



## ABHINNADHAM

### The Abode of Celestial Energy



**Chaitya Bhoomi** - The Memorial of the Maha Manav, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar and epitome for his disciples, who have through *adhithanna* (determination) led the masses to *dhamma* (doctrine) as preached by the *arihant*, Buddha.

A large number of buddhist and dalits from across the country throng the "Chaitya Bhoomi" at Dadar on December 6 every year to pay homage to the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, on his 'Mahaparinirvan Din'.

Strategic junctions and roads near Dadar, Shivaji Park and Bandra witness massive traffic congestion also on April 14 as Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti is observed.



April 14, 1891 – December 6, 1956

Lakhs of followers of Dr B.R. Ambedkar converge to pay tributes to Baba Saheb as he is lovingly referred, on his death anniversary as well as birth date. Policemen, numbering in thousands, are deployed near Shivaji Park. Senior officers are on duty in and around Shivaji Park. The traffic department puts up a number of signs at various junctions to indicate the direction of traffic.

December 6 being the date of his death anniversary, for the convenience of large Ambedkar followers, BMC arranges for a control room along with temporary fire station, 100 mobile toilets, 150 wash rooms besides providing for water tankers and other facilities. Special railway reservation counters and telephone centres are also set up and railway authorities ran special trains to ferry travelers within Mumbai and special out-station trains.

The Dadar Chowpatty and Thousands of people, waving blue flags merge into an ocean of humanity making it difficult to distinguish from the waves lashing on to the dadar beach.

There are stalls selling Baba Saheb related memorabilia. There is literature, candles, flowers to be offered at stupa, amulets, food items and pictures too. Food and water facilities are also provided from the fund raised through

donation. However, many devotees spend their day at the Gateway of India while they retire for the night at the Chaitya Bhoomi and Shivaji Park.

Not a soul is happy about the arrangements. The keepers of the Chaitya Bhoomi are not satisfied either in spite of the fact that the state provides facilities such as water, toilet and other facilities. According to them, the brass column was done three years back when Sushilkumar Shinde was the Chief Minister but there has been no progress thereafter. The work is stagnated. Four lions and a Ashoka charka is to be put up on the column, the arc at the front is to be decorated and is to be built at the rear of the Chaitya Bhoomi and the Stupa built in 1968 by Yashwantrao alias Bhayasaheb Ambedkar in 1968 requires repairs.

“This government headed by Vilasrao Deshmukh is indifferent towards the whole thing. The CM had promised many things in the election agenda but now he says that it’s a central government issue. This is sheer cheating,” echo the followers of Baba Saheb.

Meanwhile, for Shivaji Park residents, the week on either side of December 7, is nothing less than a nightmare, which the end of which they await anxiously. The unruly crowd not only makes the sea water dirty but they bathe on the streets, mess up Shivaji Park, eat, spit and litter the roads, wash their dirty clothes in public places.

“The place starts stinking and this will go on for some time now. It’s a one-day function but it is a real nuisance we have to bear with,” said a resident.

Another said that he wished they had found some remote place for all these functions on permanent basis .

SO WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE POOR INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND PUBLIC APATHY  
&  
WHEN IS INDIA EMERGING GOING TO CREATE FACILITIES  
FOR COMMON MAN ?

We have to take cudgels on our own and give an Action Plan to tackle the inadequacies so that the denizens of Mumbai and the devotees are both not faced with inappropriate infrastructure and facilities.

We therefore suggest as under:

1. There is a plot admeasuring 47,000 sq.mts or 11.4 Acres app. being India United Mills No.6 on the Cadel Road, owned by the NTC, Government of India undertaking, not more than a hundred meters from the Chaitya Bhoomi, which can be utilized for housing the ABHINNADHAM – A 20 storey building with facilities for congregation of followers and

ABHINNADHAM COMPLEX



academic and welfare excellence.

2. The ABHINNADHAM Complex would house a ring arcade (more than 3.4 Km long) akin to Mandala which would ferry the long ques of humanity who are otherwise made to stand in the sun on the road for more than 10 hours to have the glimpse of the Memorial containing ashes of their beloved Baba Saheb.



3. For the last 150 meters there would be a aero-bridge and/or tunnel with escalator going around the Chaitya Bhoomi, which would ease the devotees fatigue and danger of stampede during such grueling wait. A facility for seating the aged and a separate line for elderly would also be in the right earnest.
4. Free Wash-Rooms and Emergency Medical facilities on all levels of ring arcade would be available taking care of the visitors' daily need and hygiene.
5. A large congregation hall for seating 2000 attendees/visitors each on 5 levels above the ring arcade.
6. Dormitories for gents and ladies with 300 beds on each level for the next 5 levels.

7. A library and memorabilia center for exhibiting works of Bharat Ratna, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his achievements along with that of Buddhist manuscripts, books, and articles.

8. An academic center for educating the students on Dhamma.



9. A convocation hall and auditorium for interacting on various issues.

10. A legal aid center for providing free advice and support to dalits and backward classes for leading a free citizens life as enshrined in the Constitution, and a single point node for all dalit activists and organizations to co-ordinate such efforts on all India level.

11. A center for Commission for hearing atrocities committed on dalits on state and/or national level and giving justice to the down trodden.

We are sure that an endeavour such as the ABINNADHAM Complex would ease the sufferings of dalits and followers of Dr. Ambedkar during the annual congregation days, so endured silently from year to year over the last 50 years since nirvana of Babasaheb and would also be a tribute to the great soul.

The Mumbaikars woes as are spelt above during the so called hectic days would also be minimized and civic infrastructure and manpower could be effectively managed and normalcy restored in no time at all.

Last but not the least; the ABHINNADHAM Complex would effectively serve as a Disaster Management Facility during natural and other calamities in AAPLI MUMBAI.

So in the interest of the under privileged and in memory of the champion of Human Rights, an appeal should be made in the corridors of power to hand over the India United Mills No.6 premises to house ABHINNADHAM Complex.

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