

Uncle Sam's reveries

timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/cultural-inputs/uncle-sams-reveries

Jagdish Batra

April 7, 2024

Jagdish Batra

Dr Jagdish Batra is a senior academic, currently working as Professor of English at O.P. Jindal Global University, India. He has nearly four decades of teaching and research e ...
MORE

Uncle Sam has grown old and senile but 'dil hai ki maanta nahin' (the heart won't listen). His aspirations of the bygone time when he was young and the world was full of adventure possess him every now and then. His reveries often project to his befuddled mind the image of the quaint supercop in straw hat, buckling up, tagging the hip holster and jumping on to the high horse to traverse not just the wild west but the entire globe.

Those were the days when his wish was the command for the world. After all, the world had put up with his interventions in almost every country of the world! There were direct military interventions as in Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.; or covert operations to topple governments as in Iran, Chile, Guatemala, etc.; or in bringing about the balkanization of East Europe. One must not forget the frequent economic sanctions slapped on one country or the other by it and even maneuvering UN into doing the same through bringing in or out of the FATF regime. India too has had its share of sanctions imposed against sale of this or that scientific gadget or transfer of technology. Even peace times have offered scope for US interventions in democratic elections in other countries. If one were to trust Researcher Dov Levin of Carnegie Mellon University, then some 117 instances of American interference in elections in other countries were noted between 1946 and 2000.

Uncle Sam stands for justice and fair play and so, can express wish for a free and fair trial of the Delhi Chief Minister Aravind Kejriwal, but that does not entitle India to expect the same from the US with regard to Donald Trump who has some fifty odd cases against him. Indian top courts are seen incapable of dispensing fair justice, perhaps because the judges are not appointed as they are in the US where the federal court judges are nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. It is India's judiciary that is advised to dole out justice to opposition leaders even though the Supreme Court often delivers judgments against the government; the recent electoral bond issue is a case to the point.

Uncle Sam is good at doling out advice for the betterment of the world; afterall, he has the experience of age. No government staffer should cross red line, Uncle Sam says. It's only the US departments who can push back tenaciously pleas to deport proclaimed offenders to India. Uncle Sam is most concerned about the security of the world. So, he can eliminate an

Osama Bin Laden on Pakistani soil or Al Zawahiri on Afghan soil, but no harm should come to Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and he should, in all innocence, be free to issue threats every other day to kill our prime minister or blow up Air India planes. That's the liberal approach to the elite terrorist class. As for the scores of ordinary Indian students being killed in America, well, they have to fend for themselves. Didn't the US spokesperson say that the Indian students "must use campus resources for safety awareness"? Sure, the Indian students must pay for their lack of awareness and become victims of hate crimes.

The world is waking up to reality, Uncle Sam! Better, update yourself!

Top Comment

Ashok

9 days ago

117 instances of friendly advice being offered for the conduct of free and fair elections abroad between 1946 and 2000. Whether that figure needs to be updated to the present time.

Add COMMENT READ COMMENTS (1)

Disclaimer

Views expressed above are the author's own.

END OF ARTICLE

WRITE FOR TOI BLOGS

Blogs by Jagdish Batra

- Need to be atmanirbhar in research publication to stem exploitation
- The murky examination ecosystem
- The non-issue of politics over Ram Mandir

More Blogs

TOP VOICES

- Dia Mirza
TOI Edit Page,Voices
- Bachi Karkaria
Erratica,TOI Edit Page,Tracking Indian Communities
- Jug Suraiya
Juggle-Bandhi

- Speaking Tree

TOI Edit Page

TOP EDITORIALS

- Dalit history month, and the perils of mimicking the west
- Human voice is a unique gift, use it well
- Two aspects of Ambedkar's notion of freedom