

Resource persons

Dr. Raja Sekhar Vundru, IAS

Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Labour Department

Topic: Princely States Integration and Ambedkar's Role in Nation Building

Prof. Laxman D. Satya

Professor, Department of History,
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, Lock Haven,
Pennsylvania, USA

Topic: Indian National Movement - Ambedkar Ideas on Democracy and Politics

Prof. Gajendran Ayyathurai

Anthropologist & Historian, Gottingen University, Germany

Topic: Debrahmanization, Casteless Identity and Democratic Society: Notes on Ambedkar Philosophy of Humanism.

Prof. Yashadatta Alone

School of Arts and Aesthetics,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Topic: Interrogating Mythic and Cultural Nationalism

Prof. Narender Kumar

Chairperson CPS, School of Social Sciences,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Topic: Understanding Conditions for Success and Prospects of Democracy in Ambedkar and Contemporary Times.

Prof. M. Dasan

Former Dean, Central University of Kerala &
Former Registrar, University of Calicut.

Topic: Inclusive Nationalism - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Narrative on Pakistan and Partition of India.

Organizing Committee

Prof. E. Sudha Rani	Dr. Yakesh Daida
Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani	Sri Yadagiri Kambhampati
Prof. Srinivas Rao Vaddanam	Dr. K.Narsimhulu
Prof. Gunti Ravinder	Smt. D.Sriveni
Dr. Pallavi Kabde	Sri D.Koteswar Rao
Dr. B. Srinivas	Sri Mallepaka Nagaraju
Dr. G.Dayakar	Smt. K. Uma Devi
Dr. P.Venkata Ramana	Sri Sunil Kumar Pothana
Dr. G.Lakshmi	Dr. Avinash.K
Dr. K. Kishore Kumar Reddy	Smt. J. Aruna
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Dr. K. Krishna Reddy	Dr. Laxman Padala
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Dr. P. Venu Gopal Reddy	Dr. K. Radhakrishna
Sri D. Vasanth Rao	Sri G. Venkata Swamy



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University

Prof. G. Ram Reddy Marg, Road No.46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of History

One Day International Seminar on

“Ambedkar Democracy and Nationalism”

on 11th July, 2022 at 11.00 a.m

in Mini Auditorium, CSTD Building, BRAOU Campus



Prof. K. Seetharama Rao
Vice-Chancellor, Dr. BRAOU
Chief Patron

Dr. A.V.R.N. Reddy
Registrar I/c, Dr. BRAOU
Patron

Prof. E. Sudha Rani
Seminar Director

Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Prof. Srinivas Rao Vaddanam
Seminar Co-Director

Dr. G. Dayakar
Seminar Co-ordinator

About the Seminar

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is the architect and maker of the modern India. Gail Omvedt observes that the development of Ambedkarism in India can be seen as the expression of worldwide democratic revolution that had grown out of experiences and situations.

Ambedkar drafted the Constitution giving voice to the traditions, faith and beliefs of the country. But, in his vision, all the citizens of the country were Indians first; their other identities came later.

Ambedkar being the architect of the Indian Constitution visualised the future of people in independent India. His concept of democracy and nationalism is unique and different from the rest of the leaders. His struggle for democratising India is valuable to emulate. Ambedkar's conception of democracy is radical and embeds human dignity.

His vision of democracy encompasses political, social and economic as political democracy alone could not go very far, if glaring economic and social inequalities remain in the society. He said that "... to build a democracy, we have to recognise the obstacles in our path because the grand palace of the Constitution stands on the foundation of people's allegiance in democracy." This insightful contribution of the concept of democracy transcended the boundaries of liberalism.

Another crucial feature of Ambedkar's conception of democracy is that it is geared to social transformation and human progress rooted in rationality and scientific outlook.

Studying his writings and initiatives during 1919-1956 confirms his passion for democracy and also provides concerns for democracy. Starting from his advocacy for universal adult franchise and representation of marginalised communities to Southborough Committee (1919), Simon Commission, roundtable conferences to his writings on conditions on successful working of democracy (1952), and prospects of democracy in India (1956) all reflect his ideas on nationalism.

His constant concern was challenges in making democracy successful in Indian conditions. He said that "Indians today are governed by two different ideologies. Their political ideas set in the Constitution affirms a life of liberty, equality and fraternity. Their social ideal embodied in their religion denies them". Even now, the contemporary developments in the Indian society face these challenges for the success of democracy.

Ambedkar described nationalism as "consciousness of kind, awareness of the existence of that tie of kinship", as this is how people come close to each other and develop a sense of fraternity.

In this light, ideas, strategies and interventions of Ambedkar become significant.

Nationalist leadership laid excessive emphasis on the political freedom ignoring the social aspects of nationalism. Ambedkar viewed nationalism as a spiritual phenomenon rooted in humanism. He argued that in the absence of complete freedom of the people nationalism becomes a conduit of internal slavery and organised tyranny.

His vision was to build a democratic and inclusive India. His notion of nationalism and understanding of the Indian national movement have rarely received adequate academic consideration. While participating in the national movement he was aware that the socio-economic and political concerns of marginal communities in the Indian society needs to be addressed prior to independence to India.

His idea of building a nationhood or nationalism is rooted in the democratic constitutionalism. His aspiration of nation is formed by a coming together of its traditions, cultures, religions and languages. On nation-building, he stressed that the nation is not a physical entity. It is the result of continuous efforts, sacrifice and patriotism.

It is pertinent to the contemporary intellectual of India to address the kind of democratic government with sovereign nature that Ambedkar has visualised and the strategies suggested by him shall be discussed objectively. The present seminar provides a platform for sharing the views on the theme.

The specific Objectives of the International Seminars are to discuss and deliberate on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's perspective on:

1. Multitude that are in practice
2. Explore Nationalism within the Constitutional framework
3. Analyze the functionaries of the society in terms of democratic equality, social, economic, gender, psychological and cultural aspects.

About the Department

The Department of History offers courses leading to BA, MA, PGDCT, M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. Courses designed to provide students with a broad overview of World History, Indian History and Regional History. Since its inception lakhs of learners are obtaining the knowledge as well as Degrees in History with special emphasis on socio-economic and cultural history aspects.

Experts Associated

The Department has the guidance of outstanding historians of International fame such as Prof. K.N. Panikkar and Prof. Sarvepally Gopal. The courses have been prepared under the eminent guidance of Prof. Sarojini Regani, Prof. Radha Krishna Sharma, Prof. Vakulabharanam Ramakrishna, Prof. K.S.S. Sheshan, Prof. Y. Vaikuntam, Prof. V.M. Reddy, Prof. Somasunder Rao, Prof. V. Kishan Rao, Prof. Alladi Vaidehi, Prof. A. Bobbili, Prof. Adapa Satyanarayana and many other prominent historians. The Department started by Prof. Ramakrishna Reddy and took forward by Prof. Subramanyam, Prof. V. Ramakrishna Reddy and Prof. E. Sudha Rani.

Programmes and Courses offered

BA - The Department is offering three year Bachelor Degree in History since 1984 in English and Telugu Mediums. The Urdu Medium is offered since 1997. The Main objective of the Department is to acquaint the learners with the historical, socio-economical and cultural developments in India as well as the world. The course material has been revising and incorporating recent developments in the course material. Study material prepared by the experts is not only catering the needs of learners in the University but also most readable study material in history for General Public. It is also acclaimed as the best reference material for those who are preparing competitive examinations such as UPSC, APPSC and other recruitment boards.

2017-18 academic year the University has adopted CBCS pattern where the learner study History. Overall Department of History is offering twelve courses in history for three years. In the view of the political developments such as state bifurcation the Department of History has offered a separate course on the history and culture of Telangana.

M.A-Master's Programme in History has been introduced in the year 1994 in Telugu Medium. PG Diploma in Culture and Heritage Tourism- PG Diploma in Culture and Heritage Tourism has been introduced in the year 2011-12 in English Medium. M.Phil. and Ph.D. - Research programmes leading to the award of M.Phil. and Ph.D. were introduced from the year 2008. The Department conducts several National and International Seminars and Conferences inviting eminent Historians.