

# 90 years of Harijan Sevak Sangh

September 30, 2022

**In news**– 90th Foundation Day of Harijan Sevak Sangh was observed on 30 September 2022.

## History of Harijan Sevak Sangh-

- It served as a **laboratory for Mahatma Gandhi's fight against social evils like untouchability.**
- Harijan Sewak Sangh, **born out of the historic Poona Pact between Mahatma Gandhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1932,** was founded by the Father of the Nation the same year, to lend a conducive environment for the upliftment of the oppressed classes or 'Harijans' as he called them.
- Currently, it is headquartered at Rajpath(now Kartavya Path) Camp in Delhi.
- After the Second Round Table Conference, the British government agreed to give Communal Award to the depressed classes on the request of B. R. Ambedkar.
- Gandhi opposed the government's decision which he considered would divide the Hindu society and subsequently went on to the indefinite fast in Yerwada Jail.
- He ended his fast after signing the Poona Pact with Ambedkar on 24 September 1932.
- **On 30 September, Gandhi founded the All India Anti Untouchability League,** to remove untouchability in the society, which was later **renamed as Harijan Sevak Sangh** ("Servants of Harijan Society").
- At the time industrialist **Ghanshyam Das Birla was its founding president** with Amritlal Takkar as its secretary.
- **In 1939, Harijan Sevak Sangh of Tamil Nadu headed by A. Vaidyanatha Iyer entered the Meenakshi Amman Temple in**

**Madurai**, with members of the depressed class including P. Kakkan despite opposition from the upper caste Hindus.