



134th Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

The **134th Dr Ambedkar Jayanti** was celebrated on 14th April 2024, by the **Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF)** on behalf of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

- B.R. Ambedkar played a key role in drafting the [Constitution of independent India](#). His lesser-known contribution to the **Hindu Code Bill**, aimed at reforming Hindu personal laws, is equally significant in understanding his vision for a more equitable society.

What was the Hindu Code Bill?

- As the Law Minister in the newly formed government, Ambedkar embarked on drafting the **Hindu Code Bill in 1950**. It was Ambedkar's attempt to reform Hindu personal laws that would **codify and modernise Hindu law, giving greater rights to women**.
 - Before drafting the bill, Ambedkar appointed **Sanskrit scholars to translate important texts and shlokas**, ensuring the reforms were rooted in Hindu tradition.
- The bill faced strong resistance from within the Congress party and the opposition, leading Nehru to delay its passage.
- After Ambedkar resigned from the Cabinet, Nehru took over the initiative and championed four separate bills that encompassed the same content as the Hindu Code Bill.
 - These bills, namely the [Hindu Marriage Act \(1955\)](#), [Hindu Succession Act \(1956\)](#), [Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act \(1956\)](#), and [Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act \(1956\)](#) **were enacted**, realising Ambedkar's vision for Hindu reform.

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Drishti IAS

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)**



Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF)

- DAF was constituted to disseminate the message and ideologies of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, aiming to further his visions and thoughts on a pan-Indian scale.
- Established in 1992, under the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, DAF operates as an **autonomous body dedicated to preserving and propagating the legacy of Dr Ambedkar.**
- The **Dr Ambedkar National Memorial (DANM) museum** showcases the life, work, and contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar through a collection of personal belongings, photographs, letters, and documents.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. Which of the following parties were established by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar? (2012)

1. The Peasants and Workers Party of India
2. All India Scheduled Castes Federation
3. The Independent Labour Party

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (a)** 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Mains

Q. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. (2015)