

PIB NEWS ANALYSIS

CAA aims to provide relief to persecuted minorities without infringing upon rights of any existing citizens - Vice President

The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar today highlighted India's role over the ages as 'a proud champion of pluralism', with the principle of Sarv Dharm Samabhav at the heart of its civilizational ethos.

Noting that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) "aims to provide relief to persecuted minorities without infringing upon rights of existing citizens", the Vice-President said, "It is unfortunate that some fail to recognise the soothing impact from human rights perspective on persecuted minorities in the neighbourhood."

Addressing the valedictory ceremony of the Global Spirituality Mahotsav at the Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad today, the Vice-President underlined that Bharat is an "obvious global spiritual centre, defining world discourse inspired by a deep commitment to spiritualism." It is a natural place for spiritual growth, where one can discover sublimity, virtuosity and rectitude, he said.

Highlighting that spirituality has been deeply ingrained in the fabric of Bharat, the Vice-President said "Our religion, ethics, philosophy, literature, art, architecture, dance, music, and even our polity and socio-economic order have been constantly influenced and moulded by the inspiring force of spirituality."

Drawing attention to Swami Vivekananda's "pivotal role" in introducing the world to India's spiritual wisdom, the Vice-President made reference to the historic Chicago address of 1893 at the Parliament of Religions. "Swami Vivekananda's appeal for 'Harmony and Peace, and not Dissent' is need of our times as never before," the Vice-President stressed.

Stating that the timeless wisdom of India's spiritual heritage serves as a guiding light to humanity in a world faced by technological advancements and material pursuits, Shri Dhankhar quoted Mahatma Gandhi, recognising that "the Earth has enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed." "Spirituality is an impactful antidote to this human greed," he underlined.

Emphasising the position of Bharat as "a beacon of hope and enlightenment in a world plagued by rising geopolitical tensions, repression, intolerance and injustice", the Vice-President called for all to uphold the values of diversity and tolerance. "The world today needs spirited performance of mankind to generate an ecosystem of sustainable development and global peace," he said.