



64th Mahaparinirvan Diwas

Why in News

Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed **every year on 6th December** to commemorate the **death anniversary of [Dr. B R Ambedkar](#)**.

- **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**.
- Owing to **Ambedkar's status as a Buddhist leader**, his death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvana Diwas.

Key Points

- **Birth:** 14th 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 an independent 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).
- On 29th August, 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’.

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