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645th Sri Guru Ravidass Parkash Divas

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Congratulations on 645th The Birth Anniversary of Sahib Shri Satguru Ravidass ji Maharaj

Prem K. Chumber Editor-In-Chief: Desh Doaba & Ambedkar Times



Ravidass Guru Ji Maharaj, 645th whose birth anniversary is being celebrated throughout the world, was a great saint/Guru of medieval Bhakti movement of North India. He belonged to the

lowest of the low castes in India whose touch used to be considered polluting to the *Savarnas*. He opened a frontal attack against the system of Untouchability. He rejected the tradition of Brahmin mediator to reach the Supreme Being. He also said that one need not to hide his caste or leave his low profession to reach God. He became a model for his fellow beings to overcome the hierarchical barriers of Brahminical Social Order and to establish *Begumpura* - a state without fear and sorrows. Guru Ravidass elevated the status of the labour by emphasizing on the fact that honest labour is empowering. He completely rejected the concept of living on charity or miraculous wealth obtained by *Paras*.

By defeating the famous Kashi Pundits in a formally organized Shastrartha, Guru Ravidass proved that merit is not the fiefdom of so called upper castes alone. Every body is capable of worshipping Him. The fourfold division of Hindu society is a big lie and a trick to make and keep a large section of the Indian society under the cruelty and control of the few in the name of purity-pollution principle made by the so-called Brahmins. It is against this very system of religiously sanctified social differentiation that Guru Ravidass envisioned establishing a state where there would be no place for untouchability and social oppression.

For the social transformation of the society, Guru Ravidass laid emphasis on labour, compassion, virtue, prohibition of alcohol and all bad deeds. He also reiterated on the urgent need of remembering the formless God whom he addressed by varied names. Some scholars are of the view that Guru Ravidass did not form an organization nor he launched any consistent and systematic agitation against the system of untouchability. This is true. But to raise a loud voice at his times was no less than a clarion call to dismantle the unjust system of Brahminical social order. It is also true that the path told by him has become the beacon light for the Dalit movement in the country and abroad.



With the help and co-operation of Sangat, the 645th Birth Anniversary (Prakash Divas) of SRI GURU RAVIDASS JI MAHARAJ was celebrated with a great spirit of jubilation, enthusiasm and devotion at Sri Guru Ravidass Temple, Pittsburg (California). Three days Akhand Path Sewa starting February 18th and ending with Bhog Ceremony on 20th February (Sunday) was glorified with a record attendance of over three thousand

devotees.

Because of Covid-19 Pandemic during the last two years, we had a very restricted gathering. This year with a calm-down in the severity of the Pandemic and Sangat's co-operation joined with the devoted and united efforts of the Managing Committee of Gurughar the entire program was a magnificent success.

Prominent Kirtan Jathas and other dignified guests who

added to the sanctity and glamour of this highly religious event are as under: Guru Ghar Jatha Bhai av All pictures by Prem K. Chumber



Gurnam Singh and Bhai Om Pal Singh, Bhai Onkar Singh Ji Una Wale andJatha Bhai Jagjit Singh Ji.

Another highlight of the program was that the Consul General of India Dr. T. V. Nagendra Prasad accompanied by Consul Dr. Akun Sabharwal participated in the function and paid their humble respects to Dhan Dhan Sahib Shri Guru Ravidass Ji and other spiritual saints in India's history. They also publicly announced for any help from the consulate office for the Indian diaspora.

NISHAN SAHIB: Nishan Sahib CholaCeremony was hosted by Bhai Sucha Singh Bangar and Bibi Sunita Bangar. A good gathering of devoted Sewadars on Saturday February 19, 2022 followed by Shobha Yatra in the afternoon added to the glamour of the entire program.

LANGAR SEWA: - Langar Sewa continued for all the three days. On Sunday voluntary food stalls served the entire Sangat with a variety of fresh and delicious food items. The Managing Committee and the entire Sangat are grateful for this voluntary Sewa.



Physician and Nursing services were also available for the convenience and the comfort of the Sangat, as needed.

> **MEDIA:** Mr. Prem Kumar Chumber, the Chief Editor "Ambedkar Times" (English) and "Desh Doaba" (Punjabi) weeklies himself provided a live video program of the entire proceedings of the program and also personally went around the stalls put up in the Gurughar compound seeking their comments. Mr. Chumber deserves appreciation and thanks for his help, Sewa and devotion.

In the end the Managing Committee is again grateful for the generous and lavish contributions of Sangat, co-operation and help of all the Sewadars who helped in the kitchen and outside services to make this program a very peaceful and successful without any untoward incident.

"NANAK NAM CHARDI KALA TERE BHANE SAR-BAT DA BHALA"

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



645th Sri Guru Ravidass Parkash Divas celebrated in Pittsburg Gurughar

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645th Sri Guru Ravidass Parkash Divas celebrated in Pittsburg Gurughar

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645th Sri Guru Ravidass Parkash Divas celebrated in Pittsburg Gurughar































All pictures by Prem K. Chumber www.ambedkartimes.com & www.deshdoaba.com



Ambedkar Times

February 23, 2022 **Guru Ravidass Jayanti Celebrations**

Guru Ravidass Jayanti, February 16, was observed, like every year, with all gaiety and solemnity. It is a matter of gratification to note that that the celebrations are gaining strength both by way of discipline in conducting the events and also by willing and spontaneous participation with a sense of pride and belonging. I personally participated and witnessed the celebrations at Bootan Mandi in Jalandhar and Khuralgarh Sahib in Hoshiarpur.

Celebrations at Bootan Mandi in Jalandhar - Bootan Mandi, an informal capital and nerve centre of Dalits and dalit awakening for almost 100 years, now a days hosts a huge mela for almost a week. The buildings are illuminated and decked with decorations and festivities. Guru Ravidass Dham becomes the special attraction during the celebrations. Almost all senior politicians like CM Charanjit

our humble contribution to the celebrations. The next day that is the Jayanti Day, a mammoth congregation was held at Bootan Mandi, as usual, to conclude the celebrations the Jaikaras of Jo Bole So Nirbhay -

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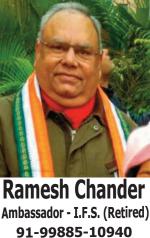
management under the guidance and leadership of Sant Satwinder Hira was doing well in developing the site in a planned way. It was a matter of satisfaction that apart from spiritual sites like Charan Choh Ganga, a huge covered shed was being built which could host a congregation of 15 thousand people. Some devotees led by Dev Raj Lagha of the UK and his extended family were instrumental in starting the project which would hopefully be completed in due course. I was touched by the hospitality and honour bestowed on me by Sant Satwinder Hira and his associates. Given the pace of development and involvement of dedicated people like Sant Hira, I am confident the holy site of Charan Choh Ganga would soon appear on the touristic map of India for the benefit of devotees of Guru Ravidass. I was happily surprised to see a young IAS of UP, Praveen

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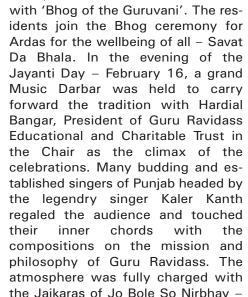
н requested the devotees to join the Langar of the Ad-dhram Patrika as they have done for the Langar of food. It is a unique approach 0 t

Mission.

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address the issue with people centric thinking. Sant Hira is fully aware of the importance of media and thoughtfully invited journalists from Jalandhar - the Akali Patrika, J.S. Sodhi, the Dainik Bhaskar, Manjit Singh Mani and also a couple hacks from Kharar to apprise and brief them









Singh Channi, CM Arvind Kejriwal, Bhagwant Singh Mann, Uttrakhand CM Baghle among others visited Gur Ravidass Dham and paid obeisance to the great Guru. A grand and befitting Shoba Yatra, which traditionally started from Bootan Mandi, was taken out on February 15. One could witness the much needed 'Josh-o-Kharosh' among the followers of Guru Ravidass, the harbinger of social equality and justice. On the route of the Yatra several welcome stages/podiums were erected to honour the colorful 'Jhankis' with traditional beat of 'Tamak' - Nigadas and 'Dhol Dhamka'. I humbly write that my family with the cooperation of our extended family host a 'Langar' on the route at Nakodar Road (LG Show Room and Chhabra Sweets) for the last 32 years from 11 noon to 5 p.m. and welcome the Shoba Yatra as

Guru Ravidass ji ki Jai.

Charan Choh Ganga at Khuralgrh Sahib in Hoshiarpur – Charan Choh Ganga is a holy site visited by Guru Ravidass in 15th -16th century situated in the picturesque hills in the Garhshankar Tehsil of Hoshiarpur district of Punjab boarding Himachal Pradesh. I was invited by the All India Ad-dharam Movemment who is responsible to upkeep and run the holy site under the able stewardship of Sant Satwinder Hira along with others Sants and followers of the great Guru on the auspicious occasion the Gurupurab of Guru Ravidass on February 16. The followers and faithful were, in hordes, were reaching the place in tempos, cars, bikes and even on feet in spite of the sorry state of the approach roads. I visited the place some years before and I must register with appreciation that the

Kumar who was in Punjab for a short duty as an Election Observer sitting on the floor in the audience, incognito, as a humble follower of Guru Ravidass. On knowing his presence, Sant Satwinder Hira thoughtfully recognized him and invited him to the podium and honoured him with a Saropa. I was impressed by the Langar arrangements at the site as informed by Sant Hira ji. I informed that the Langar arrangements have been done for the whole year by allotting the Langar Sewa to one of the villages for each day. People were ready to join voluntarily not only locally from Doaba but also from far off places in Majha and Malwa regions of Punjab. Now the management was engaged promoting in their monthly mouth-piece 'The Ad-Dharam Patrika' to fill the gap of media needs of their

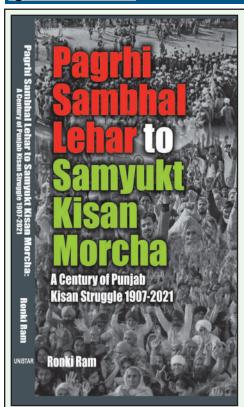
about the holy site of Charan Choh Ganga.

Personally experiencing the events and developments at Khuralgarh to carry forward the mission of Babu Manguram Mugowalia and Baba Banta Ram Ghera, my laud thinking was which I would like to share here, was that we the intelligentsia of the community should consider and nominate Sant Satwinder Singh Hira, National President of All India Ad-dharam Movement for the civilian award of 'Padam Shri' and urge the Central Government to kindly honour the much deserving personality of the community and the society at large with the coveted gesture of 'Padam Shri. I leave it here as 'Food for thought'.

तू पहले बात फिर बात का अंदाज़ पैदा कर; फिर दुनिया में तुझे कोई नज़र अंदाज़ कर नहीं सकता

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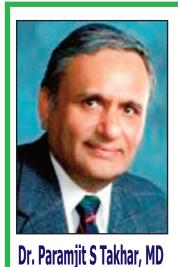


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Goodie Takhar, PhD



US warns at UN Security Council meet: Consequences of Russia's actions will be dire

The deployment of what Russia called a peacekeeping operation in eastern Ukraine is "nonsense" and Moscow's recognition of breakaway regions as independent is part of its

pretext for war, the United States told the U.N. Security Council on Monday. The consequences of Russia's actions "will be dire across Ukraine, across Europe, and across the globe," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, told the emergency meeting of the 15-member council.Tensions between Moscow and Western capitals have escalated following weeks of United States accusations that Russia has deployed up to 150,000 troops near Ukraine's borders for an invasion. Russia has denied it wants to invade Ukraine and accuses the West of hysteria.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday officially recognized the two breakaway regions - the selfproclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic as independent, defying Western warnings that such a step would be illegal and wreck peace negotiations."President Putin has torn the Minsk Agreement to shreds. We have

been clear that we do not believe he will stop at that," said Thomas-Greenfield, referring to the agreements of 2014 and 2015 that aimed to end conflict between the Ukrainian

Council.Russia was widely criticized by most council members for its actions on Monday. Kenya's U.N. Ambassador Martin Kimani condemned what he called a trend of powerful France, backed Kyiv's request for the Security Council to meet following



army and Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.Putin also on Monday ordered the deployment of Russian forces to the Donbass region in eastern Ukraine "keep the peace".

"We remain open to diplomacy for a diplomatic solution, however, allowing new bloodbath in the Donbass is something we do not intend to do," Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the Security

states breaching international law with little regard, adding: "Multilateralism lies on its deathbed tonight."hina's U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun said "all parties concerned must exercise restraint, and avoid any ac tion that may fuel tensions," adding that Beijing welcomed and encouraged every effort for a diplomatic solution.Eight council members, including the United States, Britain and



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Putin's announcement.

It was the third Security Council meeting on Ukraine in as many weeks. The body has met dozens of times to discuss the Ukraine crisis since Russia an-Ukraine's nexed region Crimea in 2014. It cannot take any action because Russia is a veto-power along with France, Britain, China and the United States.U.N.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres believes Russia has violated the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine with its decision to recognize eastern Ukraine as independent entities, a U.N. spokesman said.U.N. political affairs Chief Rosemary DiCarlo told the Security Council the United Nations regretted Russia's order to deploy troops into eastern Ukraine on a reported "peacekeeping mission."

Punjab Polls: There Can be Coalition of 2-3 Parties In Case of Hung Assembly, Amit Shah Says in News18 Interview

No survey can predict the Punjab polls result as it was a different type of election, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in an exclusive interview to Network18, adding that there could be a coalition of two-three parties depending on the numbers in case of a hung Assembly. Speaking to Network18 Group Editor-in-Chief Rahul Joshi, Shah said he was confident the BJP had put up a strong fight in February 20 elections."Except for fortune tellers, nobody can predict what will happen in Punjab. It was a different type of election. We are positive that we put forth a strong challenge," Shah said.

Asked about the scenario of a hung Assembly in Punjab, Amit Shah said: "It depends on numbers. There can be a coalition government of 2-3 parties, like there have been in this country."Contesting Punjab elections in a new alliance this time, the BJP has fought on 65 seats in the 117seat Assembly, leaving Captain Amarinder Singh's Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa-led Shiromani Akali Dal (Sanyukt) 37 and 15 seats, respectively. The majority mark in Punjab is of PM Modi's security was also a 59 and the counting of votes will be held on March 10, 2022.With the



year-long farmers' protest hanging heavy this election, the BJP has made national security its main poll plank in the border state, particularly the unprecedented breach of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security near Hussainiwala in Ferozepur district last month."I held nine rallies in Punjab. Security is also a major issue there. It is a border state. The breach

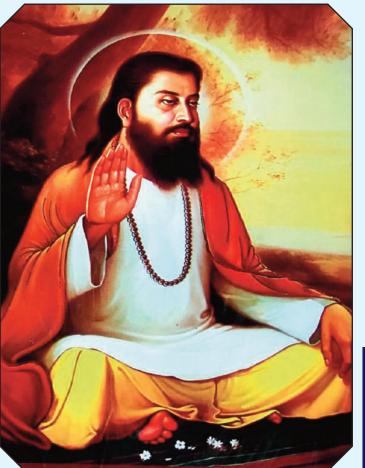
major issue. We will get success there, the extent we will know after

the results are out," Shah told Network18.The senior BJP leader also condemned Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's "won't allow bhaiyyas to enter" remark in the presence of Priyanka Gandhi at an election rally."This is the style of the Congress party. They give different statements in different places. I don't think this statement is okay

for a healthy society. India is one nation. Whoever wants to go to Gujarat, UP or Punjab to earn their livelihood can do so. I don't support these kinds of statements or politics for votes. Priyanka Gandhi was expressing her approval on this statement on stage. Within two days, in Uttar Pradesh, she said the party is fighting for the pride of UP. I have never seen such a contradiction within two days," Shah said.

The Union Home Minister also said the central government won't take lightly Channi's allegations of purported links between banned separatist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and Arvind Kejriwal-led AamAadmi Party.In a letter to Amit Shah, Channi had claimed that he had received a letter from SFJ which shows that the group is in constant touch with the AAP. The Punjab CM claimed that in the SFJ letter it was mentioned that the outfit had extended support to AAP in the 2017 Punjab elections and was continuing to do so in the ongoing polls too.Writing back to Channi, Shah had said that the "government of India has taken the matter very seriously and I myself will look into the matter deeply"."Any party's link to a separatist group and its use for political gain in elections is a serious issue. Any government won't take it lightly. We will investigate it... If a CM writes to you, you can't take it lightly. We will know the rest after the investigation," Shah told Network18.





ਗੁਰੂ ਪਿਆਰੀ ਸਾਧ ਸੰਗਤ ਜੀ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਸਭਾ ਫਰਿਜ਼ਨੋ (ਕੈਲੇਫੋਰਨੀਆ) ਵੱਲੋਂ ਧੰਨ ਧੰਨ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਮਹਾਰਾਜ ਜੀ ਦਾ 645ਵਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਦਿਹਾੜਾ 4, 5, 6 ਮਾਰਚ 2022 ਨੂੰ ਮਨਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ

ੋਪ੍ਰੋਗਰਾਮਾਂ ਦਾ ਵੇਰਵਾ

ਆਰੰਭ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਹਿਬ - 4 ਮਾਰਚ 2022, 10 ਵਜੇ ਸਵੇਰੇ ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ - 5 ਮਾਰਚ 2022, 5 ਵਜੇ ਸ਼ਾਮੀ ਭੋਗ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਸਾਹਿਬ - 6 ਮਾਰਚ 2022, ਸਵੇਰੇ 10 ਵਜੇ

ਗੁਰ ੂਘਰ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਮੂਹ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਸਮੇਤ ਤਿੰਨੋ ਦਿਨ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਹਾਜ਼ਰੀਆਂ ਲਗਾ ਕੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਮਹਾਰਾਜ ਦਾ ਆਸ਼ੀਰਵਾਦ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

> ਡਾ. ਸਤਨਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਬੰਗੜ ਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੀ ਟੀਮ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੋਵਿਡ–19 ਦੇ ਟੀਕੇ ਲਗਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ ਜੋ ਪੰਜ ਸਾਲ ਅਤੇ ਉਪਰਲੀ ਉਮਰ ਦੇ ਮੁਫਤ ਲਗਵਾ ਸਕਣਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਬਲੱਡ ਕੈਂਪ ਵੀ ਲਗਾਇਆ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

ਹੋਰ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਗੁਰੂ ਘਰ ਦੇ ਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ: 559-486-3091 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਜਸਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ, ਸ੍ਰੀਮਤੀ ਸੁਖਵਿੰਦਰ ਕੌਰ ਸਮੂਹ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ। ਅਖੰਡ ਪਾਠ ਦੀ ਸੇਵਾ, ਕੀਰਤਨ ਸੇਵਾ ਅਤੇ ਲੰਗਰ ਸੇਵਾ ਤਿੰਨੋ ਦਿਨ ਗੁਰਮੁਖ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਰਾਜੇਸ਼ ਬੰਗੜ, ਰਾਮਪਾਲ ਬੱਧਣ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਅਤੇ ਯਾਦਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ (ਸ਼ਿਕਾਗੋ ਪੀਜ਼ਾ ਵਾਲੇ) ਸਮੂਹ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ।

ਕੀਰਤਨੀ ਜਥਾ ਭਾਈ ਹਰਵਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਰਸੀਆ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਈ ਲਖਵੀਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਰਸੀਆ ਅਤੇ ਗੁਰੂਘਰ ਦੇ ਮੁੱਖ ਗ੍ਰੰਥੀ ਭਾਈ ਰਾਮ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਜਥੇ ਇਸ ਮੌਕੇ ਰਸਭਿੰਨਾ ਸ਼ਬਦ ਗਾਇਨ ਕਰਨਗੇ ਅਤੇ ਬਲਾਰੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਵਿਚਾਰ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਕਰਨਗੇ।

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