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

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