



## 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, **69<sup>th</sup> 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

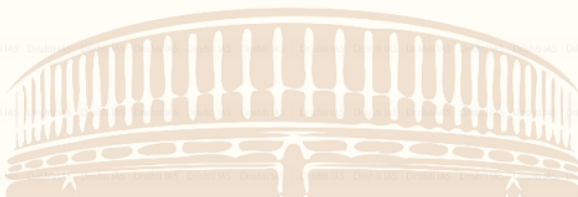
- Mooknayak (**1920**)
- Bahishkrit Bharat (**1927**)
- Samatha (**1929**)
- Janata (**1930**)

## 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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