



# 134th Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

The **134<sup>th</sup> Dr Ambedkar Jayanti** was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> 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)**