



69th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr. Ambedkar

For Prelims: [Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar](#), [Indian Constitution](#), [Lord Buddha](#), [Social Equality](#), [Affirmative Action](#), [Poona Pact](#), [Finance Commission of India](#), [Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934](#), [Damodar Valley Project](#), [Hirakud Dam](#), [Employment Exchanges](#), [Drafting Committee](#), [Equality Before Law](#), [Supreme Court](#), [Directive Principles](#).

For Mains: [Welfare State](#), [Caste-Based Discrimination](#), Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to social justice, Constitution-making, and nation-building efforts.

Source: [PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, **69th Mahaparinirvan Diwas** was observed on **December 6** to commemorate the death anniversary of [Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar](#), the chief architect of the [Indian Constitution](#) and a stalwart for **social justice**.

- **Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, honors his legacy, emphasizing his transformative impact on social reform, justice, and equality.
- The term "Mahaparinirvan" stems from [Buddhist philosophy](#), symbolizing liberation from the **cycle of birth and death**, marking the most sacred day in the Buddhist calendar.

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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

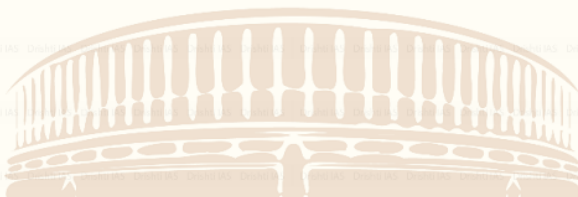
- Mooknayak (**1920**)
- Bahishkrit Bharat (**1927**)
- Samatha (**1929**)
- Janata (**1930**)

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)**



What was Dr. Ambedkar's Advocacy for Social Justice?

- **Champion of the Oppressed:** Dr. Ambedkar emerged as a beacon of hope for **Dalits, women, and laborers**, dedicating his life to eradicating **caste-based discrimination** and ensuring **social equality**.
 - His advocacy extended to dismantling systemic barriers and empowering the marginalized.
- **Empowerment Initiatives:** Dr. Ambedkar advocated for **affirmative action** to uplift marginalized groups through **policies** like reservations in **education, employment, and politics** to address historical injustices faced by marginalized groups.
 - Reservation, under **Articles 15(4), 16(4), and 334**, ensures representation for marginalized groups in education, public employment, legislative bodies and elections.
 - Founded the **Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)** to promote education, improve socio-economic conditions, and empower outcast communities.
- **Voice for the Downtrodden:** Established the newspaper **Mooknayaka** (Leader of the Silent) to provide a platform for the oppressed and challenge societal inequalities.
- **Pioneering Movements:** Spearheaded landmark movements, including the **Mahad Satyagraha (1927)**, advocating for equal access to public water resources.
 - Led the **Kalaram Temple entry movement 1930 (Nashik Satyagraha)** to break **caste-based restrictions** in places of worship, symbolising a broader fight against untouchability.
- **Poona Pact (1932):** Played a pivotal role in negotiating the **Poona Pact**, which replaced **separate electorates for Dalits** with reserved seats, paving the way for their political representation.

What was the Contribution of Dr. Ambedkar in Constitution Making?

- **Chairman of the Drafting Committee:** As the Chairman of the **Drafting Committee** appointed in **1947**, Dr. Ambedkar oversaw the meticulous process of crafting the **world's largest written Constitution**.
 - Despite diverse opinions and challenges, he ensured that the Constitution was adopted in **1949** with provisions to protect the rights of all citizens.
- **Fundamental Rights:** Dr. Ambedkar played a key role in drafting **Part III** of the Constitution, which guarantees fundamental rights such as **equality before law, protection against discrimination (Articles 15, 17)**, and safeguards for minorities.
 - Provisions for reservations in education and employment (**Articles 15[4], 16[4]**) aim to uplift marginalized communities and ensure equality, forming the backbone of India's commitment to social justice and individual liberty.
- **Article 32:** Termed as the "**soul of the Constitution**", **Article 32** empowers citizens to approach the **Supreme Court/ High Court** for enforcement of **fundamental rights**.
 - He emphasized its centrality in protecting constitutional guarantees.
- **Parliamentary Democracy:** Advocated for the **parliamentary form of government**, which he believed fostered **accountability, transparency, and social democracy**.
 - This system was designed to uphold egalitarian principles and address the nation's diverse needs.
- **Federal Structure:** Conceptualized a **dual polity**, balancing powers between the central and state governments.
 - This framework was designed to adapt to the unique socio-political dynamics of India, ensuring both **unity and flexibility**.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Envisioned the **Directive Principles** as a guide for creating a **welfare state**, promoting goals like social security, gender equality, and better living standards.
 - Although non-justiciable, these principles remain integral to policymaking in India.

What were the Contributions of Dr Ambedkar in Nation Building?

- **Economic Framework:** Dr. Ambedkar's academic contributions laid the foundation for several economic institutions.
 - His doctoral thesis influenced the creation of the [Finance Commission of India](#) and the policy framework for the [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\) Act, 1934](#).
- **Infrastructure Vision:** Envisioned and promoted large-scale infrastructure projects such as the [Damodar Valley Project](#), [Hirakud Dam](#), and [Sone River Project](#), ensuring sustainable resource management and national development.
 - Conceptualized the **National Power Grid System**, demonstrating foresight in energy security and industrial growth.
- **Employment Reforms:** Founded [Employment Exchanges](#) to streamline job placement systems, providing systematic employment opportunities across the country.
- **Social and Economic Justice:** Advocated for bridging economic disparities through inclusive policies and championed the integration of social justice into governance structures to **empower marginalized communities**.

Government's Tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- **Bharat Ratna Award:** Dr. Ambedkar was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honor, the **Bharat Ratna**, in **1990**.
- **Ambedkar Circuit:** Five places associated with Ambedkar's life were developed as pilgrimage centers ([Panchteerth Development](#)):
 - Birthplace in **Mhow**
 - Memorial in **London (Shiksha Bhoomi)**
 - **Deeksha Bhoomi** in Nagpur
 - **Chaitya Bhoomi** in Mumbai
 - **Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi** in Delhi
- **BHIM App:** A digital payment app was launched in his honor to promote [digital transactions](#), symbolizing financial inclusion and empowerment.
- **Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE):** Launched in **31 Central Universities**, these centers provide free coaching to Scheduled Caste students for Civil Services Examinations.
- **Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM):** Supports Scheduled Caste youth with startup ideas by funding.
- **Commemorative Stamps and Coins:** Coins of **Rs 10 and Rs 125 denominations** and a commemorative postal stamp were issued to honor Dr. Ambedkar's legacy.
- **Monuments of National Importance:** Sites like the **Sankalp Bhumi Banyan tree campus (Vadodara)** and Ambedkar's school in **Satara** were proposed as national monuments.
- **Constitution Day Celebrations:** Since **2015**, November 26 is observed as [Constitution Day](#), commemorating Ambedkar's role as the architect of the Indian Constitution.

Drishti Mains Question:

How did Dr. Ambedkar contribute to nation-building through economic development, infrastructure, social justice, and his role in shaping the Indian Constitution?

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

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)**

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