

Ambedkar's Buddha

Prof. Valerian Rodrigues

Ambedkar University Delhi.

Date: 28.12.2017, Venue: P12 @ 4.30 PM

Abstract

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism at the end of October 1956 was accompanied by hundreds and thousands of his followers embracing this path within a few days. The scale of this conversion is unprecedented in human history. The event led to a resurgence of Buddhism in India as a way of life, very different from being a trait of its cultural excellence. This version of Buddhism, that came to be known as Navayana, was grounded in a distinct conception of political philosophy. The lecture will critically assess the strengths of this version of Buddhism and highlight its political significance

Speaker Profile:

Valerian Rodrigues (born 1949) is an Indian political scientist. He is known for his seminal work on Babasaheb Ambedkar, and for his formulations of themes in Modern Indian Political Thought. He is currently Ambedkar Chair at the Ambedkar University Delhi. Rodrigues has made substantial contributions to the debate on the working of the Indian Parliament, constitutionalism in India, and agrarian politics in India. As a Professor at the Centre for Political Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, he was popular for his lectures on Indian and South Asian Political Thought, and critically reading the same through political concepts of modernity, secularism and nationalism.