



DHARMARAM VIDYA KSHETRAM

Pontifical Athenaeum of Philosophy, Theology
and Institute of Formative Spirituality and Counselling

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

DHARMA ENDOWMENT LECTURES XXVII

THE INBUILT HETEROGENEITY IN INDIC RELIGIONS & ITS IMPLICATIONS

SPEAKER

SRI. JAWHAR SIRCAR, IAS (R)

EX-MP, RAJYA SABHA
FORMER SECRETARY, GOVT OF INDIA

DATE

NOVEMBER 25 & 26, 2024

VENUE

**PKM AUDITORIAM
DVK RESEARCH CENTRE**



Jawhar Sircar, a distinguished public intellectual cum statesman, is a resolute advocate for democracy, human rights and cultural heritage. With over four decades of experience as an IAS officer, Sircar has served at both national and state levels in significant roles, including as India's longest-tenured Culture Secretary. Later, as CEO of Prasar Bharati, he oversaw the country's public broadcasting services, Akashvani and Doordarshan, demonstrating his commitment to safeguarding and promoting Indian cultural heritage.

Recently, he resigned as a Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) to protest the government's handling of a popular ten-week citizens' agitation in Bengal. During his three-year tenure as an MP, he actively opposed the rise of majoritarian and authoritarian tendencies driven by right-wing forces. As a member of key parliamentary committees, Sircar focused on defending freedom of the press, including social media, and advocated for data protection and internet privacy. Collaborating with fellow parliamentarians, he worked to resist governmental control over the internet, seeking to protect individual freedoms. He also served on joint parliamentary committees examining forest conservation and laws to preserve biodiversity, demonstrating his commitment to environmental causes.

Now based in Kolkata, Sircar draws on his 45 years in public service to support activists and advocacy groups. Through his writings and public speaking, he stands as a staunch crusader for human rights and multiculturalism - principles that face critical challenges in India today. His work reflects a steadfast commitment to resisting governmental overreach and defending democratic values.

THE INBUILT HETEROGENEITY IN INDIC RELIGIONS & ITS IMPLICATIONS

Dharma Endowment Lecture 2024 deals with the inherent diversity in Indic Religions and its implications in the contemporary Indian society and culture. The speaker explores the structural composition of Indic religions, with a primary focus on Hinduism, while also addressing India-born Buddhism and Jainism, which share similar foundational traits. The lecture focuses also on four major festivals and three prominent denominations, using them to illustrate how internal diversity and opposing tendencies are integral to the very fabric of these religions. This diversity functions as a means of managing contradictions, which serve as both strengths and vulnerabilities. The speaker argues that enforcing uniformity would be both impractical and damaging to the essence of these traditions; so much so, homogeneity is impossible and self-destructive. This inherent heterogeneity explains why there is strong resistance within Indic religions to the dominance of any single deity or school, let alone the imposition of one over the others.

Programme

Monday, 25 November 2024

09.15 am: Inaugural Session

09.35 am: Lecture I- Windows to the Sacred: An Exploration of Indic Religions

10.20 am: Q&A

10.50 am: Tea Break

11.15 am: Lecture II- Traditions and Transformations: Hindrance or Harmony?

12:00 pm: Q&A

Tuesday, 26 November 2024

09.15 am: Lecture III- Religious Festivals, Heterogeneity and Celebrative Ethics

10.15 am: Q&A

10.45 am: Tea Break

11.00 am: Lecture IV- From Pews to Politics: Celebrating Denominational Diversity vs Shaping Political Dynamics

11.45 am: Q&A

12.15 pm: Echoes and Insights - Recap and Response: Dr. George Kulangara CMI

12.30 pm: Concluding Session

You are cordially invited to join us for the Dharma Endowment Lectures XXVII and to be enriched by the inspiring lectures by **Sri Jawhar Sircar** on **The Inbuilt Heterogeneity in Indic Religions & Its Implications**.

10 November 2024
DVK, Bengaluru

Dr. Mathew Attumkal CMI
Dean, Faculty of Philosophy, DVK