

Permanent Mission of India
New York

Press Release

Commemoration of 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Permanent Mission of India organized a commemorative event to mark the 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at United Nations Headquarters on 14 April 2026. The theme of the commemorative event was ‘Dr. B. R. Ambedkar’s Vision of Constitutional Morality and its Relevance for Multilateralism’.

2. In his welcome remarks, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni noted that Dr. Ambedkar’s ardent advocacy for instilling the spirit of constitutional morality among Indian citizens was very significant and unique. He outlined the striking characteristics of India’s democracy and constitutional values and identified common strands between the Constitution of India and the UN Charter. Ambassador Harish emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar’s call for cultivating constitutional morality is especially relevant in these troubled times, characterized by political fragmentation and constant conflicts, and will help strengthen multilateralism, bring about effective reforms in the UN, revitalise its principal organs and make the UN fit for purpose.

3. Dr. Raja Sekhar Vundru, senior civil servant and noted Ambedkar scholar, delivered the keynote address. He said that as someone who witnessed both the World Wars and the creation of the UN, Dr. Ambedkar recognized the importance of multilateralism. He added that Dr. Ambedkar was instrumental in formulating the central principles of the Indian Constitution. The foundational spirit of maintenance of international peace as outlined in the UN Charter is also reflected in the Indian Constitution. He stressed that Dr. Ambedkar underlined the need for cultivating constitutional morality. In this context, the keynote speaker said that there is a case for cultivating international constitutional morality on the basis of multilateralism and the UN Charter.

4. Guest speaker, Dr. Santosh Raut, Visiting Professor at Harvard Divinity School, opined that the life of Dr. Ambedkar was a moral testimony, wherein he did not merely escape suffering, but transformed it, and turned this wound into wisdom. He added that Dr. Ambedkar viewed the Constitution as a vehicle for social and economic transformation. Dr. Raut delved into the profound relevance of Dr. Ambedkar’s contributions and ideals in today’s world, with specific focus on multilateralism. He described morality as the force that enables practical implementation of the spirit of written texts like the UN Charter.

5. Members of the diplomatic corps, academia and people from various walks of life enthusiastically attended the event. The commemorative event underlined that Dr.

Ambedkar's vision of constitutional morality, social equality, and empowerment remains profoundly relevant today and continues to inspire humanity's march towards inclusion, democracy, and equality.

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