

# **Guest Lecture on “Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Idea of Democracy in India”**

Organised by

School of Humanities, Department of Sociology & Industrial Relations

**Date:** 26 August 2023

**Venue:** Xavier Hall, PG Block, SJU

**General Welcome:** The event's MC, Ms Sayantani Ray, a 2<sup>nd</sup> - year BA (JS) student, commenced the event by extending a warm welcome to all the attendees. She expressed her excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to host this enlightening lecture on Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's idea of democracy in India.

**Introduction of the Speaker:** Following the welcome address, Mr Varish Nandan, a 1<sup>st</sup> year BA (JS) student, introduced the guest speaker, Dr Zeeshan Husain. He highlighted Dr Husain's remarkable contributions as an independent researcher and sociologist in the field of social justice and democracy.

**Profile of Guest Speaker:** Dr Zeeshan Husain is a proud alumnus of three of India's most renowned institutions. He holds a PhD in Sociology from JNU Delhi, MPhil from CSSS Kolkata, and Master's from TISS Mumbai campus. He has written extensively on a range of political sociology topics such as Dr Ambedkar's ideas of democracy, Dalit social movement, Communalism, and Islamophobia. His articles, book reviews, and blogs have been published in leading national and international journals such as Contemporary Voice of Dalit, History and Sociology of South Asia, Explorations: An ejournal of Indian Sociological Society, as well as on popular media platforms such as The Quint and Forward Press.

**Formal Welcome and Felicitations of the Guest Speaker:** Dr Zeeshan Husain was formally welcomed and felicitated by our panellists Fr Maxim Dias, Director of Shift III; Dr Paul Newman, Principal of SJEC; Mr Prashanth Kumar, Coordinator of Shift III; and Dr Chandni Bhambhani, Faculty Coordinator of the event.

**The Lecture:** Dr Zeeshan Husain delivered an engaging and insightful lecture that traversed the life and ideas of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. He emphasised Dr Ambedkar's profound belief that economic and social democracy are the bedrock upon which political democracy must stand. Dr Husain delved into

Dr Ambedkar's contributions to shaping the Indian Constitution, particularly his role in ensuring the inclusion of affirmative policies such as reservations for marginalised communities.

The lecture was punctuated by moments of active student participation, as attendees posed thoughtful questions. These questions covered a wide range of topics, including the significance of affirmative policies, Dr Ambedkar's pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution, and his conversion to Buddhism as a means to empower the marginalised.

**Conclusion and Vote of Thanks:** The event came to a close with Mr Glen, a final-year BA (JS) student, delivering a formal vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to Dr Zeeshan Husain for sharing his expertise and insights on Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's ideas of democracy. Mr Glen also thanked the dignitaries for gracing the occasion with their presence and encouraged all attendees to continue exploring and promoting the values and principles championed by Dr Ambedkar.

In conclusion, the guest lecture provided a platform for meaningful discourse and reflection on the enduring relevance of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's ideas in contemporary society. It was a momentous occasion that left all participants enriched and inspired.

For the Images of the Guest Lecture on “Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Idea of Democracy in India”, kindly refer to the Photo Gallery: <https://www.sju.edu.in/gallery/34>