

Press Release

**Dr. K. R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies organises lecture under the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Series to commemorate International Women's Day**

New Delhi, March 6, 2026

The Dr. K. R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies (CDMS) organised a lecture on 5 March 2026 as part of the **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture Series** to commemorate International Women's Day. The lecture, titled "*Redefining Women's Day: Inclusion and Intersectionality*," was delivered by **Prof. Nuzhat Parveen Khan**, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia.

The programme brought together faculty members, research scholars and students for a thoughtful engagement with questions of gender justice and the importance of approaching women's rights through the lens of inclusion and intersectionality.

Prof. Khan began her lecture by tracing the historical origins of International Women's Day, referring to its emergence in early twentieth-century labour movements and its later recognition by the United Nations in 1975. She noted that while the day is widely celebrated as a marker of progress, it is equally important to reflect on which categories of women have benefited from such advances and which continue to remain at the margins.

Reflecting on the Indian constitutional framework, Prof. Khan discussed the importance of Articles 14, 15 and 16 in guaranteeing equality and prohibiting discrimination. She emphasised that the challenges faced by women cannot be understood as uniform, since caste, class, religion and disability shape women's lived experiences in distinct ways. In this context, she underscored the analytical significance of intersectionality in understanding layered forms of marginalisation.

Drawing attention to the contributions of Savitribai Phule and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Prof. Khan reflected on their efforts to expand educational access and social justice for marginalised communities. She also highlighted the particular vulnerabilities faced by Dalit women, minority women, women with disabilities and displaced women. The lecture further examined the conditions of women working in the informal sector, noting that their economic contributions often remain unrecognised despite their central role in sustaining households and communities.

Prof. Khan also addressed the role of legal frameworks and institutions in advancing gender justice. She discussed questions relating to property rights, legal awareness and access to legal aid under Article 39A of the Constitution, and reflected on issues

of representation in policymaking and governance. She emphasised that empowerment cannot remain confined to symbolic gestures but must involve meaningful structural change and sustained social introspection.

The lecture series is made possible under the patronage of **Prof. Mazhar Asif**, Vice Chancellor, and **Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi**, Registrar. **Prof. Zubair Meenai**, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, also extended his support to the initiative. Their continued encouragement and institutional guidance remain central to the Centre's efforts to foster critical academic dialogue on questions of social justice and inclusion.

The lecture was organised under the leadership of **Prof. Halima Sadia Rizvi**, Director of the Centre, whose valuable insights during the programme added further depth to the discussion. The event was made possible through the efforts of **Dr. Prashant Negi**, who coordinated and organised the lecture as part of the Centre's ongoing academic initiatives.

The Centre continues to organise lectures, seminars and academic discussions as part of its commitment to engaging with pressing social questions and fostering critical scholarship. Events such as this lecture, organised to mark occasions like International Women's Day, form an important part of the Centre's broader efforts to encourage dialogue, reflection and meaningful engagement with issues of equality, justice and inclusion.

Prof. Saima Saeed  
Chief Public Relations officer

