

Ambedkar Circuit

For Prelims: Ambedkar Circuit, Panchteerth, Mahad Satyagraha, Poona Pact, Swadesh Darshan scheme

For Mains: Contribution of Dr B.R Ambedkar

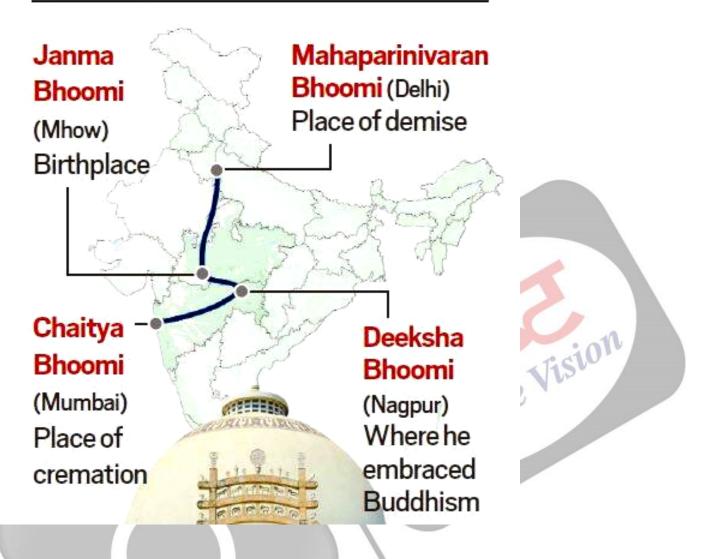
Why in News?

Recently, the Central government announced a special tourist circuit named **Ambedkar circuit**, which encompasses five key sites associated with <u>Dr B.R. Ambedkar.</u>





AMBEDKAR CIRCUIT



What is Ambedkar Circuit?

About:

- The government had first proposed the Ambedkar Circuit, or Panchteerth, in 2016, but the conceptualisation of the plan could be held recently.
- The five cities in the tourist circuit as announced by the government are:
 - Janma Bhoomi- Ambedkar's birthplace in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow.
 - Shiksha Bhoomi- the place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK.
 - Deeksha Bhoomi- the place in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism.
 - Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi- the place of his demise in Delhi.
 - Chaitya Bhoomi- the place of his cremation is in Mumbai.

Significance:

- Focus on Tourism:
 - The idea is to **attract tourists beyond the Dalit community**, who mostly visit these places as a pilgrimage.
 - The journey will include meals, ground transportation, and entry to the site.
- Development of the Area:
 - The creation of special circuits allows the government to focus better on the **comprehensive development of all sites related to the theme,** including infrastructure, road and rail connectivity, and visitor facilities.

What are the Issues Related to Ambedkar Circuit?

Promoting Government's Local and Nationalistic Perspective:

 Various Dalit scholars and Ambedkarites argued that the five spots do not do justice to Ambedkar's real legacy and have been chosen to just fit into a "localised and nationalistic" narrative of the government.

Lack of other Important Sites:

- Critics claim that there are a host of other sites which did not get recognition like:
 - In the Raigarh district of Maharashtra where Dr Ambedkar led the **Mahad Satyagraha**,
 - Pune, where he held the first negotiations with Mahatma Gandhi in Yerwada jail on a separate electorate for depressed classes,
 - The result was the <u>Poona Pact</u> signed by Dr Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes and by Madan Mohan Malviya on behalf of upper caste Hindus.
 - **Sri Lanka**, where he attended a **Buddhist conclave** that is said to have influenced him to convert to Buddhism,
 - **Kolhapur**, where in March 1920, another legendary social reformer, Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, declared Dr Ambedkar the **true leader of the oppressed classes in India.**

What are Other Tourism Circuits?

- The government had identified 15 tourist circuits under the <u>Swadesh Darshan scheme</u> in 2014-15.
- Besides the Ramayana and Buddhist Circuits, others include Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage, North East, Himalayan, Sufi, Krishna, Rural, Tribal, and Tirthankar Circuits.
- In terms of train collaboration, the Ramayana, Buddhist, and North East Circuits are already active, while Ambedkar will be fourth.

What do we Know about Dr B.R Ambedkar?

About:

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born in 1891 in **Mhow**, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).
- He is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution and was India's first Law Minister.
 - He was the **Chairman of the Drafting Committee** for the new Constitution.
- Dr. Ambedkar was a social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot (knowing or using several languages) orator, a scholar and thinker of comparative religions.
- He participated in all three <u>Round Table Conferences.</u>
- In 1932 Dr. Ambedkar signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).
 - However, 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.
- His ideas before the Hilton Young Commission served as the foundation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- In 1936, he was elected to the Bombay Legislative Assembly as a legislator (MLA).
- He was appointed to the Executive Council of Viceroy as a Labour member in 1942.
- In 1947, Dr. Ambedkar accepted PM Nehru's invitation to become Minister of Law in the first Cabinet of independent India.
- He resigned from the cabinet in 1951, over differences on the Hindu Code Bill.
- He converted to **Buddhism**. He passed away on 6th December 1956. **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B. R. Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

Contributions:

- Journals: Dr. Ambedkar launched various journals like:
 - Mooknayak (1920),

- Bahishkrit Bharat (1927),
- Samatha (1929),
- Janata (1930).
- Books:
 - · Annihilation of Caste,
 - Buddha or Karl Marx,
 - The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become, Untouchables,
 - · Buddha and His Dhamma,
 - The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women.
- Organisations:
 - Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923),
 - Independent Labor Party (1936),
 - Scheduled Castes Federation (1942).

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (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)

Exp:

- The Peasants and Workers Party of India was formed by Keshavrao Jedhe of Pune, Shankarrao More and others in 1947. **Hence, 1 is not correct.**
- All India Scheduled Castes Association was established by B. R. Ambedkar in 1942 and this party participated in general elections in 1946. **Hence, 2 is correct.**
- The Independent Labour Party (ILP) was also formed by B. R. Ambedkar in 1936, which participated in the provincial elections of Bombay. Hence, 3 is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

Source: TH