

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Prelims: Current events of national importance | History of India

Why in News?

Recently, the nation paid tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th Birth Anniversary.

- **Name** - Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
- **Birth** - 14 April 1891, Mhow (Madhya Pradesh), into the Mahar caste.
- **Education**
 - **PhD in Economics** - Columbia University.
 - **MSc & DSc in Economics** - London School of Economics.
 - **Barrister-at-Law** - Gray's Inn, London.

Early Commissions related to Ambedkar

- **Southborough Committee (1919)** - First argued for separate electorates for the depressed classes.
- **Hilton Young Commission (1926)** - His evidence and book *The Problem of the Rupee* provided the conceptual framework for the Reserve Bank of India (1935).
- **Economic Vision** - In *Small Holdings in India (1918)*, he identified "idle labour" (disguised unemployment) and argued for industrialization as the cure for agricultural ills.
- **PhD Thesis** - *Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India* served as the basis for the Finance Commission of India.

- **Major Socio-Political Movements - Mahad Satyagraha (1927)** - Also called Chavdar Tale Satyagraha; asserting right to public water.
- **Manusmriti Dahan (1927)** - Burned the text to protest institutionalized caste discrimination.
- **Kalaram Temple Entry (1930)** - Led agitation in Nashik for Dalit temple entry.
- **Poona Pact (1932)** - Signed with M.M. Malaviya (on behalf of Gandhi); replaced separate electorates with reserved seats.
- **Round Table Conferences** - Attended all three (1930-32).

- **Simon Commission (1928)** - Cooperated with it to demand political safeguards for depressed classes.
- **Organizations Founded**
 - **Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha (1924)** - For Dalit upliftment.
 - **Independent Labour Party (1936)** - His first political party.
 - **Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)** - Precursor to the Republican Party of India (RPI), which was announced in 1956 but formally established in 1957 after his death.
- **Labour & Water Reforms (The "Nation Builder")**
 - **Labour Reforms** - At the 7th Indian Labour Conference (1942), he changed the workday from 12 to 8 hours.
 - Introduced maternity benefits, minimum wages, Employees' State Insurance Corporation and Employees' Provident Fund.
 - **Water & Power** - Conceptualized Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). Founded CWINC (now Central Water Commission) and Central Technical Power Board (now CEA).
 - Architect of Hirakud, Sone, and Kosi projects.
 - **Legal Framework** - Drafted Article 262 (Inter-State Water Disputes).
- **Constitutional & Parliamentary Role**
 - **Chairman, Drafting Committee** - Primary architect of the Constitution.
 - **Seat Transition** - Originally elected from East Bengal; re-elected from Bombay (Poona seat) post-Partition after M.R. Jayakar resigned.
 - **Article 32** - Called it the "Soul of the Constitution."
 - **Resignation** - Resigned as Law Minister in 1951 over the Hindu Code Bill.
 - **Parliamentary Status** - Lost 1952 Lok Sabha election; served as Member of Rajya Sabha (1952-56).
- **Titles** - Father of the Indian Constitution, Architect of the Indian Constitution, Babasaheb, Bodhisattva, Father of Modern India, and First Law Minister of India.
- **Recognition** - Posthumously awarded Bharat Ratna (1990).
- **Literary Works**
- **Journals** - *Mooknayak* (1920), *Bahishkrit Bharat* (1927), *Janata* (1930), *Samata* (1929).
- **Books** - *Annihilation of Caste* (1936), *The Problem of the Rupee* (1923), *Who Were the Shudras?* (1946), *Pakistan or the Partition of India* (1940), *The Buddha and His Dhamma* (1957).
- **Autobiography** - *Waiting for a Visa*.

The Pancha-Teerth

- Five Holy Sites is a dedicated memorial circuit developed by the Government of India to honor the 5 most significant locations in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's life.
- It is designed similarly to religious pilgrimage circuits to cement his legacy as a "nation-builder."

- **5 sites**

- ***Janam Bhoomi (Mhow, MP)***
- ***Shiksha Bhoomi (London, UK)***
- ***Deeksha Bhoomi (Nagpur, MH)***
- ***Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi (Delhi)***
- ***Chaitya Bhoomi (Mumbai, MH)***

References

1. [SCI | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar](#)
2. [PIB | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar](#)

