

**Dr. K. R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia
Organises Three Lectures on the Third Day of the Commemorative Series on Dr. B.
R. Ambedkar and Jyotiba Phule**

New Delhi, April 9, 2026

The Dr. K. R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies (CDMS), Jamia Millia Islamia, continued its ongoing series of events to commemorate the birth anniversaries of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule with a set of three lectures on the third day of the programme. The day was marked by wide-ranging discussions and participation from scholars across institutions, reflecting the Centre's continued engagement with diverse academic spaces and its commitment to fostering dialogue on questions of caste, pedagogy and social justice.

The first lecture was delivered by Dr. Dickens Leonard, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Delhi, on the theme "Remembering Jyotiba Phule and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as Transformative Pedagogues." The lecture explored how both Phule and Ambedkar can be understood not merely as historical figures, but as thinkers whose ideas continue to shape educational and social practices. The speaker reflected on the tendency to treat such figures as icons, and instead emphasised the need to engage with them as teachers whose work was rooted in learning, knowledge and social transformation. Drawing from texts such as *Annihilation of Caste*, the lecture highlighted the role of pedagogy in addressing caste and in nurturing both intellectual and ethical development.

The second lecture was delivered by Dr. Shivani Kapoor, Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), on the theme "Sensing Caste: Notes on Disgust and Distance." The talk examined caste not only as a structural system but also as something experienced through emotions, sensations and everyday practices. It reflected on how ideas such as disgust and distance have been discussed in relation to caste, including in the writings of Gandhi and Ambedkar. The lecture drew attention to how such feelings are shaped socially and how they contribute to maintaining hierarchies. It also raised questions about how caste continues to operate in subtle ways and why it is important to study these aspects closely.

The third lecture was delivered by Prof. Ajmer Singh Kajal, Professor at the Centre for Indian Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), on "The Legacy of Jyotiba Phule and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar." The lecture reflected on Phule's emphasis on challenging social

structures and the central role of education in bringing about change. It also touched upon questions of social justice, including the position of women, widows and marginalised communities, and the importance of recognising their rights. The discussion further engaged with issues relating to reservation, social identity and the relationship between law, religion and access to rights, opening up a broader conversation on how these questions continue to be debated in contemporary society. Each of the lectures was followed by discussions in which students and faculty members actively participated. The sessions created space for thoughtful engagement, with participants raising questions, offering reflections and building on the ideas presented by the speakers. The presence of speakers from institutions such as IIT Delhi, CSDS and JNU added to the richness of the programme and reflected the Centre's efforts to bring together diverse academic perspectives.

The programme is being organised under the leadership of Prof. Halima Sadia Rizvi, Director of the Centre, whose continued support and guidance remain central to the Centre's initiatives. The Centre also acknowledges the patronage of Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, whose encouragement has been instrumental in enabling such academic engagements.

The event was coordinated by Prof. Deepak Kem and Dr. Md. Gaffar, whose efforts ensured the smooth organisation of the programme. The sessions were moderated by Akhilesh Kumar, Research Scholar at the Centre, who played an important role in facilitating discussion across all three lectures.


The series continues to reflect the Centre's commitment to sustained academic dialogue and critical engagement with the ideas of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Jyotiba Phule, while also creating spaces for reflection, discussion and learning


Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer



New Delhi, Delhi, India 🇮🇳
Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla Village, Okhla, New
Delhi, Delhi 110025, India
Lat 28.562946° Long 77.286424°
Wednesday, 08/04/2026 03:29 PM GMT +05:30



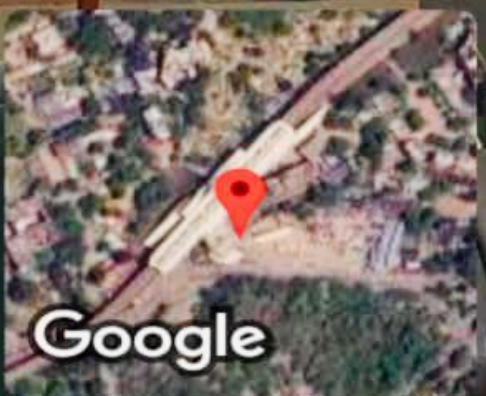
 GPS Map Camera

New Delhi, Delhi, India 

Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla Village, Okhla,
New Delhi, Delhi 110025, India

Lat 28.562877° Long 77.286411°

Wednesday, 08/04/2026 11:17 AM GMT
+05:30



Google



SHIVANI KAPOOR

श्री गुरुो नमो
Buddhist Kirtan at Ashram, Coimbatore

श्री गुरुो नमो
Premier Council India

GPS Map Camera

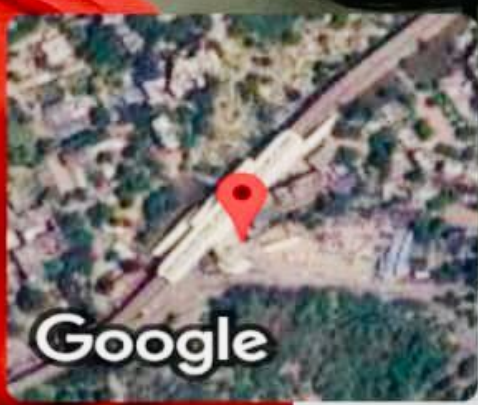
New Delhi, Delhi, India 

Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla Village, Okhla,
New Delhi, Delhi 110025, India

Lat 28.562916° Long 77.286366°

Wednesday, 08/04/2026 01:35 PM GMT

+05:30



Google



GPS Map Camera

New Delhi, Delhi, India 🇮🇳

Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla Village, Okhla, New Delhi, Delhi 110025, India

Lat 28.562923° Long 77.286424°

Wednesday, 08/04/2026 11:51 AM GMT +05:30

