



# Ambedkar Times

Weekly

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## Paying Tribute to Mata Ramabai Bhimrao Ambedkar



(Read more on next page)

## REMEMBERING C.L. CHUMBER ON HIS 8TH ANNIVERSARY

We deeply remember Mr C. L. Chumber on his 8th anniversary. His valuable con-



tribution towards highlighting the importance of the Ad Dharm Movement for developing Dalit consciousness in Punjab has generated a lot of interest not only in Punjab but in other parts of the country as well as among the diaspora. Mr. C. L. Chumber was one of the few Dalit activists who consistently worked for popularizing the legacy of Ad Dharm movement. He highlighted the contributions of Great Freedom Fighter Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia towards the formation of Ad Dharm and the legacy of this historic Dalit movement in North-Western India. He launched Punjabi Monthly journal "Kaumi Udarian" (National Flights) to keep the legacy of the movement alive.

In 1985 he brought a well-documented "Babu Mangu Ram Muggowalia Souvenir" on the formation and achievements of the Ad Dharm movement and the sterling contribution of Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia in awakening of self-respect among the Moolnivasees of the region. The title 'Mugowalia' after Mangu Ram Mugowalia, in fact was appended by Mr. C.L. Chumber. His legacy is being kept alive in the pages of two weeklies (Ambedkar Times in English and Desh Doaba in Panjabi) published from Sacramento (California) USA. Ambedkar Times www.ambedkartimes.com and "Desh Doaba" www.deshdoaba.com weekly newspapers pay floral tribute to Mr. C.L. Chumber Sahib on his 8th Anniversary.

Prem K. Chumber  
Editor-in-Chief

Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

# Refreshing the References A Book by Sunita Sawarkar

**Dr.** Sunita Sawarkar, emerging scholar in history has recently published a book on \*'Dhor - Chambhar (Chamar) Striyanchya Ambedkari Janiwancha Parigh\*' a new dimension to the Ambedkarite study. The writer has microscopically focused on the role of women in Ambedkarite movement with special reference to Dhor and Chambhar women.

In her study she has taken a brief survey of budding women movement in different corners of Maharashtra. How different backward castes were raising their voices for Equality. Pre-Ambedkarite Mahar, Chambhar and Dhor women although on the periphery of the society but under the dominance of patriarchal mentality of Hindu religion.

The writer has studied the role of women in Pre, Post and contemporary Ambedkarite movement. The references regarding Cha. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaja and Sayajirao Gaikwad Maharaj and their visionary approach towards the progress of women in pre-independent India are quite impressive. The writer has also studied various undercurrents helping women in their progress.

There are 4 chapters, concluding and appendages in the book. First chapter is Tracing History of Untouchable Women second is Personal and Social life of Dhor-Chambhar Women, third one chapter is References to Dhor - Chambhar women in Ambedkarite Movement and last chapter is Introduction to Dhor-Chambhar Women's personal life. First chapter of the book is very important to understand history of Pre Ambedkarite Untouchable women, Untouchable saint women like Saint Kallyanamma (Chambhar) Saint Soyarabai (Mahar) Saint Nirmla (Mahar) Saint Bhagubai (Mahar), Saint Santabai (Chambhar) Untouchable women & Satyashodhak Movement, Untouchable women & Nirashreet-Sevasadan, Untouchable women, Bahishkrut Movement Untouchable women & Upper Caste Reformer.

Also covered Women from various castes who were working in Ambedkarite Movement like Matang, Maratha, Bramhin Chndraseny Kayasth Prabhu (CKP), Tribal, Sikh and Walmiki etc. Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj & Dhor Chambhar women, Participation in different Meetings and conferences of Ambedkarite movement, relationship between Ramai Ambedkar & Dhor Chambhar women, Participations in caste elevations, Writings of Dhor Chambhar women, Mathawada University Renaming Movement & Dhor Chambhar women, Independent Chambhar women Conference, Place of Dhor-Chambhar women in caste system, Education of DhorChambhar

Women, Contribution in traditional profession and the question of women's economical contribution. Public image of Dhor Chambhar Women, Position in marriages system. Approaches of British writers towards Dhor Chambhar women these are major point elaborated by the author in rest of the chapters.

Saint Kallyanamma, Saint Santabai took a stand against caste system, Savitribai Borade & Gunabai

Gadekar comes from common background although they worked with Dr Ambedkar. Venubai Shivtarkar, Anusaya Shivtarkar is from Sitaram Shivtarkar's family. He was close associate of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Secretary of Bahishkrut Hitkarini Sabha, Rukhaminibai Rajbhoj And Shanta Rajbhoj from P. N. Rajbhij's family. Malanbai Waghmare & Kamal Parkhe also from common background. They worked in Dalit Panther, Dalit Yuwak Aghadi and Renaming Movement. Kashibai Jadhav, Urmila Raimane, Baby Mukane, Kesharabai Ghumare also contributed in Ambedkarite movement at various stages

The book helps to study and raise our curiosity regarding the role of these women in the Ambedkarite movement. Well known creative writer and activist Urmila Pawar has covered the

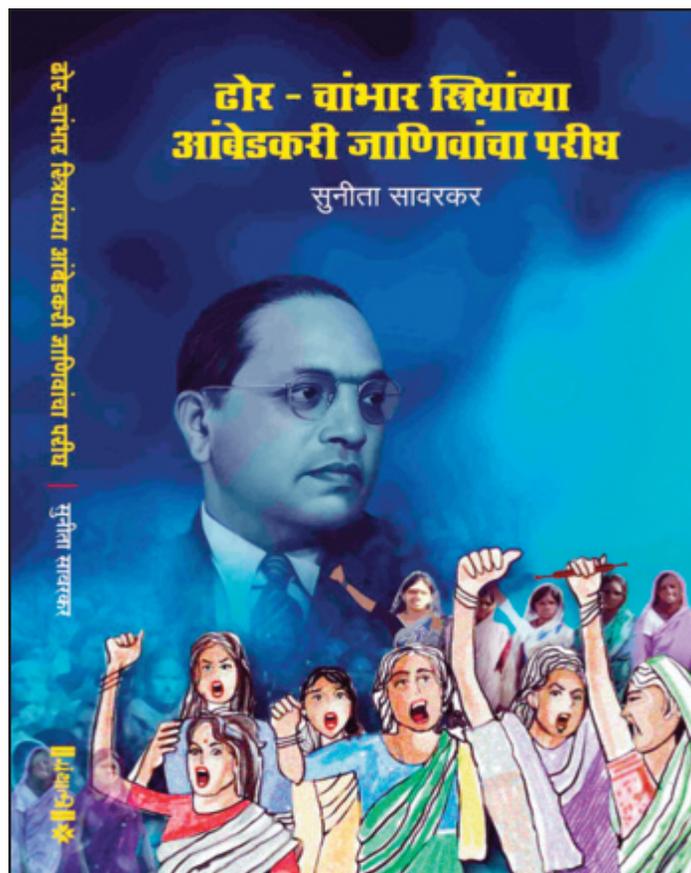
highlights of Dalit women movement in her preface to this book. Dr. Sunita has also another equally important book at her credit. "Role of Bhilla tribal community of Northern Maharashtra in Ambedkarite movement" which was published in 2020. Which is also vital contribution for this movement.

I would like to congratulate her for this type of valuable contribution and unveiling the new topics which helped the social movement. She has provided sufficient references in the form of Books, Research Articles, Pamphlets, and Photographs. Well known publisher 'Granthali', Mumbai has published it suitable to its reputation. The cover design by

Mr Satish Bhawasar is very supportive to the theme of the book. I hope this book would be helpful to study some more hidden aspects of Ambedkarite movement history and its impact on the people. Considering the historical importance of this book, even before its release, it has received good response for pre-publication booking not only from the State but also from across the country. Getting. That's why within span of three and half months second edition of this book is published. First edition was published on 14th October 2023 (On Dhammachakra Pravartan Din) and now second edition is published on 2nd February 2024.

Book review by- Prof. Uttam Ambhore

Retd. HOD Dept. of English, Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad



Dr Sunita Sawarkar  
Author of the book



Prof. Uttam Ambhore \*

## Paying Tribute to Mata Ramabai Bhimrao Ambedkar

(February 7, 1898 – May 27, 1935)  
on her Birth Anniversary

Prem K. Chumber (Editor-in-Chief)  
Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba

Ramabai Bhimrao Ambedkar (February 7, 1898 – May 27, 1935) was the first wife of Babasaheb Dr. B. R Ambedkar. She had been married to him for 29 years. She passed away on May 27,



1935, after a prolonged illness, at Rajgruha, Bombay. She was not only a homemaker but also played a significant role in facilitating Dr. Ambedkar to pursue and attain higher education, which he recognised in one of his voluminous writings entitled Thoughts on Pakistan, published in 1941. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar dedicated this book to Ramabai. In the preface of the book he put on record that it was Ramabai who transformed him from an ordinary Bhima to Dr Ambedkar.

Ramabai has been remembered reverently by the followers and admirers of Babasaheb. She belonged to an ordinary family. She lost both her parents in very young age and had to abandon her native place, Mahapura locality within the village of Vanand near Dapoli Ratnagiri, along with her three sisters and a brother to live with her uncles Valangkar and Govindpurkar in Bombay in Byculla market. When Ramabai married Dr. Ambedkar in 1906, she was only eight years old and Ambedkar's age was 15 years. Ambedkar lovingly used to call her "Ramu" and she called him "Saheb". She gave birth to Yashwant, Gangadhar, Ramesh, Indu (daughter) and Rajratna. Except Yashwant (1912-1977), the other four children died in their childhood.

Ambedkar Times and Desh Doaba Weeklies congratulate all its contributors, readers and well-wishers on the Birth Anniversary of Ramabai Bhimrao Ambedkar.

# JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU

By Martin Luther King, Jr.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU was a man of three extraordinary epochs. He was a leader in the long anticolonial struggle to free his own land and to inspire a fighting will in other lands under bondage.

He lived to see victory and to move then to another epochal confrontation - the fight for peace after World War II. In this climactic struggle he did not have Gandhi at his side, but he did have the Indian people, now free in their own great Republic.

It would be hard to overstate Nehru's and India's contributions in this period. It was a time fraught with the constant threat of a devastating finality for mankind. There was no moment in this period free from the peril of atomic war. In these years Nehru was a towering world force skillfully inserting the peace will of India between the raging antagonisms of the great powers of East and West.

The world needed a mediator and an 'honest broker' lest, in its sudden acquisition of overwhelming destructive force, one side or the other might plunge the world into mankind's last war. Nehru had the prestige, the wisdom, and the daring to play the role.

**The markedly relaxed tensions of today are Nehru's legacy to us, and at the same time they are our monument to him.**

It should not be forgotten that the treaty to end nuclear testing accomplished in 1963 was first proposed by Nehru. Let us also remember that the world dissolution of colonialism now speedily unfolding had its essential origins in India's massive victory. And let it also be remembered that Nehru guided into being the 'Asian-African Bloc' as a united voice for the billions who were groping toward a modern world. He was the architect of the policy of nonalignment which was calculated to give independent expression to the emerging nations while enabling them to play a constructive role in world affairs.

The third epoch of Nehru's work is unfolding

after his death. Even though his physical presence is gone, his spiritual influence retains a living force. The great powers are not yet in harmonious relationship to each other, but with the help of the nonaligned world they have learned to exercise a wise restraint. In this is the basis for a lasting detente. Beyond this, Nehru's example in daring to believe and act for peaceful co-existence gives mankind its most glowing hope.

In this period, the Negroes of the United States, have made strides toward freedom beyond all precedent in our history. Our successes directly derive from our employment of the tactics of non-violent direct action and non-cooperation with evil which Nehru effectively employed under Gandhi's inspiration.

**The peculiar genius of imperialism was found in its capacity to de-**

**clude so much of the world into the belief that it was civilizing primitive cultures even though it was grossly exploiting them. Satyagraha made the myth transparent as it revealed the oppressed to be the truly civilized party. They rejected violence but maintained resistance, while the oppressor knew nothing but the use of violence.**

My people found that Satyagraha, applied in the United States to our oppressors, also clarified who was right and who was wrong. On this foundation of truth as irresistible, a majority could be organized for just solutions.

Our fight is not yet won, just as the struggle against colonialism is still unfinished, and above all, the achievement of a stable peace still lies ahead of and not behind us.

In all of these struggles of mankind to rise to a true state of civilization, the towering figure of Nehru sits unseen but felt at all council tables. He is missed by the world, and because he is so wanted, he is a living force in the tremulous world of today.

Source Courtesy: Darshan, October 1987



Martin Luther King and Mrs. King with Jawaharlal Nehru at New Delhi, when they visited India at the invitation of the Gandhi Peace Foundation.

## AD DHARM IN PUNJAB ELECTIONS

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

Ad Dharm movement of Punjab gained tremendous importance within a short period after its foundation in 1926. That it got recognition for a separate religion for the so called lowest if the low from the British Government speaks about its great strength. In 1931, about 500, 000 Scheduled Castes (SCs) got recorded Ad Dharm as their distinct religion. Thereafter, its record victory in the 1937 Punjab Provincial Assembly elections reinforced its popularity among the SCs. Its victory in the 1946 Punjab Provincial Assembly election to the Punjab

Legislative Assembly assigned it an independent political identity. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia, the founder of the Ad Dharm movement, was elected from Hoshiarpur constituency. It contested both the above-mentioned assembly elections in collaboration with the Unionist Party. Babu Mangu Ram Mugowalia also contested the Punjab Legislative Assembly Election of 1951, but as an Independent contestant from the Garhshankar Constituency. He was offered a ticket by the Congress to contest the assembly elections as its nominee but Babu Mangu Ram Ji refused to contest the election on the Congress ticket and the same was given to Mr Kartar Singh of village Langeri of Hoshiarpur District.



Dr. Paramjit S Takhar, MD

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Goodie Takhar, PhD

# Assemblyman Josh Hoover Introduces Legislation to Stop the Proliferation of Fentanyl in Schools



Assemblyman Hoover

**SACRAMENTO** - Today, Assemblyman Josh Hoover (R-Folsom) announced the introduction of groundbreaking legislation to address the alarming rise of fentanyl in California schools and communities. Assembly Bill 2045 would increase penalties on fentanyl crimes involving minors and add sentence enhancements for criminals who traffick fentanyl within 1,000 feet of school grounds.

"Our number one job as lawmakers should be protecting our most vulnerable from harm," Assemblyman Hoover said. "We must do more as a Legislature to create a safe environment where our children can learn, grow, and thrive. This bill sends a clear message that those who endanger minors and bring deadly fentanyl

into our schools will face severe consequences."

AB 2045 would classify fentanyl in the same category as other dangerous illicit drugs and would give prosecutors new tools to hold dealers accountable.

Key Provisions of the Proposed Legislation:

**1. New penalties on the sale of fentanyl to children:** The bill seeks to add an additional 2 years to the sentence of any adult who solicits, induces, encourages, or intimidates a minor with the intent that the minor commits a drug crime. If passed, this felony offense will be punishable by 5, 8, or 11 years in state prison.

**2. Sentence enhancement for fentanyl-related offenses on or near school grounds:** Brings fentanyl in

line with other drugs like heroin or cocaine in cases where the offense occurs upon or within 1,000 feet of school grounds by adding a 2-year enhancement to the sentence of those who solicit, encourage, or intimidate minors to commit these drug crimes. This enhancement aims to create a safer environment for students attending public or private elementary, vocational, middle, or high schools during school hours or related programs.

**3. Additional punishment for trafficking fentanyl on or near school grounds:** Adds fentanyl to the list of illicit drugs already covered under state law for drug trafficking offenses on or near school premises. For adults committing specified drug trafficking offenses within 1,000 feet of a

school, the legislation adds an additional punishment of 3, 4, or 5 years. Furthermore, if the offense involves a minor who is at least four years younger than the defendant, an extra enhancement of 3, 4, or 5 years applies, subject to re-alignment.

Josh Hoover represents Assembly District 7, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale, and Rosemont.

## Assemblyman Hoover's Representative Report

### Legislation to Stop the Proliferation of Fentanyl in Schools

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tanyl in California schools and communities. Assembly Bill 2045 would increase penalties on fentanyl crimes involving minors and add sentence enhancements for criminals who traffick fentanyl within 1,000 feet of school grounds.

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dangerous illicit drugs and would give prosecutors new tools to hold dealers accountable.

### Call to Lower Energy Costs



Earlier this week I issued a press release responding to the introduction of legislation that would roll back the income-based fixed fee for customers of the state's major energy utility companies.

Californians deserve lower utility bills and it's time for the Legislature to get serious about bringing down energy costs. My legislative colleagues who introduced this legislation are pretending to protect consumers by walking back a bad policy they voted for just over a year ago. This is not enough. We need real reforms with long-term solutions that lower rates for all Californians.

### Samsung Semiconductor



### Opens in Folsom

I am beyond thrilled to welcome Samsung Semiconductor to the City of Folsom! This is a major investment in our workforce and region.



Thank you to the Greater Sacramento Economic Council and the Choose Folsom team for helping make this a reality. The Samsung office employs roughly 50 people and features an advanced computing lab and an advanced controller development team.

### New Podcast Episode

On my podcast this week my team and I discuss the Capital Fellowship Program, Oakland's In-N-Out closure, the point in time homeless count, California's insurance market, reducing the number of new laws, school resource officers, retail theft, and the



NFC Championship game.

### Ribbon Cutting in Citrus Heights

Recently my staff participated in the grand opening and ribbon cut-



ting of Humle Beer House, located at 7086 Auburn Blvd, and open every day of the week. At least half of the featured beers always come from local breweries, and customers are encouraged to bring in food from nearby restaurants.

# Outstanding Victory in Painting Competition: Yashika Secures First Position in Consolation Prize

In a remarkable display of artistic talent, the students of Desh Bhagat Global School achieved a significant milestone in the Painting Competition organized by the Ministry of Education under the aegis of the Government of India at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Reona Ucha, Fatehgarh Sahib. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from eleven schools.

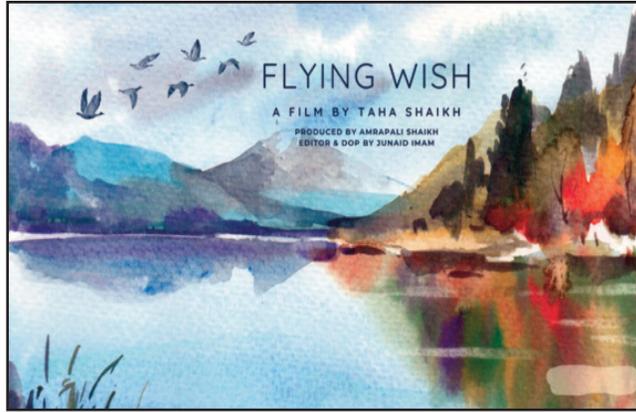
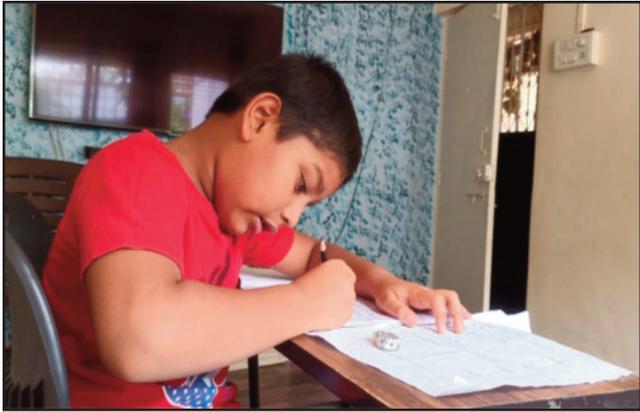
The competition challenged students with on-the-spot topics related to painting, including themes such as 'Chandrayaan,' 'Success of India in Games,' and 'Mantras of De-



veloped India,' as suggested by the Exam Warriors initiative of the honorable Prime Minister of India. Five students from Desh Bhagat Global School Mandi Gobindgarh, representing grades 9th to 12th, showcased their creativity and artistic prowess.

Yashika, a talented student from class 9th, emerged triumphant by securing the first position in the consolation prize category. The Principal of DBGS Rajneesh Madan extended heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, acknowledging their dedication and artistic flair. Dr. Zora Singh, the Chairman of the School, expressed immense pride and appreciation for all the participants in the painting competition. He encouraged the students to continue participating in such competitions, emphasizing their crucial role in personal and academic development.

# "Ambedkar Times Boosts 8-Year-Old Taha Shaikh's morale by Awarding 'Pride Award' for Filmmaking Achievement and Winning Accolades in Malaysia with 'The Flying Wish'"



Taha shaikh with Winning Award

**California, U.S.A** – "The Nitiin International Film Festival 2024 Malaysia has announced the list of winners at its award ceremony, which includes the name of an 8-year-old boy Taha Shaikh who created a highly inspiring one-minute film. The film titled 'Flying Wish' received the Best Short Children's Film award."

"Taha Shaikh's Accomplishments Shine: 'The Flying Wish' Clinches Best Social Awareness Short Film at Kodaikanal International Film Festival, Tamil Nadu, and Taha Receives Best Child Young Actor Award at Mokka International Film Festival, Pondicherry. Iran's Children TV Channel, Kootak TV, Broadcasts Exclusive Interview with Taha. Ambedkar Times of California and Desh Doaba TV Commend Taha's Achievement, Honor Him with the Prestigious Pride Award."

The Principal of Loyola High School and Junior College, Fr. Anish, S.J., greatly appreciated Taha for his

achievement and said, "I am proud of you."

In a heartwarming tale of compassion and creativity, 8-year-old Muzammil Taha Shaikh from Pune, Maharashtra, has left an indelible mark on hearts worldwide with his one-minute film, "The Flying Wish." The extraordinary young talent, a student at Loyola High School & Junior College, teamed up with his parents, drawing inspiration from his father's media background and his mother's expertise in the IT sector.

Rather than embracing the conventional festivities to welcome the New Year, Taha set out on a mission to conclude the year on a profoundly positive note. The result is a poignant exploration of the innate goodness within the human spirit, encapsulated in a one-minute masterpiece submitted to various international film festivals.

"The Flying Wish" serves as a gentle reminder in our fast-paced world

that the simplicity of kindness often gets drowned out by the noise of daily life. Taha's narrative beautifully captures the essence of innocence and the pure desire for positive change that resides in the heart of a child.

The film unfolds against the backdrop of Loyola High School & Junior College, where moral education is as integral as academic learning, providing a stage for a tale that transcends age and cultural differences. Taha's decision to make the last day of the year extraordinary by releasing his pet fish into the river becomes a profound message about universal freedom and our shared responsibility to bring joy and liberation to others.

Named "The Flying Wish," Taha's project encapsulates the idea that wishes, much like the fish he sets free, have the potential to soar and create waves of positive change. The river in the film becomes a poignant symbol, reflecting the flow of life and the

interconnectedness of our actions.

"Accompanied by his mother, Taha's journey to the riverbank serves as a visual metaphor for the support and guidance we receive from loved ones when embarking on endeavours fuelled by kindness and empathy.

"The Flying Wish" is not just a film; it's a celebration of the human spirit and a call to embrace the simplicity of compassion. Through Taha's story, the audience is invited to reflect on their own capacity to make a difference, no matter how small, in the lives of those around them. As Taha releases his fish, the ripples become a universal symbol of hope, kindness, and the potential for positive change that lies within each of us.

May "The Flying Wish" inspire us all to cherish the innocence within, to believe in the power of our actions, and to celebrate the beauty of making a positive impact in the world—one small wish at a time. **-Vivek Bhatia**



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