

National Commemorative Programme on the 200th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule held at Dr. Ambedkar International Center

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In pursuance of the announcement made by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of Independence Day, 15 August 2025, the Government of India is commemorating the 200th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule through year-long celebrations from April 2026 to April 2027.

As part of these nationwide commemorations, the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, organised a National Commemorative Programme on 11 April 2026 at Bhim Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Center (DAIC), New Delhi.



The programme witnessed the presence of eminent dignitaries, academicians, policymakers, and students from across the country, marking a significant beginning to the bicentenary celebrations of one of India's greatest social reformers.

The event was graced by Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment and chairman Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF), as the Chief Guest, who highlighted Mahatma Phule's pioneering role as a visionary educator and champion of the oppressed, and reiterated the Government's commitment to advancing the ideals of education, equality, and social justice.



Shri Sudhansh Pant, IAS, Secretary, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, in his address, emphasized the transformative power of education as envisioned by Mahatma Phule and its continuing relevance in building an inclusive and empowered India. He also underlined the role of the Ministry and Dr. Ambedkar Foundation in carrying forward the legacy of social reform.

Ms. V. Vidyavathi, IAS, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, spoke on inclusive development and the importance of ensuring accessibility and dignity for all sections of society, in line with Phule's vision of equality.



Prof. S.K. Chahal, In-charge Chair Professor, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Chair, Kurukshetra University, delivered insights into the academic and intellectual contributions of Mahatma Phule and stressed the importance of research and scholarship in disseminating his ideas.

Shri Shailendra Kumar, Member Secretary, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, given the vote of thanks.

The programme also featured thematic deliberations, academic engagement, and cultural elements reflecting the life and mission of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule as a social reformer, visionary educator, and advocate of equality.



The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by the Shri Shailendra Kumar, Member Secretary, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, participants, and all stakeholders for their valuable presence and contribution to the successful conduct of the programme.

The event marked the formal commencement of year-long activities across the country aimed at spreading awareness about Mahatma Phule's enduring contributions to education, social justice, and empowerment of marginalized communities.

The Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, as the nodal agency, will continue to coordinate nationwide programmes involving universities, research institutions, civil society, and youth to ensure meaningful participation in the bicentenary celebrations.

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