Contributions and Relevance of B R Ambedkar's Thoughts in Contemporary India

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Dr. Amarnath Paswan

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Preface

In 2006, Columbia University published a list of the best scholars in the world, in which the first name was Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, and it is no surprise that the person who was deemed as the leader of just Downtrodden community in India ranked first in the list of world's leading scholars by an excellent institution. Infact, Ambedkar has not received this honour as being a mere knowledgeer of any subject, but his fierce voice and guidance against the pessimistic conditions prevailing in his time, which were crushing millions of people waiting for social justice like crocodile bulls that become a source of strength and inspiration for them. On 15 August 1947, India became an independent country. Millions of people sacrifices their lives.The challenges of building a new India were in front India that would be free from caste, religion, identity, discrimination, in which equal living opportunities will be for everyone, and the most important responsibility for the creation of this new India was given to Dr. Ambedkar to make constitution for free India, a constitution in which no one is left untouched. It was the result of Ambedkar's knowledge and extensive experiences that the world's most comprehensive and praising Constitution made with the spirit to establish an inclusive democratic India which is the most important need of whole world too today. Dr. Ambedkar had emphasized in his presidential speech that no matter how good the constitution is, its success is entirely dependent on its enforcers and without it is nothing but mere a paper. Dr. Ambedkar's concern was

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not wrong as continually we are witnessing direct and indirect attack and weakening of our constitutional rights. In fact, it is not possible to make a country with multicultural characteristics like India in a developed and progressive nation by ignoring the constitutional rights and social justice. So in the present context, it is most important to move India as an inclusive democracy. Dr. Ambedkar's Contributions to Indian democracy, Inclusive Society, Human rights, Social Justice etc. are always inspirational. Thus the present book has been edited in above perspective, in which almost two dozen articles and research papers of teachers and researchers and people associated with public life from various universities, colleges, research institutes and social organisations. Dedicating this book to readers I express my heartfelt gratitude all the contributors without whom making of this book may not be possible. I also express my heartfelt thanks to the Publisher of this book in publishing in very short span of time due to his sincere effort. At last it is request to all the readers to kindly pass valuable suggestions and recommendations so removing all the error it can be included in future.

Dr. Amarnath Paswan

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Dr. Ambedkar- The Architect of Modern India: Revisiting The Unsung Part of his Glory

Prof. Sanjay Gupta

Dr. Ambedkar, one of the great statesmen and visionaries of India in contemporary times, was the true 'Architect of Modern India'. He was a man of multi-dimensional personality. A profound thinker, a voracious reader and a prolific writer, he combined the many in one. Unarguably, he was the most widely read person, conceptually the strongest and the most systematic thinker of his time. Armed with the best and highest of academic degrees from the world's best rated universities, he wrote massively across a wide range of disciplines, mesmerizing one and all, even his critics, by his sheer depth of knowledge and wisdom. A pious and a religious soul, he upheld humanism and moralism as the bedrock of a just and fair social order, while upholding pragmatism and realism as a path to India's ascendance to global heights. Notwithstanding his unparalleled virtues of head and heart, Ambedkar has largely been confined to his role as a constitution-drafter and a fighter against untouchability, thus belittling his massive stature. A large part of his contribution, in the opinion of this author, has gone unnoticed by

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mainstream academia and intelligentsia, thus pre-empting his elevation to the highest title of the 'Architect of Modern India'. The present article is a modest attempt to revisit Ambedkar and to highlight his role as a great nationalist, as an economist and as an erudite foreign policy expert- all rightfully constituting the virtues of a nation's architect. It aims at demystifying the clouds that have prevented his real self to unfold before the nation. The paper comes with a hope to rekindle scholars' and researcher's interest in evaluating Ambedkar in entirety, and with an objective of installing this visionary as the true 'Architect of Modern India.'

***Keywords*:** Nationalist, Foreign Policy, Philosopher, Architect, Crusader, Socialism, Capitalism, Free Market

Today while a grateful nation remembers and celebrates Dr. Ambedkar year after year and yet remains miles and miles away from his rich teachings and legacies, it is time once again to stop, look back, think and rethink about the greatness, contribution and relevance of this towering leader, whose parallel even to this day is difficult to be found. Dr. Ambedkar was a multi-faceted personality- a profound statesman, a constitutional wizard, a trained economist, and over and above all, an innately saintly person who was single-mindedly devoted to the upliftment and the welfare of the vast teeming millions of the weaker and the depressed classes. He was a voracious reader and a prolific writer having penned scores of books and articles. Throughout his life, he fought against untouchability, oppression and social evils. He passionately advocated for the dignity and honour of the depressed classes, and their rights and liberties. He was the true son of this country, a builder of the nation and a great nationalist. He was the architect of modern India's economic system, besides being a no less profound scholar of international politics, diplomacy and foreign

policy. He combined the many virtues in one. His erudite knowledge and pro-activism for the hapless mortals is amply demonstrated by his numerous works and articles, and the political parties that he formed and led successfully for years. He was the voice for many, a symbol of identity and honour for the millions of the uprooted masses and a ray of hope, a silver lining in the dark clouds!

Ambedkar contributed massively to all walks of life, be it social, legal, constitutional or political issues. It would be difficult for one to single out the area where he excelled most or to arrange his contributions in order of importance. The issues that he fought for about seventy years back are still persisting. Therefore, the relevance and reverence of Ambedkar for this country would remain perennial and a source of inspiration and hope for the millions of distraught and the downtrodden, transcending the national borders and territories. Emerging, thus, from a depressed background, he became the architect of modern India by his sheer diligence, intelligence and commitment to the nation. There is hardly any doubt about that.

Notwithstanding the above, it appears that complete justice has not been done to this great figure by scholars, analysts, commentators and the intellectual community who studied him over the years and decades. A vast part of the scholarly literature is devoted to Ambedkar's role as a leader of the depressed classes, as the champion of the depressed classes as a crusader against caste system and untouchability, as a drafter of the Constitution, and at best, the architect of India's Constitution. His other vital contributions- as an economist, as a foreign policy expert and as a nationalist have been sidelined or neglected altogether by the mainstream intelligentsia. The masterly theoretical conceptualization of complex themes, such as,

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