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### LIFE AND MISSION OF DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR

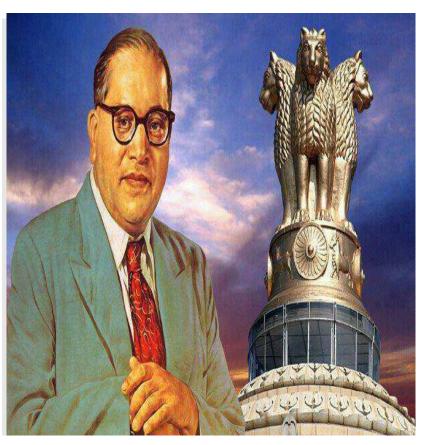




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### **Short Profile**

Sandesh Wagh is working as an Associate Professor at Department of History in Mumbai University, Mumbai. He has completed M.A., B.Ed., SET., Ph.D. He has professional experience of 14 years.



### **ABSTRACT:**

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar alias Dr. Bhimarao Ramaji Ambedkar is the chief architect of Indian Constitution, who has played a decisive role in reconstructing India. He was an intellectual of highest erudition, profound thinker, brilliant academician, a journalist and writer with scintillating style, a legal luminary of extraordinary intelligence, the first Law Minister of India, a persuasive orator, an ideal Labour Minister who formulated affirmative policies for the welfare of the labourers, a constitutional expert who contributed a lot to the constitutional history of India, a true historian with intellectual integrity, who has objectively exhumed the hidden history of India, an economic theorist of unique distinction, liberator of the Indian women, champion of the down-trodden, an emancipator of the Depressed Classes and the builder of modern democratic India. His mission

of life was to establish a new social order based on equality, liberty, fraternity and social justice.

### **KEYWORDS**

Life and Mission, Indian Constitution, extraordinary intelligence.

### 1.INTRODUCTION

It is said that philosophers have interpreted the world, but the real task is to change it. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was not a mere philosopher but a dedicated hard-core activist who has given a new vision of state socialism and socio-economic democracy to India.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was born on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1891, at MHOW, <sup>1</sup> in Madhya Pradesh, in India. His ancestors belonged to Maharashtra. <sup>2</sup> Dr. Ambedkar hailed from an untouchable Mahar community which was a worrier Naga race of ancient India. <sup>3</sup> However, at the time of his birth this community was living in inhuman and socially-economically deprived state.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar with lots of hardships completed his education in India and abroad. He acquired various degrees such as M.A, Ph.d., D.Sc., LL.D, D.Litt. and Barrister-at-Law. After completion of education he started a Civil Rights Movement for the assertion of Human Rights of the oppressed and suppressed classes in India. Mahad Water Tank Satyagraha was launched by him in the year 1927 for establishing civil rights of the untouchables for their access to the public water sources, as they had been denied to use public places, utilities and water sources. He burnt the Manusmruti, an inhuman penal code and source of illegitimate authority behind the tyrannous Hindu social order. It was not only a greatest blow to the inhumanly orthodox, ethnocentric culture, but it was an historically important step towards social-religious revolution in India. He organized Nashik Kalaram Temple Entry Movement for asserting the civil right of the Depressed Classes for their entry into temples. Dr. Ambedkar challenged the inhuman social system. These movements raised the consciousness amongst the Depressed Classes about their human as well as civil rights.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar raised the issues of emancipation of Depressed Classes at international level, in the Round Table Conferences. <sup>5</sup> He in his various capacities submitted memoranda for providing safeguards to the Depressed Classes. He at various instances gave evidence and submitted pleas to the government for the uplift of the Depressed Classes. He believed in the constitutional ways to combat ignominies and humiliations of the untouchable Depressed Classes because he was a staunch protagonist of democracy.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar played a vital role in framing an educational policy of India. His policy of 'Reservation in Education and Services' has contributed remarkably in the overall development of marginalized sections of India.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar as an economist has given the dimension of economic democracy to India.

The assimilation of Depressed, oppressed, suppressed and marginalized Classes into politics was possible because of inclusive affirmative policies put forth by Dr. Ambedkar. His role as a chief architect of the constitution of India has laid the foundation of social and economic democracy in India which has triggered the process of nation building in its true sense.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has written several books throughout his life which analyzed the Indian society, polity and religion in true sense. Some of his notable books are: Administration and Finance of the East India Company, Castes in India – Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development, The National Dividend of India – A Historical and Analytical Study, The Problem of the Rupee – Its Origin and Its Solution, Annihilation of Caste, Federation Versus Freedom, Thoughts on Pakistan, Ranade-Gandhi and Jinha, Mr. Gandhi and Emancipation of Untouchables, Communal Deadlock and a way to solve it, What Gandhi and Congress have done to the Untouchables?, Who were the Shudras? – How They Came to be the Fourth Varna in Indo-Aryan Society, States and minorities – What are their Rights and How to Secure Them in the Constitution of Free India, Maharashtra as a linguistic State, Buddhism and Communism, The Buddha and His Dhamma, Revolution and Counter Revolution, The Riddles in Hinduism, The Pali

Grammar and Dictionary, and Bouddha Puja Path.<sup>6</sup>

For raising awareness about Human Rights he started periodicals like Muknayak, Bahiskrit Bharat, Samata, Janata and Prabuddha Bharat in India.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism is an epoch-making event in the religious and socio-cultural history of India. He discarded the Hindu faith by converting to Buddhism on 14th October, 1956, at Nagapur, Maharashtra. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism had a deep and everlasting implications on the future set up of India's social and political system.

This is a landmark step towards the revival of Buddhism in India, as in the ancient period counter-revolution of Pushyamitra Shung led to the decline of Buddhism in India. During this counter-revolution many Buddhist monks were slaughtered by this Hindu king. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism channelized the process of social transformation and democratic socialization in India. It is also an issue of building separate identity of Depressed Classes as Buddhist. He found Buddhism as a place which gave importance to the freedom of mankind. His conversion to Buddhism led to the rise of population of Buddhists in India, which can be traced from the available demographic data in India. Evolution of Neo-Buddhist literature, spreading Buddhist Culture and bridging international relation with Buddhist countries in the modern times, is the legacy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism in modern India.

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