

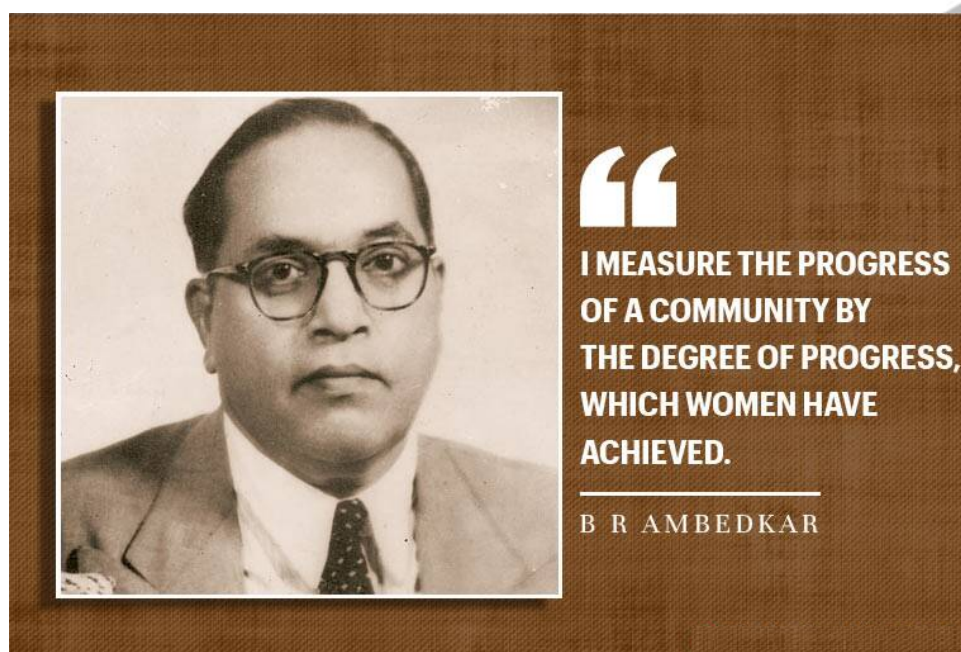


B R Ambedkar: 130th Birth Anniversary

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.

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