



DR. AMBEDKAR INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

DR. AMBEDKAR FIRST MEMORIAL LECTURE

BY HON'BLE JUSTICE BHUSHAN RAMAKRISHNA GAVAI
(JUDGE, SUPREME COURT OF INDIA)

Event Report

It highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's immense contributions not only as the chief architect of the Constitution but also as a torchbearer of social democracy, equity, and civic awareness.

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DR. AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE

–14TH APRIL 2025

On the auspicious occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi, organized a special Memorial Lecture on 14th April 2025. The event was held at the Bhim Auditorium within the DAIC premises and witnessed enthusiastic participation from scholars, students, government officials, and members of the public from various walks of life. The central theme of the lecture was *“Dr. Ambedkar's Contribution to Constitution and Nation-Building.”*

The programme commenced with a solemn floral tribute to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, symbolizing respect and reverence toward his enduring legacy. This was followed by a welcome address by Mr. Akash Patil, Director of DAIC, who warmly greeted the attendees and highlighted the continued relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals in today's socio-political context. He described the DAIC as the “heart and soul of the Constitution's values,” emphasizing its role in promoting democratic discourse and civic awareness.

The highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Hon'ble Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Justice Gavai's address focused deeply on the historical foundations and evolution of the Indian Constitution. He eloquently articulated Dr. Ambedkar's unparalleled foresight in drafting a framework that not only safeguarded individual rights but also balanced the complex dynamics of India's federal structure. Particular emphasis was placed on concepts such as Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Centre-State relations, and the transformative nature of Article 32, which Dr. Ambedkar famously described as “the very soul of the Constitution.”

“In this country there shall be two different sets of polity. One at the bottom — autonomous provinces or the states or such other areas as where to join united India. These autonomous units will have full power. They will also have residuary powers. At the top

of the provincial units there will be union government having certain subjects for legislation, for execution and for administration. As I read this part of the resolution I do not find any reference to the idea of grouping an intermediate structure between the union on the one hand and the provinces on the other”, Justice Gavai said quoting Dr. Ambedkar.

He also said that Dr. Ambedkar while responding to criticism that directive principles are nothing else but a pious declaration having no binding force, had stated, “if it is said that the Directive Principles have no legal force behind them, I am prepared to admit it. But I am not prepared to admit that they have no sort of binding force at all. Nor am I prepared to concede that they are useless because they have no binding force in law.”

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the organizing committee, expressing gratitude to Hon’ble Justice Gavai, dignitaries, and all attendees who contributed to making the lecture a reflective and enriching experience. This event was conducted in the spirit of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, commemorating India’s journey of independence and progress, and highlighting Dr. Ambedkar’s immense contributions not only as the architect of the Constitution but also as a visionary advocate for equality, dignity, and democratic ideals.

Media Coverage

The event received considerable media attention across platforms:

. Bar^{and}Bench

**We have a PM who proudly says he
reached the position because of
Constitution: Justice BR Gavai**

*The Supreme Court judge was delivering the lecture on 'Dr Ambedkar's
Contribution in Constitution and Nation Building'.*

<https://www.barandbench.com/news/we-have-a-pm-who-proudly-says-he-reached-the-position-because-of-constitution-justice-br-gavai>

Ambedkar always advocated unity of country: Justice Gavai

Justice Gavai said Ambedkar was “one of the greatest sons of the country” and a “great visionary” who contributed to various fields as an economist

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ambedkar-always-advocated-unity-of-country-justice-gavai-9944441/>



Judge Cites BR Ambedkar's "Interest Of Nation" Remark Amid Waqf Protests

In his address on the 134th Birth Anniversary of BR Ambedkar in Delhi, Justice Gavai also spoke about BR Ambedkar's views on the power balance between the Centre and states.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/supreme-court-judge-justice-br-gavai-cites-br-ambedkars-interest-of-nation-remark-amid-anti-waqf-act-protests-8165908>

• **INDIA TODAY**

India's social progress happened due to Ambedkar's constitution: Justice BR Gavai

Supreme Court judge Justice BR Gavai praised Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution for India's social progress, highlighting its role in empowering marginalised groups.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/law-news/story/justice-br-gavai-says-indias-social-progress-happened-due-to-ambedkars-constitution-2709094-2025-04-15>



Nation grateful to Ambedkar for framing Constitution: Justice Gavai

Born in a Dalit family in 1891, he was a brilliant student who went on to study in foreign countries. He was India's first law minister. He died in 1956.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/nation-grateful-to-ambedkar-for-framing-constitution-justice-gavai-3492814>



When Justice Gavai Spoke About PM's 'Humble Background' Being From Backward Class

Dr. Ambedkar always said that the women in this country are more oppressed than the Dalits and he, therefore, stated the furtherance of their upliftment was also a basic necessity.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/when-justice-gavai-spoke-about-pms-humble-background-being-from-backward-class-article-151423973>



Constitution has stood test of time, made India strong and stable: Justice BR Gavai

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Constitution has stood test of time, made India strong and stable: Justice BR Gavai

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/constitution-has-stood-test-of-time-made-india-strong-and-stable-justice-br-gavai-101744654303908.html>



पॉलिटिकल डेमोक्रेसी के लिए 'सामाजिक लोकतंत्र' जरूरी... जस्टिस गवई ने भारत की तरक्की के लिए की 'भीमस्मृति' की प्रशंसा

भारत के अगले चीफ जस्टिस बनने जा रहे जस्टिस बी आर गवई ने संविधान सभा के सदस्य के.एम. जेधे के भाषण का भी हवाला दिया, जिन्होंने बताया था कि अनुसूचित जातियों के नेता के रूप में अंबेडकर की स्थिति के कारण, कुछ लोगों ने संविधान को "भीमस्मृति" कहा था.

<https://www.aajtak.in/india/news/story/br-ambedkar-supreme-court-justice-br-gavai-indian-constitution-bhimsmriti-india-ntcppl-rptc-2216917-2025-04-15>

Photographs

















Conclusion

The Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture 2025 served not only as a tribute to the legacy of an iconic reformer but also as a platform for intellectual dialogue and cultural reflection. Through scholarly insights, student participation, and creative expressions, the event reaffirmed the enduring value of constitutional democracy and social justice in India. The lecture inspired attendees to revisit and uphold the principles that Dr. Ambedkar envisioned for an inclusive and progressive nation.