



## Ambedkar Circuit

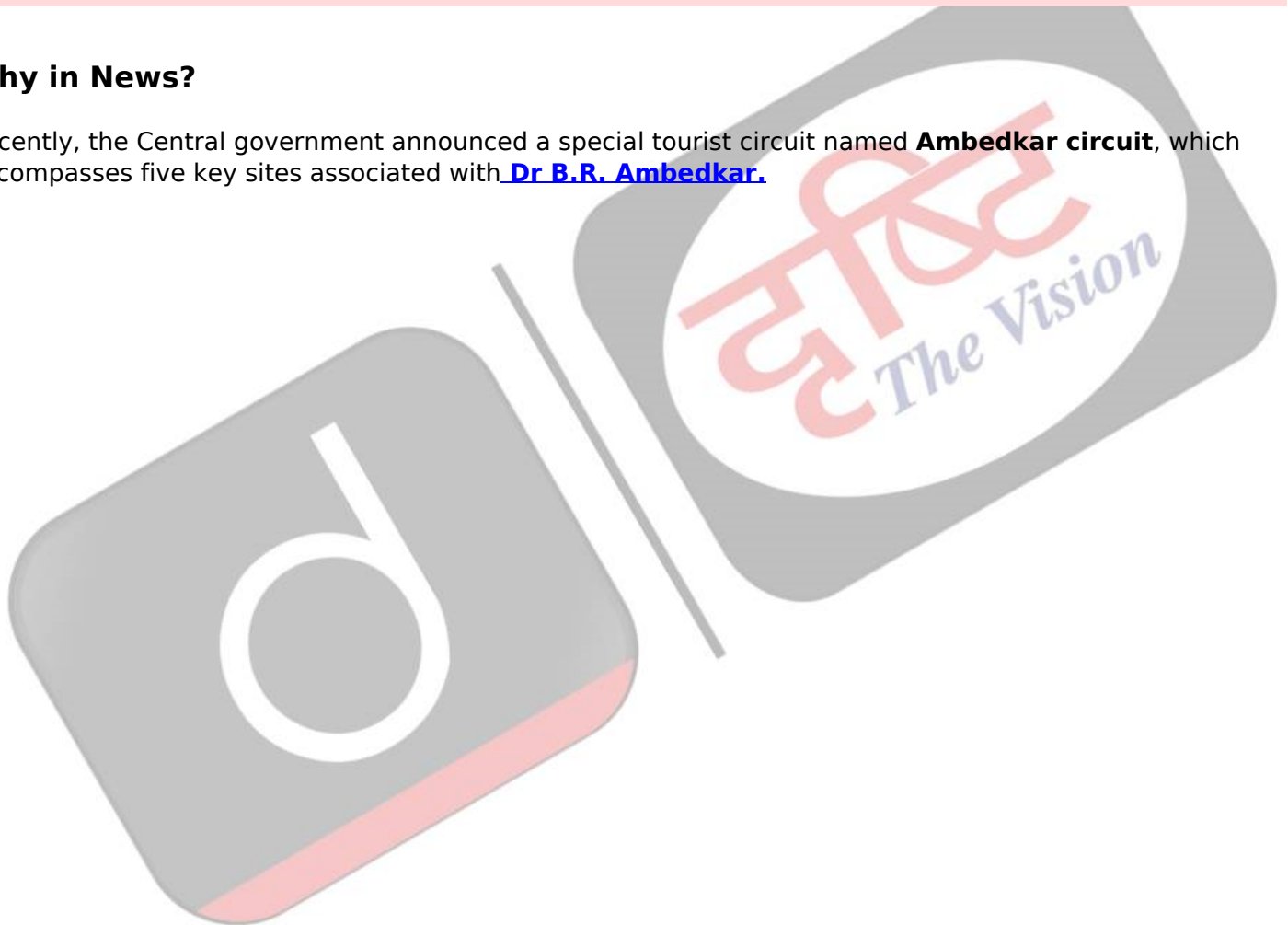
**For Prelims:** Ambedkar Circuit, Panchteerth, Mahad Satyagraha, Poona Pact, Swadesh Darshan scheme

**For Mains:** Contribution of Dr B.R Ambedkar

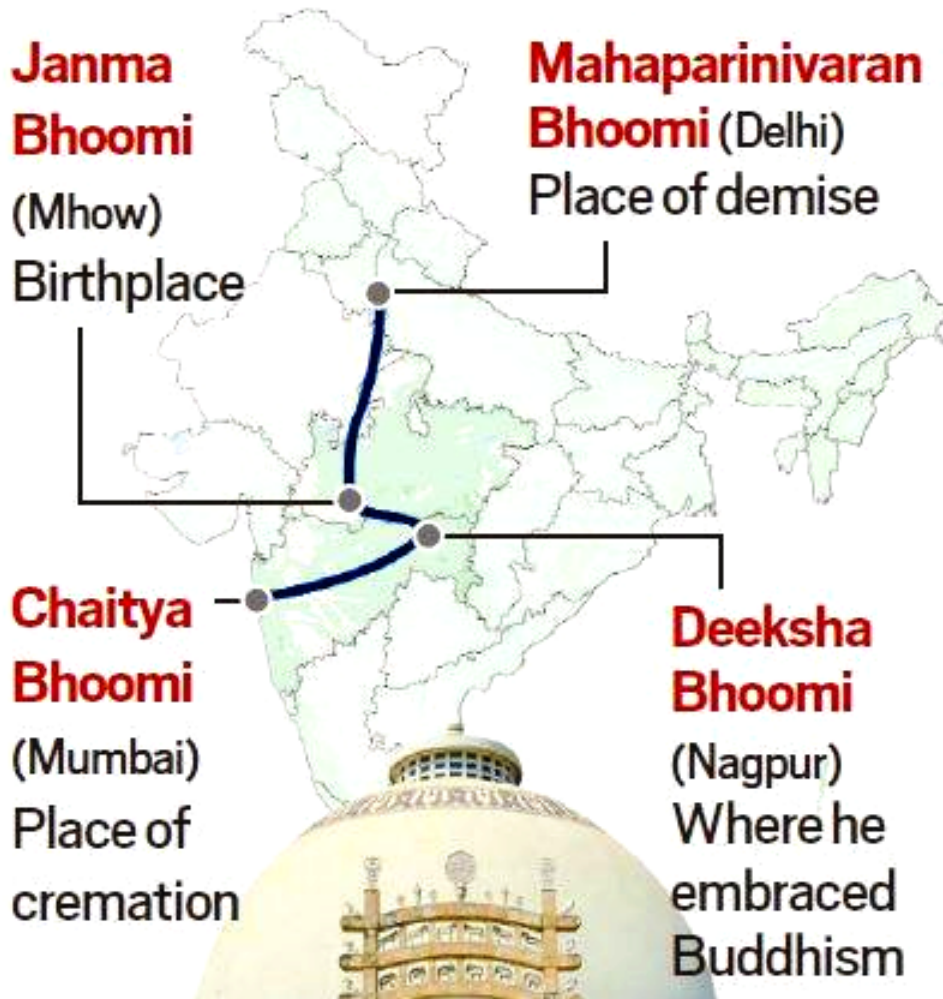
### Why in News?

Recently, the Central government announced a special tourist circuit named **Ambedkar circuit**, which encompasses five key sites associated with [Dr B.R. Ambedkar](#).

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# 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 **Poona Pact 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 **Swadesh Darshan scheme** 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 **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)**.
  - 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**