Press Release

130th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar celebrated at CSIR Campus

The 130th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 16 April 2021, at CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC) and CSIR Madras Complex (CMC).

The function was inaugurated with the lighting of Kuthuvilakku and floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar by Dr. K. Ramanjaneyulu, Director, CSIR-SERC and Coordinating Director, CMC. The staff of CSIR-SERC and CMC also paid floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar.

This was followed by a function organized through MS Teams platform. Dr. P. Kuganantham, Head of the Department of Social Medicine & Infections Diseases at SIMS hospital, Chennai. Former Director of Communicable Diseases Hospital in Chennai, Consultant for UNICEF, was the Chief Guest of the function. Dr. K. Sathish Kumar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-SERC, welcomed the chief guest, dignitaries and the audience. In his welcome address, Dr. Sathish Kumar remembered the contributions of Dr. Ambedkar towards drafting the constitution of India. He also mentioned that our constitution is the uniting spirit of India and Dr. Ambedkar worked tirelessly for the welfare of each and every citizen of this country. He also said that Dr. Ambedkar stood for equality and questioned inequality in all forms. He also said that the birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar is being observed as an official function at CSIR-SERC and CSIR-CMC from the year 2019.

Dr. Ramanjaneyulu, in his presidential address remembered Dr. Ambedkar as one of the most outstanding leaders of India, as a crusader of equality, a visionary who stood for women empowerment and advancement, first law minister of India, recipient of Bharat Ratna, a scholar and a prolific writer. He said that for millions of people in India, Dr. Ambedkar is a part of their daily life and no other icon has touched their lives as Ambedkar did. His said that his contribution towards drafting our constitution is unmatchable and said that the greatest tribute to him would be to take his vision forward and stand for the eradication of all social evils.

Shri C. Kumaravelu, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-CEERI, introduced the chief guest to the audience. The chief guest of the function, Dr. Kuganantham, gave a lecture on ***Dr. Ambedkar, the great human being who sacrificed himself for modern India***, in which he shared his thoughts on Dr. Ambedkar and his contributions to our country and society. He remembered Dr. Ambedkar as a great human being; who always stood for non-violence, who stood and worked for liberation of all human beings from all kinds of social sufferings; and who aspired India to be a modern nation. He said that Babasaheb was the herald of the depressed classes in the society and said that although many people talk about Dr. Ambedkar all the time, they are not serious about his works and for what he stood for. He said that Babasaheb stood for liberating human beings, a casteless society, equality, women empowerment, and empowerment of all marginalized classes of Indian society. He also briefed on the key contributions of Babasaheb – his meticulous drafting of the constitution of India that accommodated all citizens and made every individual as the unit of the constitution; Hindu code bill that gave several

important rights to women; his contributions for worker's rights and social safety - through labour laws, rights of working women, health insurance for workers, etc.; conceptualization of Reserve Bank of India; his pioneering contributions in the development of India's national policy for water and electricity, etc. He said that Babasaheb was a key contributor for bringing equality in modern India, a great Indian to be celebrated by all and modern India is thriving in many ways because of the foundations laid by Dr. Ambedkar.

Shri R.D. Sathish Kumar, Principal Technical Officer, CSIR-SERC proposed vote of thanks.

Celebration of 130th Birth Anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar