



(An Amrit Mahotsav Initiative by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India)



*Book Release (Comprehending Equity: Contextualising
India's North-East, Routledge Publication)*



*8th Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture
(Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Radical Dalit Self)*

21st March 2022

**Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav**

Program Schedule

Book Release Function: **3:30 p.m.**

Panellists

Prof. Raj Kumar (University of Delhi)
Prof. N.V. Varghese (Vice Chancellor, NIEPA)
Prof. Virginius Xaxa (IHD)
Prof. V.K. Jain (Vice Chancellor, TU)

Special Guest

Ms. Shoma Choudhury (Routledge India)

Organized By

Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Tezpur University



(An Amrit Mahotsav Initiative by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,
Govt. of India)



8th Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture (Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Radical Dalit Self)



21st March 2022



Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/ehs-owdk-gjs>



Prof. Raj Kumar, University of Delhi

Raj Kumar is Professor in the Department of English, Delhi University. His research areas include autobiographical studies, Dalit literature, Indian writing in English, Odia literature and post-colonial studies. He has been a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla in 1999 and has published in journals such as *Social Action*, *Sateertha Bulletin*, *The Fourth World*, *Creative Forum*, *Language Forum*, *Jadavpur Journal of Comparative Literature*, *Indian Literature*, *Social Scientist*, *Journal of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Rama Devi Women University Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, *International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage*, *Ravenshaw Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, and *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*. Raj Kumar has also translated literary texts from Indian languages, especially Odia into English. His book, *Dalit Personal Narratives: Reading Caste, Nation and Identity* has been published by Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi in 2010 and got reprinted in 2011, 2015 and 2017. His English translation of Akhila Naik's *Bheda*, the first Odia Dalit novel is published by Oxford University Press, Delhi in 2017. His book *Dalit Literature and Criticism* is published by Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi in 2019.

Abstract:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar symbolizes different personas to different people. Hindu nationalists call him “anti-national”; Hindu fundamentalists call him “a saviour of Hindu society”; neo-Buddhists believe him to be an incarnation of Buddha. And for millions of Dalits across the country he is the symbol of their struggle and their hope. As a member of Dalit community Ambedkar championed their cause and fought relentlessly throughout his life to ensure equality, social justice, self-respect and freedom for them. Ambedkar, thus, stood for social liberation, economic emancipation and political advancement of the downtrodden millions – a task never undertaken by any high caste Hindu leader with as much vigour and force. His five decades of hard work helped Dalits to organize Dalit movements and write Dalit literature in post-Ambedkar phases. What was Ambedkar's philosophy in life? What are the inspirations Dalit activists and writers get from Ambedkar? What were the historical reasons for the emergence of Dalit literature? What is the language of Dalit literature? These and many other questions will be asked throughout the lecture while tracing the legacy of Ambedkar on the present day Dalit writers and activists.

Welcome Address	: Prof. Kedilezo Kikhi
Introductory Remarks	: Prof. V.K. Jain, Vice Chancellor, TU
Chairperson	: Prof. P. K. Das, Head, Dept. of Foreign Languages, TU
Lecture	: Prof. Raj Kumar, DU
Vote of Thanks	: Dr. D.R. Gautam

