

**Ambedkar Study Circle (ASC), SLC (2016-17)**

**National Seminar on "Modernity and Nationalism: Through the Prism of Ambedkar's Philosophy", on 11th April, 2017**

Ambedkar Study Circle (ASC) organised a National Seminar on "**Modernity and Nationalism: Through the Prism of Ambedkar's Philosophy**", on 11th April, 2017 at 10:00 am in the Seminar Hall of the Shyam Lal College. The **Chief Guest of the seminar was Mr. Kanhaiya Lal**, Director SC/ST Commission, Government of India. Other eminent invited speakers were **Dr. Chandrabhan Prasad (Writer/Thinker/Founder of DICCI) and Prof. Vivek Kumar, Professor of Sociology, JNU**. The seminar was inaugurated by Mr. Sanoj Kumar, Convenor, Ambedkar Study Circle and Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar, Principal, SLC who welcomed the delegates with bouquets and mementos. The Convenor, Mr. Sanoj Kumar highlighted the aims of Ambedkar study Circle and thanked the Principal, SLC for institutionalizing ASC as an academic forum in the college. The Principal, SLC Dr. Rabi Narayan Kar held that efforts to explore various dimensions of Ambedkar's philosophy would move in right earnest under the aegis of ASC. The seminar was anchored by Dr. Raj Kumar Prasad. The speakers highlighted various aspects of Hindu caste structure as critiqued by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar which stand as hindrance in developing national unity and national brotherhood. **Mr. Kanhaiya Lal** held that Dr. Ambedkar like Mahatma Phule did not consider India as a nation and was opposed to India's independence and Indian national movement led by Indian national Congress under the leadership of Gandhi which he saw as an elitist movement and saw British rule as deliverers of Depressed class of Indian Society. Yet it would be wrong to call him anti-national because for Ambedkar the service to humanity and emancipation of depressed classes of Indian society was higher goal than nationalism. **Dr. Chandrabhan Prasad** asserted that the term "Dalit" is associated with dalit pride and provides strength to dalits which has been accepted by the dalits themselves. It represents coming of "dalit revolution" against oppression which has gradually came to be associated with dalit literature then dalit politics and still further with politics of dalit identity. He defended the provision of reservation policy enshrined in the constitution by Dr. Ambedkar for upliftment of SC/ST and Other Backward Classes and rather than critical of it he suggested the pie of economic opportunity need to be increased. **Prof. Vivek Kumar**, held that Dr. Ambedkar has been victim of reductionism and

blackout so much so that today some sections of society does accept him as the author of our constitution. However, it was after interaction with him that Gandhi's ideas on caste changed. His ideas on gender equality and empowerment of women, uniform civil code were equally modern but unfortunately not found recognition in curriculum. In the post lunch session scholars and researchers presented academic papers on the above theme. The valedictory session was presided over by Prof. Vivek Kumar who summed up the intellectual churnings during all the sessions. The program ended with a vote of thanks by the Teacher-in-Charge, Dr. Raj Kumar Prasad on behalf of the organizing team of Ambedkar Study Circle. There were 55 students, teachers and non-teaching staff, attended the seminar.



**Mr. Sanoj Kumar**

**Convenor of Ambedkar Study Circle.**