



## Mahaparinirvan Diwas

**For Prelims:** Mahaparinirvan Diwas, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, Buddhism, Round Table Conferences

**For Mains:** Contributions of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar to the Indian Society

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Prime Minister paid homage to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on [Mahaparinirvan Diwas](#)** and recalled his exemplary service to our nation.

### What is Mahaparinirvan Diwas?

- Parinirvana, regarded as **one of the major principles as well as goals of [Buddhism](#)**, is a Sanskrit term which means **release or freedom after death**.
  - As per the Buddhist text **Mahaparinibbana Sutta**, the **death of Lord [Buddha](#)** at the age of 80 is considered as the **original Mahaparinirvan**.
- **6<sup>th</sup> December is observed to commemorate the unfathomable contribution to society** given by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and his achievements. Owing to Ambedkar's status as a Buddhist leader, his **death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvan Diwas**.

### Who was Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar?

- **About:**
  - **Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar** was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot** (knowing or using several languages) orator, a scholar, and thinker of comparative religions.
- **Birth:**
  - He 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, the 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 1937**, 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 in 1956**.
- 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)

▪ **Death:**

- He **died on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1956**.
  - **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

▪ **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.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q. Which of the following parties were established by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar? (2012)**

1. The Peasants and Workers Party of India
2. All India Scheduled Castes Federation
3. The Independent Labour Party

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

**Exp:**

- The Peasants and Workers Party of India was formed by Keshavrao Jedhe of Pune, Shankarrao More and others in 1947. **Hence, 1 is not correct.**
- All India Scheduled Castes Association was established by B. R. Ambedkar in 1942 and this party participated in general elections in 1946. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- Independent Labour Party (ILP) was also formed by B. R. Ambedkar in 1936, which participated in the provincial elections of Bombay. **Hence, 3 is correct.**
- **Therefore, option B is the correct answer.**

**Mains**

**Q.** Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. **(2015)**

**Source: PIB**

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