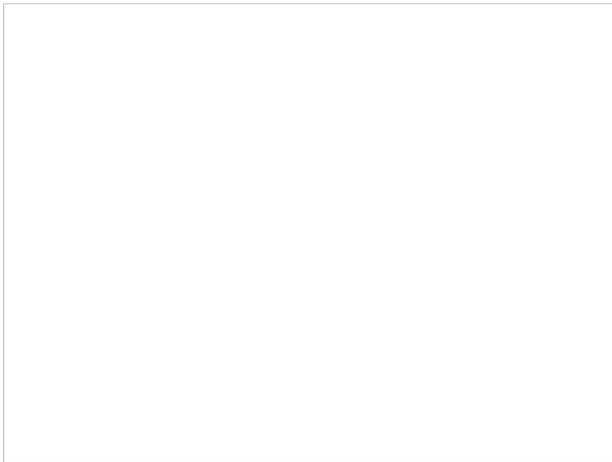




Ambedkar Jayanti

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On **14 April 2019**, the **birth anniversary** of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated.



- He was the **principal architect of the Indian Constitution** and independent **India's first law minister**.
- Dr. Ambedkar was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot orator, a scholar of comparative religions and thinker**.

About Dr. Ambedkar

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891 in **Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh)**.
- He founded **Bahishkrit Hitkarni Sabha (1923)**.
- He led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927** to challenge the regressive customs of the Hindus.
- In **1932** he signed **Poona pact** with Mahatma Gandhi.
- He **participated in all three round-table conferences**.
- In **1936**, he was **elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly** as a legislator (MLA).
- In **1947**, Dr. Ambedkar accepted PM Nehru's invitation to **become Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India**.

- On **August 29, 1947**, he was appointed **Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the new Constitution**.
- **He resigned from the cabinet in 1951**, over differences on the **Hindu Code Bill**.
- In **1956**, he **converted to Buddhism**.
- He passed away on 6th December 1956.

Poona Pact

- The **Communal Award** was announced by the British prime minister, **Ramsay MacDonald**, on August 16, 1932.
- Award established **separate electorates and reserved seats for minorities and the depressed classes**.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had a viewpoint that the **depressed classes should be treated as a distinct, independent minority separate from the Hindus**.
- While strongly disagreeing with the Communal Award, the **Congress decided neither to accept it nor to reject it**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** saw the **Communal Award as an attack on Indian unity and nationalism**. He thought it was **harmful to both Hinduism and to the depressed classes**.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** demanded that the **depressed classes be elected through joint and if possible a wider electorate** through the universal franchise, he went on an indefinite fast on September 20, 1932.
- Later **Poona Pact was signed** between **Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar** on behalf of the depressed classes on September 24, 1932.
- The Poona Pact **abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes**.
- But 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**.
- The Poona Pact was **accepted by the government** as an amendment to the Communal Award.