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The Knowledge Explorer



Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar



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14 April 1891 - 06 Dec 1956

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar also known as Babasaheb, was an Indian jurist, political leader, Buddhist activist, philosopher, thinker, anthropologist, historian, orator, prolific writer, economist, scholar, editor, revolutionary and a revivalist for Buddhism in India

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was elected as the chairman of the drafting committee that was constituted by the Constituent Assembly to draft a constitution for the independent India; he was the first Law Minister of India; conferred Bharat Ratna in 1990.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is viewed as messiah of dalits and downtrodden in India. He was the chairman of the drafting committee that was constituted by the Constituent Assembly in 1947 to draft a constitution for the independent India. He played a seminal role in the framing of the constitution.

He was the fourteenth child of Ramji and Bhimabai Sakpal Ambavedkar. B.R. Ambedkar belonged to the "untouchable" Mahar Caste. His father and grandfather served in the British Army. In those days, the government ensured that all the army personnel and their children were educated and ran special schools for this purpose. This ensured good education for Bhimrao Ambedkar, which would have otherwise been denied to him by the virtue of his caste.

Bhimrao Ambedkar experienced caste discrimination right from the childhood. After his retirement, Bhimrao's father settled in Satara, Maharashtra. Bhimrao was enrolled in the local school. Here, he had to sit on the floor in one corner in the classroom and teachers would not touch his notebooks. In spite of these hardships, Bhimrao continued his studies and passed his Matriculation examination from Bombay University with flying colours in 1908. Bhimrao Ambedkar joined the Elphinstone College for further education. In 1912, he graduated in Political Science and Economics from Bombay University and got a job in Baroda.

In 1913, Bhimrao Ambedkar lost his father. In the same year Maharaja of Baroda awarded scholarship to Bhimrao Ambedkar and sent him to America for further studies. Bhimrao reached New York in July 1913. For the first time in his

life, Bhimrao was not demeaned for being a Mahar. He immersed himself in the studies and attained a degree in Master of Arts and a Doctorate in Philosophy from Columbia University in 1916 for his thesis "National Dividend for India: A Historical and Analytical Study." From America, Dr. Ambedkar proceeded to London to study economics and political science. But the Baroda government terminated his scholarship and recalled him back.

The Maharaja of Baroda appointed Dr. Ambedkar as his political secretary. But no one would take orders from him because he was a Mahar. Bhimrao Ambedkar returned to Bombay in November 1917. With the help of Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur, a sympathizer of the cause for the upliftment of the depressed classes, he started a fortnightly newspaper, the "Mooknayak" (Dumb Hero) on January 31, 1920. The Maharaja also convened many meetings and conferences of the "untouchables" which Bhimrao addressed. In September 1920, after accumulating sufficient funds, Ambedkar went back to London to complete his studies. He became a barrister and got a Doctorate in science.

After completing his studies in London, Ambedkar returned to India. In July 1924, he founded the Bahishkrit Hitkaraini Sabha (Outcastes Welfare Association). The aim of the Sabha was to uplift the downtrodden socially and politically and bring them to the level of the others in the Indian society. In 1927, he led the Mahad March at the Chowdar Tank at Colaba, near Bombay, to give the untouchables the right to draw water from the public tank where he burnt copies of the 'Manusmriti' publicly.

In 1929, Ambedkar made the controversial decision to co-operate with the all-British Simon Commission which was to look into setting up a responsible Indian Government in India. The Congress decided to boycott the Commission and drafted its own version of a constitution for free India. The Congress version had no provisions for the depressed classes. Ambedkar became more skeptical of the Congress's commitment to safeguard the rights of the depressed classes.

When a separate electorate was announced for the depressed classes under Ramsay McDonald 'Communal Award', Gandhiji went on a fast unto death against this decision. Leaders rushed to Dr. Ambedkar to drop his demand. On September 24, 1932, Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhiji reached an understanding, which became the famous Poona Pact. According to the pact the separate electorate demand was replaced with special concessions like reserved seats in the regional legislative assemblies and Central Council of States.

Dr. Ambedkar attended all the three Round Table Conferences in London and forcefully argued for the welfare of the "untouchables". Meanwhile, British Government decided to hold provincial elections in 1937. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar set up the "Independent Labor Party" in August 1936 to contest the elections in the Bombay province. He and many candidates of his party were elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly. In 1937, Dr. Ambedkar introduced a Bill to abolish the "khoti" system of land tenure in the Konkan region, the serfdom of agricultural tenants and the Mahar "watan" system of working for the Government as slaves.

The Constituent Assembly entrusted the job of drafting the Constitution to a committee and Dr. Ambedkar was elected as Chairman of this Drafting Committee. In February 1948, Dr. Ambedkar presented the Draft Constitution before the people of India; it was adopted on November 26, 1949.

On October 14, 1956 he embraced Buddhism along with many of his followers.

Indra Nooyi

[PepsiCo CEO]

She played lead guitar in an all-women rock band in her hometown of Madras, India. She was a cricket player in college. She sang karaoke at corporate gatherings. Today, Indra Nooyi presides over 185,000 employees in nearly 200 countries as the chief executive of PepsiCo. And she still performs on stage at company functions.



Nooyi came to the United States in 1978 at age 23 to earn her M.B.A. at Yale, where she worked as a dorm receptionist—opting for the graveyard shift because it paid an extra 50 cents per hour. Her parents had told her she was out of her mind and should have stayed in India and gotten married. "I always had this urge, this desire, this passion," she once explained, to "settle in the United States," where she is now the married mother of two daughters.

When Nooyi joined PepsiCo in 1994, it was as the company's chief strategist. From the start, she helped executives make some tough decisions. Seeing less future in fast food, she moved the company to shed KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell in 1997. Betting instead on beverages and packaged food, she helped engineer a \$3 billion acquisition of Tropicana in 1998 and a \$14 billion takeover in 2001 of Quaker Oats, maker of Gatorade. The moves proved prescient choices. Company earnings soared, and so, too, did her stature.

By 2006, Nooyi was one of just two finalists to succeed CEO Steven Reinemund as leader of one of the world's best-known brands. After getting the nod, Nooyi flew to visit the other contender. "Tell me whatever I need to do to keep you," she implored. They had worked together for years, both loved music, and Nooyi was persuasive, offering to boost her competitor's compensation to nearly match her own. He agreed to serve as her right-hand man, creating her version of a team of rivals.

A caring CEO. Though raised on cricket, she has become an expert on New York Yankees statistics and Chicago Bulls teamwork. Nooyi is a master of substance, knowing PepsiCo's product lines and financial metrics in depth. But former CEO Reinemund, now the dean of business schools at Wake Forest University, has also noted that she is "a deeply caring person" who "can relate to people from the boardroom to the front line."

As CEO, she has continued to pursue her unusual, and tremendously ambitious, vision for re-inventing PepsiCo. She is trying to take the company from snack food to health food, from caffeine colas to fruit juices, and from shareholder value to sustainable enterprise. In doing so, Nooyi is attempting to move beyond the historic trade-off between profits and people. Captured in her artful mantra—"**Performance with purpose**"—she wants to give Wall Street what it wants but also, the planet what it needs. "It doesn't mean subtracting from the bottom line," she explained in a 2007 speech, but rather "that we bring together what is good for business with what is good for the world."

By 2010, Nooyi has pledged, half of the firm's U.S. revenue will come from healthful products such as low-cal Gatorade and high-fiber oatmeal. The company will eschew fossil fuels in favor of wind and solar. It will campaign against obesity.

This is, clearly, not business as usual. "People these days are bringing their principles to their purchasing," she said in the same speech. "We, in return, are bringing a purpose to our performance."

Yet fresh challenges to Nooyi's leadership abound, including the spiraling costs of commodities like cooking oil that go into the company's products; rising public aversion to bottled water, such as PepsiCo's Aquafina brand; and slowing consumer spending in all categories. The long-simmering cola wars could always flare up again.

With annual revenue of \$39 billion, the enterprise Nooyi leads is as large as many federal agencies, and moving to run one of those agencies could be her next venture. "After PepsiCo, I do want to go to Washington," she has said. "I want to give back."

D-roll Laptop [Next-generation laptop design]

The flexible OLED display, the rollable keyboard you can extract from the tube, and the USB outlets on the strap, Rolltop Computing Get ready to roll and go with this multi-touch laptop Orkin

D-roll is also a foldable design. The flexible screen and the keyboard are able to be rolled up and stored inside the tube. The video camera can be attached to the right end of the tube. And the strap is able to be connected in the middle. It becomes compact and easy for traveling.



Laptops of the future have arrived carrying shapes and designs as were never conceived before. No longer is it necessary for laptops to carry the traditional flat and slightly rectangular shape. In some time, it would be passé and almost unfashionable to be seen carrying a laptop of such an ancient design.

Though many cool designs have been offered for the laptops of the future, most are either unrealistic or too far away in terms of production. Some have awesome designs but fall flat when it comes to practicality. The D-Roll laptop concept wins on all accounts. Designed by Hao Hua, the D-Roll or Digital Roll laptop is intended to be the next generation laptop design and completely deviates from the traditional look of today's laptops. Designed like an artist's scroll, the D-Roll laptop has an OLED screen which can be rolled up and includes straps at the side for easy portability. The straps also work as places for USB plug-ins. The D-Roll laptop comes with a detachable webcam which can be worn on the body. The keyboard slides out and the laptop includes a mouse as well.

The D-Roll laptop may be a concept currently but the design is inspiring and would definitely catch the eyes of other designers wishing to create a better looking and practical laptop. If this hits the market, it would be swept off the shelves in no time

Laptops keep getting thinner and lighter, but some concept laptops take portable to a new level. Orkin Design's Rolltop consists of an OLED display that can start as a rolled-up mat and deploy as a multi-touch 17-inch laptop. My beastly HP laptop just shed a tear of envy. The Orkin laptop can also transform into a tablet PC operable with a stylus, or become a standup flat screen display. A

power adapter and other features fit with the carrying canister that comes with a convenient holding strap.



Accident

There was an engineer, manager and programmer driving down a steep mountain road. The brakes failed and the car careened down the road out of control. Half way down the driver managed to stop the car.

The manager said "To fix this problem we need to organize a committee, have meetings, and through a process of continuous improvement, develop a solution."

The engineer said "No that would take too long, and besides that method never worked before. I have my trusty pen knife here and will take apart the brake system, isolate the problem and correct it."

The programmer said "I think you're both wrong! I think we should all push the car back up the hill and see if it happens again."

Never loose your heart!!!

There was a man
Who failed in business at 31,
Has defeated for legislation 32,
Failed again in Business at 34,
Lost his beloved at 35,
Had a nervous breakdown at 36,
Was defeated in election at 46,
Was again defeated for congress at 49,
Was defeated for senate at 55,
Was defeated for vice president at 56,
Was again defeated for senate at 58,
But was elected as President at 60,
That man was Abraham Lincoln,
So think positive and never loose your heart.

-Somnath Kardak (MCA-II)

निष्काम कर्म

सांगशी निष्काम कर्मा, कृष्णा अरे वेदांत तू
समजला की काय आम्हा किलोस्करांचा पंप तू

मोक्ष हा परमार्थ ऐसे सांगशी जेथे तिथे
तू तरी देवा कधी आहेस का गेला तिथे?

भोगीशी ऐश्वर्य, सारे वंदिति एच्छा तुझी
सन्त्यास पण सान्या जगाने, घ्यावा अशी एच्छा तुझी

निष्कामता अंगी, थोडी जरी असती तुझ्या
धावूनी सान्या येता, आमच्याकडे गोपी तुझ्या

अरे भगवंता भेटुनीया, मज काय देशील तू?
मंत्र्या परी येतील, थोडा हासूनी जातील तु

प्रारब्ध जर अमुचे, आम्हा आहे भोगायचे
सांग तर आम्ही कशाला, कुकू तुझे लावायचे

- भाऊसाहेब पाटणकर

QUIZ #43

- 1 What is the core business of the Kirloskar - Cummins group?
- 2 Which state is called the 'bread basket' of India ?
- 3 Which IIM was set up with a grant from the Ford Foundation?

ANSWER #42

- 1 Expansion of Star as in Star TV Network? **Ans: Satellite Television for Asia Region**
- 2 From what four word ex-pression does the word 'goodbye' derive? **Ans: God be with you**
- 3 Name the first proponent of computer networking and interconnectivity? **Ans: J.C.R Licklider**



QUIZ WINERS

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