

# CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS

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### **CUO Observes 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with Tribute and Reflection**

The Central University of Odisha (CUO) solemnly observed the 134th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at its Sunabeda campus on Monday 14.04.2025. The commemorative event was led by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, alongside faculty members, officers, and students.

The ceremony began with the lighting of the lamp and floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar's portrait, symbolizing reverence for the architect of the Indian Constitution. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Tripathi emphasized the enduring relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts, ideals, and vision in shaping contemporary India.

"Dr. Ambedkar was a true son of the soil who devoted his life to building a just, inclusive, and progressive nation," Prof. Tripathi remarked. He highlighted Ambedkar's belief in education as a transformative tool and outlined three core expectations that Ambedkar had from the education system: that students should be empowered with moral, scientific, and skill-based education; that teachers must impart education with integrity and a nation-building spirit; and that educational institutions must uphold the principles of inclusiveness and equity.

He further noted that Dr. Ambedkar's legacy is recognized globally wherever issues of inequality arise. "Even today, across the world, people invoke the principles of equality and justice championed by Babasaheb Ambedkar," he said.

Prof. Tripathi also announced the establishment of an Ambedkar Study Centre at CUO to promote research and understanding of his life, vision, and contributions. He appealed to the university community for financial support to help build a corpus fund for the centre.

In his address, Prof. Rathikant Kumbhar, HoD, Department of Economics lauded Dr. Ambedkar's pivotal role in women's empowerment through the Hindu Code Bill. He encouraged students to delve deeper into Dr. Ambedkar's legacy through research and scholarship.

Dr. Kapila Khemundu, Associate Professor and HoD, Dept. of Sociology reflected on Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to social inclusiveness, fraternity, governance, public policy, and democracy. He urged the audience to move beyond historical injustices and work towards a cooperative, inclusive India. Dr. Rhulia Nukhu, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Business Management elaborated on Dr. Ambedkar's vision for a modern democratic India and his fundamental role in drafting the Indian Constitution.

The programme was compered by Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer, while Dr. Gaurav Ranjan, Assistant Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication, delivered the vote of thanks. Faculty members from various departments, staff, and a large number of students were present to mark the occasion.

To extend the celebrations, CUO has planned *Samrasta Saptah* from April 7-14, 2025, culminating in a National Seminar on April 15. As part of the week-long celebration, the university hosted a series of competitions including singing, painting, and debates to engage students in the ideals and philosophy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Dr. Phagunath Bhoi, Public Relations Officer