

Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Architect of the Indian Constitution

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Abstract:- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is widely recognized as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution due to his pivotal role in its drafting. He served as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, leading the process that resulted in the Constitution's final form. His contributions were instrumental in shaping a document that guaranteed civil liberties, enshrined social justice, and promoted equality for all citizens.

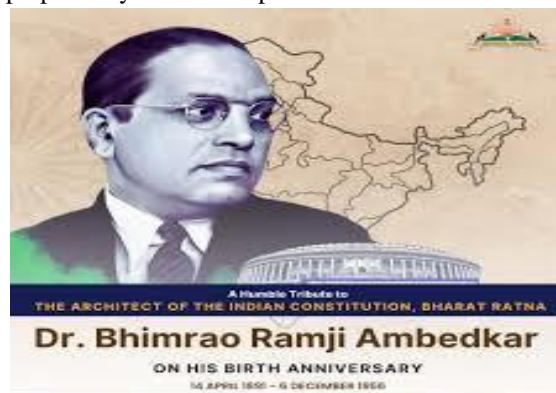
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, fondly known as the Father of the Indian Constitution, was a visionary leader, social reformer, and champion of equality. His life and work stand as a testament to his relentless pursuit of justice, education, and social upliftment. Born into a socially disadvantaged community, he overcame immense challenges to become one of India's most influential figures. Dr. Ambedkar dedicated his life to eradicating social discrimination, advocating for Dalit rights, and building a framework for an inclusive and democratic India.

“The third thing we must do is not be content with mere political democracy. We must note that our political democracy can not last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life.” – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar In the world the great man first has to be born in the form of the great man and then he has to prove himself the great man by his enriched personality with virtues and by his great capability. According to such a rule of the world Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was born in the form of the great man, on 14th April 1891 at Mahu in Madhya Pradesh of India. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, also known as Babasaheb, was an Indian nationalist, jurist, Dalit, political leader, activist, philosopher, thinker, anthropologist, historian, orator, prolific writer, economist, scholar, editor, revolutionary and the revivalist of Buddhism in India. He was also the chief architect of the Indian constitution.

Keywords:- Early life, Post-independence life and career, Aspects of Ambedkar's Life and Work, Ambedkar's Role in Social Reform, Architect of the Indian Constitution, Political Career, Conversion to Buddhism, Literary Contributions

INTRODUCTION

Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (1891 – 1956) the greatest Indian constitution maker and a symbol of complete revolution in all sphere of humanity. He came into appearance on the Indian social – political scene in the early 1920s and remained at the forefront of the social, cultural, economic and political transformation of India during the closing decades of the British Rule. Dr. Ambedkar played a very significant role in laying the foundation of modern India till his death in 1956. Dr. Ambedkar was a great social reformer a valiant champion of human rights and an emancipator of the downtrodden masses of India, who dedicated all his life to awaken the social conscience of modern India. Due to his seminal role in the framing of the Indian Constitution, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar is popularly known all over India as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. His efforts to eradicate social evils were remarkable and that is why he is called the —messiah of the Dalits and downtrodden in India. Dr Ambedkar was appointed the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee. The text prepared by Ambedkar provided constitutional.



Early life

Born of a Dalit Mahar family of western India, Ambedkar was the son of an army officer. As a boy, he was humiliated by his high-caste schoolfellows. Awarded a scholarship by the Gaekwar (ruler) of Baroda (now Vadodara), he studied at universities in the United States, Great Britain, and Germany. During this period he qualified as a lawyer. He

entered the Baroda Public Service at the Gaekwar's request, but, again ill-treated by his high-caste colleagues, he turned to legal practice and to teaching.

Post-independence life and career

Ambedkar was fiercely critical of Hinduism and Brahminical supremacy in the caste hierarchy. In 1935, while addressing a rally in Yeola, Maharashtra, he declared: "I was born in Hinduism but I will not die as a Hindu." Two decades later, in October 1956, he converted to Buddhism. He died in December that same year.

In 1947 Ambedkar became the law minister in the cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first prime minister. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly, a body that was formed to create the country's constitution, and chaired its drafting committee. He took a leading part in the framing of the constitution, outlawing discrimination against untouchables, and skillfully helped to steer it through the assembly. The constitution came into effect on January 26, 1950, which is today celebrated as Republic Day, a national holiday in India. Ambedkar's ideas on economic policy significantly influenced the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India.

Aspects of Ambedkar's Life and Work:-

- **Early Life and Education:**

Born in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, in 1891, Ambedkar faced societal discrimination due to his Dalit (formerly known as "Untouchable") background. He overcame these challenges through his remarkable academic achievements, earning degrees from Columbia University and the London School of Economics.

- **Social Reform and Dalit Rights:**

Ambedkar was a staunch advocate for social justice and equality, fighting against caste-based oppression and discrimination. He initiated mass conversions of Dalits to Buddhism in 1956.

- **Constitutionalism:**

Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, which framed the Constitution of India. He is considered the father of the Indian Constitution for his significant contributions to its development.

- **Political Career and Contributions:**

He served as India's first Law Minister, played a role in the formation of the Reserve Bank of India,

and was a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council.

- **Bharat Ratna:**

He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor, in 1990, recognizing his contributions to Indian society.

Ambedkar's Role in Social Reform

Dr. Ambedkar dedicated his life to fighting caste-based discrimination and promoting social equality.

- **Abolition of Untouchability:** He worked tirelessly to eliminate untouchability and caste barriers, advocating for equal rights and opportunities for Dalits.
- **Temple Entry Movements:** He led significant movements like the Mahad Satyagraha (1927), demanding the right of Dalits to access public water sources and enter temples.
- **Educational Initiatives:** Understanding the transformative power of education, he established institutions like the People's Education Society and urged the oppressed to pursue knowledge.

Architect of the Indian Constitution

Dr. Ambedkar's most significant contribution to India was his role as the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution.

- Advocated for fundamental rights and equal opportunities for all citizens. Introduced provisions to abolish untouchability (Article 17) and ensure social justice.
- Upon India's independence on 15 August 1947, the new prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru invited Ambedkar to serve as the Dominion of India's Law Minister; two weeks later, he was appointed Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution for the future Republic of India.
- On 25 November 1949, Ambedkar in his concluding speech in constituent assembly said:
- "The credit that is given to me does not really belong to me. It belongs partly to Sir B.N. Rau the Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly who prepared a rough draft of the Constitution for the consideration of the Drafting Committee."
- Indian constitution guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, including freedom of religion, the abolition of untouchability, and the outlawing of all forms of discrimination. Ambedkar was

one of the ministers who argued for extensive economic and social rights for women, and won the Assembly's support for introducing a system of reservations of jobs in the civil services, schools and colleges for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and Other Backward Class, a system akin to affirmative action. India's lawmakers hoped to eradicate the socio-economic inequalities and lack of opportunities for India's depressed classes through these measures. The Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 by the Constituent Assembly.

- Steven Calabresi has voiced agreement with Martha C. Nussbaum's assessment of the Indian constitution as "Ambedkar's constitution," on account of the Supreme Court of India having evolved away from judicial restraint and legal positivism favored and successfully executed into the Constitution in 1950 by Jawaharlal Nehru and leaders of India's anti-colonial nationalist movement who held sway in the Constituent Assembly of India to an purposive approach by which the court rules today, whereby it is the final arbiter of the Constitution's meaning and its interpretations are binding on the executive and legislative branches of the government. Ambedkar had supported the purposive approach during the drafting of the constitution from 1947 to 1949 but his views were in a minority.
- Ambedkar had openly shared his concern in the Constituent Assembly that country might lose both its Constitution and its democratic freedoms in the future. He believed that the lack of a strong democratic tradition, the widespread presence of 'bhakti' or political 'hero worship' and the large gap between the republican promises of the Constitution and socio-economic inequality, made this a distinct and ever-present possibility.
- Ambedkar expressed his disapproval for the constitution in 1953 during a parliament session and said "People always keep on saying to me "Oh you are the maker of the constitution". My answer is I was a hack. What I was asked to do, I did much against my will." Ambedkar added that, "I am quite prepared to say that I shall be the first person to burn it out. I do not want it. It does not suit anybody.

Political Career

- Dr. Ambedkar founded the Independent Labour Party (ILP) in 1936 to address the issues of workers, Dalits, and other marginalized communities.
- Later, he established the Scheduled Castes Federation in 1942, aiming to empower Dalits politically.
- He served as India's first Law Minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet, where he focused on reforms to promote social justice.

Conversion to Buddhism

In 1956, Dr. Ambedkar, along with millions of his followers, converted to Buddhism.

- Reasons for Conversion: He believed that Hinduism perpetuated the caste system and found Buddhism to be a path of equality, compassion, and rationality.
- Impact of Conversion: This marked a significant socio-religious movement in India, encouraging Dalits to embrace Buddhism for spiritual liberation and dignity.

Literary Contributions

Dr. Ambedkar was a prolific writer and thinker who authored several groundbreaking works on social, political, and economic issues.

CONCLUSION

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's contributions to India's social and political fabric are immeasurable. As a reformer, constitution-maker, and advocate for equality, his efforts laid the foundation for a more inclusive and just society. His vision of a democratic India that values justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity continues to guide the nation. Dr. Ambedkar's life reminds us of the importance of education, perseverance, and standing up for one's beliefs. He remains a beacon of hope for those striving to create a world free from discrimination and inequality.

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