You are cordially invited to the Commencement Lecture on "Sufism and the study of Liberal Arts"

SPEAKER

Mr. VIJAI VARDHAN, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Departments of Higher Education
Cultural Affairs, Archaeology & Museums and Archives
Government of Haryana

Vijai Vardhan is a graduate and post-graduate in History from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. Prior to joining the Indian Police Service in 1984 he represented his College in Badminton, Squash, Boxing and Athletics. In the year 1985, he joined the Indian Administrative Service and was allocated the Haryana cadre. In his distinguished career, Vijai Vardhan has held important assignments, including Secretary to the Governor of Haryana, Chairman of the Haryana Tourism Corporation, Chairman of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board and Principal Secretary of the Tourism and Renewable Energy Departments. As Administrator of the Haryana Urban Development Authority, Gurgoan and Panchkula, he was instrumental in catalyzing the industrial, residential and commercial development of Gurgoan, Panchkula and various other towns of Haryana. While posted as Deputy Commissioner, Faridabad and Municipal Commissioner, Faridabad, Mr. Vardhan took several initiatives in the urban development of Faridabad. He is drawn to the mystic and has a deep and abiding interest in Sufism, Confucianism and Taoism. A keen historian, he has authored five books. His book 'Kurukshetra - Timeless Sanctity' published by the reputed publishing house 'Wisdom Tree' is a result of six years of intense historical research and it captures the history, mysticism and spirituality of Kurukshetra from the earliest times till now. He has recently authored a book titled 'Pinjore - The Garden of Paradise' which is the first ever book on the 17th century Mughal gardens of Pinjore. His collection of Sufi Haiku poems in English titled, 'Beyond the Great Beyond' and 'Ibadat - The Breath of My Soul' have been greatly appreciated by critics and readers alike. He has also authored three well researched monographs about the history and heritage of Haryana titled 'Buddha's Trail in Haryana', 'The Magnificent Monuments of Narnaul' and 'Rakhigarhi Rediscovered'.

He has contributed to the preservation and propagation of our heritage by conceiving the Pinjore Heritage Festival, Kartik Utsav at Raja Nahar Singh's Palace, Ballabgarh, Faridabad and by restoring the ancient Mata Mansa Devi Temple at Panchkula (near Chandigarh) and the Mughal Gardens of Pinjore. As a voice-over artist, he lends his voice regularly to documentary films, theatre, social causes and poetry festivals. He gives occasional public recitals of ecstatic poetry of the world’s greatest romantic, radical and Sufi traditions in Hindi, English and Urdu languages.

Programme

Introductory Remarks
12:00 noon – 12:05 pm
Professor Kathleen A. Modrowski
Dean
Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities

Welcoming Remarks
12:05 pm – 12:15 pm
Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar
Vice Chancellor
O. P. Jindal Global University &
Dean, Jindal Global Law School

Commencement Lecture
12:15 pm – 12:45 pm
Mr. Vijai Vardhan, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Departments of Higher Education
Cultural Affairs, Archaeology & Museums and Archives
Government of Haryana

Vote of Thanks
12:55 pm – 1:00 pm
Professor (Dr.) Y.S.R. Murthy
Registrar
O.P. Jindal Global University

Discussion
12:45 pm – 12:55 pm

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