Dr B. R. Ambedkar's 129th Birth Anniversary

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Why in News

Dr. B R Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary is observed every year on 14th April.

Key Points

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born in 1891 in **Mhow,** Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).
- He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution** and was **India's first Law Minister.**
  - He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee** for the new Constitution.
- Dr. Ambedkar was a social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot (knowing or using several languages) orator, a scholar and thinker of comparative religions.
- He led the **Mahad Satyagraha** in March 1927 against Hindus who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board.
  - In 1926, Municipal Board of Mahad (Maharashtra) passed an order to throw open the tank to all communities. Earlier, the untouchables were not allowed to use water from the Mahad tank.
- He **participated** in **all** three **Round Table Conferences.**
- In 1932 Dr. Ambedkar **signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi,** which **abandoned the idea of separate electorates** for the depressed classes (Communal Award).
  - However, the **seats reserved for the depressed classes were increased** from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and to 18% of the total in the Central Legislature.
- His ideas before the **Hilton Young Commission** served as the **foundation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**
- In 1936, he was **elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly** as a legislator (MLA).

- He was **appointed to the Executive Council** of Viceroy as a **Labour member** in 1942.
- In 1947, Dr. Ambedkar accepted PM Nehru's invitation to become Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India.
- He resigned from the cabinet in 1951, over differences on the **Hindu Code Bill.**
- He converted to **Buddhism.** He passed away on 6th December 1956. **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B. R. Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

Contributions of Dr. Ambedkar

- **Journals:** Dr. Ambedkar launched various journals like:
  - Mooknayak (1920)
  - Bahishkrit Bharat (1927)
  - Samatha (1929)
  - Janata (1930)
- **Books:**
  - Annihilation of Caste
  - Buddha or Karl Marx
  - The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables
  - Buddha and His Dhamma
  - The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women
- **Organisations:**
  - Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)
  - Independent Labor Party (1936)
  - Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)

Panchteerath

- The Indian Government has set up Panchteerath **in the memory of Dr BR Ambedkar.**
- Panchteerath include:
  - Amedbkar's **birthplace** in Mhow,
  - The place in London where he stayed while **studying** in the UK
  - **Deeksha Bhoomi** in Nagpur, where he took education
  - **Mahaparinirvan** Sthal in Delhi, and
  - **Chaitya Bhoomi** in Mumbai

Round Table Conferences

- **First Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on Nov. 12, 1930 but the Congress did not participate in it.

  In March 1931, Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin (Viceroy of India 1926-31) entered into a Pact, called **Gandhi-Irwin Pact,** by which the Congress called off the Civil Disobedience Movement and agreed to participate in the Round Table Conference.
- **Second Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on the 7th of September, 1931.
- **Third Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on the 17th of November, 1932 to consider the reports of various sub-committees appointed from time to time. It ultimately led to the passage of **Govt. of India Act, 1935.**

  The Congress did not participate as most of the leaders were in jail.