

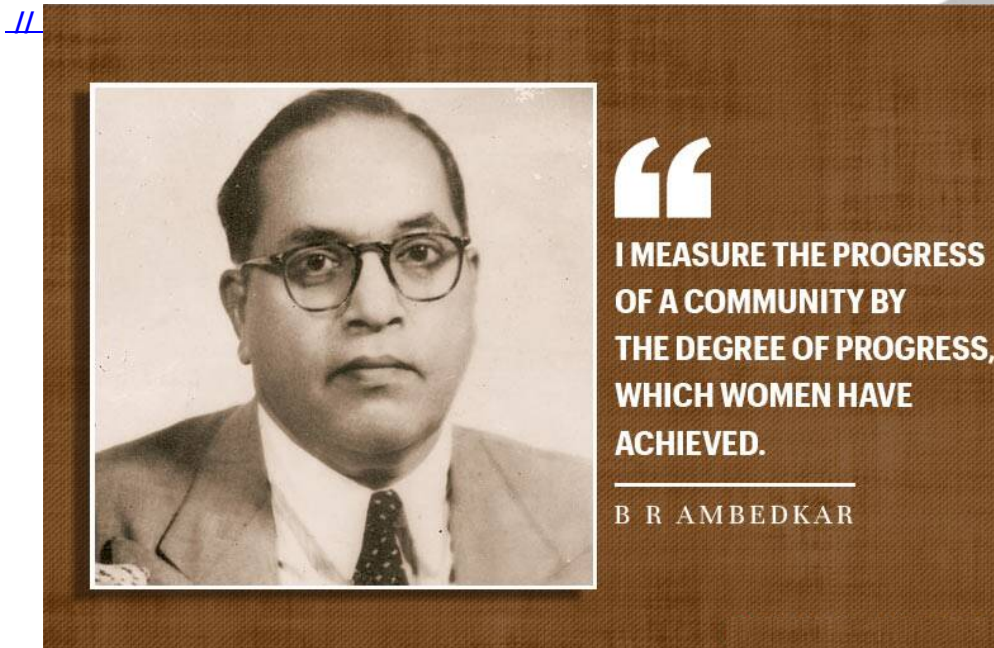


# B R Ambedkar: 130th Birth Anniversary

## Why in News

The nation celebrated the **130<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar** on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

- Dr. Ambedkar was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot** (knowing or using several languages) orator, a **scholar** and **thinker of comparative religions**.



## Key Points

- **Birth:** Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was born in **1891 in Mhow, Central Province** (now Madhya Pradesh).
- **Brief Profile:**
  - 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.
  - He was a **well-known statesman who fought for the rights of the Dalits** and other socially backward classes.
- **Contributions:**
  - He led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 against Hindus** who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board.
  - **In 1926, Municipal Board** of Mahad (Maharashtra) passed an order to throw open the tank to all communities. Earlier, the untouchables were not allowed to use

water from the Mahad tank.

- He participated in **all three Round Table Conferences**.
- **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)**.

#### ▪ **Election and Designation:**

- **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.

#### ▪ **Shift to Buddhism:**

- **He resigned** from the cabinet in **1951**, over differences on the **Hindu Code Bill**.
- He **converted to Buddhism**. He **passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1956** ([Mahaparinirvan Diwas](#)).

- **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

- He was awarded India's highest civilian honour the **Bharat Ratna** in 1990.

#### ▪ **Important Works:**

##### ◦ **Journals:**

- 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)

#### ▪ **Relevance of Ambedkar in Present Times:**

- Caste-based inequality in India still persists. While Dalits have acquired a political identity through **reservation** and forming their own political parties, they lack behind in social dimensions (health and education) and economic dimension.
- There has been a rise of communal polarization and communalization of politics. It is necessary that Ambedkar's vision of constitutional morality must supersede religious morality to avoid permanent damage to the Indian Constitution.

### **Round Table Conferences**

- **First Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on 12th November, 1930 but the Congress did not participate in it.
  - In March 1931, Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin (Viceroy of India 1926-31) entered into a

Pact, called **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**, by which the Congress called off the Civil Disobedience Movement and agreed to participate in the Round Table Conference.

- **Second Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, 1931.
- **Third Round Table Conference:** It was held in London on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 1932 to consider the reports of various sub-committees appointed from time to time. It ultimately led to the passage of **Govt. of India Act, 1935**.
  - **The Congress did not participate** as most of the leaders were in jail.

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