



Dr Ambedkar Chair
Assam University, Silchar
(An initiative by Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi
Under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI)
PO. Assam University, Silchar, Cachar, Assam - 788011

Two-Day National Seminar on the Topic
Unveiling the Visionary: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Perspective on Nation and Nationalism
22nd & 23rd March, 2024

Introduction: Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, was not only a key figure in the socio-political transformation of India but also a profound thinker who offered a unique perspective on nationhood and nationalism. His thoughts on these subjects, often overlooked, provide a rich tapestry of insights that challenge conventional notions and invite a deeper understanding. This seminar aims to explore Dr. Ambedkar's vision of nation and nationalism, unraveling the nuances that shaped his views.

Objectives:

1. To examine Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's conceptualization of nation and nationalism.
2. To analyze the historical and social context that influenced Ambedkar's ideas.
3. To discuss the relevance and contemporary significance of his thoughts on nationhood.
4. To foster a comprehensive understanding of Ambedkar's contributions to the discourse on nationalism.

Key Themes:

1. **Constitutional Nationalism:**
 - Explore how Dr. Ambedkar's role in drafting the Indian Constitution reflects his vision of a united and inclusive nation.
 - Discuss the principles embedded in the Constitution that uphold Ambedkar's vision of nationalism.
2. **Social Justice and Nationalism:**
 - Examine Ambedkar's emphasis on social justice as a foundational element of a truly democratic and nationalistic society.
 - Analyze how his advocacy for the rights of marginalized communities aligns with his vision of a just and equitable nation.
3. **Cultural Pluralism:**
 - Investigate Ambedkar's thoughts on cultural diversity and its role in shaping a robust national identity.
 - Discuss how his views on cultural pluralism challenges the western narratives of a homogenous nation.
4. **Economic Dimensions of Nationalism:**
 - Explore Ambedkar's economic vision for an inclusive and prosperous nation.
 - Discuss his ideas on economic equity and their implications for a nationally cohesive society.
5. **Aryan Invasion and Indian Nationalism:**
 - Discuss how Dr Ambedkar's views on Aryan Invasion Theory challenges the dominant narratives of North-South binary.
 - Discuss how his views on unifying force of Indian national ethos challenges the dominant narrative of sub nationalism.

6. Relevance in Contemporary Times:

- Examine how Dr. Ambedkar's vision remains pertinent in addressing contemporary challenges related to nationalism, identity, and social harmony.
- Discuss potential applications of his ideas in the context of current socio-political scenarios.

Methodology: The seminar will employ a multidisciplinary approach, combining historical analysis, legal studies, sociological perspectives, and philosophical inquiry. Keynote speeches, panel discussions, and paper presentations will be utilized to foster a comprehensive understanding of Dr. Ambedkar's vision.

Target Audience: This seminar is intended for scholars, researchers, students, policymakers, and anyone interested in gaining a deeper insight into the multifaceted vision of nation and nationalism through the lens of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced understanding of Dr. Ambedkar's nuanced vision of nation and nationalism.
2. Identification of the contemporary relevance of his ideas in the context of a diverse and evolving society.
3. Promotion of informed discussions and collaborations among scholars and policymakers.

By delving into Dr. Ambedkar's profound thoughts on nationhood and nationalism, this seminar aims to shed light on a perspective often overshadowed by mainstream narratives. Through rigorous exploration and discussion, participants will gain a deeper appreciation for the visionary contributions of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to the conceptualization of a united and inclusive nation.

Venue: Bipin Chandra Paul Milanayatan, Assam University, Silchar, Cachar, Assam – 788011

About Dr Ambedkar Chair, Assam University, Silchar:

It is to be mentioned that in the year 1992, a Sub-Committee on Education, constituted by Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Centenary Celebrations Committee, recommended a scheme for setting up subject wise “Dr. Ambedkar Chairs” in different universities/institutions. The Scheme for creating Dr. Ambedkar Chairs in various Universities/Institutes was for befitting tribute to this illustrious son of India and study the present-day relevance of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar. The Chairs will serve as Centres of learning and research not only on the subjects concerning Dr. Ambedkar’s Works and Philosophy but also on the issues concerning the socio-economic and cultural life as well as biological aspects of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, Backward Classes and other socially and economically Weaker and Oppressed Sections of the Society. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, GOI has signed a MoU with 25 Universities/ Institutions at BHU Varanasi on 22nd April, 2022 and Assam University, Silchar is one among these.

Procedure for submitting Papers and Abstracts:

- ❖ Papers must be original research work and related to the main theme of the seminar.
- ❖ Maximum length of the paper is 5000 words
- ❖ An abstract of 250 words (maximum) is to be there at the beginning of the paper

- ❖ Only one soft copy will be accepted in MS Word (2007 or later), Font: Times New Roman, Size: 12-point, line space: 1.5 and Paper A4 and a copy in PDF with the same specifications.
- ❖ Languages: English

Important Dates:

- ❖ Last date of Abstract submission: 28th February, 2024
- ❖ Confirmation of the acceptance of the abstract: 1st March, 2024
- ❖ Last date of the submission of the full paper: 10th March, 2024
- ❖ Last date of Registration: 10th March, 2024
- ❖ Seminar Dates: March 22-23, 2024

Publication:

Selected papers will be published in book form having ISBN by Dr Ambedkar Chair, Assam University, Silchar (An initiative of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India).

How to reach the Venue?

Assam University (A Central University), Silchar is located 20 kms away from the district head quarter Silchar. Silchar is well connected through direct train service from Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Tiruvanthapuram, Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Naharlagun, Secunderabad, Yashvantapur (Bangaluru) and other major cities of India. There is direct bus service from Guwahati which is 330 kms away. The nearest airport is Kumbhirgram, Silchar which is 42 kms away and air connectivity is there with Delhi, Kolkata, Bangaluru, Guwahati, Imphal, Shillong etc.

Registration Details:

- ❖ Faculty and other academicians: Rs. 1500/
- ❖ Research Scholars: Rs. 700/

Accommodation:

The participants will be assisted in booking their accommodation if it is communicated by 15th March, 2024

Contact Details: Professor Anup Kumar Dey, Dr Ambedkar Chair Professor, AUS
Email: anupkumar.dey@aus.ac.in
Contact Nos. 7002504730/ 9436132468

Organizing Committee:

Patrons: Professor Rajive Mohan Pant, Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar
Dr Pradosh Kiran Nath, Registrar, Assam University, Silchar

Seminar Coordinator: Professor Anup Kumar Dey, Dr Ambedkar Chair Professor, AUS

Members: Dr Maumita Nath, Assistant Professor, Dr Ambedkar Chair, AUS
Anandita Singh, Doctoral Fellow, Dr Ambedkar Chair, AUS
Bishal Das, Doctoral Fellow, Dr Ambedkar Chair, AUS