Public Relations Office
Jamia Millia Islamia

April 11, 2025

Press Release

Special screening of documentary film *'Chaitybhumi'* at JMI to commemorate 134th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

The Centre for the Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI) at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) hosted a commemorative screening of the renowned documentary *"Chaitybhumi*," directed by esteemed filmmaker Somnath Waghmare, in honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 134th birth anniversary. This event, aimed at promoting equitable and inclusive education, took place on April 9, 2025, and was broadcast live on various social media platforms. It was accessible to all CSSI centers across India, as well as the University Grants Commission (UGC). Following the guidance of UGC Secretary Prof. Manish R. Joshi and Joint Secretary Dr. Manoj Kumar, the centre organized this event with a focus on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDG), aligning with its commitment to inclusivity.

The event was held at Mir Anis Hall of the university and was graced by faculty members, research scholars and students from the University. Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice Chancellor, JMI , served as the Patron of the event, while Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, was the Co-Patron.

The highlight of the occasion was the presence of Mr. Somnath Waghmare, the filmmaker and Director of *Chaitybhumi*, who joined as the Chief Guest. His work, which focuses on Dalit assertion, memory, and cultural spaces, was particularly apt for honouring Dr. Ambedkar's legacy of social justice and equality.

Chaitybhumi is a site that holds immense importance for the Dalit movement in India, as it is where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's last rites were performed after his passing on December 6, 1956. Dr. Ambedkar, often called as the father of Indian Constitution, dedicated his life to fighting the chains of caste oppression and bringing revolutionary change. This musical film aims to bring to light the history and cultural politics of how people commemorate December 6 at Chaitybhumi, Mumbai and the relevance of this public event in contemporary India. It explores how Dalit community comes together to honour this day and its political implications for their identity and empowerment.

The event commenced at 2:00 PM with a warm welcome to the dignitaries and guests by the Hony. Director, Prof.Tanuja followed by a formal introduction of the film's Director and Chief Guest of the event Mr. Somnath Waghmare, by Dr. Arvind Kumar,

Assistant Professor at CSSI and the Convenor of the event. The screening of the film was followed by a panel discussion, with Dr. Arvind providing insightful commentary on the themes of the documentary, linking them to broader issues of caste, identity, and space in contemporary India. The event concluded with an engaging audience interactive session. The concluding remarks were made by the Chair Prof. Tanuja.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Elaiyakumar R, Research Scholar at the centre who expressed gratitude to the guests, faculty members, and students for their enthusiastic participation.

The program offered an important platform to reflect on Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy and the significance of cultural spaces like Chaitybhumi in the Dalit movement and memory politics.

Public Relations Office
Jamia Millia Islamia

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New Delhi, Delhi 110025, India
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CHAITYBHUMI
A FILM BY SOMNATH WAGHMARE

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Jamia Millia Islamia

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL INCLUSION

Subject Association

Invites you to the screening of Chaitybhumi to celebrate the 134th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for promoting equitable and inclusive education.

CHAITYBHUMI

A FILM BY SOMNATH WAGHMARE

Patron:
Prof. Mazhar Asif
Vice Chancellor, JMI

Co Patron:
Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi
Registrar, JMI

Chair:
Prof. Tanuja
Officiating Director, CSSI, JMI

Chief Guest:
Somnath Waghmare
Filmmaker

Convenor and Discussant:
Dr Arvind Kumar
Assistant Professor, CSSI, JMI

Moderator:
Elaiyakumar R
Research Scholar, CSSI, JMI

2:00 PM **9 April, 2025**

Mir Anis Hall, Gate No 15, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 110025