

# Jawaharlal Nehru University

## New Delhi

07<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Press Note

“Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar suffered the worst torments of misconceptions of the Indian society, but he never let personal angst and anguish dominate while creating the constitution of India.” This was said by Dr. Ram Shankar Katheria, Chairman, National Commission of Scheduled Castes, at an event organized to commemorate the death anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, a grand programme was organized by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Central Library on the occasion of Bodhisattva Babasaheb Ambedkar’s Mahaparinirvan Diwas.

The programme began with Bhante’s prayer chantings to the Buddha. Thereafter, continued the conference on “Babasaheb’s Role in Nation Building.” Renowned speakers from the field of administration, politics and academia articulated their views to an informed and enthusiastic audience. While elaborating upon the many aspects of Babasaheb, Prof. Ram Shankar Katheria, illuminated the audience on the great contribution of the beloved leader in the field of education, and appreciated the University for organizing the event. He also appreciated the University Library for opening an independent section for the books on literature and philosophy by Dr. Ambedkar and the students’ theses on his works. He as well said that in the coming year, on April 14, the University should organize an even grander celebration of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, and the Government of India would provide all possible assistance towards it.

While presenting the Keynote Address, Dr. Vijay Sonkar Shastri, the former Chairman of the National Commission of Scheduled Castes, enlightened the audience with various historical facts not known to people at large. He presented numerous details to emphasize that without knowing the thoughts of Babasaheb, it was impossible to know not only the Dalit, Tribal and Marginalized communities, but the very development of human societies as a whole was unthinkable without it.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, Shri Rajinder Kashyap emphasized, by citing examples from Babasaheb’s books, that he should be seen as the Messiah for the Marginalized and the Dalits.

The Chief Guest at the event Shri Rajesh Diwakar, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, argued that for his great contribution, Babasaheb should be given an even higher recognition than Bharat Ratna. He should be indeed conferred Vishwa Ratna, he said.

In his Welcome Speech, Prof. Vivek Kumar, said that by following the fundamental principles of the Indian constitution created by Babasaheb, India’s great progress and development could be achieved. In the social context, he presented Babasaheb as a liberator of not only the Untouchables, but that of the entire humankind.

In his remark as the Chair of the event, Prof. Rana Pratap Singh, Rector JNU, said that in all Indians live a part of Babasaheb, and stressed that if every Indian is able to awaken the Babasaheb in her/him, our country will speedily progress far ahead of the foremost countries of the world.

Dr. Ramesh Chandra Gour, the Librarian, showed to the audience a significant documentary made by the Library on Dr. Ambedkar. While delivering the Vote of Thanks, Dr. Rajesh Paswan, thanked the whole University community, Teachers’ Association, Staff Association, Officers’ Association and all other members of the campus for their support and encouragement. He said that for Babasaheb’s pen was the mightiest, and emphasized that the Babasaheb Section of the Library should be enriched to give a fitting tribute to the great leader.

In this programme, the whole university community, family members of the employees took active part, and kept listening to the audience till the last moment. With great joy, Prof. Sudhir Kumar, the compere, said with pride, appreciating the packed hall that this was the first Parinirvan Diwas of Babasaheb organized by the JNU administration in the history of the University, and resolved that in the future, on 14 April and 6 December, the University should continue to celebrate the legacy of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.