

KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTRE

Mukthagangothri, Mysuru – 570006.

In Collaboration with

Institute of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Training & Research Extension Centre

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU



TWO DAYS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On the Theme of

**Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR AND CONTEMPORARY INDIA :
Rethinking Democracy, Social Justice and Inclusive Development**



First week of April, 2026 (Any Two days)

@ CONVOCATION HALL

Karnataka State Open University,
Mukthagangothri, Mysuru – 570006.

Organized by

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies and Research Centre

KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Mukthagangothri Mysuru, Karnataka - 570006.





KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, is a State Public University established by the act of State Legislature in 1992, and was brought into force on 1st June 1996. Ever since its establishment, KSOU has been pro-actively engaged in fulfilling the national objectives of higher education i.e., to achieve ACCESS, EQUITY, QUALITY, AFFORDABILITY and ACCOUNTABILITY. A

Pioneer and Premier Centre of Higher Education under Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system, KSOU was carved out of illustrious University of Mysore in 1996. Before becoming the university, KSOU was an Institute of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education (ICC&CE) of the University of Mysore which was established in 1969.

The motto of KSOU - "HIGHER EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE", promises to reach out to those unreached to all those higher education aspirants. The Open University was established in pursuance of National Policy on Education, NPE-1986 on the recommendation of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) of MHRD, Government of India. The working professionals, households, the disadvantaged sections of the society and people from backward regions, who cannot pursue education through 'in-class'/conventional mode get new opportunities to learn through distance education mode. The role of KSOU is vital in enhancing the GER of the state to much higher level. The KSOU has created an excellent academic and administrative infrastructure, not only at its headquarters in Mysore, but also at its 33 regional centers across the state.

Headed by His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka, who is the Ex-Officio Chancellor, while the Minister for Higher Education is the Ex-Officio ProChancellor, and the Vice-Chancellor is the Principal Academic and Executive





Officer of the university, the KSOU is a body corporate comprising of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, the members of BoM, Academic Council, Dean (Academic), Registrar (Evaluation), Finance officer among other officers of the university. The contribution of the KSOU for the ODL system is invaluable.

With the entire State has its jurisdiction, KSOU has established 33 Regional Centres, in addition to recognizing a good number of affiliated Colleges as Study Centers across the State. Significant is the role of KSOU in enhancing the GER of the State. In terms of providing quality and relevant education, the role of KSOU is commendable. The Courses, Curriculum, Study Materials, Contact Classes, Method of Testing, Transparency in the conduct of Examination, Evaluation and announcement of results.

The quality of SLMs, Radio talks, audio-video lecturers produced 'in-house studios' housed on the main campus have earned the admiration of a large community of distance learners across the Country as well as outside the Country. MBA, M.Com, Media studies, MA and Education Programs are some of the most sought-after courses among others. Admission to courses is done twice-a-year in the month of January and June as per the UGC-DEB guidelines, and the admissions are done online. Access to E-content, E-access to SLM's, Books and journals in the main library, on-line lectures are additional advantages to KSOU students. Establishment of Science labs, Audio-Video, Virtual labs, Re-establishment of Radio Station '-JNANA VANI' are among the notable digital initiatives, the KSOU has launched since the re-recognition of KSOU by UGC from 2018-19.

Well-known is KSOU for its students support services establishment of Skill Development Center; Training Center for Competitive Examinations, Campus Recruitment Drives, Online and Off-line Counseling, On-line Admission, Digital Payments of all kinds of fee payment are some of the pro-student recent undertakings of the KSOU. Lodging facilities in Hostels for students coming for coaching classes, skill development programs and contact classes in a clean-green environment is yet another student support service. With state of the academic infrastructure; online and off-line student support, KSOU is a dream institution for distance learners.



DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTRE - A PROFILE



As per KSOU sub rule XIX and case 23(3) of KSOU Act 1992, with the signature of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka and Pro-chancellor with the purpose of carrying out various academic activities of Baba Saheb B.R. Ambedkar's thoughts at the KSOU. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chair was inaugurated on 21-10-2005 by the former Hon'ble member of Planning Committee Dr. Balachandra Mungekar.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies and Research Centre of Karnataka State Open University could flourish well due to the special concern and initiatives taken by the earlier Vice Chancellors Prof. Sudharao, Prof. Vivek Rai, Prof. K.S. Rangappa, Prof. D. Shivalingaiah and Dr. Vidyashankar S., The Present Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Professor Sri Sharanappa V. Halse he supporting very much to the development of centre by encouraging organizing National & International Conferences. The previous Directors of the Centre, Prof. K.T Shivanna and Prof. Mahadevi have organized various programmes like special lectures, state and national level conferences and also have published various books of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Hence, they have contributed for the development of the centre by disseminating the thoughts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to the students, scholars and people at large apart from starting the P.G Diploma and Certificate Courses in Ambedkar Studies.

Since 2005 Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study and Research Centre of Karnataka State Open University regularly organizing many programs to further and enhance the intellectual knowledge of the faculty, researchers, students and the society at large. In continuation of these programmes, it is felt that Baba Saheb's intellectual acumen, thoughts and ideas embedded in his speech, writings, constitution framing and movements that are relevant for today's modern society and are helpful in building a socially and economically equal, just and enlightened India. Therefore, today's young generation essentially need to understand and follow Ambedkar's ideologies in order to adopt a scientific and rational approach in their lives as desired by Ambedkar.





NATIONAL CONFERENCE THEME : Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Contemporary India: Rethinking Democracy, Social Justice and Inclusive Development



The intellectual legacy of B. R. Ambedkar remains central to understanding the moral and institutional foundations of contemporary India. As the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and one of the most profound theorists of social democracy in the twentieth century, Ambedkar envisioned a nation grounded not merely in political independence but in substantive equality. In the twenty-first century - an era characterized by rapid economic growth, democratic contestation, and persistent social disparities - his thought provides a critical lens through which to evaluate India's democratic trajectory.

Ambedkar argued that democracy must extend beyond electoral representation to encompass social and economic transformation. His warning in the Constituent Assembly that India was entering a “life of contradictions” - political equality coexisting with social and economic inequality - remains deeply relevant (Ambedkar, 1949/1994). Contemporary India's development achievements must therefore be assessed alongside enduring inequalities of caste, class, gender, and region.

Rethinking Democracy: Beyond Electoral Majoritarianism

Ambedkar's conception of democracy was profoundly ethical and social. He defined democracy as a “mode of associated living” rooted in liberty, equality, and fraternity (Ambedkar, 1936/2014). Unlike minimalist democratic theories that focus primarily on elections and representation, Ambedkar insisted that democracy must transform social relations.

Constitutional Morality

One of Ambedkar's most enduring contributions is the concept of constitutional morality. He emphasized that the durability of democracy depends not merely on constitutional text but on the ethical conduct of citizens and public officials (Ambedkar, 1948/2014). Constitutional morality entails respect for minority rights, institutional integrity, and the rule of law.



In contemporary India, debates about institutional autonomy, judicial independence, and federal balance highlight the continued importance of constitutional morality. Ambedkar's caution against hero-worship and unchecked executive power underscores the need for democratic vigilance (Ambedkar, 1949/1994).

Scholars such as Christophe Jaffrelot (2005) interpret Ambedkar as a constitutional radical who sought to balance parliamentary democracy with social safeguards. His framework remains instructive in evaluating democratic resilience in the face of polarization.

Social Justice: The Continuing Struggle Against Structural Inequality

Ambedkar's most powerful intervention lies in his critique of caste as a system of graded inequality. In *Annihilation of Caste*, he argued that caste is not merely a division of labor but a division of laborers, institutionalizing hierarchy and preventing fraternity (Ambedkar, 1936/2014).

Affirmative Action and Compensatory Justice

Ambedkar advocated protective discrimination and affirmative action as instruments of corrective justice. He rejected the liberal assumption that formal equality before law is sufficient. Instead, he argued that historical injustices require structural remedies.

Contemporary India's reservation system for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes reflects this Ambedkarite logic. However, persistent disparities in education, employment, and social mobility indicate that the project of annihilating caste remains incomplete.

Gail Omvedt (2004) describes Ambedkar's approach as “radical egalitarianism,” aimed at dismantling inherited privilege rather than merely reforming it. Anupama Rao (2009) further highlights how Ambedkar's politics of dignity reshaped the discourse on citizenship.

Intersectionality: Caste, Gender, and Minority Rights

Ambedkar's advocacy for the Hindu Code Bill demonstrated his commitment to gender justice. He recognized



that social oppression operates through intersecting hierarchies. Contemporary debates on gender equality, minority rights, and social inclusion continue to draw upon his foundational insights.

Inclusive Development: Growth with Social Equity

India's economic growth since liberalization has been significant, yet inequality remains a pressing concern. Ambedkar's economic writings reveal his concern that political democracy without economic security would remain fragile.

Economic Democracy

In *States and Minorities* (1947/2014), Ambedkar proposed state ownership of key industries and collective agriculture to prevent concentration of wealth. He emphasized labor rights, social welfare, and equitable resource distribution. His earlier work, *The Problem of the Rupee* (1923/2010), demonstrated his sophisticated understanding of monetary economics.

Ambedkar's critique of economic concentration aligns with contemporary concerns regarding wealth inequality and jobless growth. Thomas Piketty's (2014) analysis of capital accumulation reinforces Ambedkar's insight that unchecked inequality destabilizes democratic systems.

Inclusive development, in an Ambedkarite framework, requires a redistribution of economic resources, access to productive assets, financial inclusion, social welfare protections and dignity-centered policy design.

Sukhadeo Thorat (2017) argues that Ambedkar's economic philosophy integrates social democracy with constitutional liberalism, making it uniquely suited to address developmental inequalities in contemporary India.

Education as Democratic Empowerment

Ambedkar consistently emphasized education as the cornerstone of emancipation. His slogan "Educate, Agitate,



Organize” reflects his belief that intellectual empowerment precedes political liberation (Zelliot, 2013).

Despite expansion in higher education, access disparities persist in India along caste, gender, and regional lines. The digital divide further exacerbates inequality.

Ambedkar's insistence on democratizing education remains a guiding principle for inclusive policy design.

His educational philosophy parallels Paulo Freire's (1970) concept of critical pedagogy, which views education as a means of cultivating critical consciousness and social agency.

Contemporary Implications

Revisiting Ambedkar in contemporary India necessitates a multidimensional evaluation of democracy, justice, and development:

- 1. Democratic Institutions** – Strengthening constitutional morality and minority protections.
- 2. Social Equality** – Addressing systemic caste and gender disparities through proactive policies.
- 3. Economic Inclusion** – Ensuring development translates into equitable opportunities.
- 4. Educational Reform** – Expanding access and reducing structural barriers.

Ambedkar's integrated framework challenges policymakers to view democracy not as an endpoint but as an ongoing ethical project.

To conclude, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's relevance in contemporary India lies in his holistic democratic vision. He rejected narrow interpretations of democracy limited to electoral politics and insisted upon social and economic transformation as foundational pillars. His philosophy compels India to evaluate its progress not merely by growth indicators but by the extent to which liberty, equality, and fraternity are realized in lived experience.

As India navigates the complexities of globalization, technological change, and social diversity, Ambedkar's thought provides normative clarity and institutional guidance. His ideas remain indispensable for rethinking democracy, advancing social justice, and achieving truly inclusive development.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE SUB THEMES

- ❖ Dalit Movement - Contributions and the Social Change
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Social Justice
- ❖ Contemporary Reflections of the Dalith Movement
- ❖ Dalit politics - Nature, Problems and the Challenges
- ❖ Relevance of Dr B.R. Ambedkar Economic Thoughts on Economic Development
- ❖ India in the Post-Colonial and Globalized World
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Emancipation of Women, Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Labor Reforms
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's view on Indian Agricultural Development and Economic Policy
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Perspectives on Caste, Class, and Economic Discrimination
- ❖ Vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Public Sector, Role of State and Dalits
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Political Justice
- ❖ Vision of Dr. Ambedkar on Democracy and Constitutionalism
- ❖ Vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Governance and Public Policies
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision on Nationalism and National Integration
- ❖ Role of Dr. Ambedkar in Nation Building
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Contribution in Building Institutions of National Importance
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Buddhism
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Religion and Politics
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Contemporary Thinkers



- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Views on Education System
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Gender and Racial Justice
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Religious and Cultural Justice
- ❖ Digital Divide, Marginalized Communities and Resolution through Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Vision
- ❖ Intersecting Faiths: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Strive for Universal Equality
- ❖ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Empowerment of Tribal Communities
- ❖ Any other related topic to the conference theme

Call for Papers:

Research Papers on the above sub themes are invited by academicians, individual scholars, practitioners or policymakers may submit the research papers based on original paper/research based on the contribution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in economic, social and policy making arena in India. The participants may send their full length papers by **18th March 2026**. The papers must be mailed to drambedkarksou@gmail.com and papers may be submitted in Kannada Language also. Correct name, designation and e-mail ID of the authors and affiliating organization need to be clearly mentioned in the full paper. A declaration should be provided from the corresponding author along with the paper stating that the work is an original one and does not violate Copyright.

Guidelines for Paper Submission:

- ❖ For Full Paper(s)
- ❖ The limit of the paper should be 3000 to 5000 words
- ❖ Use British English
- ❖ Send the paper using MS Word format, Times New Roman font, 12 font size, 1.5 line spacing



- ❖ Send author/co-author's biography indicating affiliation, designation and contact details
- ❖ Check grammar, punctuation and spelling before submitting the paper
- ❖ E-mail your paper to: **drambedkarksou@gmail.com**

Publication Opportunity

The conference offers two publication opportunities:

- ❖ All the papers accepted for the conference, post completion of due registration process, will be published as Conference Proceedings with ISBN number against the payments of additional publication cost.
- ❖ The best paper presented at the Conference will be awarded and selected papers will be recommended for publication in a special issue of a relevant International Journal, under **Scopus Indexed/UGC Care list/Peer Reviewed and Refereed Journals**, subject to journal review process and payment of processing charges.

Important Dates

ANNOTATION	DEADLINE
Last date of submission of full length paper	30 th March 2026
Intimation of acceptance of full length paper	1 st April 2026
Conference Dates	First week of April 2026 (Any Two days)

After the successful acceptance of the paper, the candidate can register for the conference from the given google form and attach the payment confirmation / payment proof. All the interested participants should register for the conference by filing up the google form.



Registration link - <https://forms.gle/Le8MoQzU885upcxq5>

Only one author is permitted for registration. In the event of multiple authors, separate registrations are required. Participants can make payment through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) using the following account number.

STATE BANK OF INDIA, Manasangothri Branch, Mysuru.

A/C No : 64062356119, IFSC Code : SBIN0040166

Account Holder : Co-ordinator Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies and Research Centre

For any further query send an email at: drambedkarksou@gmail.com or contact technical team.

Kum. Rakshitha K.H., Research Scholar in Economics KSOU, Mysuru : Mobile No: 9448427668

Mr. Anil Kumar , Research Scholar in Economics KSOU, Mysuru : Mobile No: 9731996548

Mrs. Shruthi : Mobile No: 7204819172

Mrs. Annapoorna G. : Mobile No: 9686314012

Details of Registration

Faculty members/ Indian Delegates	Rs. 1,000/-
Research Scholars/ Students	Rs. 700/-
Students	Rs. 300/-
Spot Registration	Rs. 1,700/-

The acceptance of the Final Research Papers will be done by the Editorial Board and the decision of the Board will be final.



ABOUT THE MYSURU CITY



Nestled in the heart of Karnataka, India, Mysuru is a city that seamlessly weaves together a rich tapestry of history, culture, and innovation. Mysuru is a centre for higher education with several Universities and is famous in the world for its sandal wood and rose wood artifacts, stone sculptures, incense sticks, inlay work with ivory and its exquisite silk sarees. Mysuru emerged to be one of the major IT hubs in Karnataka. Mysuru is second in state for software exports. It is known for its great traditions in culture, music and literature. Mysore is well connected by bus, train and Air facilities. The nearest Airports are Mysore Airport is also known as Mandakalli Airport. Mysore airport serve the city from all major airports of the nation. It is located about 12 km away from the city. People can take taxis and cabs from outside the Mysore airport to reach the bus stand easily as it is at a reachable distance. At Mysore railway station, passengers can take various trains as it is well connected with all the major cities of India. The schedule of the trains is well maintained so passengers can timely reach to their desired destination. Mysore, often referred to as the "Cultural Capital of Karnataka," is renowned for its majestic palaces, ancient temples, and a legacy that dates back centuries. The iconic Mysore Palace stands as a testament to the city's royal heritage, reflecting architectural grandeur and regal opulence. It encompasses captivating blend of history at every turn of city, from the intricately carved Chamundi Hills to the mystique of the St. Philomena's Church. Beyond its historical landmarks, Mysore is a hub of cultural festivities and artistic expressions. The city hosts the world-famous Mysuru Dasara, a ten-day extravaganza that showcases traditional dance forms, music, and a grand procession featuring caparisoned elephants. Set against the backdrop of the Western Ghats, Mysore is blessed with natural beauty. The Brindavan Gardens, the tranquil Karanji Lake, and the lush greenery surrounding the city create an atmosphere conducive to intellectual exploration and relaxation. Mysore beckons with open arms, promising a unique experience where history meets innovation, tradition meets progress, and knowledge transcends boundaries. Join us in this captivating city for a conference that promises to be as timeless as the heritage it embraces, Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru, Karnataka State. Hence, we look forward to welcoming you to Mysore. The city of Mysuru is surely going to lay a mile stone in organizing this first ever international conference under the auspices of Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru.



Accommodation

Accommodation shall be made by the organizers on twin share base only for the paper presenters at the university Hostel. Those who need the Hostel facility should intimate the organizer at the earliest. For more comfortable (Luxurious) accommodation outstation participants are humbly requested to kindly make their own arrangements for their accommodation.

Cultural Activities

A cultural programme will be organized on the first day of the conference at the convocation hall in the evening.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Organising Secretary

Dr. Shivakumara Swamy, Co-ordinator, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies & Research Centre and Chairman, Dept. of Studies & Research in Economics, KSOU, Mysore

Conference Convener

Dr. Chaya R., Chairman, Dept. of Studies & Research In Commerce, KSOU, Mysore

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3. Sri Rangegowda, Joint Director, Department of Social Welfare, Mysuru.
4. Prof.A. Sankaran, Professor of Economics, Central University, Pondichary, (UT)



5. Dr. Sinita Zavier, Professor of Economics, Calicut University, Kerala.
6. Dr. Suresh Lal, Professor and Dean, Dept. of Economics, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana.
7. Dr. V. Shanmugam, Principal, Maharaja's College, UOM, Mysuru.
8. Dr. Subhaschandra Natikar, Co-ordinator, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study Centre, Karnatak University, Dharwad.
9. Prof. Narendra Kumar, Prof. & Director, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research & Extension Centre, UOM, Mysuru
10. Prof. Puttaraju, Principal, GFGC, Krishnaraja Nagar

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Mukthagangothri, Mysuru



Convenor

Dr. Chaya R

National Conference
Chairman, Dept. of Studies and Research in Commerce,
Karnataka State Open University, Mukthagangothri,
Mysuru, Karnataka - India.

Date : First Week April, 2026 | Venue: Convocation Hall, Karnataka State Open University, Mukthagangothri, Mysuru, Karnataka - India