



Ambedkar Times *Weekly*

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Babu Jagjivan Ram Former Deputy PM A True Democrat and Savior of Downtrodden

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

Babu Jagjivan Ram (April 5, 1908 – July 6, 1986) was known for his patriotism, straightforwardness, and concern for lower castes and poor. When in 1937, the Britishers wanted to set up a puppet government in Bihar, Babuji was approached with an offer of a large sum of money and a Ministerial berth and many other similar benefits to shake hand with them, but he simply refused to be on their side. Rather, he stood like a rock with his people who were to tally committed to lay their lives for the liberation of the motherland. He earned the love of the people and leaders of the Indian freedom movement for his patriotism and integrity. Showering praises on Babu Jagjivan Ram for his bold stand on to be remained with his people, Gandhiji said that he 'had emerged as pure as gold in the test of fire'.

Babuji was a born fighter and a crusader for freedom, dignity and social justice. During his middle school education, he refused to avail scholarship meant for Scheduled Castes students and earned it by appearing in open competition and becoming successful on the basis of his meritorious academic performance. It was also during his Arrah Town School days that he smashed twice separate pitcher meant drinking water for Scheduled Castes students and forced the principal to withdraw his discriminatory decision of segregated water arrangement at the premises of the school. He proved his exceptional talent by excelling in studies despite extreme poverty at home as his father (Sobhi Ram) passed away (1914) while Babu Jagjivan Ram was still in his village primary school. He and his mother (Vasanti Devi) fought boldly against poverty and social exclusion all around.

Despite such an oppressive social environment and poor economic conditions at home, Babuji acquired proficiency in Hindi, Bengali, English and Sanskrit besides Bhojpuri – his native Bhasha. It was his command over Hindi and English that attracted the attention of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviyaji during the welcome address by him that finally took him to study at the prestigious Banaras Hindu University. It was at the Banaras Hindu University that Babuji organized, for the first time, Scheduled Castes students to protest against the denial of basic services like meals for Scheduled Castes students in the hostel and haircuts by local barbers. After qualifying his Inter Science examination at BHU, Babuji left BHU and completed B. SC. degree from the Calcutta University in 1931. It was during his stint at Calcutta University, Babuji organized Mazdoor Rally at Wellington Square in 1928. This mammoth rally in which approximately 50,000 people participated brought Babu Jagjivan Ram closer to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose who got convinced of his organizing skills and political acumen.

Babu Jagjivan Ram devoted his entire life strengthening India and empowering poor and lower castes. He was a great inspirer and organizer of people against oppression. He was an eloquent orator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a talented administrator. From his school days to the celebration of freedom at midnight, he remained in the forefront of various struggles (including the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and the Quit India Movement in 1942) launched during the historic freedom movement of India. On the national political platform, he established himself as the savior of lower castes and poor people. He became the youngest minister in the interim government of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946, Labor Minister in the first cabinet of India as well as member of the Constituent Assembly of India. He played a constructed role in the meeting of the Constituent Assembly of India for promoting the cause of the Scheduled Castes and poor people. He served as a minister of various portfolios at the level of Central Government exceptionally for more than forty years as a member of the Indian National Congress. In 1977 and joined the Janata Party alliance, along with his Congress for Democracy. He also served as Deputy Prime Minister of India (1977-79). In 1981, Babuji formed Congress (J). Till his passing away in 1986, he remained active in the service of the nation and the downtrodden.

"Ambedkar Times" and "Desh Doaba" Weeklies fondly remember Babuji on his Death Anniversary and pay him floral tribute!

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BABU JAGJIVAN RAM REMEMBERED

On the occasion of Death Anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, we, on behalf of Supreme Council Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas USA, pay our homage to this dynamic leader. Babu Jagjivan Ram dedicated his entire life for the upliftment of the socially suppressed and exploited segments of society. Some of the glimpses of his struggle and accomplishments are shared as under.

Babu Jagjivan Ram was born in Chandwa, near Arrah in Bihar State, on April 5th, 1908 in a former untouchable (Now Dalit) family. Babu Jagjivan Ram, being a very bright student attained his BSc degree from Banaras Hindu University. He, himself, being a Dalit, grew up in the midst of harsh and severe social disabilities of untouchables at that time. He stood like a

successfully led the "Green Revolution in India. It was during his tenure as Defence Minister that Bangladesh was liberated from Military rulers of Pakistan and established as an independent country with the help of India.



O. P. Balley

In deference of his adorable accomplishments his birth Anniversary is celebrated as "SAMTA DIWAS" (Equality Day) in India and his cremation place has been made into 'SAMTA STHAL'. The states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana observe regional holidays on his birth Anniversary

Jayaprakash Narayan and Jagjivan Ram, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, at a Janata Party rally in New Delhi on February 06, 1977



rock against social discriminations and segregation.

In 1935 he contributed to the establishment of All India Depressed Classes League and Akhil Bhartiya Ravidass Mahasabha in Calcutta (Kolkata). Through these organizations he mobilized the depressed classes in the Freedom struggle.

Because of his intellect, wisdom and patriotism, Netaji Subhash Chander Bose, was attracted to him and drew him into the field of politics at a very young age. He became an active participant in the freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi including the Quit India Movement in 1942 for which he had to go to prison many times. He remained as a distinguished and uninterrupted parliamentarian for fifty years from 1936 to 1986. He was also a member of the Constituent Assembly and advocated impassionately for the rights of the exploited and the voiceless sections of society.

He joined the interim cabinet of Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1946 as the youngest member of his cabinet and held many key portfolios in his long political career.

Due to his astute political acumen and administrative skills he was dear to stalwarts like Jawahar Lal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. As Food and Agriculture Minister, he is best remembered to have

day. His illustrious daughter, Shrimati Mira Kumar, a five-time member of parliament, is accredited to be the first woman speaker of Indian parliament during the tenure of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Though Babu Jagjivan Ram was an iconic figure in the entire political spectrum of India with all the deserving qualifications, he, because of in-built caste distinctions and political maneuvers, he was obstructed twice from becoming the Prime Minister of India.

Babu Jagjivan Ram is overwhelmingly remembered as an ardent freedom fighter, an undaunted champion of human rights, an able Administrator, crusader for social justice and an exceptionally gifted orator. It is worthwhile to mention that on December 6th, 1956, when the funds collected privately to pay for flying Babasaheb's body to Bombay for cremation fell short of the required amount, Babu Jagjivan Ram, the then Communication Minister arranged a special chartered Dakota of Indian Airlines with whatever collection in hand and to pay the balance later.

Persons with the magnanimity of Babu Jagjivan Ram are destined to live forever in the hearts of those who know and adore him.

**O. P. Balley, General Secretary
Supreme Council,
Shri Guru Ravidass Sabhas, USA**

Testament of Human Experiences: 'Contemporary Global Fiction'



Ravinder Singh Sodhi
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Edited by the distinguished Sushminder Jeet Kaur, Contemporary Global Fiction stands as a luminous collection of stories that traverse borders, cultures, and human experiences. It is not merely a book to be reviewed in passing but rather a work deserving of

in-depth critical analysis, for within its pages lies an intricate mosaic of narratives that demand thoughtful engagement. Nevertheless, as I immersed myself in its diverse tales, I jotted down impressions that I felt compelled to share.

True to its title, the anthology brings together voices from across India and beyond, offering readers a kaleidoscopic glimpse into contemporary fiction on a global scale. The editor, Sushminder Jeet Kaur, is a well-regarded figure in literary circles, both in India and internationally. Her stature is evident in the frequent invitations she receives as a panellist, and paper presenter at esteemed literary gatherings. She has been invited to poetic conclaves as well as FOSWAL, Toshali and many other conferences. She has translated many books into English.

Compiling sixty stories from as many writers into a single volume is no ordinary feat. Having once undertaken the task of curating an anthology myself—first, a collection of twenty-one immigrant writers and, later, an anthology of thirty-one stories by seven Punjabi immigrant writers—I can fully appreciate the immense dedication, patience, and editorial precision required for such an endeavour. The careful selection, refinement, and sequencing of these stories reflect the editor's meticulous craftsmanship.

Many of the contributors are academicians, teaching English literature at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Unsurprisingly, their narratives exude a literary finesse, infused with po-

etic depth and evocative imagery. A few lines from the book linger in my mind, resonating with profound emotional weight:

- "I was not even a chapter in his book, and he was my whole book." (Untitled by Mishika Kapoor 'Runjhum')
- "Days were much darker than nights for this family." (A Mother's Treasure Chest by Avnoor Makhu)
- "The dust storm was not only in the sky but in the life of a poor family." (Aasha by Rajesh Dhotre)

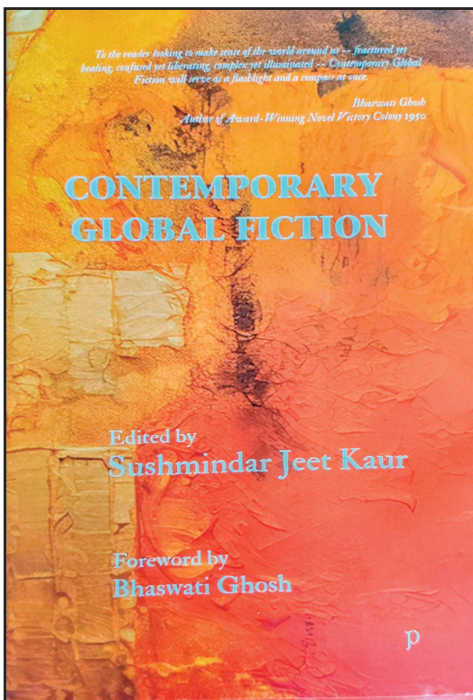
These stories explore a vast



spectrum of human struggles—migration and cultural alienation, racial discrimination, poverty, raising a special-needs child, familial apathy, sexual abuse within trusted circles, casteism, gender hypocrisy, medical malpractice, the psychological trauma of rape survivors, and the redemptive power of self-confidence. Among them, a science fiction piece on human cloning adds a novel dimension, while another delves into the eerie realm of the supernatural.

Characterisation remains one of the book's strongest assets. Some figures are etched so deeply into the reader's consciousness that they linger long after the final page is turned. Amitu (Amitu by Bikash Mepo) is one such unforgettable character. Similarly, Riz, the hotel receptionist in Intimation Slip by Dr. Namrta Pathania, may seem

a minor presence, yet his interaction with a guest elevates him to the stature of a protagonist. The enigmatic lady customer in the same story leaves an equally lasting impression. Others—Nazima (The Rain by Dr. Sadaf Fareed), Davina (Davina by Achingliu Kamei), Mr. Anand (Bonds of Blood by Seema Jain), Samhita (Identity by Prof. Sangita Tanaji Ghodke), and Aasha (Aasha by Rajesh Dhotre)—are masterfully crafted, embodying the complexities of human



nature.

Several stories stand out for their poignant themes and powerful execution. May, the Month of May, Labyrinth of Darkness, Hunger, Daughter, A Mother's Treasure Chest, and Humanity are deeply moving narratives. Transformation by Prof. Y. C. Sood, with its profound message, holds cinematic potential—it could be transformed into a compelling short film with the right screenplay. Cheater by Shova Bajpai sensitively explores the intricate bonds between teachers and students, while You by Dr Sachidananda Panda portrays a fleeting yet transformative friendship between two female travellers.

Other noteworthy stories in-

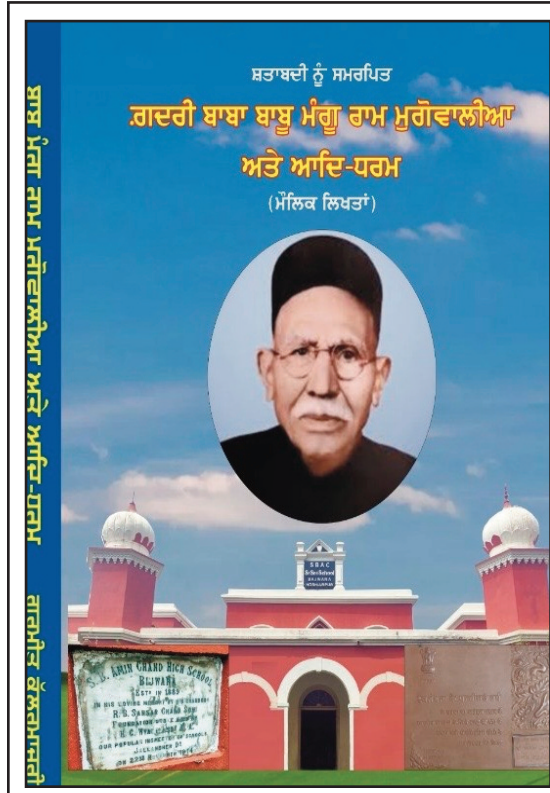
cluded Ashray: The Refugee by Someeta Das, which follows a woman drawn to the solace of an ashram, where abandoned women find solace and a new lease on life. Listen Carefully: A Love Story masterfully delves into the psyche of a rape survivor, rendering her emotional turmoil with poetic subtlety. Daughter (Dr R. Karthika Devi) paints the heart-wrenching struggles of lower-middle-class parents striving to fulfil traditional gift-giving customs for their newlywed daughter, only to be met with a beautiful reversal of roles—where the daughter and son-in-law, embracing modern values, choose to honour her parents instead. Journey (Harmanjot Kaur) highlights the deep-seated preference for male education in certain orthodox families, while Is Our Life Scripted? by Rohit Singh Rana unveils a heartrending tragedy.

The suspenseful Mephisto (Geetakshi) grips readers with its unpredictable twists, ensuring they remain riveted until the very end.

A special mention must be made of the foreword by Bhaswati Ghosh, whose discerning eye and insightful commentary enrich the reading experience. She has meticulously engaged with the text before offering her reflections, lending an added layer of depth to the anthology.

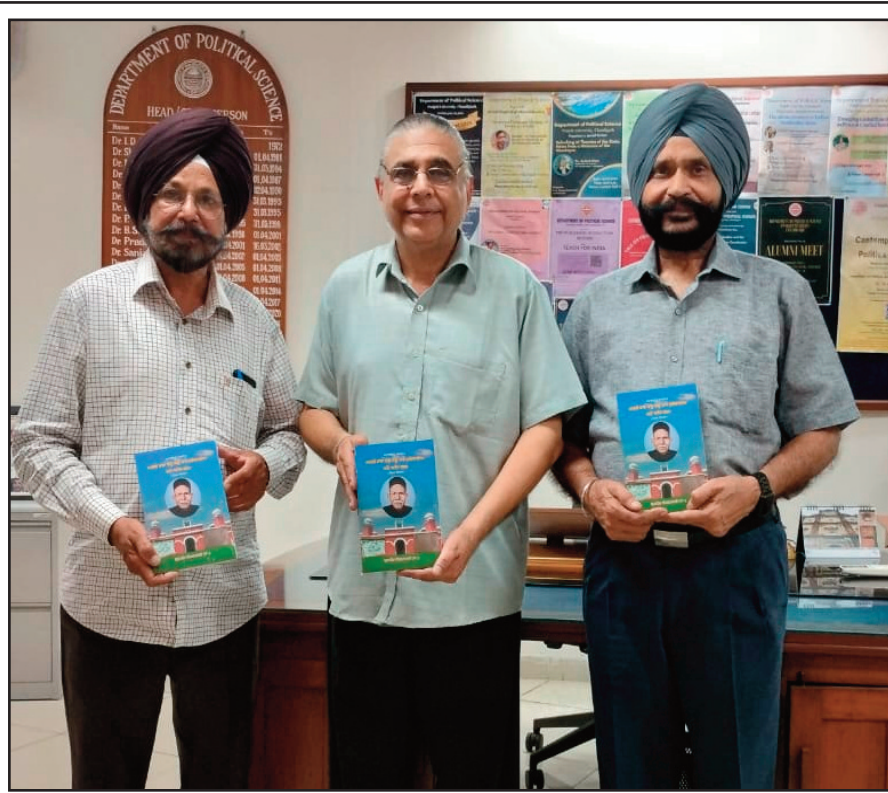
The editor, Sushminder Jeet Kaur, deserves immense credit for not only curating an anthology that features established literary voices but also for providing a platform to budding writers. This inclusivity is commendable, particularly for young authors still in their formative years—it serves as an encouragement, a literary validation that will undoubtedly inspire them to pursue their craft with renewed passion.

Published by Penprints, Kolkata, 'Contemporary Global Fiction' is available on Amazon and other platforms. This book is more than a collection of stories—it is a testament to the shared human experience, a celebration of diverse voices, and a reminder of the power of storytelling to bridge cultures, generations, and emotions.



The book 'Gadri Baba Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia and Ad Dharm' based on the original writings and poetry of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia edited by Dr. Gurmit Singh Kalarmajri has been released.

Dr. Gurmit Kalarmajri and Shri Fatehjung Singh (Former Joint Director) presented book "Gadri Baba Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia and Ad Dharm" to Dr. Ronki Ram, Professor Emeritus, Institute for Development and Communication (IDC, Chandigarh) and formerly Dean (Faculty of Arts) & Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair Professor of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh. They also presented him two books authored by Dr. Gurmit Kalarmajri to Dr. Ronki Ram Ji.



Historicity of Chamar Women's Contribution in the Ambedkarite Movement: Part -2

Savitribai Borade



Dr. Sunita Sawarkar
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Savitribai Borade was born in the Dhor community in 1901. In Maharashtra Dhor Community has a different profession regarding animal row skin. They are expert in tanning animal's skin to make lather for shows. It's chamar but like caste within the caste. In the early stages of the reform movement, we can see Dhor-Chamar conferences in collaboration. Savitribi Borade is always seen at every Dhor-Chamar conference.

She dedicated her life to social reform. She was the first woman from the Dhor community who worked for social reform and education. Savitribai also worked in the Ambedkarite Movement. She was a widow. She was a student of SevaSadan Pune. She was with Gunabai Gadekar in various contemporary social reform Activities. By nature, Savitribai Borade was a very courageous woman. While doing her study in SevaSadan she was with Gunabai Gadekar (the first chamar social reformer woman from Maharashtra) when Gunabai visited to meet her mother, Savitribai Borade also visited to meet Gunabai's mother. When both were walking on the street some people asked them to stitch their shoes. Because both belong to the shoe-maker community. Savitribai strongly replied to them she never hesitated to face such people. In the All Maharashtra Chambhar-Dhor Conference held at Pune on 29-30 May 1926, Savitribai Borade had proposed a resolution that, the conference demanded candidates from the untouchables should be given more government jobs in all departments. It is seen that Savitribai Borade played an important role in the meetings & programs of the Dhor-Chamar community.

After completion of Savitribai's training, she joined Mumbai. Savitribai herself had decided to take a job in Mumbai. She was a teacher in BMC's school at Bhoiwada, after which she came in contact with the social movement in Mumbai.

It can be seen that Savitribai Borade came into contact with the Ambedkarite movement because she was in Mumbai. She used to attend various social events. On October 25, 1931, a public meeting of untouchable women was held in the open ground of the Improvement Trust Chawl. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Savitribai Borade. Ramabai Ambedkar was also present at this meeting. In this meeting, Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar's role in the Round Table Conference was supported

by untouchable women. Also Samaj Mahila Mandal was established. Nashik's Kalaram Mandir Satyagraha was supported by the women. In the 22nd April 1933 issue of Janata newspaper, the news was about Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar's birthday. Paral, Mumbai On the night of 14th, April Ambedkar's birthday

touchable women for social reform activities.

This shows how important the position of SavitribaiBorade was in the Ambedkarite movement. Also, Savitribai-Borade gave a speech at a meeting of men and women teachers in Mumbai about the promotion of Sitaram Namdev



was celebrated by Mahila Mandal under the chairmanship of Smt. Savitribai Borade at Poy Bawadi Cement Chawl. On this occasion, Mrs. Savitribai Borade gave a brief biographical introduction of Babasaheb and then she said that even though our Babasaheb is going back abroad for a round table conference, I think it would be better if we offer a bag of money to him on behalf of the un-

Shivtarkar Guruji as a supervisor. SavitribaiBorade is seen to be constantly active in social movements.

Along with this, two women are included as the board members of Janata Patra run by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. It was done by Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar. One of them was Savitribai Borade. The inclusion of Savitribai Borade among the editorial board members of Janata news-

paper shows the social importance of Savitribai Borade during that time.

Very important news was reported by The Bombay Chronicle of Bombay on 15th June 1939 with a photograph of Savitribai Borade. 'Shrimati Savitribai Borade a well-known social reformer from the Dhor community presided over the first Veer Shiva kakaiya conference at the Bombay presidency recently held at Solapur.

If you read the content of this newspaper carefully, you will realize that they use the term 'social reformer' for Savitribai Borade. Based on this word, a review of the work of Savitribai Borade and its importance can be seen. There is a need for more in-depth research about Savitribai Borade.

Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision was that all women among the untouchables should be able to lead the social movement. Therefore, Savitribai Borade got the chairmanship of the said council. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thought is taken forward. Also, it is very important that the meeting related to important matters like the round table conference, Kalaram temple satyagraha, and establishment of women's circles was held under the chairmanship of Savitribai Borade. From this, it can be seen that Savitribai Borade must be a very smart and strong woman among the untouchables of Mumbai.

In 1942 instalment of Swaraj got. Some taxes were introduced. Businessmen took advantage of this. Goods in the market became expensive. There was a lot of confusion among the leather workers. A meeting was held in Mumbai on the issue related to the leather industry as the leather industry is a laborious occupation of most of the backward people like Dhor, Chamar, Mahar, Mang, etc. There were many eminent persons of the Dhor community in it.

The said meeting was held on January 5, 1944, and a draft of the demands to be made to the government was prepared. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the Labour Minister of Delhi at that time. His advice had already been taken. A delegation of nine people had already applied for a visit to Delhi. Accordingly, a nine-member delegation was formed on 14 January 1944, including Savitribai Borade. 'Smt.Savitribai Borade Vice President Leather Merchant Society Ahmednagar'. It is mentioned.

In this way, Savitribai Borade played an important role in requesting the government to present the demands of the society and trying to do so and also in the national level performance. It is very important that Savitribai Borade made a lot of efforts for the overall development of Dhor society and also actively participated in the Ambedkarite movement.



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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Goodie Takhar, PhD

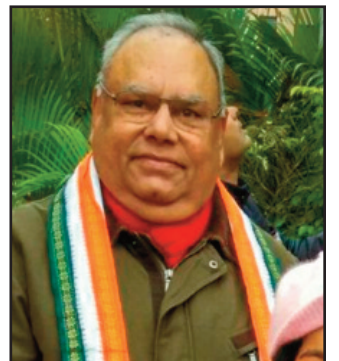
Remembering Babu Jagjivan Ram

Today, July 6, is the death anniversary (Punia Teethi) of Babu Jagjivan Ram. He died in 1986 after contributing a great deal to the politics, governance, and social transformational aspects of the country and the society at large. Babu Jagjivan Ram was a leader with his own position and stature both in the polity and society of India with about 5 decades of parliamentary life and many important positions in the governments since the interim government of Jawaharlal Nehru. As a young student in Jalandhar in the 1960s, what I knew about him was that he was a propped up nominee of the Congress Party to counter and undermine the influence and position of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Good or bad, it was a hard reality also. But at the same time, it is also a hard fact that Ambedkar

offices of Defense Minister and Chief of the Army Staff are located) and many a times I got the chance to see him from a close distance. Meanwhile, my mental faculty was getting, gradually, a wide view of the things on ground. The stock of Babu Jagjivan Ram went high in my mind and thought and rightly so. More was yet to come. On my career progression in the MEA, I was posted in the PMO in April 1974 as Protocol (Hospitality) Assistant to work closely with the office of PM Indira Gandhi and the Committee/Conference Rooms where important meetings, including Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings are generally held. There I got more acquainted with the demeanour and persona of Babu Jagjivan Ram, as a junior official hanging around the corridors of power, where he came often

Jagjivan Ram was an astute politician. In spite of his administrative acumen and political standing, he was still a dalit leader. There was no light at the end of the tunnel for him. He aspired to occupy the top slot in the hierarchy and rightly so and played his cards accordingly. Babu Jagjivan Ram very well knew that nobody can or will recognize his experience and talent and would offer him the top job. It was to be done by him alone. He did his best with the strategy to hold the balance in his hands with 30-35 odd seats in the Lok Sabha. It was a well considered and thought of strategy to join the election campaign under the leadership of Jai Prakash Narayan and other leaders in the opposition. The forces of change got a much needed boost with

holding the constitutional provisions and values and denied that due chance to Jagjivan Ram to hold the coveted post of PM of India. It would have been a game changing development, had Jagjivan Ram become the PM of India in 1977 and again in 1980. The contemporary political history of India would have been different. But that was not to be and Jagjivan Ram died



Ramesh Chander
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)
91-99885-10940



PM Narendra Modi paying homage to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his birth anniversary, which is observed as Samatha Diwas, during the launch of 'Stand up India' (Courtesy) (File pci)

remained what he was and stood his ground in spite of all odds against him created by the machinations of his opponents. Nevertheless, today is the day to remember Babu Jagjivan Ram. He was an alumnus of the Presidency College of Calcutta (Kolkata) and Banaras Hindu University in the good old days. Babu Jagjivan Ram made it to the interim government of PM Jawaharlal Nehru in 1946 as the youngest Minister. Ever since, he remained an important member of all the governments with coveted portfolios and positions till his death in 1986. Obviously, after Babasahib Ambedkar's demise in 1956, Babu Jagjivan Ram became the sole leader and voice of dalits in the country. He was an able and competent politician and an able administrator and got due space and recognition both in the government and otherwise with considerable mass appeal and base. With the challenge of feeding millions amidst food scarcity, Babu Jagjivan Ram played an important role as Minister of Food and Agriculture to bring about the Green Revolution. He was the Defense Minister of India in 1971 who oversaw the resounding defeat of Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh by our valiant armed forces. My first hand visual encounter with him pertains to that time in 1971-72. My office in the Interpreter's Cell of the MEA was located in South Block (Defense Ministry/Army Hdqs. side where the

and regularly to meet PM Indira Gandhi and participate in the Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings. I found him a man of quite charm and confidence. He was a much respected Minister not only with his colleagues but also with the elite bureaucracy. His weight in the government was clearly visible. PM Indira Gandhi respected him with due reverence. As oral history, I may narrate here what I personally saw. Indira Gandhi would not come from her office to the Cabinet meetings in the Conference Room without checking whether Babuji, as she usually called him, had come. I also saw many a times in the Cabinet meetings, when Babu Jagjivan Ram came late somehow, PM Indira Gandhi would get up and make Babuji sit. She always extended and observed these sweet niceties to Babu Jagjivan Ram being a senior and able colleague.

I witnessed the momentous events pertaining to emergency and movement of leaders like Babu Jagjivan in the corridors of the PMO and the ante-rooms of the personal office of PM Indira Gandhi in South Block. I vividly remember Babu Jagjivan Ram's coming to meet PM Indira Gandhi sometimes in February/March, 1977 before he parted company with her and forming Congress for Democracy and joining hands with the opposition to contest historical elections which defeated PM Indira Gandhi. The rest is history. Babu

Babu Jagjivan Ram's plunge against PM Indira Gandhi. During the election campaign and just before results, it was almost evident that Jagjivan Ram will be the next PM of the country. His whirlwind tour of the breadth and length of country set the direction and the Congress Party led by Indira Gandhi was squarely defeated. Jagjivan Ram could get about 30 seats, as expected, for the Congress for Democracy, his newly floated political outfit but Jagjivan Ram never thought and imagined that Congress will be defeated that badly. The overwhelming support to the bandwagon of change with a huge majority in the Lok Sabha disturbed and changed the scenario. Charan Singh and company, belonging to the Manuwadi mindset - "Shoe is meant to be worn on the foot and not kept on the head" and "How come a brick meant for the gutter would be fixed in the gallery" - came to the fore and spoiled the chances of Jagjivan Ram to occupy the top slot which he richly deserved. Babu Jagjivan Ram felt cheated but what could be done. He was defeated politically by forces of status quo. Again when Charan Singh government could not face the parliament and seek vote of confidence in 1979-80 and fell, Jagjivan Ram made yet another bid and was ready to prove his majority in the Lok Sabha but again President Sanjiva Reddy, it seemed, preferred to settle old scores against Jagjivan Ram rather than up-

a dejected man, sadly. Before I end this narration, let me add yet another fact which is generally not mentioned. It goes to the credit of BJP (then Janta Party) leadership like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishan Advani, Nana Deshmukh among others that they did not oppose, rather supported Jagjivan Ram's unannounced or unproclaimed bid for the top job of the country. Historians will analyse and record these events in the right perspective.

I did not intend to be lengthy in this narration but oral history tends to be lengthy. It is said Babu Jagjivan Ram was a jovial and confident man. One interesting anecdote narrated by an army General in a social event may suffice to register that fact. Defense Minister Jagjivan Ram was hosting a dinner for his visiting counterpart from a friendly country. Tandoori chicken came as a snack/starter. Jagjivan Ram started eating with his hand while the foreign guests were struggling to eat with knife and fork. Seeing this, Jagjivan Ram observed, in a lighter vein, Excellency, please see how we eat Tandoori chicken and enjoy and added "Eating Tandoori chicken with knife and fork is like making love through an interpreter" It added to the bonhomie on the dining table.

My humble tribute to the memory of a leader - Prime Ministerial stuff - who could not become PM, Babu Jagjivan Ram

Mr. Jagjivan Ram- New Defence Minister



Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture, will take over as Defence Minister from Sardar Swaran Singh on June 29, according to a communique issued by Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Mr. P.C. Sethi is the new Minister of State, Defence Production and Mr. N.S. Mahida, Minister of State in Ministry of Defence.

Born on April 5, 1908 at Arrah in Bihar, Mr. Jagjivan Ram was educated at Banaras and Calcutta. Early in life, he took an active interest in the social welfare of Harijans and was elected Secretary of the Harijan Sewak Sangh, Bihar. In 1936, he presided over the Lucknow session of the All India Depressed Classes League, which was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi. Later he also presided over a number of conferences of the Scheduled Classes in Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bombay and

Punjab.

In 1937, he was elected a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly and was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Development Minister. He, however, resigned the post in November 1939, in accordance with the decision of the Indian National Congress to quit office. He was elected Secretary of the Bihar Provincial Congress Committee the same year.

In October 1943, Mr. Jagjivan Ram toured various provinces for strengthening Depressed Classes Organisations. In 1944, he presided over the Conference of All India Depressed Classes League at Kanpur. In 1946, he was elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly and was invited by the Cabinet Mission to present the views of the Depressed Classes. In September, the same year, he joined the interim Government as Member

for Labour. On August 15, 1947 he became Minister for Labour. He was elected Chairman of the Preparatory Asian Regional Conference of I.L.O. held in New Delhi in 1947.

He also led the Indian Delegation to the I.L.O. Conferences at Geneva in 1947 and 1950 and was unanimously elected President of the later Conference.

After the first general elections in 1952, Mr. Jagjivan Ram became Union Minister for Communications. It was during his tenure that India's air transport was nationalised.

He relinquished charge of Communications and took over as Minister for Railways and Transport in December 1956, following the resignation of Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri.

He was returned unopposed to Lok Sabha in the 1957 general elections from the Shahabad South

(Reserved) Constituency in Bihar, and was appointed Union Minister for Railways in April 1957.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram was re-elected to Lok Sabha in 1962 general elections from Sasaram Constituency, Bihar. He was again appointed Union Minister for Railways and held that portfolio till April 9, 1962, when he became Minister for Transport and Communications.

Under the Kamraj Plan, Mr. Jagjivan Ram relinquished the portfolio in August 1963, Minister for Labour and Employment and Rehabilitation from January 1966. Later in 1967 immediately after general elections he became Union Minister for Food and Agriculture.

Source Courtesy:
The Sainik Samachar, Pictorial
Weekly of the Armed Forces
Volume-XVII, Number-26,
June 28, 1970

Quotes about Babu Jagjivan Ram

"He had an excellent grasp of military strategy. He was also an able administrator. It was Jagjivan Ram who made sure that the requirements of the three Services: manpower, weaponry equipment and infrastructural facilities were provided, as far as possible."

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) JFR Jacob,
then Chief of General Staff in Eastern Command describing Jagjivan Ram as "perhaps the best Defence minister we (India) have had".

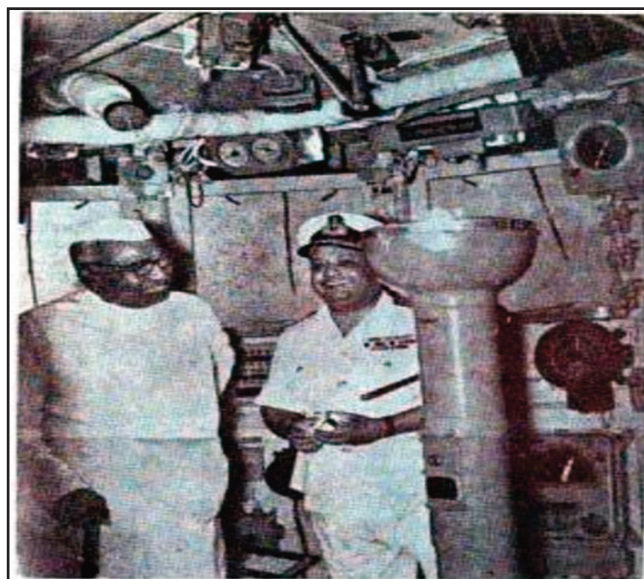


The Defence Minister inspecting a Guard of Honour board the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant

"Babu Jagjivan Ram's role was fascinating. He used to visit training camps set up for Mukti Bahini fighters in Northeast India. He was solely responsible for co-ordinating between the then Prime Minister's Office, Home Minister and the Defence Forces."

- **Lt. Col (Retd.) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir**
Bir Protik and Swadhinata Padak Awardee
Historian and Author in Bangladesh

Mr. Jagjivan Ram- New Defence Minister



The Defence Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, talking to Vice-Admiral N. Krishnan, FOC-in-C Western Naval Command, on the Captain's bridge of INS Vikrant



Doctors of the three Services being introduced to the Defence Minister at INHS Asvini



The 110th session of the Governing Body of I.L.O. was declared open by H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore on Jan.3 at the Jaganmohan Palace, Mysore.

Photo shows the Maharaja inaugurating the conference. The Burmese Minister, Mr. Mahu Win Maung, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, India's Labour Minister and Mr. S. Lall, Chairman of the I.L.O. are seen sitting.

Courtesy: The Indian Express, 6th January 1950



(from L. to R.) Mr. K.T. Bhashyam, Labour Minister, Mysore, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Minister, Government of India, Mr. S.Lall, Chairman of the I.L.O., Mr. David A.Morse, Director-General of the I.L.O.

The Indian Express, 6th January 1950

The Bits and Pieces – As I Please – 4

Social Media Hanky Panky—It is an unusual subject for me as I am not a computer or social media savvy person. These days, it is common that we all get too many unwanted and unnecessary posts, messages, suggestion on social media. There is media reports everyday of cheating, fraud, crime perpetrated through social media. The authorities and the other concerned caution and warn us on these matters occasionally. In my case, my children are my conscious keeper and advise me on these matters and I tend to listen to them too. Obviously, we need to be careful.

The other day, I fell prey to one such instance. I was at the Punjab Press Club at Jalandhar for release of a book. Since I am involved in the socio-cultural life of Jalandhar some of the media functionaries there

some thoughtful comments on the lopsided behavior of spiritual leadership of the Sikhs in integrating the marginalized sections of the society put the things in their right perspective. The book has been sponsored by British Ravidassia Heritage Foundation of the UK headed by Om Parkash Bagha under the agenda of BRHF to promote the mission and philosophy of the great Guru, Guru Ravidass. It was a well arranged solemn function. It was a matter of satisfaction that the vocal and professional media of Jalandhar was present in full strength which resulted in an informative and lively interaction which further resulted in a good and intensive media cover of the event. It helped in eliminating a negative notion that media is not responsive, at least from my somewhat pre-determined aptitude.

this. The brotherhood of faith was described by the Prophet Muhammad, as a single body, when one member of the body is sick, the whole body feels the pain. If this concept is really practiced in the life and life of Muslim society, then of courses this, situation will lead to a pleasant state of peace. Islam emphasizes the concept of "Ukhuwah" (brotherhood) among Muslims, viewing them as one family. This concept promotes unity, mutual support, and shared responsibility among all Mus-



Ramesh Chander
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)
91-99885-10940



were my acquaintances. One of them came ahead to say hello to me. I requested him it will be good if he could share the report he would made of the event. He immediately asked for my phone and my Facebook ID. I could not think or say no. He did something and returned the phone. On return from the function, I found that the report on the function was already viral among my Facebook contacts. He posted the report and requested to like the post from my ID. I never did this before. What my contacts may be thinking of this I don't know but I did not relish the favour done by my media acquaintance. It is also possible that he might have done so without any ulterior motive but I did not like it. The QED of the narration is that never handover your telephone and IDs to others to ward off the untoward ramifications of such actions. Hopefully, my Facebook contacts would read this as I would post this for their benefit. My children have cautioned me again and I would tend to listen to them.

Interaction at Punjab Press Club Jalandhar — It fell on me to formally launch the book – Bunga Nanaksar: Ravidassia Singhan Da Jujharu Itihas – Revolutionary Role of Ravidassia Sikhs to save and preserve Bunga Nanaksar authored by RoopLalRoop, an intellectual face of the community at the Punjab Press Club on June 28. This historical book highlighting the sterling contribution of Ravidassia and Mazabi Sikhs in the Sikh history is well researched and documented book. Though it confines to Bunga Nanaksar of Talwandi Sabo in the district of Bathinda in Punjab yet

It was nice to meet Baba Dharam Singh, Chief Sewadar of Bunga Nanaksar and Balbir Rattan, a leading politician of BJP and a dedicated community activist based in Jammu at the function. Meeting good people and be friend them is a bonus which one drives from such events. Thanks Chairman of BRHF, Om Parkash Bagha and author Roop Lal Roop for associating me with the release of the historical book. I am confident the book will be received well by the discerning readers.

Muslim or Islamic Brotherhood — The idea to understand and write about the much flaunted concept of Muslim Brotherhood cropped up during the recent conflict among Israel and USA on one side and Iran on the other. No Muslim country came forward in support of Iran; not even the OIC, an organization of Islamic countries. The global Muslim population is estimated to be around 2.0 billion, representing approximately 26% of the world's total population, according to Wikipedia. This makes Islam the world's second-largest and fastest-growing major religious grouping. There are 48 Islamic countries in the world. The OIC has 57 member countries. It is a strange situation because otherwise Muslims all over the globe invoke the concept of Muslim or Islamic brotherhood to fortify and defend their Muslim identity. Sometimes, they tend to take shelter in the umbrella of the concept of International brotherhood to match the Hindu concept of 'VasudaivaKutumbkam' – The World is one family. A bit of Google research has thrown some light on the concept of Islamic Brotherhood. It is explained like

lims, regardless of social or economic status. The concept is rooted in Islamic teachings, including the Quran, which emphasizes the brotherhood of believers. The idea of brotherhood aims to foster a sense of unity and solidarity among Muslims worldwide, creating a unified Muslim community (Ummah).

The ground realities of today's world are different. The said 'Islamic or Muslim brotherhood has no meaning. Iran surrounded by Muslim countries like Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and all countries of the Middle East could not find any support in pursuance of the so called 'Islamic Brotherhood'. Islamic world is divided among Sunnis, Shias, Ahmediyas and other denominations.

It has also been observed that throughout the world Muslims are fighting with Muslims in the same country and or in other countries. The concept of Islamic brotherhood, Y I Think, requires an in-depth study "The brotherhood of Islam is not the universal brotherhood of man.

It is a brotherhood of Muslims for Muslims only", said Babasaheb Ambedkar long back in his book 'Thoughts on Pakistan and Partition of India'. The right wing Hindus often quote Ambedkar to downsize the Muslim community as and when needed. But we are to live together in Bharat. I conclude this with a couplet (Rubai) of Akbar Allahabadi -

Ye baat Galat kidaar-ul-islam hai Hind
Ye jhuu Tkimulk-e-lachhman'-o-'raam' hai Hind

My heart aches for all the victims of the horrific floods that have recently unfolded in Texas. Over 100 people are known to have lost their lives, including more than two dozen at a children's camp, and three Marin County residents are among the missing.

It's a tragic reminder of the urgent need for disaster preparedness and emergency response at all levels of government.

Here in Northern California, we are no stranger to the threats posed by extreme weather events, made ever worse by the growing climate crisis. Wildfires, floods, droughts, mudslides, and diseases impacting agriculture have all made their mark on our region.

As Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Wildfire Prevention, I am focusing on how California communities can rebuild in ways that prevent and mit-

igate future wildfire and natural disaster risk. This year, we will be hosting informational hearings in Sonoma County and Los Angeles.



Working with leaders like State Senator Mike McGuire, I helped author California's 2024 Climate Bond, which includes billions of dollars for wildfire, flood, and drought prevention.

The prevention work we've advanced this year

includes \$10 million for a partnership with the Karuk Tribe to build a regional Fire Training Center in wildfire-prone Humboldt County.

I'm doing everything I can to look out for our region, prevent disaster before it strikes, and ensure we have the resources and knowhow to ably respond to a crisis should it emerge.

As Texas embarks on what is sure to be a long and painful recovery, even here in California, we can help. The Kerr County Flood Relief fund, administered by the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, will direct funds to vetted organizations providing rescue, relief, and recovery efforts as well as flood assistance.

**Thank you,
Assemblymember Damon Connolly**

Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

Problem Solvers Caucus Press Conference

I joined the California Problem Solvers Caucus to help find common ground and work toward bipartisan solutions to some of our state's biggest challenges.



Last week, we released a set of bipartisan principles on immigration that emphasized two critical elements. First, every nation has both the right and the duty to secure its borders and protect its citizens from illegal drugs, human trafficking, and threats to public safety and national security. That is the cornerstone of any successful immigration policy. Second, immigrants have contributed greatly to our nation's culture and economy, and it is incumbent upon Congress to fix our broken legal immigration process. I look forward to working with our partners at the federal level to achieve these goals. California must also do its part by repealing laws like SB 54 that prohibit collaboration between local and federal law enforcement.

New Podcast Episode

In last week's episode of the

Point of Order Podcast, I was joined by my Chief of Staff, Teresa Trujillo, to discuss several topics including the passage of a major CEQA reform bill following a series of pro-housing bills in the Assembly and Newsom's delicate embrace of the "abundance" movement. We also covered the latest gas tax increase, the lack of funding for Prop. 36, the delayed RTO mandate, what's good in country music, and other interesting stories from the week.

Historic Folsom Hometown Parade

My team and I had an amazing time at the Historic Folsom Hometown Parade on June 28, 2025! We joined in on the fun by walking the parade route down Sutter Street, handing out candy and American flags to kids and families along the way. The atmosphere was full of energy, with colorful floats, lively music, and cheering crowds celebrating the spirit of the Fourth of July.

It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community and take part in a beloved local tradition. We're grateful to the organizers and volunteers who made it all possible.

Citrus Heights Stars & Stripes Celebration

Our team had a great time supporting the Citrus Heights Stars & Stripes celebration at Van Maren Park! Now in its third year, this annual event brought the community together for a fun-filled day featuring a Kids Zone, delicious food, and activities for all ages. As the sun set, families gathered to enjoy a spectacular fireworks show that lit up the Citrus

Heights sky - a perfect end to a beautiful day of community and celebration.

A big thank you to the City of Citrus Heights, Sunrise Recreation & Park District, Citrus Heights PAL, and all the organizers and volunteers who made this event such a success. We're already looking forward to next year!

Welcoming Jade Cuisine to Rancho Cordova

My staff had the privilege of attending the ribbon cutting and grand opening of Jade Cuisine, an exciting new addition to the Rancho Cordova dining scene. From the moment we stepped in, we were impressed by the warm atmosphere, elegant design, and tasty menu offerings. Jade Cuisine brings a fresh take on Asian-inspired dishes, blending rich flavors with beautiful presentation.

We're thrilled to welcome this locally owned restaurant to the community and encourage everyone to check them out. Whether you're planning a lunch outing or a special dinner, Jade Cuisine is a must-visit spot! Visit them in Rancho Cordova or explore their menu online.

Team Hoover at the Folsom Pro Rodeo

Team Hoover had an incredible time at this year's Folsom Pro Rodeo! There's truly no better way to kick off the Fourth of July holiday weekend than with thrilling rodeo events, delicious food, and the joy of connecting with our local community. I was honored to once again serve as a judge for the Mutton Busting competition-a crowd favorite and one of the highlights for our team. We also en-

joyed riding in the horse-drawn wagon during the welcome parade.

A huge thank you to Folsom Pro Rodeo for hosting such

a phenomenal annual event, and to all the sponsors whose support made it possible. If you didn't get a chance to attend this year, be sure to mark your cal-



Assemblyman Hoover



endars for next year-you won't want to miss it!

Rancho Cordova 4th of July Parade

Last week, our team proudly participated in the Rancho Cordova 4th of July Parade-a vibrant community tradition full of energy, smiles, and red, white, and blue. It was incredible to see families lining the streets, cheering on local groups, and celebrating together. The atmosphere was full of pride and unity, and we were honored to be part of such a meaningful and festive day. Thank you to the organizers and the Rancho Cordova community for such a warm welcome!



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