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The Centre for Law and Humanities

cordially invites you to a

Author's Talk and Book Discussion

on

Attendant Lords: Bairam Khan and Abdur Rahim, Courtiers and Poets in Mughal India

Author: Dr. T.C.A. Raghavan



T C A Raghavan retired from the Indian Foreign Service in end 2015 while Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan. His earlier assignments included Kuwait (1983-86), Bhutan (1992-95), and the UK (1995-98). He was Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan (2003-2007) and High Commissioner to Singapore from 2009 to 2013. During his last posting in New Delhi (2007-09) in the Ministry of External Affairs Raghavan was Joint Secretary dealing with Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. In earlier postings in the Ministry of External Affairs he had served as Director of the External Affairs Minister's Office (2000-2003). He has also served in the Ministries of Commerce and Finance. Raghavan's schooling was spread over Bhopal, Jammu and Delhi. His undergraduate degree was in Physics from St Stephens College, Delhi University and Masters in History from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He was awarded a PhD by the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1992 for his dissertation relating to the economic history of India. His current interests are historical research, golf and travelling. In addition to the publication of his first book *Attendant Lord: Bairam Khan and Abdur Rahim, Courtiers and Poets in Mughal India* in January this year, he is currently working on a book on the history of India Pakistan relations which his publisher HarperCollins intends to bring out in August 2017 to coincide with the 70th Anniversary of Indian independence.

Abstract

Bairam Khan and his son, Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan were soldiers, poets and courtiers whose lives reflected the turbulent times they lived in. In telling their stories, *Attendant Lords* spans the reigns of four emperors - Babur, Humayun, Akbar and Jahangir - and covers over a hundred years of Mughal history, a time when these two noblemen were at the very heart of the court's labyrinthine politics. After Humayun's untimely death, Bairam Khan was regent to the young Emperor Akbar for four critical years. Bairam's own son, Abdur Rahim, became one of the most important generals of the Mughal Empire, but he is best remembered for his literary prowess, most particularly for his famous 'dohas'. Literature plays a large part in this story. This unusual dual biography traces the lives of these two noblemen against the backdrop of the courtly intrigues, brutal power struggles and the grand literary endeavours of the Mughal court. And it looks at their afterlives - how politics and the Hindi-Urdu debate reincarnated them as national heroes; how both men came to be seen as standing at the confluence of Hinduism and Islam; how their life stories have undergone subtle transformations; and how history, religion and literature combine in the broader context of nationalism and nation building.

Date: Wednesday, 19 April 2017

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Venue: Central Block, JGU Library, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat

Faculty Coordinator:

Professor Gitanjali Surendran, Executive Director, Centre for Law and Humanities, gsurendran@jgu.edu.in

