

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

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> of September, 1931.
- **Third Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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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