



# Ambedkar Times Weekly

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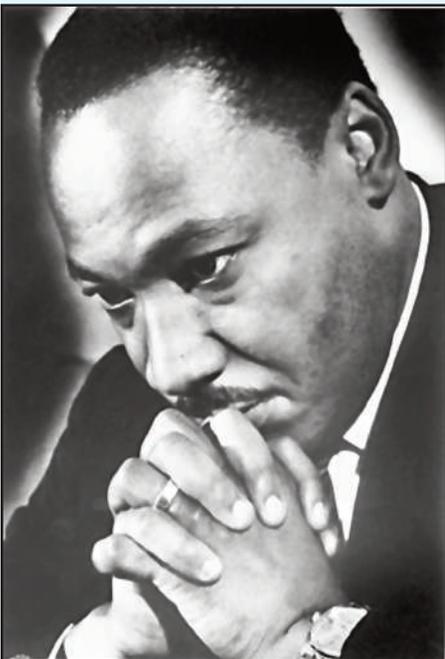
## Paying floral tribute to

### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on his Birth Anniversary

Prem K. Chumber

Editor-in-Chief: [www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com)

Dr. Martin Luther King was to America what Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi were to India. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on January 15, 1929 in the illustrious family of pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where his grandfather and father served, and he himself served as co-pastor until his assassination on April 4, 1968. Originally, he was named Michael Luther King, Jr., but later changed his name to Martin. His was a time when coloured people were segregated from the mainstream. So he did his elementary studies in segregated public schools in Georgia; earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a reputed institution of Atlanta for the coloured people from which his father and grandfather had also graduated. He received Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree in 1951 after putting in three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. At Crozer Theological Seminary, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was elected president of a predominantly white senior class that speaks volumes of his scholarship and popularity among his peers. He received his PhD degree in 1955 from the Boston University, where he was enrolled in graduate studies on a fellowship won at Crozer.

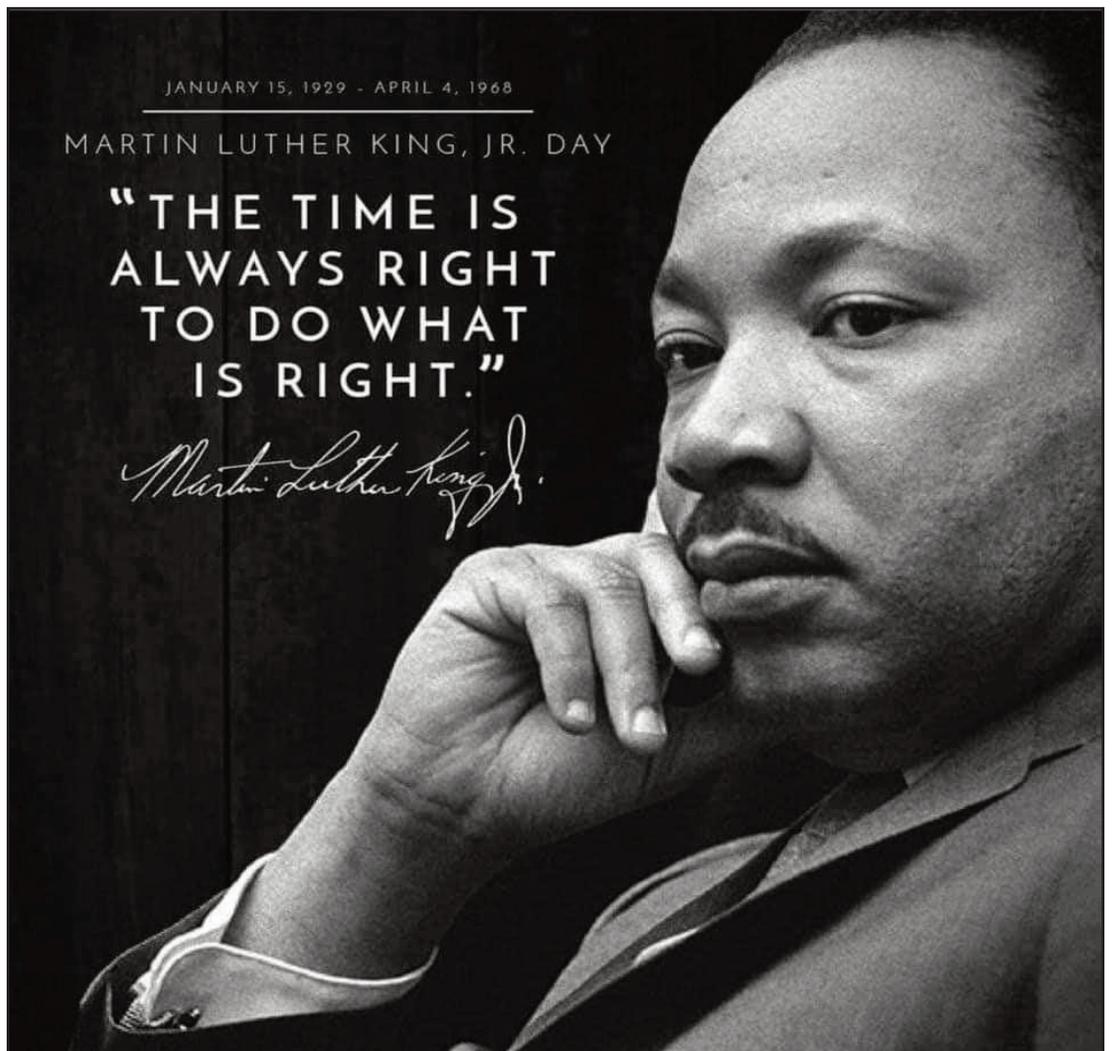


After completing his doctorate, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., became active in the American civil rights movement. Soon he emerged its non-violent spokesperson and popular leader, and led the struggle from front until his assassination in 1968. He is known for his sterling contributions to American civil rights movement. In one of his most famous works – "I Have a Dream" speech delivered in 1963 during his historic march on Washington – he spoke of his dream of a United States that is free from segregation and racism. He played a crucial role in putting an end to racial segregation in the US and securing the rights of the black Americans. It was largely his peaceful struggle that can be credited for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Civil Rights Act prohibited racial segregation and discrimination in the workplace. The Voting Rights Act granted African Americans right to vote. His vision of equality and civil disobedience was based on the ideals of Christianity and non-violent techniques of Mr. M.K. Gandhi who devised Satyagraha (truth-based method of peaceful resistance) to liberate India from the colonial rule the British. He led 382 days of bus boycott agitation that made the Supreme Court of the United States declare unconstitutional the laws forcing segregation on buses on December 21, 1956. During this more than a yearlong boycott, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had to face personal abuse, arrests and his home was attacked. In the next eleven-year period of his struggleful life (1957-68), he completely devoted his life for the cause of equality, social justice and empowerment of the marginalised sections of the whole world. He "travelled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles" (Nobel Lectures, Peace 1951-1970, Editor Frederick W. Haberman, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1972). He was the youngest man to be honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of thirty five.

"Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" Weeklies take immense pride in paying floral tribute this great son of the 'Land of Dreams' who devoted his whole life for the emancipation and empowerment of downtrodden.

approach to send his message across. It brought him in spotlight as a national proponent of organized non-violent resistance. In another famous quote Dr. King observes that –

## Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. VIGOROUS CRUSADER FOR SOCIAL EQUALITY



93rd Birth Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated all over USA on last Monday, January 17, 2022 which was observed as a federal holiday in honor of his life long struggle for equality and social justice.

This was a very prominent and historic day in historical perspective commemorating his pivotal and leading role as a civil rights leader in ending the entrenched segregation of African Americans in USA. As a result of his non-violent but courageous campaign for social equality, the civil rights Act of 1964 and the voting right Act of 1965 were signed into laws by President Lyndon Johnson.

Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929 in a family of Baptists, preachers and pastors. His birth name was Michael King Jr. which was later changed to Martin Luther King Jr. influenced by Martin Luther a protestant Reformation leader in Germany. During his long struggle for equal rights for all Dr. King went to jail 29 times. Dr. King was highly influenced by the power of civil disobedience led by Mahatma Gandhi. In 1959 Dr. King went to India and collected lot of information from the members of Mahatma Gandhi's family which inspired him to motivate millions of people to stand up for action. He admired Mahatma Gandhi by saying that he was a "Guiding Light of Nonviolence".

His eloquent and landmark speech "I HAVE A DREAM" is globally considered as a God-gifted talent which electrified a massive following in his non-violent

approach to send his message across. It brought him in spotlight as a national proponent of organized non-violent resistance.

In another famous quote Dr. King observes that –

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only Light can do"

Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do"

There is a lot of similarity and homogeneity in the ideological approaches of Martin Luther King and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Both were champions of human rights and social justice.

Both suffered carping humiliations and discriminations in their lives. Discriminations based on caste in India and racial segregation in USA are still posing as hardened crusts of separatism.

We, on behalf of Supreme Council Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas USA adore and endorse Dr. King's endeavors for equality which changed the course of history. Congratulations on the celebration of his 93rd Birthday.



**Humble Sewadar,  
O.P. Balley (General Secretary)  
Supreme Council  
Sri Guru Ravidass Sabhas USA  
1-925-252-6085**

# Advantage Channi – Punjab Elections, 2022

The die has been cast. Punjab is fully geared to participate and enjoy the festival of democracy – Punjab Elections, 2022. Election commission has declared the schedule and 'Code of Conduct' in this regard has come into operation, as usual. The filling of nominations by the candidates will start on January 21 till January 28, scrutiny of nomination will be done on January 29 and the nominations may be withdrawn by January 31, voting will be done on February 14 and fate of the contestants sealed in the EVM machines. The counting of votes will be done on March 10 and results declared accordingly. By evening of the same day, it will be known which political outfit would form the next government in Punjab, amidst the Bhangra and Gidha of Democracy.

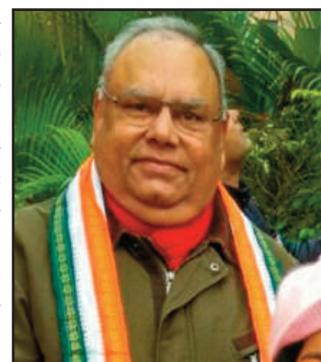
Elections in a democracy have usually been an interesting and exciting phase. It is more so, it seems, this

and sand mafia, dalit issues like Post Matric Scholarships and Tughlakabad Guru Ravidass Mandir in Delhi, PM's security issue among others, to determine the outcome of elections. Some of the factors which would work in shaping the political landscape in Punjab would be – Akalis are not as united as before and are facing the elections without the BJP after a long time, Congress Party is also a divided house with 'Sidhuism' and 'Tiwari and Jakhar Homilies' at work and the damage being inflicted by PLC of Captain Amrinder Singh, BJP has lost ground with losing Akallis as an ally, PM Narendra Modi's handling of the Kisan Andolan and dalit alienation by backing out of the announcement of having a dalit CM, Tughlakabad Guru Ravidass Mandir issue, shoddy public image of BJP's dalit leadership, inter alia. AAP, as in 2017 also, was ahead in the 'perception game' but unfortunately, it appears, is going the

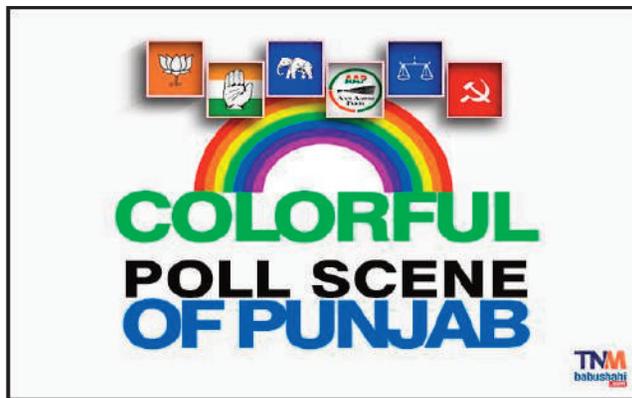
one hand and political machinations of political forces at work on the other to keep the weaker sections on the society on the margins. Things are slowly changing for the better due to the constitutional arrangements and relentless struggles of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Manyawar Kanshi Ram among others; like Babu Manguram Mugowalia. The very basis of democratic polity is 'vote' and the dictum of 'one vote one value' enshrined in the constitution, of late, has started to show its efficacy. Since independence in 1947, it took more than 75 years for a dalit, Charanjit Singh Channi, to become the first CM of Punjab in 2021 against all odds. I don't subscribe to the view that somebody did any favour to him and the fact is that it is becoming increasingly clear that dalits are no more interested in keep sitting on the fringes of the system though they are yet to address the

'power belongs to the masses' in a democratic polity. Second, Channi is a suave, educated and cultured son of the soil with an ordinary background

who could succeed in public life and make a definite space and place for himself with sheer grit and hard work. His earthy and easy demeanor to conduct himself as an "Aam Adami" stole the show from the so-called Aam Adami of the AAP, Congress Party's major opponent in the



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time. It remained a bilateral matter between the Congress Party and Akali led coalitions from 1966 till 2017. But this time the scenario is different. It is going to be a four or even five cornered contest in most of the 117 constituencies with – 69 seats in Malwa, 23 in Doaba and 25 in Majha regions of Punjab. Dalits have a clout with 34 reserved seats in the total of 117. As of now it appears that there may be a fractured mandate with no party having a clear majority. The next government would be a coalition - Congress + or Akalis + or AAP + or BJP and PLC + with pre or post election alliances. Some of the prominent leaders like; Charanjit Channi and Navjot Singh Sidhu of Congress Party, Sukhbir Singh Badal of Akali Dal, Bhagwant Mann and Harpal Singh Cheema of AAP, Captain Amrinder Singh of PLC, Ashwini Sharma and Manoranjan Kalia of BJP as PLC and BJP combine, are the likely faces as the next CM depending on the magic number of 69-70 +. All the outfits are fully engaged in finalizing their candidates in the run up to January 21, the first day of nominations. Akalis with its ally BSP and AAP have already named most of their nominees. Congress, BJP, PLC and newly formulated farmers party, Samyukt Samaj Morcha is in the process of completing the exercise to enter the Valentine's Day rivalry, the day of voting on February 14.

The diverse issues would be at play – Kisan Andolan and its fallout, sacrilege issues, fallout of Covid pandemic, economy including employment and public services, drugs



same way as in 2017 – alleged marketing of tickets ignoring the genuine claimants and aspirants, remote control and dictation by the Delhi elite, earlier Sanjay Singh and now Raghav Chadha, ignoring the sons of the soil, lack of visible leadership except Arvind Kejriwal, considered to be an outsider and Bhagwant Mann who is struggling still to find its due place and space, in spite of his ability to pull the crowds, in the Punjab's APP hierarchy. Samyukt Kisan Morcha will mostly be a spoiler of the AAP and Congress kitties.

With this background, I come to the subject matter – the title of the blog 'Advantage Channi'. With the growing awakening and increasingly evident empowerment of dalits with overall 33% population is set, ultimately, to determine and shape the political and social landscape of Punjab and rightly so. It seems the situation, of late, has taken full circle. In spite of 33% share in the population, dalits remained on the fringes of corridors of power due to socio-economic factors in the caste ridden society and economic inequalities on

'divisive forces' both inside and otherwise willfully designed and unleashed by the 'Thekedars' of the society with Manuwadi mindsets. Nobody will make anybody the PM or the CM. Dalits need to stand own their own. It is a matter of gratification to note that this realization among the dalits is dawning and rightly so. Charanjit Singh

Channi became the CM in the wake of these political considerations and compulsions at the fag end of the Congress Party tenure of five years as a stop-gap arrangement at the first instance till the February, 2022 elections.

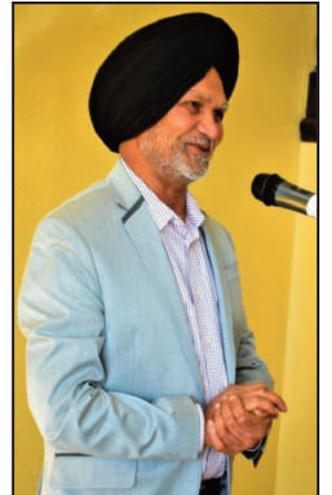
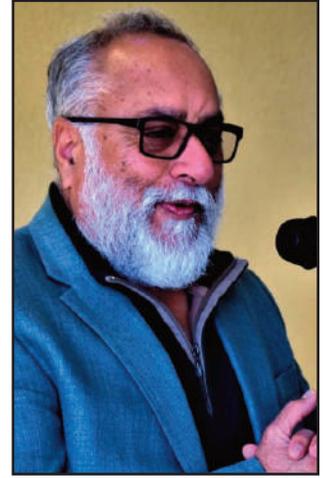
But it is a matter of great satisfaction again and a matter of surprise to many of his own colleagues in the party that Channi Sahib proved himself in a short span of three months or so and made a definite place for himself as a leader to be reckoned with as a 'wonder of democracy'. By now in the run up to the elections, just a month away, Channi, it seems, will be a 'catalyst', if the Congress Party serious intends to retain power. This ground reality would not be easy to ignore and if anybody do so, it will at their own peril. Channi, it seems, will be and shall be the face of the Congress Party as the next CM of Punjab. Now I come to the question as to why I say so, obviously, people would be interested in knowing it. First, the entire political scenario is undergoing a big, much needed transformation -

fray. His latest slugfest with the ruling dispensation at the Centre on the PM's Security issue made him a Pan-India leader over-night. He turned the tide and visibly made the issue as Modi Vs Punjab, rightly or wrongly, it is hard to say till the report of the Supreme Court directed enquiry report comes. In the wake of the PM's Security issue, Channi became a much sought after personality in the media, both print and electronic and also social media. Channi Sahib came out as a man of sterling worth on the camera in spite of every best by the vested interests in the media to catch him at wrong feet to carry the agenda of his distracters and opponents. Channi defeated all these designs. He also proved himself as an administrator with heart and mind. I am confident that the Congress High Command in Delhi is not oblivious of these ground realities and will reward their foot soldier, Charanjit Singh Channi to encash their wish to repeat their hold on power at their traditional Vote Bank and avail off the 'Advantage Channi' offer of the Vote Bank. I am also certain that Channi has come a long way and has already thrown his hat in the ring. There is no going back. I believe so. As PM Narendra Modi listed Advantage India in "Demography and Democracy" to convince the world leaders, it is exactly true for Channi also in the Punjab context. I, as apolitical observer, wish Charanjit Singh Channi all the best in the coming days and conclude with an Urdu couplet:

अपना मुकद्दर आप बनाते हैं अहले दलि;  
हम वह नहीं जनिहें ज़माना बना गया।

# Dr. Harmesh Kumar, an American Indian leader, appointed Chairman of California Chapter of Oversees Congress.

**"I will serve Punjab and the party to the best of my ability", Dr. Harmesh Kumar**



**Prem K. Chumber**  
**Editor-in-Chief:**  
[www.ambedkartimes.com](http://www.ambedkartimes.com)  
**Dublin/California:** Dr Harmesh Kumar, a known personality among the American Indians, was recently nominated chairman of the California Oversees Congress led by Mr. Mohinder Singh Gilzian, an elected legislator of Punjab State Assembly. He was felicitated at an impressive gathering. All present on the occasion were exhorted to come forward to restore the glory of Punjab under the leadership of the Indian National Congress. There is an all-embracing concern among the Punjabi at home and diasporas to see Punjab as a leading state in the Union of India. Punjabis remained always in the forefront of freedom struggle with maximum number of martyrdoms on their side and provided sterling leadership within the central congress both at the party and government levels. The contribution of the valorous land of Punjab in the highest echelon of country's administration is well known in the world. Punjabis served as Prime Ministers, President, foreign ministers and defense ministers of India having their roots within the Indian National Congress. It is not only at the state and national level, but also at the international level too that Punjabis have shown their leadership skills in myriad fields covering farming, business, science, administration, community help, medicine, films, spirituality, sports among others. It is not only confined to the promising land of the USA, but spread over whole of the continents. Punjabis always remain ready to help the needy across party-lines, caste, religion, language and region – the current Corona pandemic is a recent case in point. Serving all is a glorious legacy of our Gurus. The var-

ious speakers expressed their views. Each speaker said that the Congress Party believed in uniting the people and not in dividing them. The congress party played an important role in India's progress since its independence in 1947. The state affirmative action promoted by the Indian National Congress have enabled many lower castes people to reach new heights in their professional careers and many of them became engineers, politicians, doctors, attorneys, scientist and business men all over the world. The people friendly, especially belonging to downtrodden sections of the society, provision of the constitution of the Independent India conceived during the freedom struggle led by the stalwarts of Indian National Congress provided ample opportunities for the rise of India.  
 Mohinder Singh Gilzian, US Oversees Congress President, briefed the august gathering about the current electoral trends in the forthcoming assembly polls in the state of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur. He congratulated Dr. Harmesh Kumar for his new responsibility and complimented his academic, professional and community service commitments and achievements that will facilitate enormously in building a strong base for the US Oversees Congress chapter in the Golden state of California. He concluding his address with thanks to all the prominent personalities who participated in the event.

Dr. Harmesh Kumar thanked Mr. Mohinder Singh Gilzian and the Indian National Congress for reposing faith in him by assigning him the responsibility to serve the party as the newly appointed chairman of the Congress from California. Dr. Kumar is

known face in California. A prominent social worker, Dr Kumar was a candidate in the election for the Governorship of California. He has to his credit a brilliant academic record with PhD degree in Clinical Psychology from one of the reputed higher educational institutes of North India. His contribution in the community health sector in California is praiseworthy. During his thanks giving address, Dr. Kumar remembered the Almighty and said that whatever he has been able to achieve so far is all with the grace of God. He underlined the need to pay back to our society at this stage when we have been able to reach at the desirable stage in our lives. He also said that it should be a matter of proud for all of the Punjabis to belong to this sacred land of Gurus, Sants, Rishis and holy persons. It was at this holy land that the Vedas were heard, Upanishads were written, Gita was recited, Ash-tadhya and Yoga Sutras were penned. Dr. Kumar also took pride in being an American Indian Punjabi. Punjabis, he reiterated, are well-known world over for their helpful conduct, hard work, truthfulness, sincerity and social service. Punjabis are naturally inclined to stand up for equality and social justice – a great legacy of our Gurus. In the name of all such rare qualities of the sons and daughters of Punjab in the contemporary consumer-culture dominated world, Dr Kumar promised to leave no stone unturned in serving his people and party wholeheartedly. He exhorted all the present to come forward to strengthen the Oversees Congress organization in California.

Ajmer Singh Bittu Nijjer, a youth leader and businessman, also highlighted the great Punjabi tradition as well as the sacred domain of its holy land in his address. However, he

also raised an important point that what forced the sons and daughters of this great land to migrate to foreign lands? Why many people, he further pointed out, over there have been afflicted with the cancer in the state? He asked the august gathering to come forward to save and preserve Punjabiyat while constituting our own government Punjab. Mr. Vinod Chumber, President of Shri Guru Ravidass Sabha Bay Area, during his address, talked about the humble nature of Mr. Charanjit Singh Channi, the newly elected Chief Minister of Punjab after the resignation of Captain Amarinder Singh. He underlined that Mr Channi, a well-educated, honest, Congress leader, has arisen from below simply by his sheer hard social work. It was his sincere approach, and affable nature that prompted the Congress High Command to entrust him with such a huge responsibility to steer the ship of the statecraft. We were very confident that under the able leadership of Mr. Channi, the Punjab congress will soon come triumphant in the February 2022 state assembly elections. He ensured full support for the victory of the Congress party in Punjab. He said that we all will work with Dr. Harmesh Kumar to build a strong support base for the Congress in the USA. Mr. Gurwinder Singh, General Secretary, US Congress, Mr. OP Balley, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Guru Ravidass Sabhas of America, Mr. Ravinder Singh Gulia from Haryana State, Mr. Balbir Singh MA were among many other well-known personalities of the California region who also spoke during the event and congratulated the Dr. Harmesh Kumar on his being nominated as Chairman of the US California Chapter of Oversees Congress.

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# Dr. Harmesh Kumar, an American Indian leader, appointed Chairman of California Chapter of Overseas Congress.



# Sacramento County Cannot Afford Another Lockdown

**W**ith the rise in COVID cases across the world as a result of the omicron variant, local jurisdictions are struggling with how to properly react. Some areas like Sonoma County have now issued "shelter in place" orders, which means residents can only go to places for essential reasons, such as the grocery store or doctor's office. I strongly believe Sacramento County should not go down this path, and should do everything possible to avoid further shutdowns like the previous failed attempts.

The current rise of COVID is somewhat misleading, as the only thing the media wants to currently report on is the number of COVID cases. And while the omicron variant is extremely contagious, studies have shown that symptoms are less severe than other variants.

The whole reason that the shutdowns happened originally were because deaths were on the rise and hospitals were being overrun, and in Sacramento County neither of these two things are happening. Thankfully, COVID related deaths have remained low, and our hospitals are not in danger of exceeding capacity.

Shutdowns do not come free, and should be avoided due to the devastating impacts they have on society. The Wellbeing Trust, a non profit working to de-stigmatize mental health issues, released a study that found 75,000 deaths during the recent national shutdowns were "deaths of despair" - which includes suicides and overdoses. And in California, nearly one in three restaurants permanently closed as a result of the most recent shutdown.

Nowhere are these negative

shutdown impacts more evident than how they have impacted children. The United Nations Children's Fund released a report that showed the current generation of students will lose \$17 trillion in lifetime earnings as a result of the learning losses suffered during the global shutdowns. The United States Department of Education also released a report that showed the pandemic has negatively affected academic growth, has deepened the impact of disparities in access and opportunity, and heightened the risk of sexual harassment, abuse, and violence.

Politicians, the media, and government agents have stoked fears to the highest level, and we cannot blame the public for being afraid. But we must fight to keep our businesses, communities and schools open - while also needing to recognize the

importance of respectful debate and compassion.

Thank you for reading - and as always, if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@sacounty.net.

Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murieta.



**Sue Frost**

Sacramento County Supervisor

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# Lohri celebrated at the Sri Guru Ravidass Temple Pittsburgh (CA)

## Suman family hosted Sukhmani Sahib path and Langar sewa on the occasion of Lohri on January 13, 2022 at Sri Guru Ravidass Temple in Pittsburg,

Pittsburgh- Sangat prepared langar of SAGG and MAKKI DI ROTI for Lohri. After the Sukhmani Sahib path, peanuts, GAJAK, and REWARI were shared and thrown into the flames of the bonfire by sangat. Giani Ompal Singh and Giani Gurnam Singh did

path sewa and ARDAS. Prayers were offered to the bonfire seeking abundance & prosperity. First Lohri is considered very important and auspicious for the newly wed and the new born babies. Lohri is celebrated primarily by north Indians, the festival marks

the end of winter and harvesting of the crops. The festival is celebrated every year on January 13 with lot of passion.

Because of COVID, not too many devotees came in the evening. We are hopeful that next Lohri cele-

bration will be better attended.

We thank sangat for helping and contributing for this event in the Gurdwara Sahib.

**Report and pictures  
Ramesh Summan**



# EC Postpones Punjab Assembly Polls, Voting to be Held on Feb 20 Instead of Feb 14

Voting for Punjab's 117 assembly seats will be now be held on February 16 instead of February 14 and the counting of votes will take place on March 10.

Chandigarh 17 January: The Election Commission on Monday announced its decision to postpone the Punjab Assembly Election and now voting in the state will be held on February 20 instead of 14 as originally scheduled. The decision was made following a meeting of the EC on Monday morning to discuss the demands of Punjab's political parties and leaders to defer the assembly polls in view of Guru Ravidas Jayanti.

The request for postponement of Punjab Assembly polls was put forth to the poll panel by several parties including Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and former chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh's party Punjab Lok Congress. The re-



quest was made as many people from the Scheduled Caste community from State are likely to visit Varanasi, in view of Guru Ravidas birth anniversary on February 16, said sources.

Earlier on Saturday, Punjab CM Channi has urged the EC to postpone the February 14 assembly polls by six days in view of Guru Ravidas Jayanti. In a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra, Channi wrote that it was brought to his notice by some rep-

resentatives of the Scheduled Castes community, which contributes around 32 per cent of the state's population, that the birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas falls on February 16.

On this occasion, a large number of SC devotees (about 20 lakh) from the state are likely to visit Banaras in Uttar Pradesh from February 10 to 16, Channi wrote. In such a situation, many people from this community would not be able to cast their votes for the state assembly, which is otherwise their constitutional right, he stated in the letter written on January 13.



**Hardip Singh Chumber**  
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## Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi's brother denied Congress ticket, to fight as independent candidate

Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's brother Manohar Singh, who was eyeing the Bassi Pathana seat, was denied a ticket to contest the upcoming elections.

January 16: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's brother Manohar Singh was denied a Congress ticket and will now fight as an independent candidate according to media reports. The Punjab CM's brother, who had taken VRS to fight polls, has now decided to fight as independent candidate. The Congress on Saturday released list of 86 candidates. CM Charanjit Singh Channi will contest from Chamkaur Sahib seat and Navjot Singh Sidhu from Amritsar east seat. Elections in Punjab will take place in a single phase on February 14 and the counting of votes is on March 10.

Key omissions in the first list of candidates for the Punjab assembly election sparked dissidence in the ranks of the Congress party's state

unit. The discontent is particularly palpable in the assembly constituencies of Mansa, Moga, Malout and Bassi Pathana. Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's brother Manohar Singh was denied a ticket to contest the upcoming elections.

Manohar Singh, who had resigned as senior medical officer from Kharar civil hospital, was eyeing to contest from Bassi Pathana. The Congress is instead fielding sitting legislator Gurpreet Singh GP from the Bassi Pathana assembly seat. A miffed Manohar Singh said he would be fighting the elections as an independent candidate.

In Malout and Moga, the Congress denied tickets to sitting legislator -- Deputy Speaker of Punjab Assembly Ajaib Singh Bhatti and Har-

jot Kamal respectively. Controversial Punjabi singer Sidhu Mussewala, who joined the Congress sometime ago, will contest from Mansa and actor Sonu Sood's sister Malvika Sood from Moga, replacing Harjot Kamal. The latter has since jumped ship to the BJP. Mussewala replaces sitting MLA Nazar Singh Manshahia, who had joined the grand old party after quitting the AAP in 2019.

Rupinder Kaur 'Ruby', who had switched sides from the AAP to Congress, has been fielded by the party from Malout-SC seat. She was elected from Bathinda Rural in the last election on AAP ticket.

The Congress on Saturday released its first list of 86 candidates for the February 14 Assembly elec-



tions in Punjab, fielding Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi from Chamkaur Sahib and PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu from Amritsar East. The party is yet to declare its candidate for the Patiala Urban constituency which was represented by former Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh. The party will also declare its remaining 31 seats for the 117-member Assembly soon. Punjab Assembly elections are slated in a single phase on February 14 and the results will be out on March 10.

## CPI(M) will support Samajwadi Party in UP polls to defeat BJP: Sitaram Yechury

January 17 : Ahead of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has decided to put its weight behind the Samajwadi Party (SP). Sitaram Yechury is an Indian politician and a leader of the Communist Party of India. He is a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of India, the largest communist party of India.

CPI(M) chief Sitaram Yechury said that his party will support the Samajwadi Party in order to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state. For the UP Assembly election, the Samajwadi Party has allied with Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), Janwadi Party (Socialist), Apna Dal (Krishna Patel), Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party-Lohia (PSP-L), and Mahan Dal.

Uttar Pradesh will vote in seven phases to elect 403 MLAs between February 10 and March 7. The counting of votes will take place on

March 10. Meanwhile, the spate of BJP leaders joining the Samajwadi Party continued as former Uttar



Pradesh minister Dara Singh Chauhan joined the party on Sunday. This came days after Dara Singh resigned from the ruling BJP. CPI (M) chief Sitaram Yechury said his party will support the Samajwadi Party in the UP Assembly election in order to defeat the ruling BJP.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram

Yechury on Monday said his party will support those outfits that have the ability to defeat the BJP in polls

scheduled for February-March in five states. The goal of the CPI (M) is to keep BJP away from power in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur, Yechury, who is on a visit to Bhopal to participate in a state level CPI (M) convention, told reporters. He said his party was also discussing this issue with other Leftist groups as the aim was to stop the

division of anti-BJP votes by forging alliances.

Claiming there was an anti-BJP atmosphere in UP, he said the CPI (M) will talk to the Samajwadi Party (SP), which is the main contender for power there. The BJP has to be defeated politically and kept away from power in order to make a better India, he said. "This (communal polarization by the BJP) has created an atmosphere of hatred and violence, disturbing the social fabric, unity and brotherhood in the country. So, it is necessary to keep them (BJP) away from power by defeating them in elections otherwise the country's constitutional system will not survive," he said.

The condition of the people has deteriorated very quickly under the Narendra Modi government, with unemployment and hunger being widespread, while the country's wealth was being looted through disinvestment, he claimed.

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SOHANG



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**DHAN DHAN SRI GURU RAVIDASS JI**

Bole' So Nirbhay! Guru Ravidass Maharaj Ki Jai

**645th Gurupurb of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji**



Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha CA, Pittsburg will be celebrating the 645th Parkash Utsav of SATGURU RAVIDASS JI on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at the Gurughar. Sangat will perform Langer and Path Sewa for this program.

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH - February 18, 2022 (Friday) 10:00 AM

BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH - February 20, 2022 (Sunday) 10:00 AM

KIRTAN DIWAN - After Bhog until 2:30 PM

Nishan Sahib Hoisting Ceremony - February 19, 2022 (Saturday) at 11:00 AM.

(Nishan Sahib sewa by Bhai Sucha Singh Bangar and Bibi Sunita Bangar)

Prominent Jatha of **Bhai Onkar Singh ji, Una Sahib Wale**, Bhai Jagjit Singh ji, Giani Gurnam Singh ji & Giani Ompal Singh ji will enhance this Kirtan Diwan along with distinguished speakers and community leaders well versed with life and teachings of Satguru Ravidass ji.



We need **volunteers** to help with this event to prepare and serve Langar, keep Gurughar clean and organized, directing traffic/parking, kitchen and other Sewa.

For STALLS or any SEWA, please contact President Jagtar Singh Bhatia at (925)487-9624 or Secretary Abhishek Pal Narabut at [\(925\) 695-4637](tel:9256954637).

**“NANAK NAM CHARDI KALA TERE BHANE SARBAT DA BHALA”**

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**Abhishek Pal Narabut**

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