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Ambedkar Jayanti celebrated in Brunei Darussalam



High Commissioner, Mrs. Nagma M. Mallick, presenting the certificate to Ms. Roshni Venkatesh, the first prize winner in the Essay competition on the occasion of the 125th Birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated with remembrance and gratitude for the past and hope for the future in Brunei Darussalam at the Chancery premises of the High Commission of India on Saturday, 14 May 2016 on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The High Commission had announced on 14 April an Essay competition for students aged 16-18 years on the topic, *Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Laying the Sound Foundation for a New India*. The first prize was a cash prize of B\$300 and books, while the second prize was a cash prize of B\$200 and books. A panel of judges was constituted, consisting of Smt. Nagma M. Mallick, the High Commissioner of India, Prof. Altaf Hussain Ahangar and Dr. Merlin Franco Francis, both Professors in prestigious universities in Brunei. Seven entries were received and the judges adjudged Ms. Roshani Venkatesh as the first prize winner and Ms. Vibhusha Selvam as the second prize winner.

At the prize-giving ceremony on 14 May, the High Commissioner delivered a speech on the important role played by Dr. Ambedkar in drafting the constitution of India, his concern to ensure the protection of civil liberties and rights of all citizens of India and his lifelong endeavours to achieve social justice with the provision of full

social, educational and economic opportunities for traditionally-disadvantaged sections of Indian society. She recalled that Dr. Ambedkar had been awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990 and various other distinctions and honours that had been bestowed on him during the course of his life and after it. The two judges also spoke on the importance of Dr. Ambedkar's thought in present-day India and why it was important particularly for her young citizens to recall this.

The winners were awarded their prizes and the other participants were given gifts of books and certificates of appreciation. There was a large turnout of members from the Indian community, including from several community associations of Brunei. The Brunei Times, the leading newspaper of Brunei, also covered the event with a report in the next day's edition.



High Commissioner delivering remarks on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar





High Commissioner with judges and participants of the Essay Competition



Members of the Indian Community present at the Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations

15 May, 2016
Brunei Darussalam