



GRAY'S
INN



Government of Maharashtra's

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute, Pune

University of Mumbai, INDIA

&

The Honorable Society of Gray's Inn, UK

Jointly organise a

International Conference

on

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Global Vision: Reimagining Justice, Equality,
and Democracy**



24-25th April, 2025

Venue: Gray's Inn, 8 South Square, London WC1R 5ET, UK

CONCEPT NOTE: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar spent two periods of study at Gray's Inn while studying at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The first period was from October 1916 to July 1917 - after his degree at Columbia University, and the second was on his return from India in July 1920. He was called at the inn in June 1922. A portrait by David Newens based on a 1946 photo by American photojournalist Margaret Bourke-White now hangs in The Ambedkar room at Grays Inn in the Ambedkar room is being used by barristers in training and as a meeting room. Source: https://www.hcilondon.gov.in/event_detail/?eventid=79

In 2024, an International Conference was held to mark the 100th anniversary of the submission of Dr. Ambedkar's Ph.D. thesis *The Problem of the Rupee* to the London School of Economics. This scholarly work continues to resonate in the fields of economics and political science, especially in the context of India's post-colonial development. The success of this conference, jointly organized by the *London School of Economics and Political Science*, the *Government of Maharashtra's Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (Pune)*, and the *University of Mumbai*, highlighted the continuing relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to the global discourse on sustainability, inclusive development, and economic policy.

Building upon the success of this conference, it is now time to deepen our understanding of Dr. Ambedkar's time in London, particularly his years at Gray's Inn, and how these experiences shaped his work in law, economics, and social reform. Gray's Inn, where Dr. Ambedkar studied law, holds particular significance, as it was here that he further honed his legal acumen, which would later contribute to his work as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. His time at LSE, where he studied economics, shaped his thoughts on nation-building, social justice, and the plight of the marginalized. As we celebrate the centenary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Bar-at-Law from to the prestigious Gray's Inn, a meaningful tribute would be to not only highlight his brilliance in using the language of law to advocate for the emancipation of women, Dalits, untouchables, Adivasis, and other marginalized groups, but also to acknowledge his critical understanding of the limitations of law and rights-based language in achieving true social and systemic transformation.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES: The main objective of this international conference is to explore the multifaceted life and intellectual journey of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during his time in London, focusing particularly on his association with Gray's Inn and the London School of Economics. The conference will seek to:

- **Promote Inclusive Development:** Draw from Dr. Ambedkar's work to address contemporary issues of economic sustainability and inclusive development in both global and Indian contexts.
- **Engage with Dr. Ambedkar's Role as a Global Thinker:** Explore how his intellectual journey bridged Indian and Western thought, and consider the relevance of his ideas in today's global context.
- **Explore the Influence of British Education on Dr. Ambedkar's Reformist Ideology:** Investigate how his time in London influenced his work on caste discrimination, social justice, and the upliftment of marginalized communities.
- **Assimilate Dr. Ambedkar's Scholarly Contributions:** Reflect on his academic pursuits at LSE, particularly his thesis *The Problem of the Rupee*, and examine his lasting influence on economic thought.
- **Understand His Legal Legacy:** Analyze how his education at Gray's Inn shaped his legal career and his eventual role in drafting India's Constitution.

PROPOSED SUBTHEMES: The conference will feature panels, keynote addresses, and discussions across the following themes:

- 1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Educational Journey at the London School of Economics:** A detailed examination of his Ph.D. thesis and its impact on economic policy debates.
- 2. The Role of Gray's Inn in Shaping Dr. Ambedkar's Legal Ideals:** Exploring his time at Gray's Inn, the development of his legal thinking, and its application in drafting the Indian Constitution.
- 3. Cultural and Intellectual Intersections: Dr. Ambedkar and the West:** Understanding how Western education and the intellectual climate of London shaped his views on social justice and law.
- 4. The Global Legacy of Dr. Ambedkar's Thought:** Analysing how Ambedkar's ideas continue to inspire movements for social justice, economic equity, and human rights worldwide.
- 5. Dr. Ambedkar and Contemporary Issues in Inclusive Development:** Linking Ambedkar's vision of equality to modern-day struggles for social, economic, and political inclusion.

CONFERENCE FORMAT: The conference will take place over two days, featuring a blend of keynote addresses, thematic panel discussions, and roundtable conversations with leading scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from various disciplines. Special sessions will be dedicated to exploring archival materials and first-hand accounts of Dr. Ambedkar's time at LSE and Gray's Inn. The conference will also include a local trip to Dr. Ambedkar House in London. So the scholars and researchers in the fields of law, humanities, sciences and across all disciplines and the academicians, students, legal professionals, policymakers, and interested social organisations may apply for this conference.



Conference Details

Conveners

Prof. Manisha Karne Director, Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy,
I/C Director, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Research Centre, University of Mumbai

Prof. Baliram Gaikwad

I/C Director, Sahityratna Anna Bhau Sathe Study Centre , University of Mumbai

Mr. Sam Hutchinson

Chief of Staff Gray's Inn, 8 South Square, London WC1R 5ET, UK

Mrs. Indira Aswar

Registrar, Dr. Bababsaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute, Pune.

The conference organizers welcome academicians, young scholars, researchers, grassroots practitioners, and community-based organizations to become part of the event, ensuring that all views and experiences regarding the journey of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar are heard, discussed, and, if found useful, embraced. The organizers also aim to reach out to the international community of researchers, experts, managers, and policymakers, particularly in London, and include them in the fold to make it a truly global association.

Abstract submission (not exceeding 300 words)

Academicians, individual scholars, practitioners, and policymakers interested in participating are invited to submit abstracts of papers based on original research related to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's contributions to the economic, social, and policy-making arenas in India. The abstract can be submitted to ambedkaruk2025@gmail.com on or before 5th March 2025.

Important Dates:

Submissions	Deadline
Deadline for abstract submissions	25 th February, 2025
Notification of acceptance	05 th March, 2025
Deadline for paper submissions	15 th March, 2025
Conference dates (Tentative)	24-25 th April, 2025

Conference Registration:

All prospective participants should **register** for the conference at: ambedkaruk2025@gmail.com and also fill up the google form <https://forms.gle/xdrBDE7rcpqJPb12A>

On-the-spot registration will not be accepted and all the participants, delegates will take care of **their own travel and accommodation.**

Travel Support and Logistic Information:

All the registered paper presenters will be provided travel support through professional travel agency and the related expenses should be borne by the concerned delegates. All correspondence related to the Conference should be addressed to ambedkaruk2025@gmail.com

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE, (BARTI)
(An Autonomous Institute of the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance, Government of Maharashtra)



Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research & Training Institute (BARTI), Pune, the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance, Govt. of Maharashtra in the year 2008. This Institute is committed to the cause of equality and social justice through scientific research, evaluation of schemes meant for socially disadvantaged sections, policy advocacy, training, skills development etc. Vide Govt. of Maharashtra, Social Justice and Special Assistance Department Resolution No. AaPraSa- 2005/ Case No. 383/ MAVAKA dated 30.4.2008, approval has been granted for registration under the Indian Society Registration Act, 1860 and Indian Public Trusts Act, 1950 to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research & Training Institute, Pune, and thus, the name of the society came to be known as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research & Training Institute, (BARTI), Pune, having its registered office at 28, Queens Garden, Near Old Circuit House, Pune – 411 001. Through its various Departments like Accounts, Caste Certificate Verification Section, Establishment, Extension and Service, Research, Schemes, Training BARTI has been serving the large section of society with a mission to bring about change in the lives of people.

THE HONORABLE SOCIETY OF GRAY'S INN

8 South Square, London WC1R 5ET, UK



The Honorable Society of Gray's Inn, commonly known as Gray's Inn, is one of the four Inns of Court (Professional Associations for barristers and judges) in London. To be called to the bar in order to practice as a barrister in England and Wales, an individual must belong to one of these inns. Located at the intersection of High Holborn and Gray's Inn Road in Central London, the Inn is a professional body and facilitates barristers. It is ruled by a governing council called "Pension", made up of the Masters of the Bench (or "benchers") and led by the Treasurer, who is elected to serve a one-year term. The Inn is known for its gardens (the "Walks"), which have existed since at least 1597. Dr. Ambedkar's tryst with the law started from the Gray's Inn. He was called to the Bar and published in October 1916 as a Barrister, by the Gray's Inn. On donning the Barrister tag, Dr. Ambedkar returned to India and started practicing before the Bombay High Court. Gray's Inn celebrates this strong connection with Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and says, *"We proudly celebrate the connection Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had to Gray's Inn. He could not have known that over half a century after his passing, his portraits would grace his Inn, that the Walks would boast a tree dedicated in his name, and people would gather to dedicate a room to his memory. Even for a man of his talents, that may have seemed too much – but one does not shape a nation in the way he did without the capacity to dream. Dr. Ambedkar was an agent for change. From today, he will be woven much deeper into the fabric of his Inn, reminding us that no challenge is insurmountable and that the law can be a vehicle for social evolution that may previously have been considered impossible."* Ali Malek QC

UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI, INDIA



The University of Mumbai (known earlier as University of Bombay) is one of the oldest and premier Universities in India. It was established in 1857 consequent upon "Wood's Education Dispatch", and it is one amongst the first three Universities in India. As a sequel to the change in the name of the city from Bombay to Mumbai, the name of the University has been changed from "University of Bombay" to "University of Mumbai", vide notification issued by the Government of Maharashtra and published in the Government Gazette dated 4th September, 1996. The University was accorded 5-star status in 2001 & in 'A++' grade in 2021 with the highest grade in Maharashtra state with 3.65 CGPA by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). It has been granted University with Potential for Excellence (UPE) status by UGC and PURSE Scheme by DST.

The profile of this University carved out in 161 years of its functioning attests to its manifold achievements as the intellectual and moral powerhouse of the society. The University has always given its best to the country in general and to the city of Mumbai in particular by enthusiastically shouldering an ever-growing load of social values and opportunities. The University initially focused on undergraduate teaching and examinations, later expanding to research and postgraduate instruction. This led to the creation of University Departments, starting with Sociology and Civics & Politics. Following independence, the Bombay University Act of 1953 reorganised the University's functions and powers.

It has two campuses of 243 acres and 14 acres at Vidyanagari and Fort respectively; sub- campuses/centers at Ratnagiri 20 acres, Thane 6.50 acres and Kalyan 6.26 acres with 60 University Departments & Institutes and 749 affiliated colleges. In the last five years it has seen a 104% increase in undergraduate students, 112% increase in post-graduate students and 147% increase in distance - education students. Eighteen National/International awards have been won by teachers in the last five years. Every year about 20 teachers visit abroad for academic activities. Recently more than ten self-supporting courses have been started by the University.

Our Patrons



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Principal Secretary, Social Justice & Special Assistance Maharashtra



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