

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

FR. ABRAHAM KALLARACKAL
MEMORIAL NATIONAL
SEMINAR

INDIAN DEMOCRACY AT CROSSROADS -
'DECONSTRUCTING HEGEMONIC POWER
STRUCTURE IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM'

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Indian Political Economist

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FR. MELESIUS HALL

Department of Sociology at Sacred Heart College(Autonomous) Thevara established in 1964 is one of the oldest centres of learning in the state catering to the needs of many generations of students with a rich legacy in contributing to the development of the social,cultural and academic needs of the community.

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PARAKALA PRABHAKAR

Shri. Parakala Prabhakar is a leading Indian political economist and social commentator. He served as Communications Advisor, held a cabinet rank position in Andhra Pradesh Government between July 2014 and June 2018. For several years he presented a current affairs discussion programme on television channels of Andhra Pradesh. His popular programmes, Pratidhwani on ETV2 and Namaste Andhra Pradesh captivated many viewers. Shri. Prabhakar actively engages with major national issues of contemporary significance. He is the spouse of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of India, Smt.Nirmala Sitharaman.

As the world's largest democracy, India is home to one-quarter of the world's voters and one-sixth of humanity. Indian democracy has proven robust since the country's Independence in 1947. Despite its socio-economic shortcomings, India's democratic institutions have persisted for more than seven decades, with only a brief interruption in the form of Emergency. Today, however, India's status as the world's largest democracy is being called into question. India was recently downgraded from "free" to 'partially free' by Freedom House, while the V-Dem Institute changed its classification of India from a "democracy" to an 'electoral autocracy'. The Economist's Intelligence Unit downgraded India to a "flawed democracy" in its annual Democracy Index. Widespread use of religiously inspired political appeals like "India before everything" and "Ram above all" and branding leaders as 'demigods' has picked holes in the democratic fabric of the Indian Society. India's vibrant tradition of liberal democracy is apparently under duress and is continuing to regress. This Seminar wishes to draw attention to the ways in which India's liberal democracy has come under crisis.



REV. FR. ABRAHAM KALLARACKAL

Rev. Abraham Kallarackal worked at the department of Sociology (1987-2006). He served as the Head of the Department and played a key role in the transformation of the department into a renowned centre of learning. Fr. Abraham Kallarackal was also a man of deep psychological insights and was popular across departments within the student community. He was called to eternal rest in 2006.

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