



# The Life and Legacy of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar

**For Prelims:** Round Table Conferences, Poona pact, Drafting Committee, Buddhism, Bharat Ratna.

**For Mains:** Contribution of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Relevance of Ambedkar in Present Times.

## Why in News?

India Celebrates Birth Anniversary of [Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar](#) on April 14, 2023.

## Who was Dr. BR Ambedkar?

### ▪ About:

- **Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** was a prominent **Indian jurist, economist, social reformer, and politician**.
- He was born on **April 14, 1891** in **Mhow, Madhya Pradesh**.
  - His father, **Subedar Ramji Maloji Sakpal**, was a well-read person and follower of **Sant Kabir**.

### ▪ Education:

- Ambedkar earned his **Bachelor's degree from Bombay University** and went on for further studies to **Columbia University in New York and London School of Economics**.

### ▪ Contributions:

- In **1924**, he started an **Association for the welfare of the depressed classes** and in **1927**, he started the **Bahishkrit Bharat newspaper** to address the cause of the depressed classes.
  - He also led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927**.
- 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**).
- In **1936**, he formed the **Independent Labour Party** to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes.
- In 1942, Dr. Ambedkar was appointed to the **Executive Council of the Governor General of India as a Labour member** and elected to the **Constituent Assembly from Bengal in 1946**.
  - He was the [Chairman of Drafting Committee](#) and remembered as the **Father of the Indian Constitution**.
- In 1947, Dr. Ambedkar became **Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India**.
  - **He resigned from the cabinet in 1951**, over differences on the Hindu Code Bill.

### ▪ Additional Details:

- Later in life, He **converted to Buddhism**. He passed away on **December 6, 1956, which is commemorated as Mahaparinirvan Diwas**
  - **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.
- He was also 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:**

- His **ideas and contributions continue to shape India's social and political landscape**, particularly in the fight against caste-based discrimination and the struggle for social justice.
- His **vision for an inclusive and egalitarian society**, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution, **remains a guiding principle for the country's future development**.
  - Additionally, **his emphasis on education as a means of empowerment is particularly relevant today** as India seeks to achieve its full potential as a global leader.
- Dr. Ambedkar's legacy is an **integral part of India's national identity and his ideas continue to inspire generations**.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

### 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)**

### 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)**

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