

‘Does secularism have a future’: A talk by Prof. Rajeev Bhargava

As part of the special lecture series, the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) organised a talk by Professor Rajeev Bhargava, Sr. Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi on the theme **‘Does Secularism have a Future.’** Professor Bhargava is a leading political theorist who has been one of the key intellectuals participating in the debate on secularism. He drew attention to the difference between a universal view on secularism and political secularism. He outlined the multiple approaches to political secularism and highlighted the French, American and European notions of secularism. He was of the view that all these perspectives did not have the capacity to find universal acceptance on account of their inherent limitations. The Indian approach to political secularism he felt had an element of robustness as it took into account different religions and viewed the role of the state on matters of religion from the **‘window’** of maintaining equality and protecting the rights of citizens. The lecture was followed by a lively question-answer session. The faculty and doctoral students of the University, members of the general public attended the programme.



Prof. Bhargava responding to a question during the discussions