Caste is anti-national as it divides India, says Amartya Sen

Amartya Sen was addressing a special event at the London School of Economics (LSE) to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Bambaheb Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.

Amartya Sen was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998. (HT File Photo)

Taking a dig at the trend of branding people as anti-national for not “toeing a certain line”, Nobel laureate professor Amartya Sen on Friday said casteism that divides India is anti-

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/...
Caste is anti-national as it divides India, says Amartya Sen | india news |... https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/caste-is-anti-national-as-it-d...

national.

Addressing a special event at the London School of Economics (LSE) to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Dalit rights activist Bhasaheb Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Sen said: “One issue that keeps coming up in India is people being branded as ‘anti-national’ for not toeing a certain line”.

“I would say caste is anti-national because it divides the nation. We want to be national, not anti-national, for which it is important to eliminate all divisions,” the 82-year-old economist and philosopher said.

Referring to Ambedkar, a former LSE student, as a “great social revolutionary and an intellectual powerhouse”, he added: “It is through education we can truly bring about change in the world. That is the vision which Babasaheb Ambedkar gave us for a united nation.”

‘Dr Ambedkar’s Relevance Today and in the Future’ was organised by the Federation of Ambedkarite and Buddhist Organisations UK (FABO UK) in collaboration with the Inequality and Poverty Research Programme, department of anthropology at the LSE and the India Observatory at the LSE to coincide with the centenary of Dr BR Ambedkar joining the LSE.

Read | As Modi completes 2 years, a tale of 2 crematoriums at Ambedkar birthplace

The aim of the day-long conference was to bring together academics, economists, business leaders, equality champions, politicians and women leaders to highlight the relevance of Ambedkar’s work on the economic and social reforms in India and beyond.

“London holds a special place in the life of Bhasaheb Ambedkar and his home at King Henry’s Road will serve as memorial dedicated to social justice. He was a great intellectual, jurist, human rights champion who struggled against all odds in his goal of nation-building. The best way to honour him is to try and follow his ideals,” said Dr Virander Paul, the deputy high commissioner of India to the UK.

Read | In Hyderabad, Kanhaiya pitches for ‘Rohith Act’ to end casteism

Ambedkar, referred to as the architect of the Indian Constitution, registered for a master’s degree and took courses in Geography and Political Ideas alongside Social Evolution and Social Theory and went on to complete a PhD thesis at LSE.

The year 2016 marks the centenary of his first visit to LSE in 1916.

First Published: Jun 17, 2016 08:31 IST
Caste is anti-national as it divides India, says Amartya Sen | india news |... https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/caste-is-anti-national-as-it-d...
Caste is anti-national as it divides India, says Amartya Sen | india news |... https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/caste-is-anti-national-as-it-d...