\* Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: An Unsung Leader\*

14th April. The Nation celebrates 123rd Dr.Ambedkar Jayanti today, Or should I say "Harijan Jayanti"??... Yes, because not only the illiterate, uneducated clan of the country but the highly educated people, aristocrats, politicians, and youth of the nation tend to believe this, Thanks to the Reservation policy initiated by him for the advancement of socially backward castes and eradication of untouchability ,People have misunderstood and ignored this Bharat Ratna knowing no bounds. In this buzz of elections, to attract votes of Dalits everyone will pay homage to his memorials but including our political leaders and also us, hardly are we aware of Dr. Ambedkar's scrambling journey.

We all know Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution or as Free India's first Law Minister or maximally as Dalit Messiah and the grief is that the information about him is limited to only this to most of the citizens.

People are hardly familiar with Ambedkar's Struggle life and his Revolutionary work activities for the welfare of society. We are unjust to Dr. Ambedkar by identifying him only as a Dalit Political Leader. The Governmental bodies based on Dalit activists and Dalit voters are used to put his name ahead, and due to this reason the image of Dr. Ambedkar might get restricted to them, But in reality, Babasaheb has contributed immensely for social equality which can't be ignored. The endeavor carried by Babasaheb for the upliftment and justice of the downtrodden and backward class was ultimately only to make our society more healthy, organized, robust, united, just and fair.

In his Childhood, Babasaheb had passed through several harsh incidents due to untouchability. But even after getting higher education from abroad ; Despite being qualified and capable he had to face bitter experiences which changed the direction of his Life.

Ambedkar protested for abolition of social discrimination and atrocity due to untouchability. Mahatma Gandhi also worked for its removal. Gandhi and Ambedkar both wanted socio-economic equality of the Dalits, but the main difference was the approach they were carrying. Gandhiji had more of a positive, sentimental, value-added attitude to the untouchables, calling them "Harijans" (children of God), Ambedkar, however, rejected this epithet as condescending. Dr. Ambedkar was a patron who believed in framing social and political reforms and bringing necessary changes to the prevalent structure. Gandhiji was an idealist whereas Ambedkar advocated through individual rights for the empowerment. Gandhiji understood his approach and due to which he insisted on including him in the Constitution drafting committee.

The text for the Constitution prepared by Ambedkar provided constitutional guarantees and protections for an extensive range of civil liberties for individual citizens, incorporating freedom of religion, the abolition of untouchability and the outlawing of all types of discrimination. Ambedkar advocated for extensive socio-economic rights for women and also won the Assembly's support and approval for initiating a reservation system of jobs in the civil services and educational institutes for members of scheduled castes as well as scheduled tribes, a structure that was equivalent to affirmative action.

Ambedkar's legacy as a socio-political reformer had a profound effect on modern India. In post-Independent India, his socio-political thoughts have 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. He passionately believed in the freedom of the individual and criticised equally both orthodox casteist Hindu society, as well as exclusivism and narrow doctrinaire positions in Islam. Despite this making him unpopular and controversial, Ambedkar was by reputation an exemplary jurist and scholar.

We all are thoroughly informed about leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, even Bhagat Singh and much more but our knowledge about Ambedker is not in highlight until the time.The Following link is highly recommended to be visited to know about his life and work, which also includes a unique text for students under the title of "Annihilation of Caste":

http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00ambedkar/index.html

The mistake of evaluating The Bharat Ratna Dr.Ambedkar only as a Dalit Ratna, who tried to turn the wheel of the Law in the direction of social justice for all should be corrected in our minds.

References: "Samay Sanket" by Divyesh Vyas, Sandesh News

 http://www.sandesh.com/article.aspx?newsid=2928033

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- Devanshi