B R Ambedkar: 130th Birth Anniversary

Why in News

The nation celebrated the 130th birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar on 14th April 2021.

- Dr. Ambedkar was a social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot (knowing or using several languages) orator, a scholar and thinker of comparative religions.

Key Points

- **Birth:** Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was born in 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).
- **Brief Profile:**
  - 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.
  - He was a well-known statesman who fought for the rights of the Dalits and other socially backward classes.
- **Contributions:**
  - 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).

### Election and Designation:

- 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.

### Shift to Buddhism:

- 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 (Mahaparinirvan Diwas).

- Chaitya Bhoomi is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.
- He was awarded India’s highest civilian honour the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

### Important Works:

- **Journals:**
  - 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)

### Relevance of Ambedkar in Present Times:

- Caste-based inequality in India still persists. While Dalits have acquired a political identity through reservation and forming their own political parties, they lack behind in social dimensions (health and education) and economic dimension.
- There has been a rise of communal polarization and communalization of politics. It is necessary that Ambedkar's vision of constitutional morality must supersede religious morality to avoid permanent damage to the Indian Constitution.

### Round Table Conferences

- **First Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on 12th November, 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.

**Source IE**

PDF Refernece URL: [https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/b-r-ambedkar-130th-birth-anniversary](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/b-r-ambedkar-130th-birth-anniversary)