



Department of Philosophy  
School of Humanities  
Pondicherry University

ICPR National Workshop on  
**Issues in Ambedkar Studies**  
23<sup>rd</sup> –24<sup>th</sup> July, 2012

The Department of Philosophy, Pondicherry University would like to establish the Centre for Ambedkar studies with a support of ICPR. In this connection the department is going to organize a workshop to discuss the modalities and focus area of centre in institutionalizing Ambedkar's ideas and its influence on contemporary India. From late eighties onwards, Ambedkar as a source of inspiration, dalits and other marginalized communities started asserting their rights and political power. The centers of power and knowledge are compelled to take note of ideas of Ambedkar in reconstructing Indian society. Ambedkar has emerged as a major thinker in theorizing the Indian social reality, especially the institution of caste. Ambedkar is a multifaceted personality and credited with volumes of work on diverse fields that includes philosophy, history, economics, politics, law, sociology and anthropology. His ideas have interpreted differently suiting their interests. Ambedkarism as ideology had great influence on politics, culture and literature of dalits. As a result, Studies in Ambedkar and research in dalit studies have a critical intervention in the disciplines of Social sciences and Humanities. There are attempts Ambedkar and dalit literature to include in curriculum and started initiating to establish centers in the name of Ambedkar. Most of the emphasis and research in this area is confined to politics, economics, sociology and literature. In the realm of Philosophy, we may find minimal studies in this area. Philosophy as a discipline may provide comprehensive understanding of Ambedkar's ideas. In having interdisciplinary approach, the methods of philosophy are helpful and may provide proper direction for research in this area. Moreover, Ambedkar had contributed remarkably in the field of philosophy in general and Indian philosophy in particular, with an alternative approach. It is expected that the discipline of philosophy will take a lead in studies of Ambedkar and research in dalit studies in future.

The Department of Philosophy is going to organize a two day workshop to discuss the scope of Ambedkar studies and research in dalit studies by high lighting the philosophical thought of Ambedkar in reconstructing the principles of Indian society. The aim of the workshop is to take suggestions from scholars of diverse disciplines working in the field of Ambedkar studies. The focus will be on importance of institutionalizing the ideas of Ambedkar and challenges ahead of centers of Ambedkar studies in the discipline of Philosophy.

On behalf of the Department of Philosophy, Pondicherry University, I would like to invite you to take part in this workshop and provide your valid insights in establishing the centre for

Ambedkar studies. I also request you to send a write up in this regard well in advance. (Possibly before 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012)

TA will be provided for participants and take care of local accommodation and hospitality will be taken care of. For any other details you may contact Dr. P. Kesava Kumar, Coordinator for proposed centre for Ambedkar Studies, Pondicherry University. (Contact numbers: 0413-2654493 (O), 2656250 (R); email: pkesav@gmail.com, kesav.phil@pondiuni.edu.in)

### ***Themes of the Workshop***

*Research in Ambedkar Studies*

*Philosophy of Ambedkar*

*Perspectives and Problems in Institutionalizing the ideas of Ambedkar and dalit studies*

*Modalities of centre for Ambedkar studies*

*Ambedkar and Interdisciplinary Approach*

*Pedagogy of Ambedkar studies*

*Issues in Dalit research*

*Indian democracy and principles of reconstruction of Indian society*

*Struggles against caste and its academic importance*

With regards

**P. Kesava Kumar**

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