

Ambedkar Association of North America
& Canton Township Celebrates

133rd DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



April 13, 2024
Canton, MI, USA
www.aanausa.org

Event Magazine Digital Edition



Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA) &
Canton Township Celebrates

133rd DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Program

09:00-10:00	Registration and Breakfast
10:00-10:30	Guest Welcome & Welcome Song
10:30-11:00	AANA President & Guest Speeches
11:00-12:30	Panel Discussion
01:00-02:00	Lunch
02:00-04:00	Cultural Activities
04:00	Vote of Thanks

Special Guests

Rep. Ranjeev Puri (Michigan Representative)
Anne Marie Graham-Hudak (Supervisor, Canton Township)
Tania Ganguly (Trustee, Canton Township)

Panelist in Panel Discussion

Prof. Jon Keune (Associate Professor, Michigan State University)
Prof. Ramaswami Mahalingam (Professor, University of Michigan)
Prof. Shailaja Paik (Professor, University of Cincinnati)
Prof. Kefentse K Chike (Assistant Professor, Wayne State University)

Thanks a Lot

AANA Board Members, Canton Township Administration,
All Ambedkarite Attendees,
Volunteers who are working tirelessly to make this event possible.

Disclaimer:

Souvenir committee cannot be held responsible for the content published in this booklet.



AANA President Message

Dear Fellow Ambedkarites,

I am thrilled to extend my warmest greetings on behalf of **Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA)** as we commemorate the 133rd birth anniversary of Dr. B R Ambedkar. I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for your invaluable contributions to AANA and the Ambedkarite cause.

AANA was established over 15 years ago with the goal of continuing Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy by uplifting marginalized communities, particularly in India, through Education and Healthcare initiatives. Our efforts include organizing Women empowerment workshops, establishing community kitchens, donating laptops, providing career counseling, organizing blood donation camps, etc., for the underprivileged in India. In alignment with our mission, AANA is actively promoting the teachings of Buddha and Dr. Ambedkar on "Equality, Liberty and Justice" in the USA through our weekly online web vihara. We assisted 10+ states in recognizing April 14th as "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Equity Day," last year. Additionally, we are distributing Babasaheb's Writings and Speeches to universities and libraries across the USA, and are persistently advocating for caste protections for South Asians in the USA and Canada.

Your volunteering time, financial contributions and ongoing participation have had a profound impact on the lives of many. Thanks to your support, we have been able to provide over \$500K in aid for both students and healthcare. Your efforts exemplify the spirit of AANA, and we are truly grateful for your support.

As we continue our journey towards AANA's mission, we draw inspiration from individuals like you who share our vision for a better world. Your passion and enthusiasm are a beacon of hope and encouragement to us all.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

Sincerely,



Smitha Dandge

AANA President

(president@anausa.org; anausa@gmail.com;
<https://anausa.org/>)



*Thank You Sandhyaji & Family
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Canton Township Message

Congratulations to those who are celebrating Dr. Ambedkar's life and legacy. We welcome residents and visitors to Canton Township who are celebrating this day together.



Anne Marie Graham-Hudak

Supervisor, Canton Township



I am filled with immense pride as I reflect on the incredible collaboration between the planning committee and the Township of Canton in honoring the remarkable legacy of Dr. Ambedkar.

This celebration is not only pays homage to a visionary leader but also highlights the values of equality, justice, and empowerment that Dr. Ambedkar championed throughout his life.

It is truly heartwarming to witness our community come together to commemorate his teachings, which continue to inspire positive change and progress around the world.

Through our collective efforts, we are not only honoring his memory but also reaffirming our commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable community.



Laura Mortier

Recreation Supervisor

Canton Township

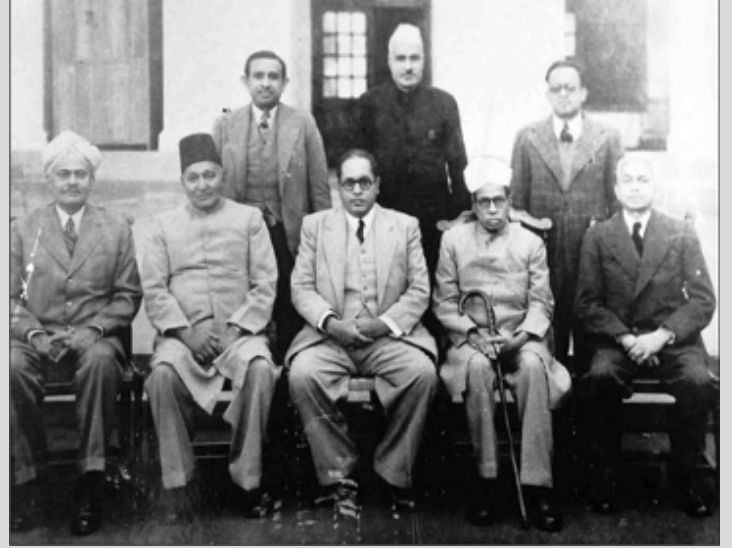
Important Life Events Of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Date	Events
14-Apr-1891	Born at Mahu (Madhya Pradesh), the fourteenth child of Subhedar Ramji Sakpal and Mrs Bhimabai Ambedkar.
1917	Columbia University conferred a Degree of Ph.D.
Mar-1923	The Thesis 'The Problem of the Rupee - Its origin and its solution' was accepted for the degree of D.Sc. (Econ.).
1923	Called to the BAR.
20-Mar-1927	Started Satyagraha at Mahad (Dist Kolaba) to secure to the untouchables the Right of access to the Chavdar Tank.
1932-34	Member joint Parliamentary Committee on the Indian Constitutional Reform.
17-Feb-1937	Dr. Ambedkar was elected Member of Bombay Legislative Assembly
Jan-1941	Dr. Ambedkar pursued the issue of recruitment of Mahars in the Army. In result the Mahars Battallion was formed
Dec-1942	Dr. Ambedkar submitted a paper on "The problems of the Untouchables in India" to the Institute of Pacific Relations at its Conference held in Canada.
13-Oct-1946	Dr Ambedkar published his book. Who were Shudras? An enquiry into how the Shudras came to be the fourth Varna in the Indo-Aryan Society. Dr Ambedkar was elected Member of the Constitution Assembly of India.
Nov-1946	Dr Ambedkar's First speech in the Constituent Assembly. He called for a 'strong and United India'.
15-Aug-1947	India obtained her Independence. Dr Ambedkar was elected to the Constituent Assembly. He became the First Law Minister of Independent India. The Constituent Assembly appointed him to the drafting Committee, which elected him as a Chairman on 29th August 1947.
26-Nov-1949	Dr Ambedkar addressed the Constituent Assembly. Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution.
5-Feb-1951	Dr. Ambedkar, Law Minister introduced his "Hindu Code Bill" in the Parliament.
5-Jun-1952	Columbia University (USA) conferred the honorary Degree of LL.D., in its Bi-Centennial Celebrations Special Convocation held in New York.
12-Jan-1953	The Osmania University conferred the honorary Degree of LL.D on Dr Ambedkar.
Mar-1953	The Untouchability (offences) Bill was introduced in the Parliament.
14-Oct-1956	Dr Ambedkar embraced Buddhism at an historic ceremony at Nagpur (Now known as - Diksha Bhoomi) with his millions of followers. Prescribed 22 vows to his followers.
6-Dec-1956	Passed away at his residence, 26 Alipore Road, New Delhi.
7-Dec-1956	Cremation at Dadar Chawpatti - Now known as Chaitya Bhoomi
31-Mar-1990	Dr Ambedkar was conferred the nation's highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna' posthumously on March 31, 1990

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar In Pictures



Dr. Ambedkar with Mr. Wallace At Columbia University After Receiving Doctor of Laws(LLD) June5,1952



Dr. Ambedkar as chairman with Constitution Committee (29 Aug 1947)



Submission of the draft of the Indian Constitution (February 1948)



Dr. Ambedkar with the women delegates of the Scheduled Castes Federation



Dr. Ambedkar & Representative of Indian Labor Party



Dr. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism at Nagpur (14th October 1956)



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*Chavan family best
wishes everyone on celebration of
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 133rd Birth
Anniversary*



Mr. Tanaji Sakpal

Sr. IT Program Manager,
Member of AANA, Social & Cultural Activist

Dr. Ambedkar and Thomas Jefferson

Dr. B.R Ambedkar is a well-known figure in India. Thomas Jefferson is comparatively less known personality for Indians. They lived in different continents at different times but the countries in which they lived were British colonies. Jefferson lived in US and Ambedkar lived in India.

Despite these diverse geographical, temporal, political and social backgrounds they had many similarities in their hobbies, their pleasures, fascinations, and likings.

Serious students: Thomas Jefferson was born on 13th April 1743 and Dr. Ambedkar was born on 14th April 1891. Both were serious students during their college and University days, studying for 15-16 hours every day, in fact they left a great legacy to the students across the globe to follow them in this respect. Jefferson loved books. His love for books was legendary; and has a rich personal library. Dr. Ambedkar is a renowned bibliophile. His love for books was perhaps more legendary than a legend. In fact, he built Rajgruh for his books.

Honorary Doctorates: Dr. Ambedkar got Ph D. in Economics and a Doctorate degree of Law (LLD) from Columbia University, D Lit. from Osmania University and D. Sc. from London School of Economics. Thomas Jefferson was awarded honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Yale, Harvard and Princeton Universities.

Constitutional Work: Both were distinguished lawyers. Both were architects of liberty – Jefferson for American colonists and Dr. Ambedkar for Depressed classes. Jefferson was an architect of historic document – Declaration of Independence and Dr. Ambedkar is an architect of Indian constitution. Slavery was source of moral affliction for Thomas Jefferson; and untouchability afflicted Ambedkar's life in every respect – moral and physical. Jefferson could not succeed in abolishing slavery in America though he was sympathetic to slaves. Dr. Ambedkar succeeded in abolishing untouchability by drafting Article 17 in Indian constitution which untouchability and makes its practice in any form, an offence.

Human rights: Jefferson was very much concerned about the protection of man's natural rights, including liberty, from the tyranny of government or oligarchy. He insisted for the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the American Constitution.

Protection of fundamental rights is one of Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacies to all Indians. He called Article 32 as a very soul of constitution and very heart of it.

Patriotism: After becoming America's president Jefferson declared 'we all are republicans – we are all federalists'. Dr Ambedkar said "I am Indian first, and Indian last" makes him nationalist of finest vintage and patriot of patriots.

Currency System: Dr. Ambedkar was associated with the currency commission, Hilton Young commission (Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance), as he has formidable credentials as economists, with two doctoral degrees in Economics : Columbia University & London School of Economics. With the recommendation of Royal commission, Reserve Bank was established as the banker to Central Government. Thomas Jefferson served on several congressional committees, including one on currency. He developed America's monetary system and introduced, for the first time, replacing the English system of pounds sterling, and pence with a decimal coinage system.

Architect of Liberty: By writing a 23-page essay "A summary View of the Rights of British America" followed by 'Declaration of the causes and Necessity for Taking up Arms and finally drafting 'Declaration of Independence' Thomas Jefferson played a pioneering role in getting freedom for American colonists from yoke of British rule.

Dr. Ambedkar made relentless efforts for safeguarding the rights of the untouchables for the upliftment of downtrodden people. He drafted Article 17 in Indian constitution to liberate untouchables from the yoke of untouchability. He gave pride of place of equality in the list of fundamental rights.

Fascination for Architecture: Thomas Jefferson and Dr. Ambedkar took pleasure in designing, redesigning, and modernizing their homes and spending lot of their money and time on this endeavor. Monticello, Jeffersons home in Charlottesville, VA became a 40-year project. Rajgruh, Dr. Ambedkar's home in Mumbai did not take that long, but he spent a lot of money and time constructing his home.

Hobbies: Both played violin as a hobby. Jefferson played violin right from his school days, while Ambedkar started playing violin at a very late stage of his life to soothe his overstressed mental faculty.



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Dr Ambedkar - A Poem

Dreams he had that he tried to seize,
Respected for all that he achieved.

A boat of history that never sank.
Made history by drinking from the public tank.
Believed that being an untouchable is not bad.
Educated well and is glad.
Don't do violence, it is not the way.
Kind, brave, a leader, and always had something to say.
An awesome and respected life,
Ramabai was his selfless and supportive wife.



Tashi Dhakne

5th Grade , Rochester , MI



A True Patriot

Dr. Ambedkar's love for his homeland,
born in India's soil, stood alone for equal rights.
He fought for justice, for every creed,
Babasaheb's patriotism, a noble deed.

With pen & paper, he changed the game,
he challenged the norms, on every step.
From the struggle for justice, to drafting laws,
he raised his voice, for women's rights.

With a vision of, fair united land,
his love for motherland, steadfast & strong.
He devoted his life, without a care,
inspires us, to right the wrongs.

In the battle of equality, he stood alone tall,
he fought with passion, with grace & grace,
Babasaheb! you are, a true Patriot!



Pushpa Patil

AANA Member, Rochester Hills , MI



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Mr. Chatak Dhakne

Sr. Product Engineer. Rochester, MI
Member, Volunteer & Board Member, AANA

Dr Ambedkar & Thoughts on Reading.

Dr Ambedkar's birthday, i.e. April 14th, is celebrated as a "Symbol of Knowledge Day" or "World Knowledge Day". Every year, on this day, State Govt in India asked Educational institutes to organize seminars on the subjects Dr Ambedkar wrote. State govt also publishes, promotes and encourages readings of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar 's Writing and Speeches (BAWS)

Dr Ambedkar recognized the transformative power of reading. There is a famous quote by Dr Ambedkar in regional Marathi language "Vachal tar Vachal" which can be translate as "Read so one survive"(or if you read , you will succeed).

It's a widely known fact that Dr Ambedkar was a voracious reader. He had read on a wide range of topics like economics, sociology, law, politics, philosophy, religion, history, fiction and poetry also. Dr Ambedkar loved reading and knew reading brings "pragnya" (wisdom, insight or understanding). As per biographer Dhananjay Keer's book, he had purchased more than 2000 books when he was in New York. In London, while attending Round Table Conference in 1931, the books he bought were so many that he had to use 32 big boxes to ship to India. When books were scarce and expensive, he had collected over 50,000 books for his Personnel Library at Rajgruha, Mumbai, which , till his death was the largest personnel library. Wide and extensive reading plays a vital role in forming and connecting ideas. Extensive reading over a broad cross section of subjects gave Dr Ambedkar extraordinary ability to analyze information through a broader and historical collective knowledge base. It was effortless for him to come up with a perspective from history, different cultures or different subject matter. In his many writings and speeches, he will aptly use analogies to explain abstract topics.

In one of his early paper, "Small holdings in India and their remedies" , Dr Ambekar analyses Indian Agricultural holding and its productivity and compares it with other countries. He points issues in Indian agriculture, like low productivity or idle worker because of small holding in India and provides remedies, which are still applicable today. It is awe inspiring to think of enormous reading and data collection required for the paper, particularly in 1918 when the data was not readily available.

Human Right Activist Mangesh Dahiwale writes "The way he constructs the theory of the origin of Shudra

and untouchables is a great art of knowledge production based on vast and deep reading, but also imaginative and reasoned way of thinking and arriving at the conclusions".

In his Masterpiece "Buddha and his Dhamma" preface Dr Ambedkar says, he claim no originality of the book and it is a compilation and assembly work". However, the perspective brought by Dr Ambedkar from his wide range of knowledge over broad cross section of subjects, lead to culmination of the most rational, logical and scientific book. Its till date the best book on Buddha and his teaching.

Late Charlie Munger, used to say, you can be a lot smarter and wiser learning from the imminent dead. Newton highly spoke of "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants and learning from the Collective Wisdom of Human Species. We have an opportunity to coattail the compounded wisdom and knowledge of Dr Ambedkar by reading his writings and Speeches.

Dr Ambedkar's entire Writing and Speeches were made available by the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India at

<https://www.mea.gov.in/books-writings-of-ambedkar.htm>.

Lets get inspired from Babasaheb and let's make a resolution to read Babasaheb Ambedkar Writing and Speeches BAWS Volume.



" Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence"- Dr Ambedkar.



*Smitha and Sandeep Congratulate
AANA's Michigan chapter for their
steadfast efforts and being the
cornerstone of AANA*



*Warm wishes on Dr. Ambedkar Birth
Anniversary . Let's unite to stand
against discrimination & fight for
equality on this occasion.*

*-Mahesh, Trupti, Arsh, Sana & Tina
Wasnik*



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Purchasing Manager, Novi, Michigan.
Social Activist AANA, AIC and AIM.

Worldwide Birth Anniversary Celebration Of Our Emancipator

Worldwide Ambedkarite organization going to celebrate in-person or online events to commemorate the 197th birth Anniversary of Mahatma Jotirao Phule & 133rd birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Last year in 2023, Burnaby City of British Columbia Canada, Province of British Columbia Canada, Colorado, Maryland, Michigan, and Jersey City in New Jersey States issued a proclamation declaring April 14th as an Equity Day and Equality Day.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's last message (Reference: Reminiscences and Remembrances of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar).

“Whatever I have done, I have been able to do after passing through crushing miseries and endless struggle all my life and fighting with my opponents. With great difficulty, I have brought this caravan where it is seen today. Let the caravan march on despite the hurdles that may come in its way. If my lieutenants cannot take the caravan ahead, they should leave it there, but in no circumstances should they allow the carevan to go back. This is the message to my people.”

By looking at the current scenario with the global Ambedkarite movement, we are all confident that we to take Dr Ambedkar's caravan to the next level. There is a spate of local Ambedkarite organizations in major cities around the world that are celebrating their important events with the local community by increasing awareness of Ambedkar's thoughts and his struggle to get rights for the Bahujan community.

Dr. Ambedkar fights to eradicate old caste-based discrimination. He was an architect of India's Constitution to build modern India based on the principles of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity despite their language, culture, race, gender, nationality, and religion.

Both anniversary falls in April and it has been

celebrated at various levels like medical camps (Eyecare, blood donation, regular checkups); 18 hrs. nonstop studies in Vihara's and study circle to remember his dedication to education, 5J Run or marathon events, essay competitions, BAWS book distribution, online and In-person debates in University and at local events, Speeches, intellectual talks in the local university, musical programs, Cultural Activity, DJ, Dance, and many more.

Every local Buddha Vihara has Mahatma Phule, and Dr. Ambedkar Status or portraits, and the local community organizes events to respect their leaders and remember their community contributions. This event brings us together not only to remember him but also to pay back to society.

The Bahujan community comes together from all over the world like The United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Holland, Austria, Belgium, Lebanon, Japan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Brunei, Oman, Qatar, Dubai, Bahrain, Kuwait, Malaysia, and of course India. Most of the Indian Embassy and Indian consulates celebrate this day at their respective places.

Please find the event schedule along with the date, timings, and joining details for various events that are being organized around the world as a **“Global Birth Anniversary Celebration”**.



DR. B.R. Ambedkar Mahatma Jotirao Phule



Dr. Santosh Raut (Maitreeveer Nagarjuna)

Fellow, Harvard University
EFL University, Hyderabad

Navayāna Buddhism: Dr Ambedkar's Vision for New Forms and Possibilities of Buddhism Today

Introduction

Scholars on Dr. Ambedkar have written extensively on his life and work. But the Buddhist perspective, which his last great gift in the last phase of life is overlooked in terms of understanding a new society on the basis of Dhamma. The new conversion movement (Ambedkarite Buddhist movement) is now grown and influencing considerably the life India, reaching other castes among his followers (there are many sub-castes among Dalits). In my experience of working among people and scholars, I experience a gulf among his followers in significant connection between understanding the Buddha-Dhamma and Dr Ambedkar's Buddhist vision. His sudden death in six weeks and growing Buddhist movement after great mass conversion all the more sets an urgent attention not only to research his Buddhist vision that changed the life of millions but also invites to investigate deeply the lack of Buddhist intellectual understanding and leadership to make Ambedkarite Buddhist movement effective in terms of fulfilling unfinished Buddhist project.

Even after 70 years, the leadership has not been established to lead this Buddhist way of life for millions of Dalits.

Defining Navayāna Buddhism

Dr. Ambedkar's educational and socio-political teachings have been developed among his followers, some of whom view Buddhism only as a political identity. But his last great gift the Buddha-Dhamma has only begun and still needs much deeper consideration. One reason is that Ambedkarite recently converted to Buddhism, in a difficult cultural context, without Buddhist traditions already in place. Dr. Ambedkar insisted Buddhism must be engaged with a society, although he goes back to the spirit of Buddha's exhortation to the first Sangha to form a new society on the basis of Dhamma, the spirit that lost to a large extent in our times.

Ambedkarite Buddhism places a strong emphasis on the principles of equality and social justice. It rejects

the hierarchical caste system prevalent in Hinduism and advocates for the abolition of caste-based discrimination. The conversion to Buddhism is seen as a form of liberation for so called untouchables and other marginalized communities from the oppressive social structures of Hinduism. Ambedkar believed that Buddhism, with its emphasis on equality and non-discrimination, provided a more inclusive and just spiritual path. He often reject elaborate rituals and idol worship, which are common in traditional Hindu practices; a common reason for Brahmanical hegemony. However, Dr Ambedkar deeply believed in the power of wisdom (prañña) and loving-kindness (metta) of the Buddha; the source of inspiration. The rituals that delivers liberation and not hegemony is mainly rejected by his followers. They focus more on the ethical and liberative teachings of Buddhism. The movement is not only about religious conversion but also involves followers work towards the eradication of social discrimination, and the upliftment of marginalized communities. Ambedkarite Buddhism continues to be an important aspect of the social and cultural landscape in India, representing a powerful movement for social transformation and the empowerment of historically marginalized communities. It is socially engaged Buddhist movement – even before the term 'engaged Buddhism' was coined – that strives for abolition for slavery and any form of oppression in a society.

There is a strong Buddhist presence of noted Buddhist leaders and Buddhist movement like HH Dalai Lama and presence of Tibetan Buddhists, Triratna Buddhist Movement, UK since 1970, Bhante Surai Sasai since 1967, and work of Soka Gakkai-Nichiren Buddhist movement and Ogawa Society Japan since late 80s, that influences newly converted Buddhists in India. In spite being presence of several Buddhist movement and teachers in India, the growth of Ambedkarite Buddhism is yet to develop its form of practices and tradition as young Buddhists, though mostly they follow Theravadin teachings and practices. Followers of Ambedkarite Buddhism adhere to the core teachings of Buddhism, including the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. The concept of Dhamma is central to their spiritual practice without organised and institutionalised Buddhist tradition. But the situation is dynamic and evolving, thus the forms and possibilities of Navayāna Buddhism.

Challenges Today

Buddhism is an exceptional contribution to India by Dr. Ambedkar today, but to move on Ambedkarite Buddhist movement needs a new form Buddhist leadership. What are the virtues and characteristics of an Ambedkarite Buddhist leader? Buddhism observes no caste, but if Ambedkar's caste remains a

parameter for being an Ambedkarite Buddhist leader, question is, will it reduce down to an ethnic movement? Dr Ambedkar thought that monk and nuns should be a forefront army to spread the teachings of the Buddha. But he criticized that monk are army of idler (The Buddha and Future of His Religion), and advocated humanistic Buddhism than a from monastic Buddhism. He believed humanistic form over monastic form. He expressed he preferred a walking Buddha than seating Buddha. In the spirit of leadership, it is famously and unmistakably recognized by Dr. Ambedkar that the Buddha is Mārg Dātā (way finder/guide) and not Moksha Dātā (giver of salvation), travels and liberates the people. Despite the significant rise in the number of Buddhists in India, there are less institutional structure for initiating the Ambedkarite Buddhist leadership.

Another challenge in front of contemporary Buddhist movement in India is an absence systematic institution of monks and nuns inspired by the Buddhist vision of Dr. Ambedkar. In fact question is more fundamental; how can monks and nuns would fulfil the lack of Buddhist leadership for the followers of Dr. Ambedkar? Due to Dr. Ambedkar's early death, he had little time to formulate detailed Buddhist practices, and the question still remained unanswered about the identity of 'Ambedkarite Buddhists' in the larger Buddhist world. The Buddhist perspective of Dr. Ambedkar has much to offer cutting-edge politically heated communities both in India and abroad, but the story has not yet reached its full potential in terms of

communication. The question is how an Ambedkarite Buddhist leadership would deal with the complicated issues of caste and religion in both India and other countries. It is important to notice a crucial challenge that Ambedkar is co-opted by every political party and so his Buddhist movement. Put differently, modern Buddhism in India is being appropriated by the larger Hindu culture. By watering down its core principles, Buddhist mass has been co-opted by the growing Hindu nationalist movement. The challenge is how an Ambedkarite Buddhist organization can maintain its distinct identity in the wider Hindu culture without being appropriated.

However, Ambedkar's far-reaching vision invites a fundamental change in a socio-rational orientation leading to a special form of consciousness in terms of social-endosmosis by breaking down barriers and leading towards social egalitarianism or an ideal society. He considered this to be true not just for the oppressed castes or underprivileged classes but it is the surest basis for a truly just and harmonious society anywhere. For him, real reform comes about only by disposition of mind of many people in society. The Buddha's Dhamma offers the densest basis for that change of mind that is the surest way as believed by him. He embraced Buddha's non-violent, compassionate, and liberating path to make not only India as Prabuddha Bhārata- an enlightened India but also a Prabuddha Vishva - an enlightened world.



Dr. Ambedkar conversion to Buddhism with his followers - 14 Oct 1956



*Wish you all happy Dr. Ambedkar
Birth Anniversary. Let's work
together for Justice, Equality &
Fraternity.
-Raipure Family*



*Warm wishes on Birth Anniversary of a
prolific figure Dr. B. R. Ambedkar,
whose ideals and values will continue to
inspire us.
- Dhakne Family*



Ashok Baddi

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My Brief Poetical Introduction

I am Real, I exist
I am a human Being,
I am proud of my skin
From the clan of 'Great Mahars'.
I confess, Jesus the Carpenter (Shudra) is the
reason of my existence.
My ancestors were brown, I grew up Brown
slumdog Mahar,
Maharhood is in my roots and I am not ashamed
of it.
The problem is with them
They wrote me as 'UGLY' in their Language.
They called me 'impure' DEMON in their so
called Sacred texts.
My heroes Phule-Ambedkar burned their
'heaven' and 'pure' chants to ashes.
They still didn't stop in their ways of
dehumanization.
Now I say,
Enough is Enough,

With Truth By my side,
I am digging into my inner-soul refilling my pen
with the ink-color of Babasaheb's Coat
To write a New song,
A song of Life,
A song of emancipation,
A song of Justice,
A song of hope,
A song of Joy,
A song of Liberation,
A song of Love,
A song of Caste Reconciliation A song of Manu
Annihilation,
Which would lead me and my people in
Redemption.

JAI BHIM!!



Dr. Obed Manwatkar

Professor of World Religions & Cultures,
North Park University, Chicago, IL, United
States.



SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN
VOICES FOR IMPACT

*wishes everyone on celebration of
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 133rd Birth
Anniversary*

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Mrs. Kranti Chavan

Member of AANA, Social & Cultural Activist

Babasaheb Ambedkar and Dana Parami

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (14th April 1891 - 6th December 1956) is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution. He belonged to an untouchable community, traditionally the most oppressed and marginalized group in Indian society. He was the First Law Minister of India, a legal scholar, a politician, and a social reformer. He devoted his entire life to working and uplifting the socially backward classes of India.

Dana (Giving) Parami: In Buddhism ‘Parami’ or ‘Paramita’ translates to perfection, are the core virtues or concepts like truthfulness, generosity, morality and renunciation to be fulfilled by the Bodhisattva (someone aspiring to become a Buddha). Generosity or Dana (Giving) is the first of ten ‘Paramitas’. It is a preliminary step to Buddhist practice and can become a foundation and seed of spiritual development. Dana Parami, when practiced alone becomes a basis of merit (wholesome deed) and when practiced along with Morality (Sila) and Wisdom can lead to liberation from suffering.

Dr. Ambedkar as a Donor - Dana (Donor) of education: Education was historically denied to Untouchable communities for centuries. Despite of all odds, Dr Ambedkar would go on earning a total of 9 degrees in his lifetime which were B.A, M.A (2), M.Sc, D.Sc, PhD, LLD, D.Litt and Bar-at-law.

Dr. Ambedkar used his education to make revolutionary social reforms, the annihilation of caste in India and the Emancipation of backward sections of the society. In his words, “The education that makes us neither competent nor teaches us lessons of equality and morality is no more education”. He emphasized on the character building, and developing qualities like equality, brotherhood, fearlessness and freedom through education.

Dana of Self-respect, Dignity and Equality: Dr Ambedkar was appointed as the chairman of the drafting committee along with seven other members and is considered the Chief Architect of the Indian constitution. The constitution guarantees protection for a wide range of civil liberties for Indian citizens regardless of their caste and gender including religious freedom, abolishes Untouchability and prohibits all forms of discrimination.

Fight against caste discrimination: Dr B R Ambedkar believed caste is the basic unit of Hindu society and must be abolished. He campaigned against the caste system and led a social movement to instill ideas of self-esteem and self-confidence in his followers. He led Mahad Satyagrah (Non-Violent March) in 1927 to allow untouchables to use water in the public tank in Mahad. In 1930, he led the Kalaram Temple movement to allow untouchables entry to Hindu Temples and worship gods and to challenge the oppressive caste norms of the time. He condemned and also burnt copies of “Manusmriti” (Manu’ Code of Law, Hindu text) in protest of the caste system.

Dana of gender equality: Dr Ambedkar promoted women’s rights to vote, education and gender equality. He recognized lack of education for women in Indian patriarchal society was the biggest barrier for women empowerment. He wrote in a newspaper that “knowledge and learning are not for men alone, they are essential for women too”. He believed that education is a birthright, and must be free and accessible. Article 45 of Indian constitution drafted by Dr. Ambedkar describes compulsory education for all children. He supported Hindu Code Bill of Indian constitution which gives women absolute rights to all property and the Maternity bill which recognizes the dignity of women in workplaces.

Dana of new identity: In Annihilation of caste Dr. Ambedkar writes, “Caste as a planned misfortune”. Today, caste is a social scale in which division of labourer are ‘graded’. The caste system is the social division of the same race. It has thousands of sub castes, with deeply- rooted inequality. Today, our behavior is governed by Castes, our values and principles have become caste bound. Caste has become a state of the mind. The notion of Caste not only originated from Hindu religion but from Hindu Shastras which permit them to believe in their sanctity”.

He denounced the Hindu religion and its caste system on 14th October 1956. He, along with half million followers embraced Buddhism in Nagpur to gain human treatment, equality, liberty and justice.

They all took refuge in the Three jewels (The Buddha, the Dhamma & the Sangha), 5 precepts and 22 Vows (Pledges) written by himself. Dr Ambedkar believed these vows are the guidelines of the social revolution and motivates social instinct. These vows demonstrate social aspect of “Navayana (Revival) Buddhism and its deviation from earlier sect of Buddhism.

Benefits of Dana: Dr B R Ambedkar’s donation is measureless, boundless and benefits every human being of the society. His Dana is tremendous, full of compassion and with pure intentions. He exerted himself, worked tirelessly his entire life to relieve his community from ignorance and suffering and helped

them move along the path of awakening.

Recipient of Dana: Dr B R Ambedkar planted the seed of Education, fraternity and equality. Recipients of Dana are the people of untouchable community, who are like fields where the seeds are sown. Just as fields free of weeds and grass are highly productive, so are recipients free of greed, hatred and ignorance will enjoy benefits all the more. Just as fields will yield a plentiful harvest when they are rich in manure and fertilizers, so also good results will accrued by donors when the recipients are persons of virtue and wisdom. Recipients reciprocate generosity by establishing strong intention to continue their donor's work and the mission.

The Practice of Dana Paramita: The practice of giving is one of the most basic human virtues, a quality that testifies to the depth of one's humanity and one's capacity for self-transcendence.

It is more than just giving to charity. It is a spirit of responding to the world and giving what is needed and appropriate at the time. It helps tear down our ego-walls while it relieves some of the sufferings of the world. And it also includes being grateful for the generosity shown to you.



डॉ. सुनीता रानी
Indianapolis, USA
PHD in Geography, India

बहुजन मिशन

आंबेडकरवादी सैनिक हो तुम !२!
नीली क्रांति का ऐलान करो !!
इस मनुवादी मानसिकता पर,
सवाल सवाल करो !२!

जब तन ढकने को बस्त न था !२!
न एक निवाला रोटी का !!
बहुजन की ऐसी देख दशा !
साहब की आँखे रोई थी !!

कलयुग नहीं कलम युग आया !२!
नीद से अब जगने का युग आया !!
अब बात है तेरे मान की !
बाबासाहेब के संविधाव की !!

जीने का अब मौका आया !२!
सदियों से जो हमे दबाया !!
आगाज कर अमन परस्ती का !
बाबासाहेब की हस्ती का !!

रंग नीला ये स्वाभिमान का है !२!
बहुजन की एकता-सम्मान का है !!
एकजुट हो कर प्रयास करो !
बहुजन मिशन का बिस्तार करो !!

ये अंत नहीं आरम्भ है अब !२!
बिचारो का उगता सूरज है !!
है कौन तुम ये प्रमाण करो !
पाखंडो का सर्वनाश करो !!

जो आज यहाँ हम खड़े हुए !२!
महामानव के सम्मान में !!
है गर्व हमे तुमपे बाबा !
तेरा कद ऊँचा आसमान से !!

जो आज तलक है हमे मिला !२!
तेरे संघर्षो का वो फल है !!
ऐ बहुजन तू कमजोर न पड !
आने वाला तेरा कल है !!

आंबेडकरवादी सैनिक हो तुम !२!
नीली क्रांति का ऐलान करो !!
इस मनुवादी मानसिकता पर,
सवाल सवाल करो !२!



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**COALITION OF
AMERICANS FOR
PLURALISM IN INDIA
(C.A.P.I.)**

**wishes everyone on
celebration of**

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's
133rd Birth Anniversary**



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ART GALLERY



Vismay Mangesh Ramteke, Louisville, Kentucky



Trupti Washnik, Novi, Michigan



Priya Raipure, Rochester, Michigan



Sana Wasnik, Novi, Michigan

**INDIAN AMERICAN MUSLIM COUNCIL
(IAMC)**

wishes everyone on celebration of
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 133rd Birth
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PHYSICAL THERAPY

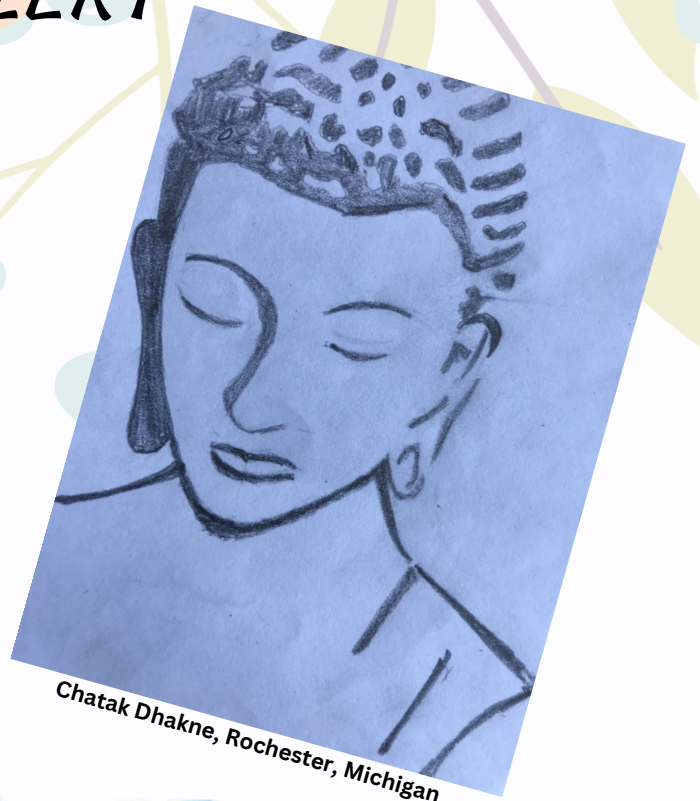
Path to Pain-Free Life!

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ART GALLERY



Jitendra Salunke, Jalgaon

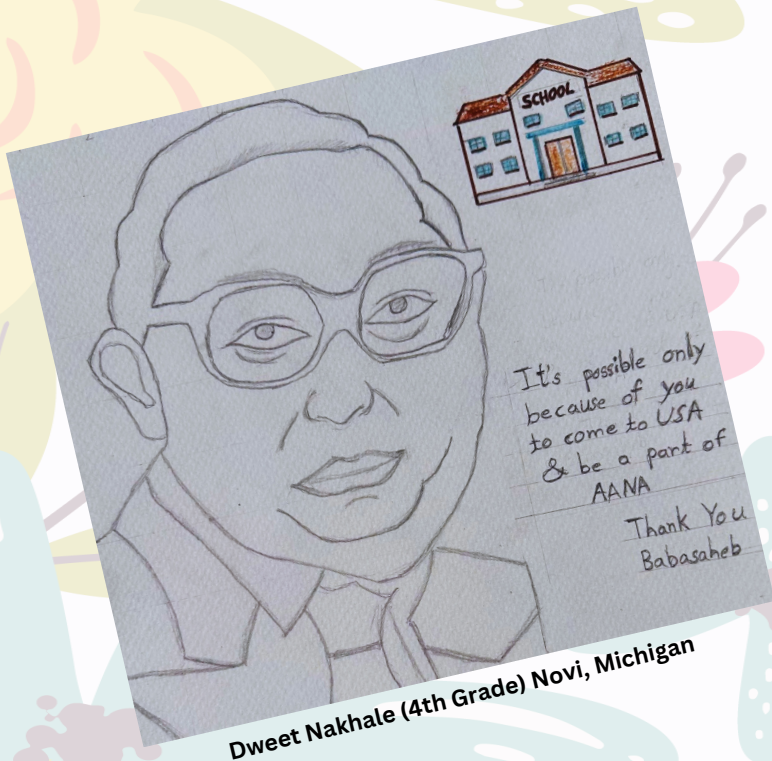


Chatak Dhakne, Rochester, Michigan

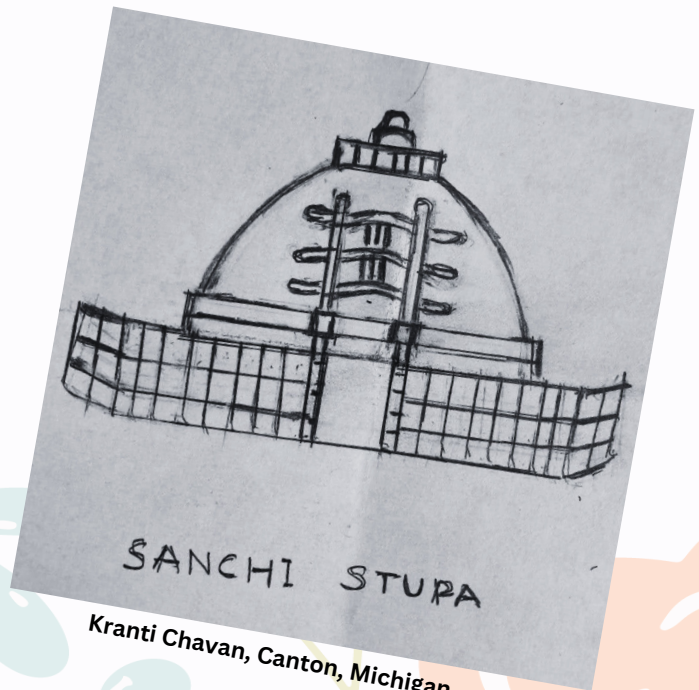
“EDUCATE
AGITATE
ORGANIZE”

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

ARYA PATIL, Rochester, Michigan



Dweet Nakhale (4th Grade) Novi, Michigan



Kranti Chavan, Canton, Michigan

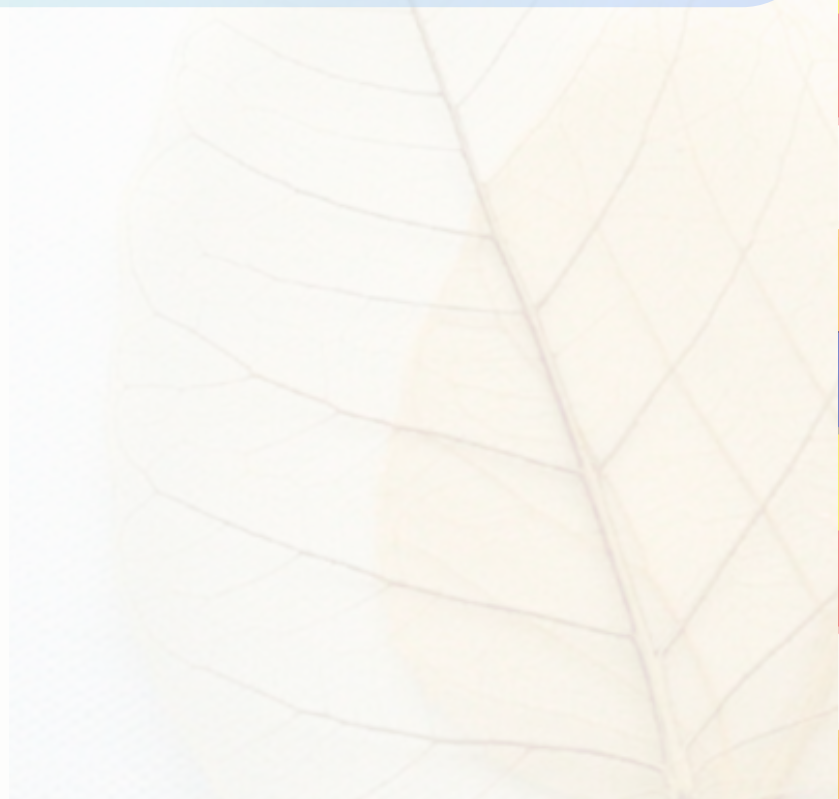
State Representative Message



State Representative Ranjeev Puri

Michigan House of Representatives

Warm wishes on Ambedkar Jayanti! By commemorating this day, we acknowledge the importance of social justice, equality, and human dignity in our collective journey towards a better tomorrow.





Arhant Awale

10th Grade, Sophomore , Indiana

Essay : DR. B.R. Ambedkar And The Making of Indian Constitution

Dr. Bhimrao R. Ambedkar stands as a very important figure in Indian history for his invaluable contributions to the making of the Indian Constitution, which is currently the longest in the world. Born into a Dalit family in 1891, Ambedkar faced tremendous discrimination and adversity, which fueled his determination to fight for social justice and equality.

As an accomplished scholar and jurist, Dr. Ambedkar's role in the framing of the Indian Constitution was pivotal. In 1947, he was appointed as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, he was tasked with the monumental task of drafting the guiding principles of liberated India. Ambedkar brought to the table a profound understanding of

constitutional law and a firm commitment to the welfare of marginalized communities. One of Dr. Ambedkar's major contributions was his advocacy for social justice. He fervently advocated the inclusion of provisions in the Constitution to uplift the oppressed and ensure their equal participation in the nation's progress. Ambedkar's relentless efforts led to the incorporation of affirmative action measures, such as reservations, to address historical injustices and promote social inclusion. Moreover, Dr. Ambedkar played a pivotal role in shaping the Fundamental Rights presented in the Constitution. He emphasized the need to guarantee basic liberties for all citizens, regardless of caste, creed, or gender.

His insistence on fundamental rights laid the foundation for a democratic framework that prioritized individual freedom and protection. Dr. Ambedkar's progressive stance on gender equality also left a lasting impact on the Constitution. He advocated for provisions safeguarding the rights of women, paving the way for constitutional guarantees such as the right to equality and freedom from discrimination. Ambedkar's advocacy for gender parity and empowerment resonates through the constitutional framework, reflecting his vision of a just and egalitarian society.

Furthermore, Dr. Ambedkar's expertise in constitutional law informed the design of institutions that upheld the principles of federalism and parliamentary democracy. He emphasized the importance of a robust federal structure and mechanisms to ensure effective governance and promote unity amidst diversity.

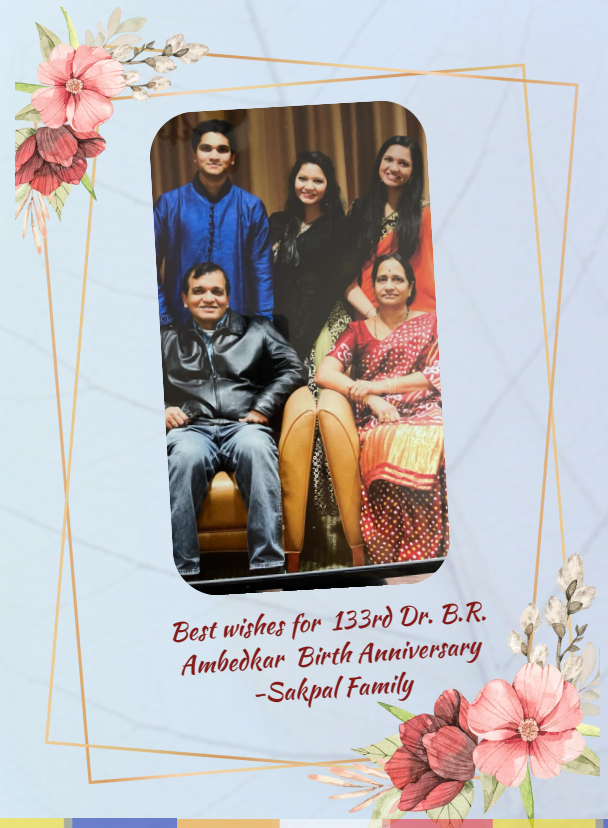
In conclusion, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's role in the making of the Indian Constitution was indispensable. His moral courage and unwavering commitment to social justice continue to inspire generations of Indians. As we reflect on his legacy, it is imperative to uphold the principles he espoused and strive towards building a more inclusive and equitable society, honoring the vision of a truly democratic India envisioned by Dr. Ambedkar.



I feel that the constitution is workable, it is flexible and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peacetime and in wartime. Indeed, if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is that Man was vile.

— B. R. Ambedkar —

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's quote from his speech to the Constituent Assembly on Nov 25, 1949





Kavini Royan

9th Grade, Novi, Michigan

Essay : Comparative Study- DR. B. R Ambedkar and Other Global Civil Right Leaders

Shackled in chains. Strapped in belts. Tied in ropes. And imprisoned in handcuffs. But he overcame it all. Ran past the hurdles, and flew past the barriers. Ignored all sorts of obstacles and only focused on reaching the finish line. Someone who fell down seven times, but stood back up eight, stands with his head high today. A preeminent example of Martin Luther King Jr's. words. When he couldn't fly he ran. When he was unable to run he walked. When walking wasn't possible he crawled. He did anything to move forward, and never stopped. Someone who stands as an encouraging inspiration to everyone; Yes... this is the story of none other than Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Born from a caste considered lowest of the low in Maharashtra, Ambedkar went on to become one of the most remarkable leaders ever known. Despite growing up in a society where traditional customs played a big role, and made it difficult to come forward in life as a Dalit, Ambedkar was one of the most educated during his times. Not only was he the first Indian to pursue a doctorate in Economics abroad, but he was also the first double doctorate holder in Economics in the whole of South Asia! The significance of Ambedkar is that he didn't use his education just to elevate the life of Dalits, but the society as a whole.

AMBEDKAR AND THURGOOD MARSHALL:

There were so many days in Ambedkar's life when he gave up on meals, just to go buy a book and extend his knowledge during his studies abroad.. A man who was so tight financially, still prioritized education and valued its impact to a great extent. This is just one of the few examples of how he struggled to educate himself. Yet these hindrances only accelerated his progress. He educated himself so well that his thesis "The problem of Rupee – its origin and solutions" is what helped the country frame and establish the foundations of the Reserve Bank of India. Doesn't it just make so much sense to have his face printed on our currency notes?

Similar to Ambedkar there once lived a prominent civil rights leader- Thurgood Marshall. Marshall was also someone who faced poverty early in his life. Despite being racially discriminated against, that is what developed his passion for civil rights. Marshall used this as a path as an opportunity for his education. He worked all his life to become a civil rights lawyer, to fight against white supremacy and Jim Crow laws. Like Ambedkar, Marshall fought for black equality by using his education and influence to advance equality for all.

AMBEDKAR AND ROSA PARKS:

Rosa Parks, who was not just a civil right activist but also a voting right activist, worked hard for several years to earn equal voting rights for women. Yes, women had earned their right to vote in the US way back in 1920. But even after twenty years, women still faced hardships when it came to voting. For example in the late 1940's, Rosa Parks was denied the right to vote quite a few times.

The excuse behind this was she had been a "criminal" who broke the law by refusing to give her seat to a white passenger on the bus. Remember that this was just a cover up to prevent a woman from voting. She was forced to pass a literacy exam, and even pay a poll tax just to vote, when this was all supposed to be her basic right. Alas, she was finally eligible to vote around 1950.

This draws parallels back to Ambedkar once again. While drafting the Indian constitution, Ambedkar worked hard to use his education to bring equal voting rights to everyone, irrespective of caste, color, creed or even gender. Keep in mind that he established voting rights for all very close to the same time Rosa Parks was fighting for the voting rights in the USA. So much for the US being a developed country.

AMBEDKAR AND MARTIN LUTHER KING:

In his childhood, Ambedkar was denied the right to equality several times due to his caste. We are all aware of how a few decades ago, colored people were segregated in the United States. They weren't allowed to use or share anything the whites used. The most popular one was the issue with the water fountain. There were two different kinds of water fountains, one for each race to use. Martin Luther King was a global civil right leader who faced this problem in his childhood. He was confounded by this unfair treatment. However these small incidents are what helped him eventually work towards dismantling segregation.

It's quite ironic to see how a country across the world was facing a similar issue. When Ambedkar was a child, during recess he went for a small water break. Right as he was devouring the small glass of water as the blazing sun shined upon him, a group of boys came sprinting toward him and frantically tried to stop him. Ambedkar was shocked; he was puzzled by the way he was being treated. Why was he set apart from the others? Why was he being stopped? Why was he the one considered an "untouchable"? However little did everyone know, that these questions he asked himself that day, are what sparked him to contribute to the future dam projects. The National Power Grid System, the Central Water Irrigation and Navigation Commission, the Damodar Valley Project, the Bhakra Nangal Dam project, The Son River valley project and the Hirakut dam project and so on. These projects helped evenly distribute the water supply to all communities irrespective of caste. What a generous idea that helps the same society that was once against him!

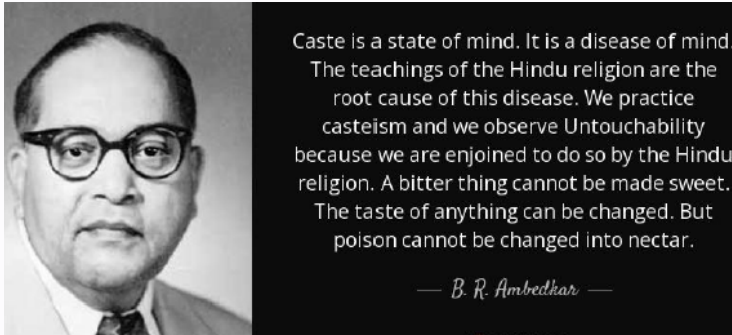
Rather than burning out after each time he was discriminated against, Ambedkar used the fallen ashes from the problems he faced early on in his life, to help ignite a fire and guide him through the end of the tunnel so that he could reach a bright side of life. A man who concentrated all his life to transform not only his own life but the society and his community as a whole. He dreamed of bringing justice to all and eradicating discrimination. He worked diligently to ensure people who lived a dark and grim life earned the same opportunities as those who lived brightly and gleamingly. He did this by making sure education was not just an opportunity, but a mandatory weapon for everyone to use, in their own battlefield of life. As Malcom X once said "Education is the passport to our future". The future is in our hands. Let us all make the best out of it by carrying on the legacy of Ambedkar, and follow his steps. Let us all come together to strive and make his dream come true.



Shaivi Wankhede

11th Grade, Chicago , Illinois

Essay: Teachings of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



Our people were oppressed, and stripped of simple human rights. The caste system binds the people of our caste in shackles. Simply for being born into the disadvantageous side of an unfair human-made caste system.

We could've chosen war. We could've chosen violence to fight for our injustice. We could've sought out revenge.

Instead, we chose education, we chose to hold our heads high, and we simply fought for justice with dignity.

The teachings of our beacon of hope, Dr. Ambedkar.

Dr. Ambedkar: an author of the Indian Constitution, a jurist, economist, politician, and social reformer, and an advocate for marginalized groups in India was able to change lives for millions. He had the strength to push away from the suffocations that Dalits had to face.

In a period where caste, religion, color, sex, race, class, and creed divided humans and created a hierarchy of power.

Dr. Ambedkar presented his teachings of a world where every human being deserves respect. He tells the world that our merit, not our birth, determines our value in this world. Everyone should receive equal opportunities, everyone deserves an education. It is how we utilize our knowledge that determines our hierarchy of power.

Education was Dr. Ambedkar's superpower. We didn't fight a war, we fought in court. We didn't kill, we read and studied. He taught us that in the face of adversity, it is important to fight for your rights and respect yourself. He knew that his battle would not be easy, still, he urged that the matter was way too important to give up. We all wouldn't have the life we have if it wasn't for our god, Dr. Ambedkar.

Dr. Ambedkar's teachings follow 4 main parts: Education, Perseverance, Dignity, and Social Responsibility.

His teachings are centered on the main principle of equality. He believed that Dalits, and all other castes that were being treated as second-class all deserved respect and fair treatment. This is regardless of any restrictions imposed by society.

Dr. Ambedkar said the only way to move away from these partial mindsets was to educate the people. He strongly believed that education was essential for personal growth and development. He believed that everyone deserves an education and everyone should strive to gain knowledge.

He asserted that perseverance is the key to success. His journey to bring equality in India was not easy and received many oppressors. However, he continued his fight for equality because he truly believed that there was value in fighting for what was right and bringing justice to the Dalits.

He believed that the most effective way to bring change is to have self-respect and dignity. These are the principles that allow people to stand up for themselves. The first step is to always have self-respect.

Lastly, Dr. Ambedkar fought for equality because he felt that he had a social responsibility to do so. He believed that it is the responsibility of every single individual to work towards a more equitable society. Which led him to encourage millions to work tirelessly against the cruelty many faced. Dr. Ambedkar's teachings are represented in many of the social progress campaigns that were launched later around the world. We can bring change to injustice too by following Ambedkar's teachings.



*Wish you all happy Dr. Ambedkar
Birth Anniversary & loads of
willpower to work for the welfare of
society
- Chawhan Family*



*We wish everyone happy Bhim Jayanti.
Let's carry the glory & mission of Dr.
Babasaheb Ambedkar into the future.
- Wankhede Family*





Sanjay Bhagat

Founding member of the Boston Study Group
Volunteer, Social & Cultural Activist

2023 - A Year of Milestones in the History of Ambedkarite Diaspora

In the annals of Ambedkarite history, 2023 is carved as the history of resilience, unity, and progress of the global Dalit and Bahujan communities. Throughout 2023, significant events unfolded, representing the tremendous progress Ambedkarites made towards equality and social justice. I am citing 4 events from 2023 which left an indelible mark on the Ambedkarite diaspora, ushering in a new era of empowerment and visibility.

Passing a Law in Seattle City Council to add Caste to its list of categories protected against discrimination:

In February 2023, the Seattle City Council passed one of the groundbreaking laws of including Caste to its list of categories protected against discrimination. This is unprecedented because most Americans still don't know what Caste is and what a dehumanizing impact it has on 250 million people in India and Indians who immigrated to another part of the world. This landmark legislation was a culmination of the unity of all Ambedkarite organizations in the USA, a coalition with people from different religions, ethnicities, nationalities, labour unions, etc.

Testimonies given by many people of caste discrimination experienced by them though were heart-wrenching but showed the assertiveness and bravery of these Ambedkarite soldiers. However, the journey towards this victory was challenging. A similar attempt to pass a law of a similar nature in the state of California faced obstacles and ultimately failed. Yet, Ambedkarites should be proud of their effort to galvanize the Ambedkarite community across the United States, fostering unity and solidarity in the face of adversity.



Communities in support to add Caste as protected category in Seattle city council



'Statue of Equality', the largest statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar outside India, unveiled by AIC on October 14, 2023 in Maryland, USA

Installation of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Statue near Washington DC:

If somebody had told me just 5 years back that we could have one of the largest statues of Dr. B R Ambedkar near Washington DC, I would have suggested he should check his brain. But it became a reality on 14th October 2023.

This momentous event was made possible by the leadership of AIC and the wholehearted support of many Ambedkarites worldwide. The statue serves as a powerful symbol of Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy and his contributions to social justice, equality, and democracy. Its presence in the heart of the nation's capital is a testament to the growing recognition of Dr. Ambedkar's significance on the global stage and his resonance beyond Indian borders. The unveiling of the statue was met with celebration and reverence, reinforcing the importance of honoring Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and teachings.

Formation of the 'Global NRI Forum' and Integration of Bahujan Communities from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh:

It is a well-known fact that Ambedkarites from Maharashtra and especially from the Buddhist communities when they go to any place, come together, start organizations, and celebrate Ambedkar without fear of any backlash from other Indians. I believe a large population of Bahujan communities from other states including many Dalits Christians from South Indian states live in USA. We found some members of oppressed communities from North Indians states, who were influenced with Manyavar Kanshiramji became part of such organizations. However, in 2023, a significant development occurred with the formation of the 'Global NRI Forum,' a platform dedicated to advocating for the rights and welfare of non-resident Indians (NRIs) from marginalized communities. This forum played a pivotal role in bringing together around 400 families from Bahujan communities in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, whose voices and struggles were previously overlooked or marginalized both in India as well as in USA. Their main emphasis is on education, healthcare, women empowerment, social justice, youth upskilling and entrepreneurship. These efforts have resulted in bringing 100s of youths to Western Universities as well as premier universities in India. The integration of these communities into the larger Ambedkarite diaspora marked a significant step towards inclusivity and solidarity, amplifying their presence and perspectives on a global scale.



ORIGIN movie based on Isabel Wilson's book
Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents.

Release of the Movie 'Origin', Bringing Caste to the Forefront in Hollywood:

The release of the movie 'Origin' in Dec 2023 marked a watershed moment in Hollywood, as it brought the issue of Caste to the forefront of mainstream cinema. Caste, which was unknown to most Americans, is now the most talked about subject in the last few months. The film, which explored themes of identity, discrimination, and social hierarchy, garnered widespread acclaim for its nuanced portrayal of caste dynamics. By shining a spotlight on caste-based oppression and its impact on individuals and communities, 'Origin' sparked crucial conversations and raised awareness about an issue often overlooked in Western media. Its reception signaled a growing recognition of the global significance of caste-based discrimination and the need for greater representation and empathy in storytelling.

I believe these successes in 2023 will be building blocks for future success of Ambedkarites. We have lot to do, lot to achieve at community level. These events symbolize progress and serve as catalysts for continued advocacy and activism in the ongoing pursuit of equality, fraternity, and justice for all.

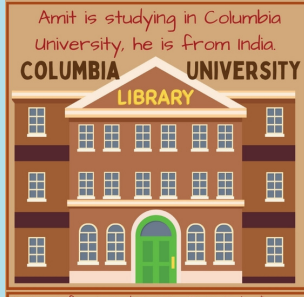


Sending heartfelt wishes on the 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar! May this day inspire us to honor his tireless efforts for social justice and equality. Happy Ambedkar Jayanti.
- Ghutke & Sontakke Family



A Dream Of Inspirations

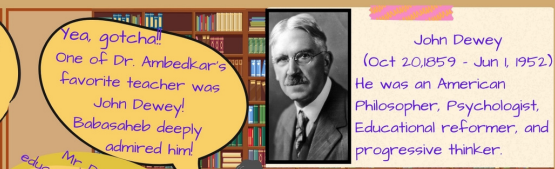
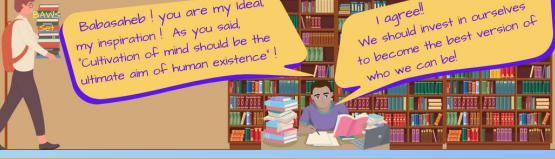
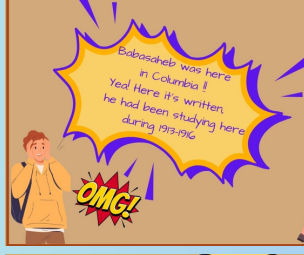
- a Fictional story



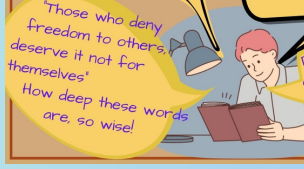
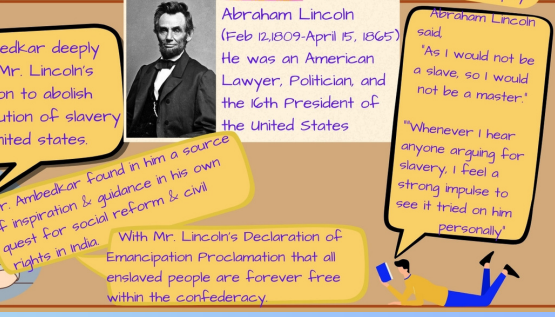
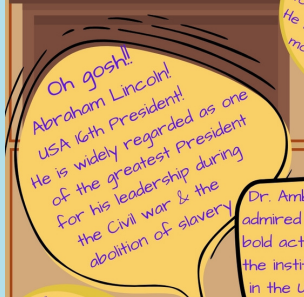
Amit is studying in Columbia University, he is from India. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



Walking through the library he came across Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's bust (Indians affectionately call him Babasaheb). Amit got fascinated that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar studied here in Columbia University, and he wanted to find out more about him.



John Dewey (Oct 20, 1859 - Jun 1, 1952) He was an American Philosopher, Psychologist, Educational reformer, and progressive thinker. "Education is not preparation for life, education is life itself." What deep insights he had! He was way ahead of his time. While at the university, Babasaheb was exposed to Dewey's progressive educational ideas, and it had an impact on Dr. Ambedkar's educational philosophy.



Amit found out, Dr. Ambedkar was influenced by various personalities & thinkers throughout his life. John Dewey & Abraham Lincoln, among them, who had played a vital role in shaping Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts & ideology.

Any kind of Social segregation whether it may be gender, race, color, class, or caste, it should never exist, as it anyway discriminates. I strongly believe, those who support or justify without rectifying it, they should experience it themselves first.

- One who saved slaves & gave freedom
- One who saved Untouchables & gave freedom
- One who paved the path of pragmatic education for liberation

Amit fell asleep and dreamt of Dr. Ambedkar, John Dewey and Abraham Lincoln meeting in the coffee shop and having conversations ...



Education Professor! I believe, education is the only tool for liberation, and you knew it very well, it's near & dear to my heart. Absolutely! I know that!! Though for you, getting an education had never been easy, right! The Indian caste system is very deeply rooted, so lower-caste people had been denied access to education since ages. They considered you an untouchable. You weren't even allowed to go to school like other kids.



On this auspicious occasion, let's remember Babasaheb's message of unity, compassion and justice. Let's work together towards building a brighter future. Happy Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary to all.
-Patil Family



You were sitting in the back corner of the class on your own gunny bag which you had to bring & carry back after school every day. You weren't even allowed to touch public water. No peon, no water!

That worst was the circumstances. In all such conditions, you studied. Facing countless humiliations and disappointments at every stage. Somehow, you managed studies with scholarship. You were able to study abroad, got P.H.D's, with many other higher degrees.

Despite having unbeatable academic achievements, on returning back to India, your circumstances remained same. Again, no peon, no water!

In your workplace too, you remained untouchable!

Now it's heartening to see how far you have come, breaking all barriers. Your passion & determination are truly inspiring all around the world, my dear!

You know Ambedkar, the fight for education & social justice is an ongoing struggle. It needs the dedication like you have!

Absolutely right, Mr. Dewey !!

Thanks Professor Dewey! Your words have been invaluable to me. My life is full of struggles, and I don't want anyone to face what I have been through!

Your teachings on experimental learning and on developing critical thinking skills, have greatly influenced my approach to education.

I'm glad to hear that! Though, let's not forget the role of democracy in shaping the educational system!

Ambedkar, drafting a constitution can be a real puzzle, isn't it?

You know, I tried to lay down some ground rules for a fair game that fits everyone!

Well Said! Everyone is entitled to equal rights & opportunities under the law!

You know Mr. Dewey, drafting a constitution is not everyone's cup of tea!

Absolutely! I wonder Ambedkar, how had you been chosen to draft a constitution for such a diverse country? while others were there holding law degrees. You weren't even favorite among them! You know, caste prejudice was still there!

Let me say on this! Ambedkar was a prominent legal scholar. His intellectual capabilities, deep understanding of socio-economic challenges India facing at that time. His unique perspective & reputation made him a key figure in shaping the fundamental document for independent India. Noone there was as qualified as him, and you played your role excellently my dear Ambedkar!!

Thank you, Mr. Lincoln! Coming from someone who fought against slavery, your words means a lot!

Ambedkar, your dedication to the cause of social justice reminds me of the struggle we faced in America during my time. I always believe, Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people!

Indeed Mr. Lincoln! Your leadership in abolishing slavery & your steadfast commitment to equality have left an indelible mark on the world its gives us courage and compassion!

Your Emancipation proclamation was a turning point, Mr. President! It was a bold step towards a more just inclusive society.

It was a necessary step! Though, I believed then as I do now, that we all are created equal & endowed with equal rights. Let's not forget about the importance of empathy & understanding as well!

This is what drove me to recognize the humanity in every person, regardless of race or color. My own battles with legislation to end slavery were fierce, but necessary. Yet even after emancipation proclamation, the struggle for equality is still ongoing!

Yes!! Laws alone can't change hearts & minds. We must foster empathy & understanding among people from different backgrounds. Education plays utmost role!

Absolutely Professor! Its about addressing systematic injustices from all angles. I must say cultivating of mind should be the ultimate goal of human existence!!

Mr. Dewey and Dr. Ambedkar, Our legacies may be separate but our shared values unite us across the generations! Cheers to Equality! Yesterday, today & tomorrow!

Clear your mind, open your heart, and embrace the world!

Amit wakes up with excitement and a sense of gratitude.

You all are inspirations!!

Cheers to Equality! Liberty! Fraternity!


WOW!

THE END



Warm wishes on Dr. Ambedkar Birth Anniversary. Let's unite to stand against discrimination & fight for equality on this occasion.

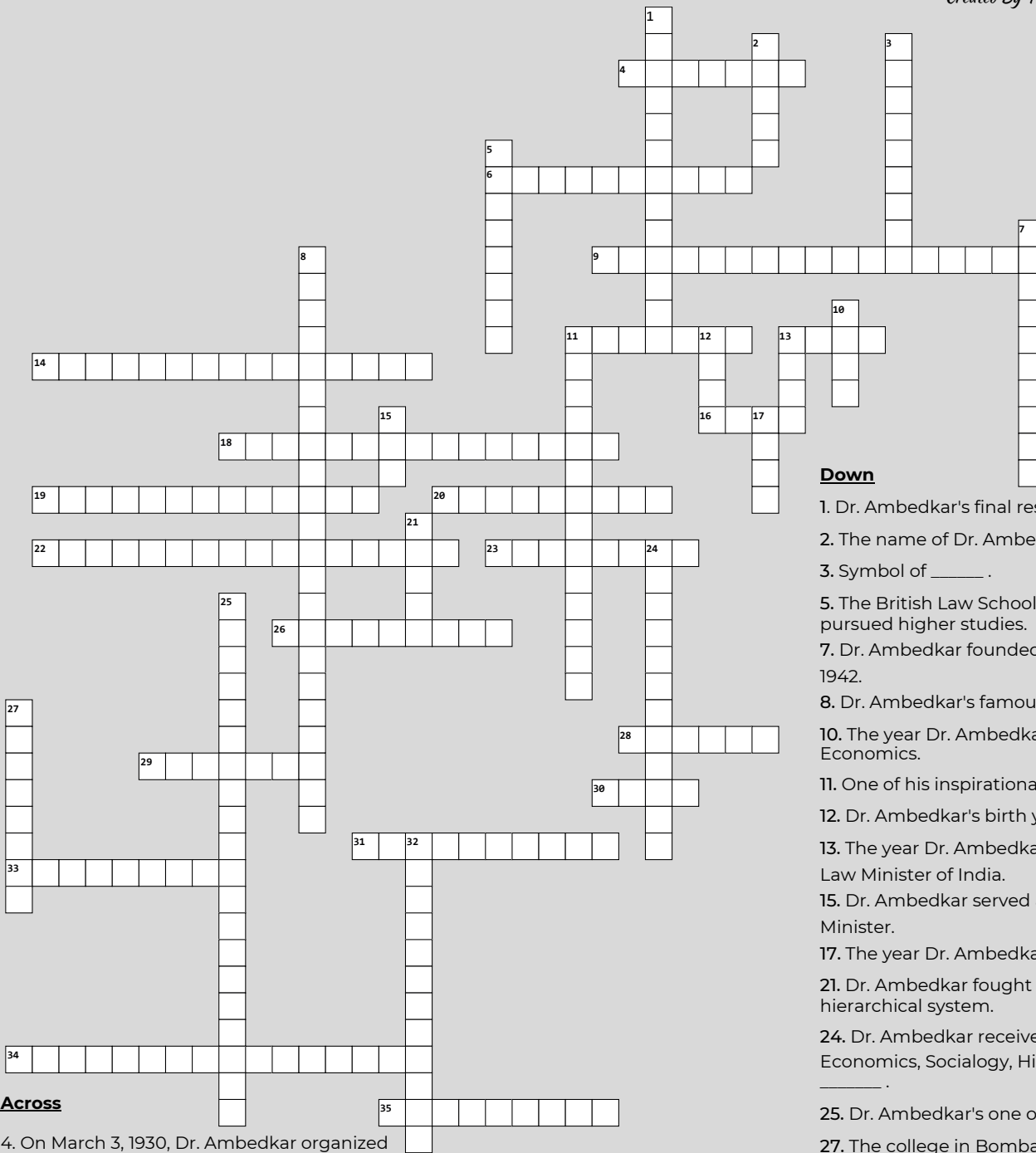
-Kulkarni Family



On April 14th, we honor and celebrate Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, a visionary leader fighting social discrimination, marginalized rights, and promoting social justice.

Happy Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary to all.

- Gaikwad family



Down

1. Dr. Ambedkar's final resting place.
2. The name of Dr. Ambedkar's father.
3. Symbol of _____ .
5. The British Law School where Dr. Ambedkar pursued higher studies.
7. Dr. Ambedkar founded this political party in 1942.
8. Dr. Ambedkar's famous slogan
10. The year Dr. Ambedkar earned his degree in Economics.
11. One of his inspirational personality.
12. Dr. Ambedkar's birth year.
13. The year Dr. Ambedkar was appointed as the Law Minister of India.
15. Dr. Ambedkar served as India's first _____ Minister.
17. The year Dr. Ambedkar passed away.
21. Dr. Ambedkar fought against India's this social hierarchical system.
24. Dr. Ambedkar received Master's Degree in Economics, Sociology, History, Philosophy and _____ .
25. Dr. Ambedkar's one of inspiration
27. The college in Bombay where Dr. Ambedkar taught Political Economy.
32. The book written by Dr. Ambedkar, _____ of Caste.

Across

4. On March 3, 1930, Dr. Ambedkar organized movement to demand entry to this temple.
6. Dr. Ambedkar represented India at this International conference in 1919.
9. The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) conceptualization is based on Dr. Ambedkar's book 'The _____'.
11. Dr. Ambedkar's birthday
13. The year Dr. Ambedkar was bestowed with Bharat Ratna award.
14. The title of Dr. Ambedkar's autobiography.
16. The year Dr. Ambedkar returned to India after completing his studies in the USA.
18. In 1927, Dr. Ambedkar led a mass movement to access public water.
19. Dr. Ambedkar resigned from the Nehru Cabinet over differences related to women's rights issue.
20. Dr. Ambedkar completed his Master's and Ph.D. degree in this subject from Columbia University.

Across

22. Dr. Ambedkar's Scholarship to study abroad was sponsored by this ruler.
23. _____ of the Constitution Drafting Committee.
26. Dr. Ambedkar's mentor and guide during his studies in the USA.
28. _____ school of Economics, where Dr. Ambedkar studied.
29. The name of Dr. Ambedkar's wife.
30. The city where Dr. Ambedkar was born.
31. India's prominent leader who fought against social discrimination.
33. The _____ of Indian Constitution.
34. Dr. Ambedkar founded this newspaper in 1927.
35. Dr. Ambedkar's highest academic degree.

35	doctorate
34	Bahishkrutbharat
33	architect
32	annihilation
31	Ambedkar
30	how
29	mahatmajyotiraoiphule
28	anthropology
27	London
26	caste
25	1956
24	chaitram
23	1947
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21	1956
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1	1913

!! Thank you !!

Thank you to our event volunteers for embodying Dr. B R Ambedkar's ethos: Educate, Agitate, Organize. Your dedication drives positive change and empowers our community.

We are profoundly grateful for the coordinators of;

Event tracking and management - Tanaji Sakpal

Canton City Admin Co-ordination- Vivek Chavan

Donation drive - Sandeep Kulkarni

Sponsor Reach Out - Vivek Chavan, Mahesh Wasnik

RSVP tracking & coordination with guests outside - Roshani Dhakne

Decoration - Priya Raipure , Roshani Dhakne , Vivek Chavan

Event hosts - Madhu, Arsh, Archana, Akshay Gaikwad

Panel discussion - Chatak Dhakne

Cultural activities - Roshni Shende, Mayuri Avacharmal, Akshay

Essay competition - Rajiv Avacharmal, Vivek Chavan, Mahesh Wasnik

Event recording and photography - Santosh Shinde, Sujata Khandare

Food Sponsering & Co-ordination- Sandhyaji

Cutlery - Ratnarakshit Wankhede

Flier Design - Sujata Khandare

Souvenir Book - Samyak, Sumeet, Anshul, Akshay, Chatak, Vivek, Vishal & Rakesh.

Thanks to all other volunteers who took tremendous efforts directly & indirectly in planning & execution of this event.



AANA MI Family Message

On this significant anniversary commemorating the birth of B R Ambedkar, we extend our heartfelt greetings to you and your loved ones. Dr. Ambedkar's timeless wisdom serves as a guiding light, reminding us of the enduring values of social justice, equality, and empowerment.

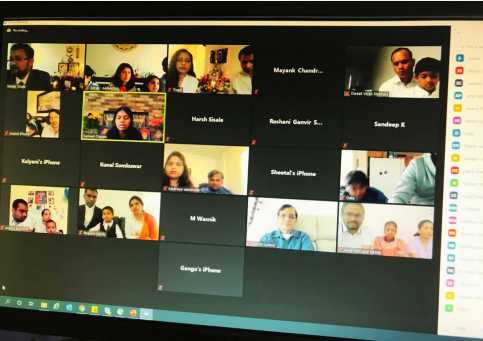
Embracing the profound words of Dr. Ambedkar, "Be educated, be organized, and be agitated," let us unite in our commitment to education, organization, and advocacy for positive change. Reflecting on his insightful assertion that "Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence," let us strive to nurture intellectual growth and enlightenment in ourselves and our communities.

In homage to Dr. Ambedkar's visionary ideals, let us redouble our efforts to build a more inclusive and equitable society. Inspired by his profound belief in the power of education and collective action, let us continue to work towards a future where every individual is valued and empowered.

*Jai Bhim !!!
AANA MI USA Family*



Past Events in Michigan





We transform the lives of the underprivileged through education & healthcare

Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA) is a registered non-profit, charitable, and cultural organization that follows Dr. Ambedkar's message to educate, agitate, organize, and pay back to society.

MISSION

AANA is guided by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's lifelong work and vision to uplift the downtrodden through education and socio-economic activities that provide opportunities to escape poverty and experience a better quality of life. AANA's mission is to spread Buddha's message of peace and kindness to humanity through dhamma teachings.



Our Projects

Covid-19 Hospital



Our Projects

Computer Lab



Covid Relief



Dhamma Activity

Every Sunday Online Buddha Vihara
10:00AM EST

Buddha Vandana	Kids Motivational
Tricharan Panchshil - 5 minutes	Story telling - 10-20 minutes
Dhamma Talk	Key Speaker Talk
By Bhante - 20-30 minutes	Talk - 20 - 30minutes

Women Empowerment



Blood Donation



BAWS Book Donation



Community Kitchen



Career Counseling



Please donate and be part of the mission.
PayPal <http://www.aanausa.org/donate/>
Venmo <https://venmo.com/aanausa>
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