



Rajasthan Government's Initiative for SC Community

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** has launched a scheme to offer **free rail travel** to **five historical sites** linked to **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** for **Scheduled Caste (SC)** residents of Rajasthan, inspired by the 'Senior Citizen Pilgrimage Scheme.'

Key Points

- **About:** This initiative aims to honor **Dr. Ambedkar's legacy** by facilitating visits to historical sites linked to his life and work.
- **Sites Covered Related to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:**
 - **Ambedkar's Birthplace (Mhow, Madhya Pradesh):** Bhim Janmabhoomi, a memorial inaugurated on Ambedkar's 100th birth anniversary, attracts millions of visitors annually, especially on **Ambedkar Jayanti (14 April)**, serving as a hub for **social equality** and remembrance.
 - **Deeksha Bhoomi (Nagpur, Maharashtra):** This site marks Dr. Ambedkar's conversion to **Buddhism** on 14 October 1956, with over 400,000 followers. It features one of **Asia's largest stupas** and hosts the **Dhammachakra Pravartan Din celebration**, drawing millions of attendees each year.
 - **Mahaparinirvana Bhoomi (Delhi/Alipur Road):** The place where Dr. Ambedkar attained "Mahaparinirvana" on 6 December 1956. The memorial, designed to resemble the **Indian Constitution**, combines modern and Buddhist architectural elements, symbolizing his legacy.
 - **Chaitya Bhoomi (Mumbai, Maharashtra):** Dr. Ambedkar's cremation site, a **symbol of hope and unity** for marginalized communities. It serves as a central gathering point for Ambedkarite and Neo-Buddhist movements.
 - **Indu Mill Memorial (Mumbai):** The former Indu Mill site in Dadar is being developed into a **grand memorial**, featuring a 350ft bronze statue and **Buddhist-inspired architecture**, symbolizing Dr. Ambedkar's legacy and providing an educational landmark.
- **Scheme Benefits:** All expenses related to travel, accommodation, and food will be borne by the state government.
- **Application Process:** Applicants will undergo a **review process** conducted by a **district-level committee**.
- **Selection Process:** If applicants exceed available slots, selection will be made via a **computerized lottery** or another transparent method, with results published on the official departmental website and information portal.
- **Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must be **Rajasthan residents** from the SC community, non-income taxpayers, hold a **Jan Aadhar card**, and not suffer from contagious diseases (e.g., COVID-19, TB).

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar



Babasaheb Ambedkar-
The Father of Indian Constitution

14 April 1891- 06 December 1956

1. Brief Profile

- A social reformer, jurist, economist, author and thinker of comparative religions
- Labour member in the **Executive Council of Viceroy (1942)**
- **Chairman** of the **Drafting Committee** for the new Constitution
- **First Law Minister** of India
- Posthumously awarded **Bharat Ratna (1990)**

2. Contributions

- Led the **Mahad Satyagraha in 1927** against Hindus
- Participated in **all three Round Table Conferences**
- Signed the **1932 Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi** to abandon the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes

The reserved seats for depressed classes were increased from 71 to 147 in provincial legislatures and to 18% in the Central Legislature.

- **Opposed the special status of J&K (Article 370)**
- Supported **Uniform Civil Code**
- Referred **Article 32** as "**soul of the Constitution and very heart of it**"

3. Resignation and Buddhism

- Differences over **Hindu Code Bill** led to his resignation from Cabinet in **1951**
- Converted to Buddhism; his death is observed as **Mahaparinirvan Diwas**

4. Important Journals

- Mooknayak (**1920**)
- Bahishkrit Bharat (**1927**)
- Samatha (**1929**)
- Janata (**1930**)

5. Books

- Annihilation of Caste
- Buddha or Karl Marx
- **The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables**
- The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women

6. Organisations

- Estd. '**Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha**' (**1923**)
- Founded **Independent Labour Party (1936)**
- Founded **Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)**



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