

PIB NEWS ANALYSIS

The journey of Baba Saheb Ambedkar – Life, History & Works

- Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was born on 14 April 1891, he was the 14th and last child of his parents.
- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the son of Subedar Ramji Maloji Sakpal. He was Subedar in British Army. Babasaheb's father was a follower of Sant Kabir and was also a well-read person.
- Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was hardly two years old when his father retired from service. His mother died when he was only about six. Babasaheb got his early education in Bombay. Since his school days he realized with intense shock what it was to be an untouchable in India.
- Dr. Ambedkar was taking his school education in Satara. Unfortunately, Dr. Ambedkar lost his mother. His aunt looked after him. Afterwards, they shifted to Bombay. Throughout his school education, he suffered from the curse of Untouchability. His marriage took place after his matriculation in 1907 in an open shed of a market.
- Dr. Ambedkar completed his graduation at Elphinston College, Bombay, for which he was getting a scholarship from His Highness Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda. After his graduation, he had to join Baroda Sansthan according to the bond. He lost his father when he was in Baroda, 1913 is the year when Dr. Ambedkar was selected as a scholar to go to U.S.A, for the higher studies. This was the turning point of his educational career.
- He got his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University in 1915 and 1916 respectively. He then left for London for further studies. He was admitted there to the Gray's Inn for Law and also allowed to prepare for the D.Sc. at the London School of Economics and Political Science. But he was called back to India by the Dewan of Baroda. Later, he got his Bar-at-Law and D.Sc. degree also. He studied for some time at Bonn University in Germany.
- In 1916 he read an essay on 'Castes in India — their Mechanism, Genesis, and Development'. In 1916, he wrote his thesis 'National dividend for India — A Historic and Analytical Study' and got his Ph.D. Degree. This was published after eight years under the title — "Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India." Then after getting this highest degree, he returned to India and was appointed a Military Secretary to the Maharaja of Baroda with a view to groom him as the finance minister in the long run.
- The *Bahiskrit Bharat*, newspaper was started in April 3, 1927 to address the cause of the depressed classes in view of the new reform.
- In 1928, he became a Professor in Government Law College, Bombay and on June 1, 1935 he became the Principal of the same college and remained in that position till his resignation in 1938.
- On October 13, 1935, a provincial conference of the depressed classes was held a Yeola in Nasik District. In this conference, he gave the shock to the Hindus by announcing. "I was born in Hinduism but I will not die as a Hindu" Thousands of his followers supported his decision. In 1936 he addressed the Bombay Presidency Mahar Conference and advocated the renunciation of Hinduism.

- On August 15, 1936, he formed Independent Labour Party to safeguard the interest of the depressed classes, which mostly formed the labour population.
- In 1938, Congress introduced a bill making change in the name of untouchables. Dr. Ambedkar criticized it. In his point of view changing the name is not the solution of the problem.
- In 1942, he was appointed to the Executive Council of the Governor General of India as a Labour member, in 1946, he was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Bengal. At the same time he published his book, *Who were Shudras?*
- After Independence, in 1947, he was appointed as a Minister of Law and Justice in Nehru's first cabinet. But in 1951, he resigned his ministership, expressing his differences on the Kashmir issue, India's Foreign Policy and Nehru's Policy towards the Hindu Code Bill.
- In 1952, Columbia University conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. in recognition of the work done by him in connection with the drafting of India's Constitution. In 1955, he published his book titled *Thoughts on Linguistic States*.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was awarded a Doctorate on January 12, 1953, from Osmania University. Ultimately after 21 years, he proved true, what he had announced in *Yeola in 1935*, that "I will not die as a Hindu". On 14th October 1956, he embraced Buddhism in a historic ceremony in Nagpur and died on 6th December 1956.
- Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was conferred with the title of "Bodhisattva" by the Buddhist monks at "Jagatik Buddhism Council" in 1954 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The special thing is that Dr Ambedkar was conferred with the title of Bodhisattva while he was alive.
- He also contributed to India's Independence struggle and in its reforms post-independence. Apart from this, Babasaheb played a significant role in the formation of the Reserve Bank of India. The Central bank was formed on the concept presented by Babasaheb to the Hilton Young Commission.
- This sparkling life history of Dr. Ambedkar shows that he was a man of study and action. Firstly, he acquired sound knowledge of Economics Politics, Law, Philosophy and Sociology, in pursuing his studies; he had to face many social odds. But he did not spend all his life in reading and studying and in the libraries. He refused the higher posts with attractive salaries because he never forgot his brothers in the depressed class. He dedicated the rest of his life for equality, brotherhood and humanity. He tried his best for the upliftment of the depressed classes.
- After having gone through his life history it is necessary and proper to study and analyze his main contribution and their relevance. According to one opinion there are three points which are more important even today. Today also Indian Economy and Indian Society are facing many economic and social problems. Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts and actions may guide us for the solution of these problems.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's death anniversary is observed as Mahaparinirvan Diwas across the country.
- Tomorrow, the President, Vice President, Prime Minister and other Members will pay a floral tribute at the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at the Parliament House lawns from 08:30 AM To 09:30 AM.