



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
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Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
High Commission of India, Colombo

Sanskarika

Newsletter of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre

NOVEMBER 2022



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Life and times of *Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar*



A social reformer, a champion of human rights and an emancipator of the downtrodden masses, Dr Ambedkar dedicated his life to awaken the social conscience of modern India

Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, reverentially called Babasaheb Ambedkar by his followers, was undoubtedly one of the most illustrious sons of India. He entered the socio-political scene in the early 1920s and played a crucial role in the social, cultural, economic and political transformation of India during the closing decades of the British Rule. After India became independent from the British Rule in 1947, Ambedkar was responsible for creating the Constitution for free India. Ambedkar was a great social reformer, a valiant champion of

human rights and an emancipator of the downtrodden masses of India, who dedicated all his life to awaken the social conscience of modern India.

Ambedkar's life is an incredible saga: born an untouchable boy, humiliated every step of the way from the childhood to youth, who went on to be at almost impossible odds to secure the highest and most reputable degrees from world class universities – MA and PhD from Columbia University, USA, and DSc from the London School

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Indians today are governed by two different ideologies. Their political ideal set in the preamble of the Constitution affirms a life of liberty, equality and fraternity. Their social ideal embodied in their religion denies them

Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar

of Economics besides Bar-at-Law degree from London. He then returned to India and devoted his life to the destruction of the caste-ridden old order, characterised by injustice and denial of human rights. Without being favoured either by family fortune or political lineage, but by the sheer grit of his will and backbreaking hard work, supreme courage and selfless sacrifice, he overcame bitter political opposition and perils of caste discrimination to become the principal architect of the

Constitution of Independent India. He then proceeded to build the safeguards of affirmative action for establishing a more equitable society that is capable of delivering social justice to millions of downtrodden, thus heralding in India a new age of social equality and rationalism. In this process, Ambedkar came to the forefront not only as a valiant upholder of the Indian Republic but also emerged as the touchstone for the conscience of modern India.

Dr Ambedkar ensured a greater number of seats for the untouchables in the Poona Pact

Most statues of Dr Ambedkar in the country depict a stocky man, invariably dressed in a blue suit and red tie, holding a book under his arm which, of course, represents the Constitution of India. Such statues can be found everywhere in India, in villages and in cities, usually at crossroads. Every year, on December

6 (the death anniversary of Ambedkar), around two million Ambedkarites throng Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai to pay homage to the hero they worship as their saviour. It is also not

surprising that Ambedkar was voted, in August 2012, as the “Greatest Indian after Gandhi” in an e-poll initiated by some TV channels with an overwhelming majority of votes.

In the light of these facts, it is grossly unfair to characterise Ambedkar simply as a leader of the Untouchables or Dalits as is often done even in otherwise responsible quarters. Ambedkar was not simply a leader of Untouchables, not even only a leader of the oppressed

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Religion must mainly be a matter of principles only. It cannot be a matter of rules. The moment it degenerates into rules, it ceases to be a religion as it kills responsibility which is an essence of the true religious act

Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar

people of India. He was a national leader. His erudition, his mass movements and his role in the government and outside clearly show that he was a patriot of a sterling order.

In the course of his most eventful life, Ambedkar made outstanding contributions as a scholar, educationist, journalist, as an authority on Comparative Religion, as a policy-maker and administrator, and as a parliamentarian, besides being a jurist who became the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

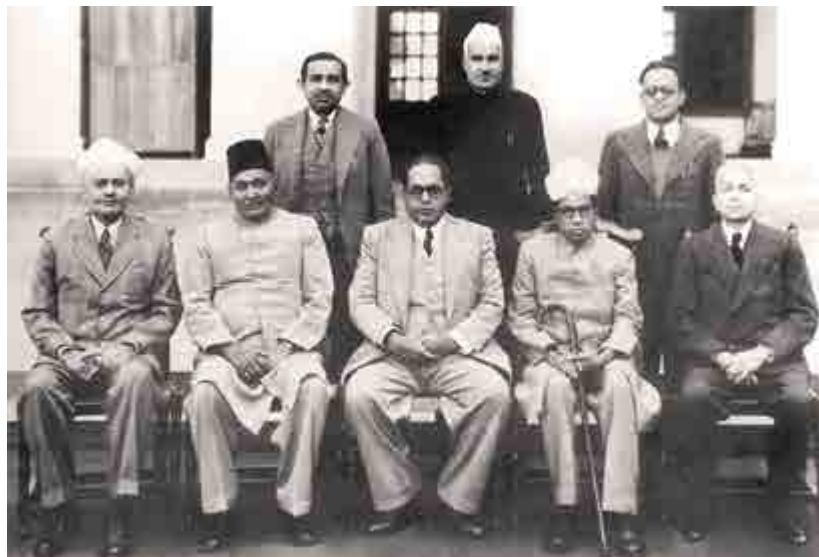
In spite of being a statesman and a mass leader, Ambedkar always remained a reflective thinker and erudite scholar. He was also a prolific writer. Perhaps no other mass leader in India has produced anywhere close to the voluminous writings that he did. The sheer volume is astonishing even for a full-time scholar: 22 books and monographs completed and published plus 10 books left behind incomplete at various stages, 10 research papers, articles and book reviews besides hundreds of articles in Marathi in various fortnightly newspapers.

The range in Ambedkar's works is also equally amazing. On politics: 11 books and monographs including treatises such as Pakistan or the Partition of India (1940), What Gandhi and Congress Have Done To Untouchables (1945); the classics such as Federation versus Freedom (1939), Ranade, Gandhi and Jinnah (1943); States and Minorities (1947) and Thoughts on Linguistic States (1955); on economics two pathbreaking treatises – The Evolution of Provincial



Google search trends reflect Dr Ambedkar's timeless relevance and popularity and shows him to be the third most searched historic Indian personality after Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. In terms of search interest from within India, queries on Babasaheb continue to gain significant search interest from Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi, Puducherry, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan and Karnataka





Dr Ambedkar had penchant for reading and writing. He had penned a number of books that dealt with myriad topics ranging from politics to Buddhism, from caste to gender discrimination. Some of his major writings are Essay on Untouchable and Untouchability, Buddha And Karl Marx, Who Were Shudras?, Philosophy of Hinduism and more. He died on December 6, 1956, while working on his latest book, The Buddha and his Dharma, which was published after his death.



The Central Government is planning to observe Dr Ambedkar's birthday as National Nandhutva Samrasara Diwas

Finance in British India (1917) and The Problem of The Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution (1925); on sociology – a timeless contribution such as Annihilation of Caste (1936) besides a remarkable essay on Castes in India: Their Genesis, Mechanism and Development (1918); on anthropology – two provocatively original treatises – Who Were the Shudras (1946) and The Untouchables: Who Were They and Why They Became Untouchables (1948) and finally on religion – Magnum Opus: Buddha and His Dhamma.

Ambedkar also delivered a very large number of speeches – 537 speeches, to be precise, on a wide range of subjects and at diverse regional, national and international fora. Among the subjects, the speeches ranged from social, economic and religious issues to those relating to law and Constitution, besides political. The forums included the Bombay Province Legislative Council, (and later) Bombay Legislative Assembly, Round Table Conferences hosted by the British government in London in the role as a Labour Member of Viceroy's Executive Council, Central Legislative Assembly (as the first Law Minister of Independent India), Constituent Assembly (as the Chairman, Drafting Committee for the Constitution of India) and the Parliament (Opposition Member, Rajya Sabha). In addition, Ambedkar gave a large number of public addresses as the most prominent leader of the social and political movement inspired by him.

Extracts from the book Ambedkar, An Economist Extraordinaire by Narendra Jadhav

Source : India Perspectives

Author: Narendra Jadhav

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M.S. Dhoni

BY
anish Biswas



M.S.D, Captain Cool or Thala as he is known, is the CSK and Indian cricket star, Mahendra Singh Dhoni who has been inspiring the youth into the world of cricket. Watching him play is a pleasure in itself. Watching him hit the 6's and 4's entertains the crowd and drives his fans crazy. His style of hitting and wicket keeping makes him one of the top and best players in the world.

My introduction to cricket was at the age of 4, when I was watching the 2011 world cup final, M.S.D whacked a 6 to finish off in style which made India to be the winners of the World Cup. I have been a fan of his since then. His achievements in the field of cricket are record breaking. Dhoni

is one of the highest run scorers in One Day Internationals (ODIs) with more than 10,000 runs scored and is considered an effective "finisher" in limited-overs formats. Dhoni has received many awards, including the ICC ODI Player of the Year award in 2008 and 2009 (the first player to win the award twice), the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2007, the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honor, in 2009 and the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honor, in 2018. Dhoni also holds numerous captaincy records such as the most wins by an Indian captain in ODIs and T20Is, and most back-to-back wins by an Indian captain in ODIs. In the Indian Premier League, he captained the Chennai Super Kings to victory at the 2010, 2011

and 2018 seasons, along with wins in the 2010 and 2014 editions of Champions League Twenty20.

He was born on 7 July 1981, at Ranchi, India. In 1988 Dhoni was selected to play for the Central Coal Fields Ltd team. In 1999 -2000 he played for Bihar Ranji team. He was recognized for his effort in Ranji & Deodhar trophy especially in the One Day format & was picked for India A squad for the tour of Zimbabwe and Kenya. He made his ODI debut in December 2004 against Bangladesh and played his first Test a year later against Sri Lanka.

Beside playing cricket, he was in the Indian army. In 2011, Dhoni was conferred the rank of honorary lieutenant-colonel in the Indian

Territorial Army for his contribution in cricket. In August 2019 he completed a two-week stint with the Territorial Army in J & K.

Sadly, Dhoni announced his retirement from international cricket on 15 August 2020 on the day of India's 74th independence. He did so by posting a video on Instagram that contained pictures from both the best or the worst moments of his career and the song Mai Pal do Pal ka shayar hoon playing in the background. The video had been captioned as "Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout. From 1929 hrs consider me as Retired".

Even though he is no longer playing he will continue to remain an icon for all the budding cricketers and fans.

CHILDRENS DAY CELEBRATION



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA CULTURAL CENTRE
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, COLOMBO

Organizes an

PAINTING COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN

Topic:

"INCREDIBLE INDIA"

Age Group : 5 - 15

Kindly register with the Centre on or
before 20th November 2022 via email id:
childrenartcompetition@gmail.com
with the following details:
Full Name, Boy or Girl, Date of Birth
Email Id, Mobile no, Address

On confirmation please come to
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
(Indian Cultural Centre),
16/2, Gregory's Road, Colombo 07
on **Saturday 26th November 2022.**

COMMEMORATING BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
OF PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF
INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

No	Birth Year	Age	Entry Time (AM)
1	2017	5	9.00
2	2016	6	9.00
3	2015	7	9.00
4	2014	8	9.00
5	2013	9	9.30
6	2012	10	9.30
7	2011	11	9.30
8	2010	12	10.00
9	2009	13	10.00
10	2008	14	10.00
11	2007	15	10.30

Participants are expected to bring their own art/writing materials including paper, paint/colours paintbrushes etc., The size of each entry should NOT be less than 30 x 40 cm.

6 to 27

Every Sundays
4.00 pm

Monthly Lecture Series – 110, 111, 112, 115

Online Yoga lecture / workshop sessions
for Param Dhamma Chaitya Pirivena, Ratmalana
by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India

8

Tuesday

Guru Nanak Jayanti

11

Friday
3.30 pm

Friday Matinee

Film: Queen (Hindi)

Venue: SVCC Auditorium

12

Saturday
7.00 am

Monthly Lecture Series –113

On the occasion of World Pneumonia day

by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India
(Online)

18

Friday
3.30 pm

Friday Matinee

Film: Mohabbatein (Hindi)

Venue: SVCC Auditorium

Monthly Lecture Series –114

On the occasion of World Philosophy day

Yoga Philosophy by Ajay Kumbhar,
Yoga Expert from India (Online)

21

Monday
7.00 am

Sanskriti Sandhya Series – 36

“Indian dance influence on Sri Lanka from 10th to 20th century”

Online Lecture with appropriate historical visual
illustration and demonstration

By Dr. Subashini Pathmanathan,
Renowned dancer cum outstanding scholar

24

Thursday
6.30 pm

Children Art Competition

(For further details, please refer to the flyer
or contact the Centre on tel # 011 2684698/
email:iccrcolombo3@gmail.com)

from 9.00 am
onwards

26

Saturday

Constitution Day Celebrations

Free Events. All are cordially invited.

For details in regard to

CLASSES

on **Bharatha Natyam, Kathak, Sitar, Violin, Tabla,
Carnatic vocal, Hindustani Vocal, Yoga and Hindi**

please call on tell no. +94 77 672 6143 or E-mail to iccrcolombo2@gmail.com.

For upcoming facebook live events, visit www.facebook.com/ICCRSriLanka

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