



## 65th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

### Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister has paid tributes to [Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar](#) on **Mahaparinirvan Diwas**.

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### Key Points

#### ▪ About Mahaparinirvan Diwas:

- Parinirvana, regarded as **one of the major principles as well as goals of Buddhism**, is a **Sanskrit term** which means release or freedom after death.
  - As per the Buddhist text **Mahaparinibbana Sutta**, the death of **Lord Buddha** at the age of 80 is considered as the original Mahaparinirvana.
- 6<sup>th</sup> December is **observed to commemorate the unfathomable contribution** to society given by **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar** and his achievements. Owing to **Ambedkar's status as a Buddhist leader**, his **death anniversary** is referred to as Mahaparinirvana Diwas.

#### ▪ Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar:

- **Birth:** 14<sup>th</sup> April 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).
- **Brief Profile:**
  - Dr. Ambedkar was a **social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot orator** and a scholar of comparative religions.
    - In 1916, he received a **doctorate degree from Columbia University**, becoming the **first Indian to do so**.
  - He is known as the **Father of the Indian Constitution** and was **India's first law minister**.
- **Related Information:**

- He established a fortnightly newspaper “**Mooknayak**” in **1920** which laid the foundations of an assertive and organised Dalit politics.
- He founded **Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)**, devoted to spreading education and culture amongst the downtrodden.
- He was appointed by the **Bombay Presidency Committee** to work in the **Simon Commission** in 1925.
- He led the **Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927** to challenge the regressive customs of the Hindus.
- The **Kalaram Temple Movement of 1930** formed a pivotal role in the Dalit movement in India in which Ambedkar led a protest outside the Kalaram temple which did not allow Dalits to enter the temple premises.
- He participated in **all three round-table conferences**.
- In 1932, he 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.
- In 1936, he was elected to the **Bombay Legislative Assembly** as a legislator (MLA).
- In 1947, he was appointed **Chairman of the Drafting Committee** for the new Constitution.
- He accepted Prime Minister 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 (aimed at reforming Hindu society).
- In 1956, he converted to Buddhism.
- He passed away on 6th December 1956.
- He was conferred **Bharat Ratna** in 1990.
- **Chaitya Bhoomi** is a memorial to **B.R. Ambedkar which is located in Dadar, Mumbai**.
- **Important Works:** Newspaper Mooknayak (1920); The Annihilation of Caste (1936); The Untouchables (1948); Buddha Or Karl Marx (1956), The Buddha and His Dhamma (1956), etc.
- **Quotes:**
  - **‘Democracy is not merely a form of government.** It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellow men’.
  - “I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved”.
  - ‘Humans are mortal. So are ideas. An idea needs propagation as much as a plant needs watering. Otherwise, both will wither and die’.

**Source: PIB**