



# St. Joseph's College of Commerce (Autonomous)

Affiliated to Bengaluru City University

Accredited with A++ Grade by NAAC in 4th Cycle (CGPA of 3.57/4)

College with Potential for Excellence (CPE)

Ranked 65th in the NIRF 2023 by the Ministry of Education, Government of India

#163, Brigade Road, Bengaluru -560025, Karnataka, India

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

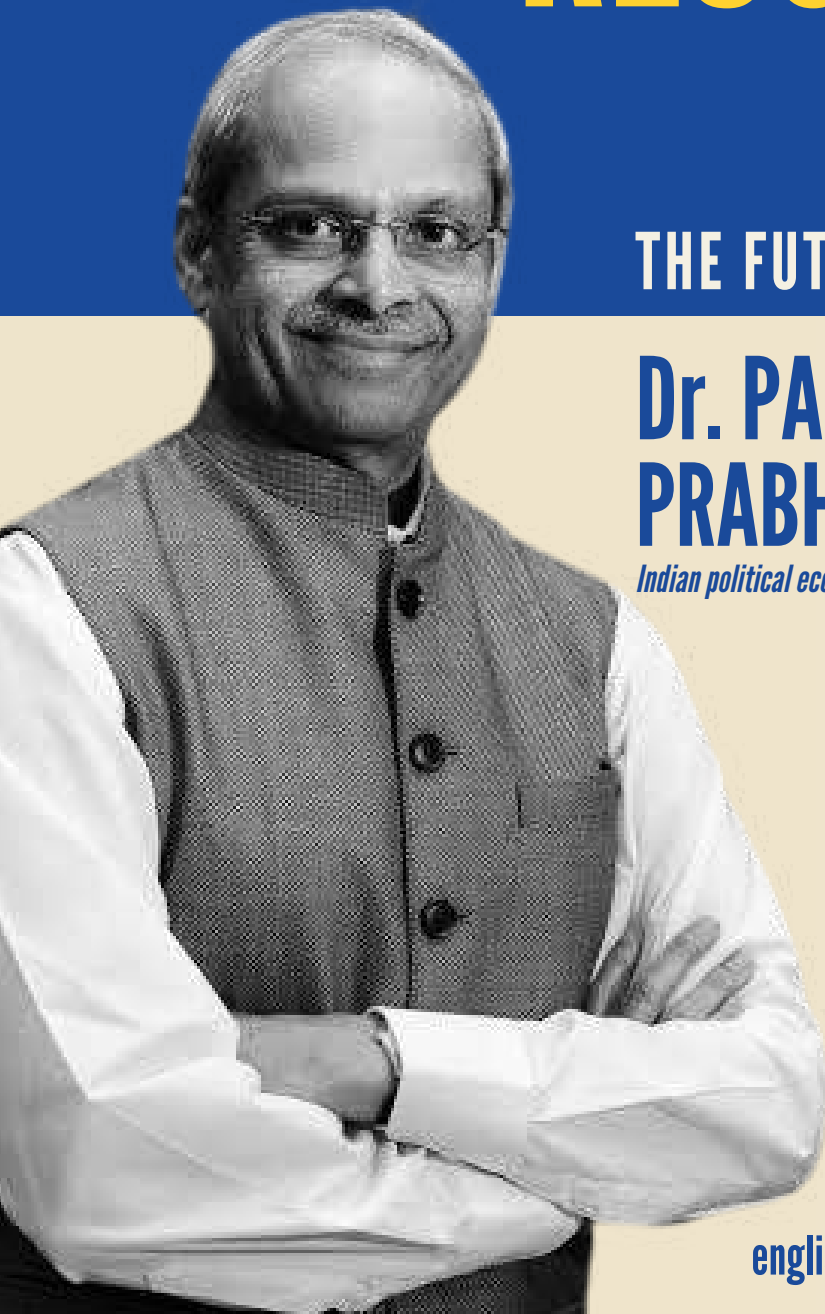
presents

### ANNUAL REPUBLIC DAY LECTURE SERIES

6TH EDITION

# RESCUING THE REPUBLIC

## THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA



### Dr. PARAKALA PRABHAKAR

*Indian political economist and social commentator*

25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

10:30 a.m.

Loyola Auditorium  
St. Joseph's College of  
Commerce(Autonomous)

CLICK OR SCAN THE  
QR CODE TO REGISTER



FOR QUERIES CONTACT:

englishdept@sjcc.edu.in | +91 9663311083, 8301038135

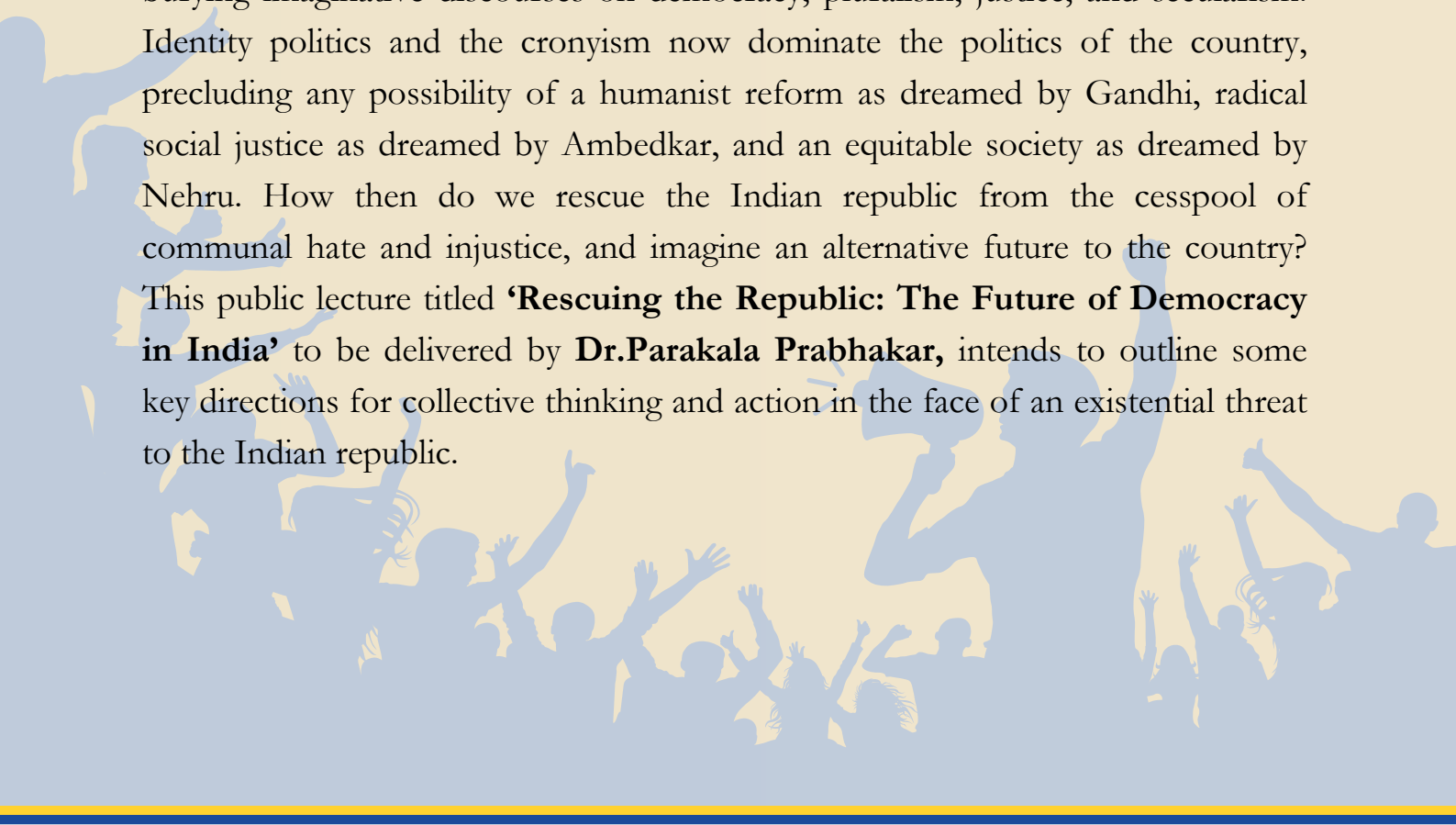
## About the Lecture Series

The Annual Republic Day Lecture Series, hosted by the Department of English, is now into its sixth edition. Every year a renowned public intellectual is invited to deliver a lecture on contemporary socio-political and cultural challenges faced by the Indian Republic. The lecture series was inaugurated in 2019 by Prof. Rajendra Chenni and followed by lectures from Prof. Anand Teltumbde, Prof. G N Devy, Ms. Patricia Mukhim and Prof. Shiv Visvanathan. The Republic Day Lecture Series is designed as a space for dialogue and interaction between the public, civil society and the academia. It seeks to promote the idea of public participation in strengthening democracy and pluralism in the Indian context.

## Sixth Annual Republic Day Lecture

### Rescuing the Republic: The Future of Democracy in India

As we approach yet another general election, Indian democracy faces several challenges in the form of religious fundamentalism, majoritarianism, communal disharmony, regional disparity, economic and social injustice, and ecological crisis. The foundations of the republic will be tested not just on the plank of electoral politics, but more importantly in the realm of cultural politics. For it is the cultural politics that has undergone a drastic change in the past two decades, by burying imaginative discourses on democracy, pluralism, justice, and secularism. Identity politics and the cronyism now dominate the politics of the country, precluding any possibility of a humanist reform as dreamed by Gandhi, radical social justice as dreamed by Ambedkar, and an equitable society as dreamed by Nehru. How then do we rescue the Indian republic from the cesspool of communal hate and injustice, and imagine an alternative future to the country? This public lecture titled **'Rescuing the Republic: The Future of Democracy in India'** to be delivered by **Dr. Parakala Prabhakar**, intends to outline some key directions for collective thinking and action in the face of an existential threat to the Indian republic.

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page shows the silhouettes of a diverse group of people. Many of them have their arms raised in the air, suggesting a crowd at a public event or a gesture of collective agreement or celebration. The silhouettes are in various shades of blue and grey, set against a light background.

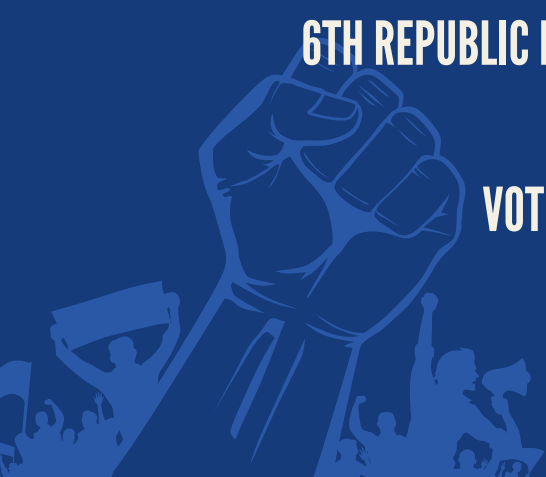
## About the Speaker

Parakala Prabhakar studied at JNU and the London School of Economics. He was the Communications Adviser to the Government of Andhra Pradesh between 2014 and 2018 and held a Cabinet rank. He is currently the MD of RightFOLIO, a knowledge enterprise based in Hyderabad. He is also a widely-read columnist on current affairs and has a popular Youtube channel, 'Midweek Matters', where he discusses issues related to India's politics, economy and contemporary society. His latest book is 'The Crooked Timber of New India: Essays on a Republic in Crisis' (Speaking Tiger).



## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

<b>WELCOME ADDRESS</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER</b>	<b>10:35 a.m.</b>
<b>6TH REPUBLIC DAY LECTURE</b>	<b>10:40 a.m.</b>
<b>Q &amp; A</b>	<b>11:40 a.m.</b>
<b>VOTE OF THANKS</b>	<b>12:25 p.m.</b>





## About the College

St. Joseph's College of Commerce (SJCC), formerly a part of St. Joseph's College, established in the year 1882, is managed by the Bangalore Jesuit Educational Society (BJES). The Commerce Department was established in the year 1949 and it became an independent college with its own building in Brigade Road in the year 1972. With an objective of imparting quality education in the field of Commerce and Management, the college has been innovating in all aspects of higher education over a long period of time. SJCC has taken a lead in reforming curriculum and syllabus, examination and evaluation pattern, and teaching and learning methods to provide a holistic education to form men and women for and with others. SJCC is accredited by NAAC with A++ grade in the Fourth Cycle and has secured 65th All India Rank in NIRF rankings conducted by Ministry of Education. It has consistently been ranked as one of the top ten commerce colleges in India by reputed magazines.

College Motto "Fide et Labore," meaning "Faith and Toil." Faith is the commitment to God and fellow beings while Toil represents hard work.

Vision of the College: To create a just, secular and democratic society specially in the service of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized.

The Mission Statement: St. Joseph's College of Commerce seeks to be a place where academic excellence goes with the cultivation of virtue, and where a community is formed which sustains men and women in their education and their conviction that life is only lived well when it is lived generously in the service of others.

### MILESTONES

1882 St Joseph's College was established in 1882

1949 St Joseph's College introduced the Department of Commerce

1972 Became an independent College, St Joseph's College of Commerce

2000 First cycle of NAAC, accredited with 5 stars

2004 Granted Autonomous Status

2007 Second cycle of NAAC accredited with an A grade

2010 Recognized SJCC as a "College with Potential for Excellence

2010 Bangalore University recognized the College as Research Centre

2012 Third cycle of NAAC accredited with A grade, CGPA 3.37

2021 Fourth cycle of NAAC accredited with A grade A++, CGPA 3.57

## About the Department

Established in 1972, the Department of English focuses on providing a humanistic perspective to the study of language and literatures. Over the years the department has evolved as a centre for critical and creative thinking, fostering literary sensibilities, and providing a platform for open dialogues. The curriculum of English courses are shaped as a response to the contemporary challenges in the society, both cultural and professional, and introduces students to different literatures across genres and cultures. Some of the pioneering courses offered by the institution include media literacy, understanding development narratives, debates in the history of ideas covering language, caste, nation, business, politics and technology, debate and argumentation, academic writing, and thinking creativity. The department has also been offering open elective and certificate courses in cinema, and popular culture. In 2022, as the college transitioned into a multidisciplinary institution, the Department of English introduced the B.A. English and Psychology programme to explore the possibilities of interdisciplinary education.

The philosophical orientation of the department has been inspired by the Jesuit vision and mission of education, and shaped by the efforts of public intellectuals and creative teachers like Prof. G K Govind Rao and Prof. R Rajaram. The faculty members of the department come from a variety of socio-cultural backgrounds, and pursue diverse academic interests.

The pedagogic practices of the department envision learning through participating in continuous discussions and debates, both inside and outside the classroom. The focus is on allowing students to develop perspectives by articulating their experiences. The assessment, both summative and formative, emphasizes on the progress made in understanding experiences, and articulating them creatively through written and speaking assignments. Also, the ability to apply language skills in practical contexts are given equal weightage.

The department fosters special interest student associations and conducts activities, such as VIVIDHA – The SJCC Literary Fest, book exhibitions, film screenings, and workshops. It also encourages participative dialogue within the larger community through programmes like Republic Day Lecture Series, Seminars, Panel Discussions, and Colloquiums on topics of contemporary cultural and political significance.