

122nd Birth Anniversary of Dr B. R. Ambedkar Celebrated In ICMR



The 122nd Birth Anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was celebrated in Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi on 29th April, 2013. Smt Krishna Tirath, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The programme was presided over by Dr Vishwa Mohan Katoch, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director-General, ICMR who welcomed the Chief Guest. Smt Dharitri Panda, Sr Financial Advisor presented a brief introduction of the Chief Guest. Shri G. S Sandhu, President, SC/ST Welfare Association of ICMR also welcomed the Chief Guest and told that the ICMR family is always dedicated towards fulfilling its responsibilities for the welfare of SC/ST employees of ICMR. Dr Katoch said that in the compliance of the Indian Constitution the ICMR is working towards the better health of the poor and downtrodden communities residing in the marginalised and tribal parts of the country. ICMR's 17 institutes which constitutes 50% of its strength are committed to work for these communities as well as better health outcomes through a special programme launched in 2010. Dr Katoch said that the changes in our social set up towards equality and education would be the real tribute to the views of *Bharat Ratna* Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Speaking on the occasion, Smt Krishna Tirath, Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development emphasized on the empowerment of the women and child. She informed about The

Sabla, a programme for adolescent girls aged between 11-18 years. With the help of *Anganwadi* workers, the girls in the age group are provided with the fortified food, medicines and are given training for their safety, *etc.* A Pilot scheme has been launched in 251 districts in the country out of which two districts are in Delhi covering about 3 lakh *Sablas* in the area. There are 25 lakh such workers in the country who along with ASHA and *Anganwadi* workers are creating awareness among the girls and women about the better health. Smt Tirath also said that the Govt of India has also created a monitoring system to check the atrocities including the sexual assault and domestic violence on women. She said that, Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar wanted to create *Manav Sangathan* instead of *Jati Sangathan* or organizations based on cast, colour, religion, *etc.*

Dr Arvind Pandey, Director, NIMS and a few more senior officers from ICMR also spoke on the occasion. In the end Mr T. S. Jawahar, Senior Deputy Director-General (Administration) presented a vote of thanks.

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