other Backward Classes and Minorities into it.

He criticized the post-Ambedkar leadership of Dalits in India. For that he declared "Poona Pact" as the main reason. He said that "Poona Pact" made Dalits helpless. By rejecting separate electorate, Dalits were deprived of their genuine representation in legislatures. Several and various kind of Chamchas were born in the last fifty years. As and when India's so called high caste Hindu rulers felt the need of Chamchas and when the authority of the upper castes got endangered by real and genuine Dalit leaders, Chamchas were brought to the fore in all other fields".

In his "The Chamcha Age", a well-argued and polemical tirade against the pseudo Dalit leaders, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji sharpen the contradiction for the legitimate acquisition of political power by the downtrodden in electoral democracy in India. In, the Chamcha Age, "he focused very much on the Poona Pact which was a point of a rather decisive Gandhian victory over Dr. Ambedkar after a long duel between the two at the Round Table Conference". In the mid-1960s, Sahib Kanshi Ram Ji began to organize Dalit

government employees to fight against what he saw as the deeply entrenched prejudice of higher caste peoples. It was around this time that he decided that he would not marry and dedicate his life to the cause of Dalit improvement. Finally he decided play a crucial role in the politics of the country.

The result was, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji launched his first organization on December 6th, 1978: All India Backward (SC, ST, OBC) and Minority Communities' Employees' Federation, popularly known as BAMCEF. Three years later, on December 6th 1981, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji founded another organization: DS-4 (Dalit Shoshit Samaj Sangarsh Samiti) and on April 14th, 1984, Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji announced the formation of the Bahujan Samaj Party (the Common Man's Party). As a politician, he became very popular among his people, who found a new hope and vision in his style of functioning and sincerity. Suddenly he became a national figure. He was a master strategist and a meticulous organizer. He used his strengths to carve out a niche for Dalits. This was done by deploying an often combative and aggressive strategy, with virulent attacks on other political parties which he claimed only represented the interests of higher caste Hindus. He was sharply different from other politicians of the mainstream. He used to communicate before he spoke.

In 1996 Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji elected to the Lok Sabha from the Hoshiarpur constituency, from where 50 years ago Great Ghadri Baba Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia Ji founder of the "Ad Dharm Movement" had been returned to the Punjab assembly in 1946. Interestingly, it was at Hoshiarpur, the strong hold of "Ad Dharm" that the BSP celebrated the 75th year of the "Ad Dharm Movement" on February 18th, 2001. On this occasion Sahib Shri Kanshi Ram Ji exhorted the Bahujan Samaj to follow the principles of the "Ad Dharm Movement" of which the BSP has now become the torch-bearer.

He was one of the few great leaders of Independent India who actually expanded the limits of Dalit politics. His political vision was never confined to Scheduled Castes only, as is often thought about him.

All of the political organizations he founded were meant for the downtrodden of all sorts – SC, ST, OBC and Minorities. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he was the one who took a lead in making Indian democracy more competitive and practically open to the Dalit-Bahujan Samaj.

AMBEDKAR TIMES ENTERS 17th YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Mr. Prem Chumber Ji

It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride to know that after completing 16 years of its continued existence on March 15th 2025, "AMBEDKAR TIMES" is entering 17th year of its uninterrupted services to the community at large both in USA and abroad.

I, as a regular reader and contributor to Ambedkar Times ever since its foundation, can firmly say that its success, inspite of all the challenges and hurdles, is a testament and reflection of your journalistic talents, perseverance and hard work for which you deserve all the compliments and congratulations.

I wish and hope that Ambedkar Times joined by its sister publication "Desh Doaba" weekly will continue to grow in its readership with a spirit of passion, optimism and impartiality in the years ahead.

"Success of any enterprise is to be measured not so much by reaching a certain point in its journey as by the obstacles which it has overcome." Other regular readers and contributors to your esteemed publication, as I perceive, include some eminent scholars and literary persons both in USA

and abroad as noted below:

Dr. Ronki Ram, Ambassador Ramesh Chander,
Col. Prithvi Raj Kumar, Mr. Bhim Raj
Garg, Dr. Sunita Sawarkar,
Dr. Arvinder Singh Bhalla and more.

With best wishes for your continued growth and success in your future endeavors.

O. P. Balley
Ex-Chairman and Founder Member
Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg, CA



Turning Point in the Dalit Samaj Politics - Mayawati Factor

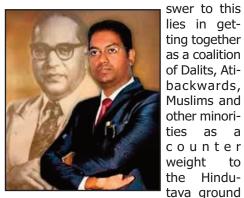
Politics is a game of possibilities. Kanshi litical analyst and a stakeholder in the af-Ram explored and exploited these possibilities fully during his life time before his health deteriorated in the early years of 2010s. He made the Bahujan Movement an important phase in the fast changing political scenario of India under the banner of BSP. Taking advantage of the ill health of a visionary and politically astute leader, Kanshi Ram, Mavawati and her coterie, under the guise of owning the legacy of Kanshi Ram, made the BSP a family fiefdom to appropriate ill-gotten economic assets to their personal advantage. The lofty mission of Kanshi Ram was lost on the way. The 'Caravan' of BabasahebAmbedkar which KanshiRam was pulling and pushing forward with great ability and visible success was halted. It is matter of regret and remorse. There is no point in harping on the negative and self-centered approaches of the coterie and Mayawati herself which brought the BSP to its current status of 'non-entity'. The machinations of the ruling elite exploited the situation fully to negate and defeat the egalitarian agenda of bringing about an equitable social order initiated by Babasaheb and steered by Kanshi Ram by using the dictum of 'Sham, Daam, Dand, Bhed'. They succeed in breaking the backbone of the Bahujan Movement of Kanshi Ram by exploiting Mayawati, who herself was a leader to reckon with otherwise, over her allegedly ill-gotten financial fortunes. She could not face and with stand these blows of her political rivals and succumbed to the pressures. The ground reality is amply clear. There is no point in stressing the point further. I took the courage of writing this as apo-

fairs of the weaker sections of the society and its empowerment without any ill-will towards Mayawati and her coterie. I have no claim that I have any inside information or knowledge. I am dwelling my thoughts on the information available in the public domain only.

The immediate provocation to write this piece is the standoff between Mayawati and Akash Anand. It seems it would be a turning point in the dalitsamaj politics. Change, in the process, is



an imminent offshoot of the evolving situation. BSP and Mayawatihave failed Kanshi Ram in the pursuit of her vested interests without caring for the larger interests of the community as initiated by Babasaheb Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram. BSP and its leadership have lost steam. Its vote share has come to naught. It has come to such a pass that BSP has become irrelevant in the political scene of the country. There is no possibility in sight that BSP can retrieve its lost position with the current leadership at the helm. The redeeming aspect in the process appears to be the young and educated lot like Chander Shekhar Azad, Akash Anand, Raj Rattan Ambedkar among others who should shed all inhibitions and join hands in carrying forward the 'Caravan' of Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram. It is a difficult task. But there is no other way out if the dalits and the weaker sections of the society – the Bahujan Samaj and the minorities like the Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians and others are to be integrated with the mainstream of the polity and economy and also the society large. The emerging political and socio-cultural situation is getting polarized on the basis of religious and sectarian considerations. The an-



lies in getting together as a coalition of Dalits, Atibackwards, Muslims and other minorities as a counter weight the Hindu-

realities. In the given situation, the Hindutava bandwagon has no wherewithal and intension to accommodate and integrate the socially weaker sections of the society and the minorities to the main stream of the society. Caste and graded inequality is the hallmark of the Hindu establishment and ethos and it will remain so in the years to come for a long time.

The followers of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram are law abiding citizens. They are interested in making India – a Socialists, Secular and Democratic India as stipulated in the Preamble of the Constitution of India. To

begin with, the likeminded political and social leaders shall get together to face the challenges of the future. The new generation under the leadership of the likes of Chander Shekhar Azad, Akash Anand, Raj Rattan Ambedkar, Asadudd in Owaissi among others shall



consider and exploit the emerging political scenario to challenge the forces of 'caste and graded inequality' to secure 'Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity', the lofty vision of our forefathers led by Babasaheb Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram and others. The new movement may spread pan-India in due course. A beginning may be made in Northern region, the Hindi heartland.

It is said 'well begun is half done'. Let us hope the new leadership of the marginalized segments of the society consider and take note of the ground reality's and act; the sooner the better. It will be a befitting tribute to the memory of Manyawar Kanshi Ram on his birth anniversary on March 15. I conclude with a poetic assertion of AllamaIqbal -

Zara Dekh UssKo Jo Kuch Ho Raha Hai, Hone Wala Hai

Dhara Kya Hai Bhala Ehd-e-Kuhan Ki Dastnon Mein

Pay attention to what is happening and what is going to happen

What good there is in repeating the tales of the old glories?

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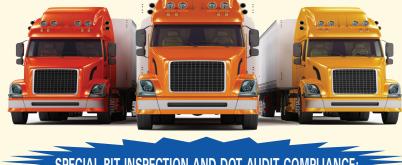
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