

Permanent Mission of India  
New York

**Press Release**

**Commemoration of 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**

Permanent Mission of India organized a commemorative event titled ‘**Timeless Appeal of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s Vision in the United Nations and Beyond**’, to mark the 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar at United Nations Headquarters on 14 April 2025.

2. Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment (MoS), Shri Ramdas Athawale delivered the keynote address at the event. He described Dr. Ambedkar as a beacon for all humanity and a global advocate for equality, dignity and democracy. He outlined several flagship initiatives undertaken by Government of India to translate the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar into transformative action. These schemes cut across education, vocational training, livelihood development etc. MoS also underlined the relevance of the vision of Dr. Ambedkar in the collective effort to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

3. Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish said that Dr. Ambedkar espoused modernization, industrialization and urbanization, with a focus on pursuit of progress and happiness for all. He highlighted the links between the core principles of UN Charter and Dr. Ambedkar’s emphasis on fraternity as a core principle of nation-building and determinant of relations between countries and people. He added that Dr. Ambedkar stressed the centrality of constitutional morality and elucidated the links between this theme and several path-breaking initiatives in India, particularly with regard to gender equality. In the context of reforms and UN@80 in 2025, Ambassador Harish stated that “*we cannot have the morality of 1945 guiding the conduct between nations and peoples in 2025.*”

4. Speaking on the occasion, guest speaker, Dr. Santosh Raut, Visiting Professor at Harvard Divinity School quoted Dr. Ambedkar as saying “*democracy is not merely a form of government but primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience.*” The need for robust constitutional protection for the marginalized communities stems from the fact that political equality alone cannot overcome entrenched social hierarchies.

5. Mr. Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner, Trade, Investment and Innovation For New York City Mayor’s Office for International Affairs announced that Mayor of New York has proclaimed 14 April 2025 as Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Day in the city of New York.

6. The event was attended by Permanent Representatives of different Missions, members of the diplomatic corps, Indian diaspora and students, among others.

7. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is one of India's most illustrious sons. He was the principal architect of the constitution of India, world's largest written constitution. All through his life, he championed the causes of equality, social justice, and empowerment. The commemorative event underlined the contemporary relevance of his vision and corroborated that his ideals continue to inspire scores of people, well beyond his motherland.

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*New York*  
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