

## ARCHITECT OF CONSTITUTION

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, often referred to as Babasaheb, indeed left an indelible mark on India's history as an architect of a more inclusive and just society. Born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, his life journey is a testament to resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

From his early years, Ambedkar faced discrimination and social exclusion due to his caste background. However, he refused to be defined by societal prejudices and instead dedicated himself to education and the pursuit of knowledge. His academic brilliance led him to prestigious institutions both in India and abroad, where he honed his intellect and developed a deep understanding of social issues. Ambedkar's role as a social reformer and legal luminary became apparent as he actively engaged in advocating for the rights of marginalized communities. His pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution as the chairman of the Drafting Committee showcases his commitment to ensuring justice, equality, and individual rights for all citizens. Through his efforts, he laid down the foundation for a democratic and egalitarian society, emphasizing the importance of eliminating discrimination and promoting social harmony. The celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14th each year serves as a reminder of his enduring legacy and the principles he stood for. His contributions to Indian society continue to inspire movements for social justice, equality, and empowerment, making him a guiding light for generations to come.

## Recognise value of the earth

■ JUBEL D'CRUZ

Today, a lot of people are thinking about environmental issues and the ecological conditions of the earth. Why has this problem suddenly become so relevant?

When did Earth Day grow into Earth Month? Does it mean that we can choose any one of the 30 days to do "it" or we should do "it" for all 30 days? Well, let's first see what they want us to do this year. Is it an easy "do"? Does it save "me" money?

According to World Economic Forum by the year 2050, our oceans are expected to contain more plastic than fish. Essentially, this really means how much plastic we'll be eating. Plastic, a fossil fuel product, does not biodegrade. Instead, it breaks down into tiny pieces that the fish eat, and then we eat the fish. Another common destination for plastic is the landfill. Since it contains toxic chemicals, landfills then contaminate groundwater.

I suggest, we really need to try working on ending plastic pollution every day. It's not hard, and it saves everyone's money. Just like our trash cans, our garages and our homes, the earth has limited space to store junk.

Our entire planet suffers from pollution, global warming, deforestation and extinction of biological species. These problems are extremely relevant and require rapid and intensive solution. It is possible to defeat these problems if the entire humanity changes its approach towards nature, natural resources and the value of nature for its well-being. In simple words, people should go green to save the earth from being polluted.

The phrase "going green" has become a part of everyday discussion. People are being told to switch off the lights, buy energy-saving appliances and drive less. But what people are not being told is "why" specifically. Global warming has increased in the earth's average temperature.

Greenhouse gases are the main cause of this problem. Normally, the earth's atmosphere lets these gases in but does not release all of it. The excess gases keeps the plants warm enough to sustain life.

However, overtime, the atmosphere has sustained damage from chemicals like the ones released in fossil fuels. Why should we take efforts in order to save the earth in the future?

Very few people understand that it is important to change their lifestyle now in order to see the results of these changes in a few decades.

Doubtless, you will not grow a big forest in a year. You can plant a sapling, but it will grow to its proper height only in 10 or 15 years; it takes time. To my mind, this activity resembles investment into a small firm.

In a few years, the firm develops into a big company, which will provide you with a solid profit. Consequently, it is not right to say that the idea of going green is useless.

When you do not see the results of your actions now, it does not mean that you will not see them in 10 or 15 years. Furthermore, we must not be selfish. It is important to think about the well-being of our posterity.

We are responsible for the natural environment and problems which will become a burden for our children. I know that many people do not care about the condition of the earth after their death.

They say that it is the headache of our future generation(s). People do not care about the future and they do not appreciate what they have. This approach is caused by greediness and consumerism. People want more money and material values in order to satisfy their needs. They are ready to exhaust the world they live in. They cut down trees, kill animals, birds and fish and pollute rivers, lakes, seas and oceans.

They only care about their profit and nothing more. No wonder, people open new and new plants, factories and power stations which cause harm to the natural environment but provide them with money.

It looks ridiculous when people are ready to destroy forests and pollute the rivers in order to gain profit. They do not appreciate fresh air and water; though they cannot survive a minute without them.

They are ready to live in an unhealthy, terrible-looking and polluted environment in order to receive more money.

Finally, they will have to pay for their treatment at a hospital because they breathe in polluted air and consume contaminated food and water.

How can we save our planet from the results of our harmful activity?

To begin with, we should first reduce pollution because it is the cause of numerous problems.

We must not litter the streets, parks and forests. We should recycle wastes in order to save our priceless natural resources.

We should use public transport more often because it does not release numerous harmful gases which cause the greenhouse effect and global warming.

Next, entrepreneurs should use special filters at plants, factories and power stations in order to reduce the amount of poisonous emissions into the air and water.

Then, people should stop cutting down trees because they are the lungs of the earth.

Moreover, every forest is a home for thousands of animals, birds and insects, which improve the balance of ecosystems.

In conclusion, our unwise and extensive activity causes harm to the natural environment. We lose priceless natural resources, fresh air, water, forests, animals, birds, fish, insects, etc.

People should change their lifestyle in order to stop deforestation, global warming, pollution and other problems which can destroy the life on the planet.

We ought to go green in order to save the life of our future generations.

While the Sikhs celebrate Baisakhi across India; rest of India wonders if it is about doing Bhangra and dancing.

No, it is not; Baisakhi holds a lesson for all Indians..... Specially in this day and age...

So this day in 1699, in a congregation of people from all across India....standing there listening to their Guru, Sree Gobind Rai. Gobind Rai asked for human sacrifice of five men one after the other. Five men from different castes from different parts of India stood up from the crowd of thousands.

- A shopkeeper; Baniya called Daya Ram from Lahore
- A farmer; Jat called Dharam Das from Meerut
- A so called low-caste water carrier; called Himmat Rai from Jagannath Puri, Odisha
- A tailor; of Cheemba caste called Mukham Chand from Dwarka, Gujarat
- A barber; of Naai caste called Sahib Chand from Bidar, Karnataka

With his choice of disciples from five different corners of India, Gobind Rai ji visualised the national dream... from the coast of Gujarat along Western Arabian Sea to coasts of Odisha along the Bay of Bengal; from the great Plains of Punjab to the Gangetic Plain and then onto the Deccan peninsula covering Karnataka.

Do not forget that at that time, all these were separate states; it was Guru Gobind Singh ji that thought of all of them as one...this Baisakhi day of 1699.

With the choice of disciples from five different caste-groups, he visualised an integrated class-less society.

The five were christened as the First Five Khalsa Sikhs, and the five in turn christened their Guru as the sixth. Gobind Rai



was now Gobind Singh ji. All caste names and surnames were

## Dr B.R. Ambedker-a multifaceted personality & Messiah of downtrodden

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The grateful nation is celebrating the birth anniversary of the Dr B.R. Ambedkar today on 14th April 2024 and the best way of paying tribute to this great man is to remember him and make serious and honest efforts to make India of his dreams which is free from the untouchability. Dr Bhinurao Ambedkar was the embodiment and epitome of multifaceted personality and will be remembered for his unmatched and unparalleled taints of head and heart. He was the doyen of social change ,harbinger and advocate of classless and casteless Indian society where people belonging to various castes will get equal opportunity for development .He is remembered for his selfless crusade for social change ,social reform and unity in the society .The contribution of Ambedkar in the social and political life of India cannot be exaggerated .He had done much for the cause of the Dalits ,under privileged and downtrodden sections of the society .He was born as Hindu but he embraced Buddhism because he felt uneasy with the caste division of Hindu religion and worked hard throughout his life for doing away with casteism in the caste ridden society and worked tirelessly for the cause of abolishing caste division in society .His contribution towards the social and political emancipation of India cannot be overlooked .His life and contribution was immense to social and political field and will remain to inspire future generations .Ambedkar was highly educated and had a doctorate to his credit .He gave much importance to the education of the Dalits ,underprivileged and downtrodden sections of the society .He was of the view that weaker sections and those at the bottom of the society cannot develop without education and he thus gave much emphasis on their education .Ambedkar was the architect of the India's constitution and he was the chairman of the drafting committee of the constitution .His contribution towards the framing of the constitution cannot be under looked .Dr Ambedkar was a multi-faceted and multi-dimensional personality .Popularly known as Babasaheb ,Dr B.R.Ambedkar was an eminent educationist ,a great economist ,an able administrator and a radical political and social thinker of his time .He was a versatile personality wrote on such diverse

subjects as anthropology,sociology,economics,philosophy,religion,law,history and politics .He had good command over all these varied and diverse subjects .He is also known as the father of Indian constitution .Ambedkar was born in the community of Mahars in the present Madhya Pradesh state .Throughout his childhood he faced the stigma of caste discrimination .Hailing from Hindu Mahar caste ,his family was viewed as untouchable by the upper castes .He faced worst kind of discrimination and humiliation in his school and then in his future life as well .Ambedkar raised strong voice against this discrimination . After completing higher education and coming back from USA ,Ambedkar was appointed as the defense secretary to king of Baroda but here also he faced discrimination and thus humiliation being an untouchable .He fought against the two principal inhuman social evils prevalent in Hindu society- untouchability and casteism .His social thinking was the outcome of total discrimination and humiliation meted to his community by the upper caste Hindus and thus he raised strong voice against these social evils .This made him the savior and darling of the lower castes .He fought throughout his life for the cause of the lower castes which made him so dear to the lower castes .So his philosophy was the political emancipation and education of lower castes and also their role in participation in the politics. .He also worked for political enlightenment as well as and spiritual awakening of his community .He was of the view that political democracy will be fragile without the social democracy at its base .Ambedkar sought to eliminate the contradictions resulting from equality in politics and inequity in social and economic life .Institution set up by him became vehicles of change such as Hitkarani Sabha and the Independent Labour Party of India .He stressed upon constitutional methods and means to achieve social justice .He believed in the path of non -violence and peace to attain social , economic and political freedom of the lower castes .Ambedkar was of the firm view that political freedom is meaningless without social emancipation and therefore all of us including those sitting at the top executive positions should work towards the social change and he also believed that regeneration of the country and its politics is

not possible without social and economic freedom and therefore social and economic equality is of paramount for the country's development and for attaining social and economic freedom and for this all of us should work in cooperation to achieve social and economic liberty in the country .His plea for adoption of non -violent means is an important component of not only of his political philosophy but his moral and ethical view .He emphasized the need for economic and social emancipation of the underprivileged people .He floated the Bahishkrit Hitkarni Sabha in July 1924 .He became founder of Samaj Samata Sangh which was based on the principle of social equality .He is the architect of the constitution and while drafting the constitution ,he incorporated the principal of socio-economic justice along with political and civil rights .He sought to make the Indian constitution as an effective means for social change .According to him attainment of political freedom was not the sufficient condition for social change and social regeneration .He stressed for the economic emancipation of the under privileged sections of the society .Thus it was the firm view of Ambedkar that political independence has little meaning and significance without social freedom and social regeneration .He laid foundations of two political organizations namely the Independent Labor Party of India in 1936 and Scheduled Caste Federation in 1942 which later on turned into Republic Party of India .He included principles of socio-economic justice along with political and civil rights in the constitution .Ambedkar sought to make the constitution of India as an effective means of social change . He gave immense importance to fundamental rights and incorporated these in the constitution to give the citizens these civil rights for their social and economic development and for making Indian society an egalitarian one having liberty and fraternity .Ambedkar wanted to make fundamental rights effective and for this it was thought necessary that every citizen should be in a position to claim and demand the fundamental rights .He wanted fundamental rights binding upon all the institutions of the government and private institutions also .He considered fundamental rights of paramount importance for the development of human per-

sonality .According to him ,these fundamental rights should not be absolute but should be checkmated by fundamental duties and these are interdependent on each other but the original constitution did not had the fundamental duties of the citizens in it and it was in year 1976 that fundamental duties were incorporated in the constitution .He did not thought the need to incorporate secularism in the constitution and the word secular was added to the preamble of constitution of India in 1976 by way of 42nd amendment to the constitution. Ambedkar was appointed the chairman of the drafting committee of the constituent assembly .Being a social revolutionary he championed the cause of the Dalits and other lower castes throughout his life and to the some extent he was successful in this regards as well .He was in fact the messiah of the downtrodden and weaker sections of the society and for their political ,social upliftment he worked very hard .day and night and got much for these classes of the society .Ambedkar championed the cause of Dalits and other untouchables who were oppressed from centuries and worked for their equality in social ,economic and political life .He wanted to create a new social, economic and political order in which every citizen will feel equal and there will be no discrimination against any one on the basis of his caste ,creed ,color and faith .He asked the untouchables to organize, educate and agitate as this as per him will free these weaker sections from the chain and shackles of untouchability. Ramechandra Guha considered Ambedkar as a unique example of success and inspiration .His journey from being an untouchable to India's first Law Minister is not less than extra -ordinary and no mean development. Gail Onvedit calls Ambedkarism as a living force in India. Ambedkar's philosophy will continue to inspire Indian's for generations. The best tribute to Ambedkar on his birth anniversary today on 14 the April is to make India of his dreams. In brief his was a multifaceted personality which cannot be penned down in a small page. (The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

## Remember Samvidhan Nirmata-Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

■ TARA CHAND BHAGAT

Like many other places all over the country as well as abroad the various functions to celebrating his 134th Jayanti at Ambedkar Chowk Jammu too have been made. If anybody asks me a question as to why I love Dr. B.R. Ambedkar my unequivocal answer is that he provided principled solutions to our national issues. This is not to compare him with others, past and present, but to interconnect problems with persons. Our country has many problems which need not be encountered but could be usefully listed to show priority in our social, economic and political revolution. In this essay this exercise is done, of course on a preliminary level for the emerging socialistic urges in India. Were such a great personality not born what would have been the fate of the downtrodden sections of the modern society? We all are indebted to this noble personality who architected the Constitution of India wherein he kept a provision of reservation of Govt. Jobs for the downtrodden members of the lower strata of the society otherwise in absence of such a provision, none of the members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes would have been able to be eligible to take advantage of Govt. Jobs. Whosoever had become IAS, IPS, DGs, Directors, Doctors, Advocates and many more much like him, had become taking the advantage of reservation. But it is very sorry for me to be stated herein this article that these officers have totally forgotten the noble work done by this great personality for them. None of them have come forward to take his mission forward except Manewar Kanshi Ram ji who really understood Baba Sahib's philosophy and paved a way for political landscape.By the hard labour done by Manewar Kanshi Ram the present Govt. Of India have made Draupati Murmu-the President of India, Garish Chander Murmu, the Controller and Auditor General Of India, Deputy Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh belonging to the downtrodden communities of SCs/STs for providing them the benefit of political reservation. Dr. Ambedkar's unique and unparalleled personality is a great source of inspiration for all.When we undertake a profound study of the life of and mission of Baba Sahib we come to know that he had fostered certain sublime values in his political life.He was influenced by the noble philosophy of Lord Gautam Buddha, Sant Kabir Ji and Mahatma Phule. Dr. Ambedkar observed rectitude and purity of heart and mind as values throughout his life. There was relevance in his precepts and practice. In the name of peace and non-violence he has never resorted to non-violent means. In the name of religious morality he had not preached any dogma.He was brought up in a very highly cultured though middle class family. Because his father was a staunch Kabirpanthi, his family was a cradle of virtues for him. He was nursed in the virtues which were professed by great saints like Kabir Ji and Thakaram Ji. Man is known by the values he fosters. By values we mean the standards or principles in terms of which choices are made among alternative courses of action -that

is the normative component in the determination of action. So, Baba Sahib cherished the values of self- respect. Undoubtedly, Dr. Ambedkar was an excellent and unmatched personality. Guiding gold or painting a lily would be easier than to catch the Kaleidoscopic personality like that of Dr. Ambedkar in the frail framework of words. A great scholar; lawyer; law professor; social reformer; political leader ,leader; statesman, economist, a religious epoch-maker are some of the facets of the galaxy of his personality.

**Dr. Ambedkar as an ideal student**

Dr: Ambedkar had great passion for books. He bought as many books as he could and preserved them in his library. While he was abroad for his studies,he saved as such money as he could and spent it on buying old books.As a result of his hobby his book collection swelled. We rarely find such a huge collection with a single individual. This habit of book collection is associated with scholars in Europe. It has not become common in our country. So, Dr: Ambedkar is held in high esteem by all Indians, as an intellectual luminary, a great crusader for social justice and the chief architect of our Indian Constitution. Baba Sahib took 2 years ,11 months and 17 days to write a great Constitution Of India.

Menmay come and men may go But the sweet memories of gems like Ambedkar will stay forever: Dr: Ambedkar's name will be ever remembered for the architect of the Indian Constitution in a superb manner: He not only drafted the comprehensive Constitution beautifully but ably defended the draft of the constituent Assembly. Ambedkar's Constitution lay in so far as he expressed his ideas. The Constitution would not have been so explicit and clear; its length and bulk notwithstanding, but for his skill and intelligence. So, Indian Constitution is a synthesis of idealism and the present matter of factness. The Directive Principles for social justice are a heart and soul of Indian Constitution. In his speech on November 25,1949, Dr: Ambedkar had said, "A good Constitution may turn into a bad one if it is not honestly implemented. Conversely, a bad Constitution may turn into a good one if there is an honest and scrupulous effort to implement its provisions." Our Constitution envisages the principle One man, one vote and one value. "But our previous govts. continued to deny this principle" One man,one value" on account of unequal pattern in our social and economic lives."

Champion for Human Rights-Under the provisions of Article 14 all are equal in the eyes of law. Whether they are men or women all enjoy equal rights.By revolting against caste system Dr: B.R. Ambedkar had roused the consciousness of the poor people and made them feel that they are not the slaves of other people but they also the people who can enjoy equal human rights. Unless and until the caste system in India is rooted out,there cannot be any real socialistic pattern of Society. So, all the SCs/STs/OBCs, acknowledge its indebtedness to Dr: B.R. Ambedkar; a great social reformer and thus is called as a Champion of Human Rights.Even great men

can be born in any caste. As Dr B.R. Ambedkar had born in the lowest caste called as Mahar: Whileas he died as a great man to whom we are remembering with great respect and reverence.

Right from the Chaturvarna system, untouchability has continuously been practised. But it was Dr: Ambedkar who himself was an untouchable, has abolished untouchability Under Article 17 of the Indian Constitution. Its practice has been forbidden and also been made punishable under law of the land. Dr: Ambedkar was a great lover of peace,justice and social service to the society. So, he had to wage war against all injustices.But the way he adopted was a peaceful one. He was a great defender of peace and constitutional morality. Once he said, "I am reported to be against peace. This is not correct. I am for peace.But the peace based on justice, not the peace of a graveyard. So long as justice is not respected in the world there can't be any peace." His definition of democracy also reveals his indomitable faith in peaceful revolution. He wanted to get the power. Why? Political power is the key to all social progress. This power we must win,armed with this power; We can protect the interests of our people. In his opinion power is a means to serve the interests of the society. Power should not corrupt power. It was Dr: Ambedkar who took further in a true sense the social equality movement started by Mahatma Jyotiba Phule. Mahatma Phule did not believe in compartmental approach and wanted the movement to be started simultaneously in all three spheres namely, economic, social and religious. Baba Sahib tried to translate this thought of Phule into reality. He said that mere right of entry into temple for the untouchables would not mean improvement, the entire social order had got to be changed.

**Dr. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism**

Untouchability was abolished by law in India but nonetheless Dr: Ambedkar saw that by and large the Caste Hindu continued to be indifferent to the inequality and justice that the untouchables had to suffer. He felt that he had no alternative but to forsake the Hindu religion and embraced another faith which will give the untouchables equality, liberty and dignity. Ultimately he embraced Buddhism at the historic Deekshant Ground at Nagpur on October 14,1956-Vijaya Dashmi Day with thousands of his followers. Dr: Ambedkar had chosen a religion which was Indian in origin and had flourished here. Why he preferred Buddhism? According to him Buddhism teaches Prajna(understanding as against superstition and supernaturalism),Karuna (pity) and Samta (equality). After all this is what man wants for good and happy life. Besides, conversion to Buddhism has given to his followers a sense of self-respect, self-reliance, and dignity, which is in a way a great boon to society. The loss is so great that no tributes are sufficient. Even words do fail us. The loss of passing away of such a great personality is not only to SCs/STs/OBCs but also to our country as a whole.

