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Dr. Ambedkar - As a Maker of Modern India**Dr. Arun M. Ahirrao**

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Today Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is accepted not only as a Dalit leader or only a Constitution maker but also as a 'nation builder', a human rights, champion, and 'Global Icon'. Dr. Ambedkar, the champion of social equality, the architect of the constitution of India, is being remembered by crores of his followers and admirers on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary on April 14, 2016. Babasaheb a great intellectual, statesman, erudite scholar, institution-builder, socio-economic theorist and considered as one of the illustrious political personalities of modern India. He was also a great radical reformer and above all the liberator and savior of the untouchables and backward class people of India. He initiated social revolution and secured social justice for those who had been denied basic rights of human beings for thousands of years. Dr. Ambedkar was a patriot of sterling worth and always placed country above all. The teeming millions of Indian fondly regarded him as "Babasaheb".

Dr. BabaSaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was born in an untouchable caste which was deprived of all social, educational, religious and political rights. In spite of this he is counted among some of the most educated persons of the world. He had high degrees from America, England and Germany. Dr. Ambedkar like Moses, the liberator of the people of Israel, was motivating his people to awaken, to organize, to know their strength and exercise their rights. He gave them the slogan of "Educate, Agitate and Organize" for their liberation.

Dr. Ambedkar, the builder of modern India, contributed enormously towards nation building and reconstruction of society in many ways. He loved his country and the people and worked earnestly and dedicatedly for their liberation, progress and betterment.. He should be remembered not only as a great social reformer, a patriot, a vigorous champion of social justice and freedom but much more as a great constitutional-maker that the nation could produce. Really, our Constitution has stood the test of time and made India a strong, stable and viable democratic country in the world.

Nationalism is probably the most effective political instrument in political mobilization against colonialism. Nationalism is a vital force in the history of mankind. It is man-made, and therefore it is closely related with man's life, pride, activity and well-being. In the views of Dr. Ambedkar, 'nationalism is the principle of self-determination expresses the desire of a people united by common ideals and common purposes to decide, without external compulsion; its political status whether independence, interdependence, or union with other people of the world'

Dr. Ambedkar was one of modern India's first great economic thinkers. He was the first Indian to pursue doctoral degree in Economics abroad. As an economist he displayed such a deep insight about the needs of Indian soil that he stressed on investment in agricultural industry to make it the primary industry of modern India. He is creditworthy to establish the Finance Commission of India.

Even before independence, the Reserve Bank of India was formed (in 1935) on the basis of the ideas that were presented by Babasaheb to the Hilton young Commission. Babasaheb advocated equal rights to women and also need to control the birth rate with view of development of Indian economy. He also played an important role in the process of land reforms and also initiated

'affirmative action' through socio-economic and legal incentives for the under privileged sections of the Indian society.

Dr. Ambedkar had played the most constructive role in laying down the foundation of modernization and industrialization of India. His economic ideas were mainly related to reforming the agricultural system, the industrial policy and also restructuring the areas of insurance and prohibition in the way that was compatible with democracy and state socialism. In the government, he emphasized the need for industrial development in order to gain increased agricultural productivity and income. And he was given the charge of the Department of Labour. Labour had under it the labour legislations, coal mines, printing and stationery Department, and Public Works Department.

Dr. Ambedkar waged a relentless war on the caste structure of the Indian society and became the target of attack, and criticism. He argued that the education to the Shudras and Untouchables were denied for centuries keeping hundred and thousands of people in ignorance, illiterate and unaware about their rights. Dr. Ambedkar realized the importance of education as a vital force for individual advancement and social change. The purpose of education, to Dr. Ambedkar, is to moralize and socialize the people. He, therefore, emphatically added that education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of everyone. The policy of the Department would be to make higher education cheap for the access of the Lower classes. The object of primary education is to see that every child that enters the portals of a primary school does leave it only at a stage when it becomes literate and continues to be literate throughout the rest of his life. He was of the view that education could be an effective instrument of mass movement for the safeguard of life and liberty; it could mitigate miseries of ignorance and poverty; and could encourage the oppressed one to fight against injustice and exploitation. He founded the Peoples Education Society in 1946, and set up many schools and colleges that enabled millions of students belong to the lowest strata of society, to acquire higher education.

Greatness of a great person can be measured by the relation between what one professes and what is the truth, what one professes and how much of it one applies to oneself, and what effect one's words and deeds have on the society at large. In order to enhance human wisdom it is imperative that we keep on assessing the greatness of the great men of the past- not with intent to idolize, glamorize or demean them, but to unravel the hidden truths, if any, and to gauge the long term effects of that person's deeds on society. This historical wisdom shows the path of progress to the new generations and gives them opportunity to choose their ideals. This analytical wisdom is also necessary to prevent the stagnation and decay of a society- as stated above by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar about the ancient Indian civilization. Today after 124 years of his passing away, it is high time we attempt an assessment of the effect of thoughts and deeds of one of the greatest sons of the country. The latter half of the 19th century can be indisputably credited with giving birth to some of the greatest sons to mother India, who rose and shone like shining stars during the 20th century in the otherwise dark skies of the country. During this period the resurgence of feelings of patriotism, nationalism and societal justice and efforts to translate those feelings into action was unique and unparalleled. Babasahab Bhimrao Ambedkar was one of the brightest stars among them and despite having been born in the most under-privileged circumstances, he grew brighter and brighter with age and illuminated the minds of millions with truth- even if harsh and unpalatable. He was a multi-faceted personality. From the above brief description it is obvious that Dr. Ambedkar was very much devoted to the reconstruction of modern India, industrialization, agriculture development and irrigation; flood control, river transport and to increase power production. He was really a maker of Modern India. Our nation will ever remain indebted to him for his great contribution towards industrialization and modernization of our country.

Conclusion

- To conclude, the paper has discussed some themes of Dr. Ambedkar as a Nation Builder, it also discusses Ambedkar's Ideas of modern India and social justice.
- Dr.Ambedkar is India's foremost human rights activist during the 20th century. He is an emancipator, scholar, extraordinary social reformer and a true champion of human rights.
- He was a champion of Nation Building.
- He was a scholar as much as a "man of action."
- A humble tribute to the inspiring memory of this great visionary son of India.

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