National Peminar

on

Dr. Ambedkar and his contribution: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

(September 25-26, 2008)





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A WORD FROM THE CONVENOR

I take this opportunity to welcome you all in this National Seminar on 'Dr. Ambedkar and His Contribution: An Interdisciplinary Perspective'.

Baba Saheb epitomizes an intellectual tradition that transcends the parochial confines of straitjacketed disciplines and hence we thought it appropriate to explore and understand his contributions through an interdisciplinary approach. He is best known as the maker of Indian Constitution and a dedicated social reformist,



but we need to remember that he was trained to be an economist and a political scientist, and had successfully completed Doctoral research in both these disciplines. He worked incessantly for the uplift of the downtrodden and never compromised with his ideals and beliefs.

This seminar aims to look afresh at Baba Saheb's ideas and perspectives through an integrated and interdisciplinary approach, which is perhaps how Dr. Ambedkar himself analysed and engaged with most issues of his times. Most of Ambedkar's ideas cannot be confined to a specific temporal context. His thoughts and insights are relevant today more than ever before and many problems and questions that he was trying to grapple with during the first half of the twentieth century, are still staring right in our face. Ambedkar was a great academician, intellectual and thinker and I sincerely hope that this seminar will help us fathom more of these shades of Ambedkar besides his social activism.

I thank our principal Dr. G. K. Arora whose constant encouragement and support has motivated us to work harder to make this seminar a success. I also thank all the friends and colleagues who were always keen to help us in any manner possible. It is because of them that this seminar has become a reality of which we all are very proud.

Anula Maurya (Convenor) Reader, Department of Sanskrit, Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi.