

Ambedkar Times

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NIGHTINGALE OF INDIA

LATA MANGESHKAR IS NO MORE

Invited Edtorial

Lata Mangeshkar, a queen of melody and Nightingale of India, bid farewell to the world on February 6, 2022 at the age of 92 years. The whole of

India and the entire Indian diaspora, impacted by her scintillating music, plunged into a mournful silence with the demise of this unparalled icon in the field of music. Lata Ji was born on September 28, 1929 in Indore Madhya Pradesh in a family of musicians. She inherited her musical talents from her father, Pandit Dina Nath Mangeshkar who was an accomplished vocalist and a theatrical artist in his time. At a very young age of only 13 years, Lata Ji unfortunately lost her father and she, being the eldest child in the family, had to carry the entire financial responsibility to raise a large family left behind. This also kept her away from school education.

Lata Mangeshkar, being the most well-known doyen in the field of singing, dominated the Bollywood Film Industry for more than seven decades with her God-gifted and melodious voice. She has lent her mesmerizing voice in singing to the most glamorous and top heroines of Indian film Industry.During her long singing career she sang more than twenty five thousand solo songs in 36 languages for about 1000 movies and became an iconic figure in the field of music and singing. Her voice had the tenacity and the power of impacting the emotions of her listeners. One of the most famous and patriotic songs "AE MERE WATAN KE LOGO" sung by her on January 26, 1963 in the national stadium, New Delhi to honor the valourand martyrdom of Indian soldiers who sacrificed

their lives in Indo-China War of 1962, brought tears in the eyes of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India.

tional Awards including BHARAT RATNA and

O.P. Balley (Founder Member) Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha Pittsburg, CA

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DADASAHEB FALKE AWARD, Lata Mangeshkar has left an indelible imprint not only on the minds of her fans and admirers but on the entire FILMDOM.

END OF A GOLDEN ERA: With the passing away of Lata Ji, a golden era of a living legend has come to an end. But death is inevitable and prerogative of Almighty God and everyone who is born has to go sooner or later, but one's impeccable contributions to society continue to live and remain embalmed in the minds and souls of those who love and adore them.

Prime Minister Narinder Modi and many other distinguished political leaders and artists of Bollywood attended her funeral with their deep condolences to the bereaved family.

l express my heartfelt condolences through the esteemed columns of Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba Weeklies to the bereaved members of Lata Ji's family with prayers for peace and tranquility of the departed noble soul who impacted millions world-over with her god-gifted talents which have immortalized her.

Lata Mangeshkar's Memory with Ambassador V.B. Soni

Ambassador V.B. Soni hosted the visiting Indian Cricket team with Manager Raj Singh in 1982 during his posting to Indian High Commission, London. Raj and ambassador Soni became good friends. Raj introduced ambassador Soni to the nightingale of India, Lata Mangeshkar. Along with Kishore Kumar, Lata ji gave three musical concerts at Wembley Stadium, London in 1983. Mr. Soni was a special invitee at the three sessions, seated on the front VIP seat with his wife Kamlesh. LataJi would acknowledge their presence by nodding at them from the stage at the start of programme.

To show appreciation of what Mr. Soni had done to help the Indian Cricket team and indeed to



welcome Lata Ji on her arrival at Heathrow airport, she accepted dinner invitation and graced ambassador Soni's home with her presence.

Photo shows Lata Ji, her sister Usha and Raj Singh with the Sonis and daughter Medha in 1983.

Later, Lata ji invited the Sonis over for lunch at her residence in London as a great hostess. As an avid photographer, Lata ji clicked many photos on the occasion. Her gifts included autographed gramophone Long Play records of hers released that year.

Soni's fondly remember her as a fine, simple, kind hearted and affectionate human being.

Ambedkar Times

An Evaluation of the Union Budget in Relation to the Environment

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for the financial year 2022-23 on February 1, 2022. The Union budget is also called a 'booster budget' because, by the government, it focuses on strengthening busiactivities and infrastructure development.. An amount of Rs.3030 crore has been allocated to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. This amount was Rs.2870 crore for 2021-22. Introducing the budget, the Union Finance Minister emphasized the need for clean energy (energy generated from renewable sources) for the Climate Action Plan and said that there is need for mindful utilisation of energy rather than mindless consump-

In the Union Budget 2022-23, the government has increased the amount of Jal Jeevan Mission to Rs.60000 crore from Rs. 45,011 crore (2021-22) which would be helpful in providing piped potable water to 3.8 crore families. For providing irrigation, potable water and hydroelectricity in the drought prone region of Bundelkhand of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh Rs.1400 crore have allocated in the budget for interlinking of the Kane and Betwa rivers. In addition to interlinking of the Kane-Betwa river it was also announced to connect the rivers at five other rivers including Damanganga-Pinjal, Par-Tapi- Narmada, Godavari- Krishna, Krishna-Pennar, and Pennar-Cauvery. Under the Ocean Mission, it is planned to spend Rs. 650 crore in 2022-23 as against Rs.150 crore in 2021-22. In addition, Rs.361.69 crore has been earmarked for National Green Mission, Rs.300 crore for afforest/tree planting and Rs.300 crore for leopard conservation project. In all these areas, this year's budget has been increased as compared to the previous budget year. An additional allocation of Rs.19500 crore for production-linked incentives for manufacturing of high-efficiency solar mod-

While presenting the budget, the Union Finance Minister repeatedly used some positive words like clean energy, energy transition, clean environment, and climate action, but in Union budget of this year slashed the budgetary allocation for the statutory body Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), which works for the air quality management in the National Capital Region and Delhi from Rs. 20 crore in 2021-22 to Rs.17 crore. The deteriorating air quality of the National Capital Region and Delhi is confirmed every year by one or the other international body. This year too, according to a September 2021 study by the University of Chicago, USA, the life expectancy of the people living in Delhi could be reduced to 9.5 years due to air pollution. The National Clean Air Programme(NCAP) was launched in January 2019 to provide financial assistance to the Pollution Control Boards, anmouting Rs.2,217 crore for 42 cities with a population of over one million. No additional funds have been provided this year to address the issue.

Although the Union Finance Minister has used terms like clean environment and

energy conversion in her budget presentation, she has reduced the amount in the budget instead of increasing it to control air pollution. How can the environment be clean if the Union government does not pay for controlling air pollution in Delhi? To cover up their shortcomings, every year in the winter, when Delhi and the National Capital Region are exposed to smog, the Delhi and Union governments blame neighboring states for Delhi's pollution.

The total allocation of five autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Environment, including G.B. Pant Himalayan Institute Environment Development, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Indian Plywood Industry Research Institute and Training Institute and Wildlife Institute of India have allocated Rs.287.45 crore which is less than the last year's budget by Rs.18.05 crore. Budget allocation for the six Statutory and Regulatory bodies related to environment and wildlife: the Central Pollution Control Board, the Central Zoo Authority, the Animal Welfare Board, the National Biodiversity Authority, the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and the Commission for Air Quality Management has been reduced by Rs.6 crore. Reducing the budget allocation of environmental organizations and regulatory boards also neglects environmental protection measures.

India had set three goals under the Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the Paris Climate Agreement to reduce emissions of increasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These included reducing greenhouse gas emissions intensity of its economy, generating energy from renewable sources, and reducing atmospheric carbon by increasing the area under forests and trees. In the blind race of economic development, our country has also indiscriminately depleted natural resources in recent years. India is now the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world after China, and the United States of America. In India's budgets from 2009-10 to 2021-22, more money has been allocated to generate energy from coal than from renewable sources and India is the third largest producer of energy from coal. Even after the Paris Climate Agreement, India has made no effort to reduce its carbon emissions. According to a December 2021 report by the International Energy Agency, India's use of coal for energy could grow at a rate of 3.9 per cent per annum upto 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the Conference of the Parties-26 in Glasgow in November 2021, gave five points to the United Nations to reduce carbon emissions in the country, which he named Panchamrit. These five goals include net zero carbon emissions by 2070, 500 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030, 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, reduction of one billion carbon emissions by 2021 to 2030, and total carbon emissions reduction by 45 per cent. Looking at the 2022-23

budget, it seems impossible to meet the targets of reducing carbon emissions by 2030. India had asked for 100 billion to 1 trillion American dollars for the Climate Fund to help poor countries at the Conference of the Parties-26 in Glasgow, but in the present budget only Rs 30 crore has been allocated for its Climate Action Plan which is a very meagre amount for controlling any kind of natural calamity. According to a December 2020 report by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, 75 per cent of the country's districts are suffering from climate change. As a result, India has suffered a loss of 87 billion American dollars due to natural disasters in 2021. Our country has also promised in the Paris Climate Agreement to increase the area under forests and trees to reduce carbon emissions. According to the India State Forest Report 2021, the area under forests and trees has increased by 1540 sq km (0.22 per cent) and 721 sq km (0.76 per cent) from 2019 to 2021, respectively, while the areas under forest area has decreased and the area under the open forest has increased. At present, forests cover only 21.71 per cent of the country's area, which should be 33 per cent. Although the government has increased the amount in the Union Budget for Tiger and Elephant conservation projects, an increase in the area under open forests and a decrease under dense forests is increasingly becoming dangerous wildlife by dis .

The budget of the National Coastal Mission has also been reduced from the budget of 2021-22. Under the National Coastal Mission, the Ministry of Environment is responsible for the protection of coastal areas from natural disasters, ensuring livelihood of coastal communities including fisher folk, fauna and flora,to conserve the coastal stretches and to promote the sustainable development of these areas. But the Union Government has reduced the amount for maintenance of coastal areas in this year's budget, leaving these areas to rely more on natural disasters. Coastal areas have already been hit hard by the Union government's changes to the Coastal Regulation Zone rules in 2019.

Under the Gatti Shakti project, Rs.1 lakh crore has been earmarked for the development of the country's infrastructure and Rs 200 billion has been earmarked for the expansion of roads in 2022-23. The Gatti Shakti project aims to develop and expand roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure. The Union Finance Minister said that in the next three years 400 energy efficient trains would be manufactured and 25000 km of National Highways would be constructed. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the states in the Western Ghats are already paying a heavy price for the expansion of national highways. According to Land Conflict Watch (a data research agency), the expansion of infrastructure is affecting 1.5 million hectare of land and 4.4 million people across the country.

These infrastructure projects are often causing severe damage to the en-

vironment

The Union Government has nounced amount Rs.1400 crore in this budget for the project connecting Ken, and Betwa rivers. The government says it will irrigate lakh hectare of land, provide drinking water to 62 lakh



people and generate 103 megawatts of electricity, but according to environmentalists, it will cost a lot of money as well as the natural environment. When rivers are connected to each other, a huge amount of river water will be absorbed by dry land. In addition, a river or stream flows naturally in a certain direction. If an attempt is made to change it, after some time it returns to its natural course, which increases the incidence of floods.In this regards we should learn from the experiences of the developed countries. Human-made changes in the Mississippi River course of the United States of America has led to a dramatic increase in the number and intensity of floods. Before 1960, the Aral Sea was the fourth largest landlocked sea in the world. At that time, the water of the Amu and Syr rivers flowed into it. For irrigation purposes dams were constructed on Ser and Amu rivers as a result of which the Aral Sea received very little water, which caused it to shrink . Punjab's Sutlej river is also dying unjustly due to construction of Bhakra Dam. Allocating funds in this year's budget to connect the Ken and Betwa rivers could be an election issue for the government. This project will be very dangerous for the environment.

There are many water related problems in the country. To address them, the Union government does not need to connect the rivers, but to clean them, that is, to make them pollution-free. The government should ban the dumping of any kind of sewage in all kinds of water sources, impose fines for dumping of wastewater of any industrial units and sewage water of cities and villages in rivers and water bodies, use purified water by installing plants, reduce the carbon emissions in the country, keep more money in the budget to generate energy from renewable sources, stop generating energy from coal, increase afforestation, ban deforestation completely, maintain old roads and railway tracks instead of expanding national highways, and replace electric cars. On top of that the government should increase the means of public transport in proportion to the population and provide funds through the Union budget to run them with clean energy. To make the environment of the country clean, the Union government should formulate nature-friendly development plans. To protect the people and the environment of the country from natural disasters, the Union government will have to increase budget allocation.

Siar Da Pattan - a collection of poems - Kisan Andlon

We all are aware that an important phase of the farmers struggle, popularly called Kisan Andolan, came to close honourably on the announcement of PM Narendra Modi on the auspicious day of the Gurpurab of Guru Nanakdev ji on November 19, 2021, towards the close of the difficult year of 2021, to repeal the three allegedly 'black laws' on agricultural reforms. Accordingly, on completing the constitutional and procedural process to repeal the laws and assurances to address the demands of famers in due course, by the Government, Kisans suspended the Andolan on December 9, 2021. Kisans won the important battle and, obviously, they were delighted and rightly so. The entire country was also happy

retired educational administrator, District Education Officer and his young colleague Prof. Hardip Rajaram. In the first week of January of the New Year, 2022, they came out with a well presented book Siar Da Pattan a collection of Punjabi poems, pertaining to the long drawn Kisan Andolan – a befitting New Year gift. Courtesy my classmate in the high school, Madan Bolina, Roop Lal Roop came into my contact and very kindly invited me to the launching of Siar Da Pattan in the first week of January but due Covid restrictions the function was postponed to February 6, 2022. The honour to release the

book fell on me and I fully enjoyed

and benefited from the occasion or-

ganized at the premises of a girl's

good and I was happy. The book, Siar Da Patttan, was formally released as a tribute to the warriors and martyrs of the Kisan Movement. The collection of poems comprises of contribution by 81 poets from 8 countries of the world. It is a bouquet of emotion, toil and sweat, insensitive attitude of Delhi i.e. the Sarkar towards the Kisan Andolan and also a sense of elation in the wake of Fateh in getting the so-called three black laws repealed - the opening entry of Roop Lal Roop sets the ball in motion - Eke Naal Jitia Kisan Morcha, with a sound piece of advice by Dharampal Paul - Bas Tun Josh Te Hosh Rakhna, Khushi Mohamad Chatha is confident - Aj Nahin Te Kal Hoyega; Passa Sade wal Hoyega. For this labour of

industrialization and urbanization, the agricultural secalso tor be developed as an industry on commercial lines and not only as a 'subsis-



Ramesh Chander
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)
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tence activity' to protect Kisan from remaining on the fringes of the main economic set-up. I added that it was







and welcomed the healthy developments concerning all of us.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that some of the well-meaning and serious academics, intellectuals, activists were following these developments with great care and concern. While following and participating in the Andolan by way of writing poetry and supporting the Kisans, who were braving the vagaries of weather on the borders of Delhi and standing firm against the highhandedness of the authorities democratically and constitutionally, they were keeping the powder dry to fire their pent up sentiments by printing their poems and stories in books and magazines to preserve the matter for the generations to come and assess the epoch-making struggle of Kisans by the historians. One such outfit was Punjabi Sahitya Sabha Admpur Doaba in Jalandhar working under the stewardship of Roop Lal Roop, a

government school at Adampur. I must say at the first instance that it was a well conducted function with a discerning audience comprising of poets, story tellers, academics, intellectuals and social activists. Before, the formal release of the book, the poets regaled the spell bound audience with their both fiery and comic recitals with regard to the Kisan Andolan and other social and cultural issues. Some of the poets were really in their sprits with the poems like; Tera Todna Punjabian Garur Hakma -Balle Balle Hundi Aimein Nahin Kisan Di - Govind Da Farzan Kisan. One of them with the Takhalus of Kartarpuri was really good in depicting the scene when we retire the books to our well maintained shelves of our libraries without reading them. My friend Madan Bolina really gave a surprise with his very thoughtful and emotionally romantic Gazal and that too recited in Taranum. It was really

love, there was a bonus also. It was the release of yet another well presented and compiled bouquet of poems of a young writer, Gurinder Gill of Malaysia, Uljhe Suljhe Akhar. There are many more books in her credit and the name itself of her forthcoming book "Faqiri Ramjan' gives the taste of the book. Roop Lal Roop has rightly called her as "Khialan Di Malika" I will read the book and revert: Inshalla. In my brief remarks, while thanking my hosts, Punjabi Sahitya Sabha Adampur Doaba, a socio-cultural outfit of literary talent in and beyond Punjab, I registered my sense of relief and ease in the wake of governments' decision to repeal the controversial laws on agriculture and sit with the Kisan leaders to find the way ahead. Referring to blogs on the subject that 'Reconciliation and not confrontation was the way out' I said that as a layman I felt that that in the wake of increasing

good to hear the slogan of 'Kisan – Majdoor Ekta Zindabad' during the Andolan. It was a good gesture to associate landless labour with the agricultural sector as stake-holders. But a real change of heart on the part of the society was very much called for to ward off the dangers to the system and the society to resort to the cries like:

उठो मेरी दुनियां के गरीबों को जगा दो; जिस खेत से दहकां को मय्यसर नहीं रोज़ी, उस खेत हर गोशे गंडम को जला डालो।

I was over-whelmed by the respect and honour bestowed upon me by my gracious hosts and the well-meaning participants in the function. Prof. Hardip Raja conducted the proceedings of the function with great ability and understanding which was concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Roop Lal Roop followed by a piping hot lunch of Cholle-Bhature on the partially cloudy afternoon – a good and productive day.

Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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Goodie Takhar, PhD

Change of Name

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Now I have changed my name

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To: Simranjeet Singh

All concerned kindly note it

Change of Name

I, Resham Singh Josan S/O Harbhajan Singh

Currently Resident of: 20280 Dayton St Riverside, CA 92508, U.S.A.

Now I have changed my name

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To: Resham Singh

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Change of Name

I, Gurminder S/O Jagminder Singh

Currently Resident of: 1305 19thAve. Kingsburg, CA-93631, U.S.A.

Now I have changed my name

From: Gurminder

To: Gurminder Singh

All concerned kindly note it.

WE WANT SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Sahib Kanshi Ram J

We don't want social justice, we want social transformation.
Social justice depends on the person in the power. Suppose at one time,
Some good leader comes to power and people get social justice and happy
but when a bad leader comes to power it turns into injustice again.
So we want whole justice transformation



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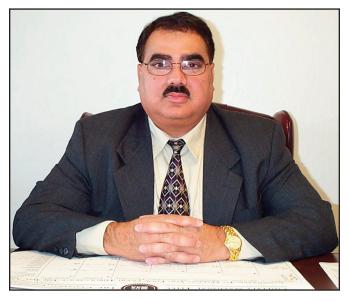
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We congratulate S. Charanjit Singh Channi on being nominated as the Chief-Ministerial candidate of the Congress Party for the February 20, 2022 **Assembly Polls.** It is a matter of great pride that for the first time in the history of Punjab that a Scheduled Caste member of the Congress Party has been honored with such a prestigious responsibility. We wish him and his party a big success in the forthcoming Assembly elections.



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The Congress Party under the leadership of Mr. Rahul Gandhi made a history in nominating S. Charanjit Singh Channi as its Chief-Ministerial candidate for the forthcoming Punjab Assembly elections. We pray for his and the Congress Party great victory.



Vinod Kumar Chumber



Bhim International USA





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ਕਮਿਉਨਿਟੀ ਦੇ ਨਿਸ਼ਕਾਮ ਸੇਵਕ, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲੀ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਸਭਿਆਚਾਰ ਦਾ ਸੱਚਾ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ ਮੌਮੀ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ





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ਅਤੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਮੋਮੀ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ



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Dr. Harmesh Kumar Chairman

Indian National Congress California (USA)

President, Therapeutic Residential Care Services Inc.

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