

Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Founding Father of Modern India

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was an eminent scholar, reputed jurist, a well-known politician, a revolutionist and above all the principal architect of Indian constitution. Ambedkar's efforts to eradicate the social evils like untouchables and caste restrictions were remarkable. Born in a class considered low and outcast Dr. Ambedkar fought untiringly for the down-trodden. His contributions as a leader of Indian independent struggle, an architect of India's constitution and fighter of civil rights of women and of the untouchables to develop a modern India were innumerable. There is no wonder he is considered the founding father of modern India.

A constitution is considered the source of powers and authority of a government. It contains those laws which act as the source according to which the rules and regulations of governing. Amidst all critical issues, the constitution in its best way serves and protects the nation and guarantees the fundamental rights of all people. Who is responsible for such a unique constitution? No doubt, it was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Here lies the significance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the founding father of modern India.

Thus it marks the significant

contribution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar for India attaining the status of a Democratic Republic. The core of the constitution of India is the essence of Dr. Ambedkar's dream in the form of social justice and equality. The constitution helped the modern politics of Jawaharlal Nehru, particularly in his major projects of 'Unity in Diversity' and Panchaseel.

Ambedkar's legacy as a socio-political reformer, had a deep effect on modern India. In post independence India, his socio political thought has acquired respect across the political spectrum. His initiatives have influenced various spheres of life and transformed the way India today looks at socio economic policies, education and affirmative action through socio economic and legal incentives. His reputation as a scholar led to his appointment as free India's first law minister and chairman of the committee responsible for drafting the constitution. He passionately believed in the freedom of the individual and criticized equally both caste society. His conversion to Buddhism sparked a revival in interest in Buddhist philosophy in India and abroad.

When President Obama addressed the Indian parliament in 2010, and made a reference to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the great and revered Human rights champion and main author of India's constitution. His political philosophy has given rise to a

large number of political parties, publications and worker's union that remain active across India. The Reserve Bank of India formed in 1934 was based on the ideas that Dr. Babasaheb presented to the Hilton Young Commission. He was the creator of Damodar Valley Project, Hirakud Project, and the Bhakra Nangal Project.

Dr. Ambedkar emphasised on the significance and need for the "Grid System" which is still working successfully even today. If today power engineers are going abroad for training, the credit goes to Dr. Babasaheb again, who as a leader of labour department formulated policy to train the best engineers oversea. He was the saviour of labourers, who brought 9 hours duty for labourers in India who changed the working time from 12 hours to 8 hours in 1942.

If there was any person who secured the rights of labourers in India the person was none other than "Founding Father of modern India - Revolutionary" Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Without Dr. Ambedkar at least whatever is today the rights secured by the labourers in India would be only a question mark.

Dr. Ambedkar was the first Indian to pursue an Economics doctorate degree abroad. He stressed on money investment in the agricultural industry.

as the primary industry of India. According to Sharad Pawar, Ambedkar's vision benefited the government in accomplishing the food security goal. He supported economic and social development of the society for the nation's progress. He also emphasised on education, public hygiene, community health, residential facilities as the basic amenities. He found the loss made by British rule on Indian development.

He is creditworthy to establish the Finance Commission of India. He did not support the income tax policy for the lower income group community. He contributed in Land Revenue Tax and excise duty policies to stabilize the Indian economy. He played an important role in the land reform and the state economic development. He emphasised on free economy with stable rupee which India has adopted recently. He also advocated the birth control rate for developing Indian economy. This policy has been adopted by Indian government as national policy for family planning. So it is creditworthy to consider him as the founding father of modern India.

Ambedkar devoted himself to improving the lives of untouchables. Ambedkar recognized that it was easier to change laws than to change people

heart's and heads. He preferred to lead dalits in campaigns designed to improve access to education and to secure basic civil and religious rights including the right to use the public water system and to enter temples.

When India achieved independence in 1947, Nehru named Ambedkar India's first minister of law. More important for the position of Dalits in independent India, the new nation's temporary assembly elected Ambedkar chairman of the committee that drafted its constitution. Under his leadership, the constitution legally abolished untouchability and included safeguards for depressed minorities.

Since independence, India has implemented affirmative action programs for the benefit of what are officially called the "Scheduled Castes and Tribes. In 1997, fifty years after independence, India elected its first Dalit president - an event that would have been unthinkable during Ambedkar's lifetime.

Ambedkar's entire life was dedicated to one purpose - securing justice and equality to those people who were called 'untouchables'. Securing justice and equality to all the people in a country is the essence of a democratic country. It is very much essential for the

development of a modern nation also. Bhimrao Ambedkar was the lion hearted man who fought for equality, justice and humanity. The boy who suffered bitter humiliation became the first minister for law in free India and shaped the country's constitution. A determined fighter, a deep scholar, human to the tips of his fingers.

India has produced many social and political thinkers and philosophers in the course of her long and chequered history. Among the galaxy of thinkers and philosophers of India Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar occupies, undoubtedly the most important place. He has carved out for himself a unique position in society, whatever label he wears in future, Dr. Ambedkar is not the man to allow himself to be forgotten. His personal bitter experiences, progressive and liberal western education, extensive reading and research and wide mass contact provided him the required perspective, theoretical frame, the depth and dimension for understanding and analysing any problem, be it social, political or economic. He had an incisive mind and diagnostic skill that always stood him in good-stand in his relentless search for truth.

Born on 14th April, 1891 in a Dalit family of Marathi background,

Dr. Ambedkar is one of those illustrious sons of our country, whose life and work has influenced and inspired both young and old generations before and after independence. His contribution in making of the constitution of India is phenomenal and similarly his contributions in other fields including the economy of the country, labour problem, socio-political and education is something which ought to be made known to our future generation.

He argued for extensive social and economic rights for women and also won the Assembly's support for introducing a system of reservation for jobs in the civil services, schools and colleges for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes - a historic step in independent India. His illustrious life came to an end on 6th December 1956. For all these contributions he was posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna - the highest civilian award of the country.

And in this struggle he showed rare crusading spirit, carving out in the process an important place for himself among the prominent architects of contemporary India. So he has been rightly described as the founding father of modern India.

Let me conclude with the words of Prof. Amartya Sen, the Nobel Prize winner, "Ambedkar is a true celebrated champion of the underprivileged. His contributions in the fields of economic socio-political reforms and education is marvellous and will be remembered forever !"