



# DR. BHIM RAO AMBEDKAR COLLEGE (University of Delhi)

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## Press Release

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College organized the 13<sup>th</sup> Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Memorial Lecture on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in the college auditorium. Prof. Surender Kumar, Delhi School of Economics, was the Keynote Speaker of the programme, which commenced with the lighting of the lamp followed by a floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar. Dr. Chawla, in his welcome note, highlighted the series of lectures that have been organized in the college since 2007 in memory of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. G.K. Arora highlighted the achievements of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the field of economics. He highlighted the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in consolidation of land-holding, cooperative agriculture and in the foundation of Reserve Bank of India. An exclusive journal on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was released by Prof. Surender Kumar & Dr. G.K. Arora.

Prof. Surender Kumar, Delhi School of Economics, gave his keynote speech on the occasion and focused on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's role in the field of economics. Prof. Surender highlighted the works of Dr. Ambedkar especially his paper "Small holdings in india and their remedies" written in 1918. Prof. Surender briefed the audience on the current state of agriculture sector in the country, and also the rampant state of unemployment. Quoting Dr. Ambedkar's paper, Prof. Surender questioned why land-holding is so small and scattered in india and whether law of inheritance is the cause? Prof Surender said that Dr. Ambedkar was addressing these questions a century back at the age of 27. He considered agriculture as an industry, that produces something and that requires enterprise. Farmer was recognized as an entrepreneur by Dr. Ambedkar who said that productivity of a land doesn't only depend on the size of the land but also on how the land is maintained through the use of institutional arrangements. So we need capital too. Real cause is not law of inheritance, but it is too much pressure on the land due to not many employment opportunities and lack of capital. Moving to towns will also not be enough as there are only as many towns in the country and therefore we need more urbanization and industrialisation. Remedy therefore lies in urbanization and development so that we can shift the surplus labour from rural to urban areas. Today, though, times have changed a lot as machines have replaced cattle in agriculture. Still, we need the same remedies today as well.

Dr. G.K. Arora concluded the programme with his remarks on Prof. Surender's lecture where he said that Dr. Ambedkar's economic philosophy is still relevant in today's times and we have to implement his remedies to improve the agriculture by treating it as an industry in India. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by the convener of the event Dr. Dhananjay Kumar.

Convener

Press Release Committee

SNA: Email please.

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