



## THE ROLE OF DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR'S ECONOMIC THOUGHTS IN THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA

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### Introduction:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar spent his entire life for the welfare of the downtrodden, Dalit, marginalized, deprived classes and women of all societies. Therefore, the fundamental economic thoughts presented by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in the 20th century are still very important in the 21st century. Because he presented his thoughts on a very difficult subject in the form of a thesis in a simple manner. That is why Dr. Amartya Sen considers Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar as a guru in economics. Dr. Amartya Sen's 'Economics of Poverty' is the same as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's 'Economics of Poverty'. Babasaheb Ambedkar had presented in his writings how the elements of political science, sociology and religion dominated in his 'Economics of Poverty'. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was an unusually talented personality who did very valuable work in various fields such as law, sociology, political science, anthropology and social work, religion, politics and journalism. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a social reformer and social thinker, but it is clear from his various works that he was a great economist. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a deep expert in economics.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, through his management, fearlessly expressed his thoughts on the issues of landlessness, labor, small-scale land, Khotpaddat, Maharavatan, community agriculture, land revenue and abolition of landlordism. If we take the economic thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in the overall development of India, it becomes clear how important the role of his economic thoughts is. Although this is true, in the current situation, the system of exploitation continues in the country and the picture of price rise, poor, unemployment, poverty and economic and social inequality is becoming acute in the country. In such a situation, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's economic thoughts are still needed to strengthen the backbone of the Indian economy and establish economic equality in the country. Dr. Therefore, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is a sun of economic revolution that will never set, illuminating the world.

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### Objectives of the article: -

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| 1. To study the agricultural thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. | Ambedkar.   |
| 2. To study the water policy of Dr. Babasaheb                    | 3. To study the electricity policy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. |
|  | 4. To study the labor thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb               |

Ambedkar.

5. To study the industrialization thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.
6. To study the thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on the dual currency system

#### **Data collection and analysis method:**

This article has been written using the second technique of data collection method. Some books, reference books and articles have been included in this. The nature of the presented article is analytical in nature.

#### **Analysis of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's economic thoughts:**

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's economic thoughts are an invaluable contribution to the overall economic development of India and the analysis of various aspects of economic thoughts is as follows

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's agricultural thoughts and work: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's agricultural thoughts and work are giving a new direction to the overall economic development of India and making it economically viable. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has discussed the basic issues related to agriculture in his book 'Small Holding in India and Their Remedies'. The low holding area in the country is a very serious issue for Indian agriculture. Because the small size of the land affects the agricultural production. Therefore, Dr. Babasaheb thought that agriculture should be nationalized. The development of agriculture and farmers can change the living conditions of farmers. For this, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar introduced the first bill to abolish the land tenure system on 17 September 1937. This led to the abolition of Maharvatne and Khoti system. Regarding agriculture, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has given primary importance to agriculture in terms of business.

There will be no improvement in the overall economy of India without the development of the agricultural sector. For this, he should bring the Indian farmer out

of various problems. For this, the agricultural sector in India should be improved. Efforts should be made to increase the low productivity of agriculture. Since the small size of the farm and the division of the farm into pieces, the rule of inheritance rights affects the productivity of the farm, collective farming should be adopted. Therefore, a large amount of finance should be provided to agriculture and farmers' farming. To improve the method of farming, emphasis should be placed on nationalization of the agricultural business, to redistribute the land so that everyone gets the benefits of the land, the land should be collectivized, the government should invest capital to improve agriculture and further increase production. To reduce the burden of the excess population in the agricultural sector, employment should be provided to the laborers in the agricultural sector in production work. At the same time, if agriculture is mechanized, then due to a large increase in production, poverty in the country will also decrease and this will help in improving the economic condition of the people.

#### **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Water Policy:**

Rainfall is not uniform throughout the country. This irregularity of rain affects the country's economy. We have no control over nature, but if there is excessive rain, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar believed that we can overcome the water crisis by proper planning and management of that water. On July 20, 1942, when Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a member of the Viceroy's Executive Board, he had prepared a comprehensive policy on irrigation and electricity.

While presenting the draft of the Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar argued that the subject of water should be under the jurisdiction of the Central Government and included water in subject number 56 in the Constitution, which gave the Central Government the right to make laws related to water. This provision was included in Article 262 of the Constitution of India. Under this provision, the Inter-



State Water Disputes Act, River Basin Authority Act, 1956 was passed. In the Water Conference held in Cuttack in November 1945, Babasaheb gave a very original idea to the country on how to plan water and water use. He said that there is not enough water available in the country that can be harmful. The people have to suffer more due to water scarcity, not because of the availability of excess water. Water is a national asset. Instead of complaining about the excess water in the flood due to unbalanced rains during the monsoon, we should have a view on how this flood water can be used for human development by building dams.

Therefore, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar should build dams at different places on the rivers where there is damage due to floods. Due to this, the idea that rainwater should be used for development instead of letting it go back to the sea was his developmental perspective. Dr. Influenced by this idea of Babasaheb, discussions were held and the construction of the Central Waterway, Irrigation Dam, and Hirakud Dam were implemented. If the ideas put forward by Babasaheb were implemented, there would be no water shortage in the country. For the past few years, there has been a discussion about the river linking project in the country, but Babasaheb had put forward many constructive ideas about this a hundred years ago. But it can be said that Dr. Babasaheb's noble intention, his foresight, has not come before the common people or has not been brought to light. The river basin projects on the Hirakund, Damodar, and Son rivers were started during his time. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that dharnas are the modern temples of India. But their foundation work was done by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar between 1942 and 1946. Since no one except Dr. Babasaheb has put forward any in-depth ideas on water management, he is truly the well-wisher of this country.

**Meaning:** Babasaheb, who belonged to a society that had been kept away from water for thousands of years by this social system, made efforts to ensure that water was abundant.

### **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Electricity Policy:**

Electricity came to India around the 1880s. There was no national organization or policy for the initial planning of electricity. The industries that made military equipment for the Second World War urgently needed electricity. Accordingly, the Electricity Commission was established in 1941. When Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar took over the charge of the Electricity Department in 1942, there was no basic information available about the electricity sector throughout India, nor was there any policy. In such a situation, Dr. Ambedkar took on the very difficult responsibility of setting the course of the electricity sector.

Earlier, electricity in India was limited to various private businesses and a very few people. Therefore, Dr. Ambedkar believed that electricity should reach everyone and it should be affordable for everyone. In order for the electricity sector to expand throughout India, Dr. Ambedkar had expressed his views in the new electricity policy, and accordingly, Dr. Ambedkar felt that India should also have a grid system on the lines of England for integrated progress. The policy discussed connecting various generating stations with this grid, laying high-pressure lines for transmission, and having a single frequency throughout India. The electricity sector should be a reason for progress for every section of society. For the publicization of electricity, electricity boards were established in various states under the Electricity Supply Act, 1948, and the electricity sector was opened to everyone. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar believed that poverty can be eradicated only through industrialization if sufficient electricity is available for industrialization in India at an affordable price.



### **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts on industrialization:**

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar believed that industrial finance should be in such a way that, along with maximum production efficiency and production, the competitiveness of domestic industry and its products in the international industrial market should be complete and beneficial. If the country wants to achieve balanced economic development, the government should take the initiative in the Indian economy. For this, a corporation should be established to promote government industry and emphasis should be placed on nationalizing the industry. Due to the lack of proper coordination between the demand and supply of labor, the employers take advantage of the workers, force them to do extra work at low wages and exploit them financially and increase their profits to a large extent. This can lead to disputes between workers and employers. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar believed that labor unions should be formed to prevent exploitation of workers. Therefore, the organizations should be based on the democratic principles of the Indian Constitution, that is, those organizations should recognize the right of workers to strike through democratic means, along with other rights, the workers should improve their economic condition and try to raise their social status in society. Further, in the field of industrial workers, Dr. Ambedkar founded an independent labor party in 1936. At that time, Dr. Ambedkar brought about radical reforms in labor policy, and the Employment Office was established.

### **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts on the dual currency system:**

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had written a thesis titled 'The Problem of Rupees' at the London School of Economics. In this thesis, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has analysed how the Indian currency was formed between 1800 and 1893. In this thesis, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has written in detail about how the country

suffered due to the difficulty in maintaining a stable exchange rate between gold and silver after 1893. In India, a dual currency system existed in India, namely, gold standard and rupee standard. He had expressed his thoughts on the very burning issue of which of these currency systems was ideal. However, during the same period, gold and silver coins were used in different provinces. But the coins used for this were of different sizes and weights. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar introduced this unified currency across the country, but soon Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar realized that it was insufficient to meet the needs of currency.

The use of currency increased to a large extent for the exchange of goods. Earlier, wages were paid in the form of goods. This means that earlier, the barter system was followed. But due to the unification of currency, wages started being paid in the form of money or currency. Due to the increase in international trade, currency trade increased, so now India's exports to England increased, due to which the demand for currency increased to a large extent. The supply of that silver currency did not increase. That is, on one hand, the demand for currency did not increase, but the supply of currency did not increase. Therefore, paper currency was used as a supplement to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of silver. Now in this debate, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar insisted that the institution that creates money needs to have effective controls on the ability to create money. Because if money is supplied, it can lead to price increases or there is a possibility that the economic stability of the countries may be threatened due to currency expansion. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had this doubt, so the commission that came to India in 1926 argued for the establishment of the Reserve Bank, and RBI was established in the country on 1 April 1935. The central government's budget deficit and the Reserve Bank of India have to provide more and more credit to fill this deficit, as a result of which inflation in the



economy has increased to a large extent, so Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's role in keeping effective controls on the ability to create money is still relevant after a long period of time.

### Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Economic Development Program:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar made it constitutionally mandatory for the government to carry out economic planning for the overall economic development of the country. In order to eliminate economic, social, political and cultural inequalities in the country, the government must implement the program in the following manner.

1. Socialism should be accepted as the foundation in the process of social justice.
2. Efforts should be made to increase agricultural and industrial production.
3. Laws should be made and implemented to prevent economic, political, social and cultural exploitation.
4. Land and industries in India should be nationalized.
5. The government is expected to modernize by using a lot of capital.

For this, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar tried to open the door of a new economic policy but it was not possible due to Brahminism and capitalism. The constitution came into effect on 26 January 1950 but the above economic program was not included in this constitution. That is why the following questions are still unanswered in the country today:

1. Do people get economic justice and social justice?
2. Have people been freed from poverty?
3. Have the problems of hunger/starvation been solved in the country?
4. Is the inflation in the country controlled?
5. The value of the rupee is very low in the exchange rate.

### Conclusion:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's in-depth economic study and his economic formulation are very fundamental to strengthen the economy. There are many economic problems in the society, which hinder development. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts are important to reduce the nature of these serious problems to a large extent. Following his ideas and putting them into practice will help establish social justice and economic justice in the society and create a strong Indian economy.

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### Cite This Article:

**Dr. Tukaram K.R. (2025).** *The Role of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Economic thoughts in the Overall Development of India.* In **Electronic International Interdisciplinary Research Journal: Vol. XIV** (Number II, pp. 84–88).

Doi- <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15563616>