

Press Release

JMI organises 3rd Abdul Ghaffar Khan Annual Memorial Lecture 2022

-Theme of the lecture “Violent Fraternity: Ambedkar and the Foundation of Indian Democracy”

The Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organised 3rd Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan Annual Memorial Lecture on “Violent Fraternity: Ambedkar and the Foundation of Indian Democracy” on 7th December, 2022. It commenced with the address of Hony Director Arvinder Ansari, CSSEIP, JMI welcoming the gathering and chief guest and congratulating the department on the renewal of lectures and academic events post-pandemic.

The Dean of Social Sciences, Professor Ravinder Kumar began his address after tracing the foundations of this lecture and highlighted how the essence of Khan’s values and words echo in the contemporary academic spaces.

The Chief Guest Prof Shruti Kapila, Cambridge University begun the address by underlining Ambedkar not merely as a social reformer but also as a figure whose philosophy, at its core, was also non-violent in nature. Referring to her book ‘Violent Fraternity: Indian Political Thought in the Global Age’ she highlights how Ambedkar targeted ‘knowledge’ as a core component that was important in reformation. His scholarship was understood as contemporary and global in nature and has remarkably shaped history further influencing the debates and the formation of India. She elaborated how his emphasis on creating India, not just as a democracy, but as a republican democracy was forward thinking and also crucial for the times.

The lecture ended with a question-answer session where queries revolved around the themes of the OBC question, the idea of political representation with religion and gender as a focus. The closing remarks were delivered by Prof Mujib Rehman thanking her for her insightful take on the subject matter.

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