

Not just 15Lac+ property listings.
Now, **15+ Property Services** too.

DO MUCH MORE ON MAGICBRICKS!

Know More!



THU, MAY 19, 2022 | UPDATED 18:29 PM IST



THE TIMES OF INDIA

- Opinion
- ▶ Times View
- Readers' Blog
- Times Evoke
- City
- India
- World
- Entertainment
- Sports
- Spirituality
- Bu

NEWS / BLOGS / INDIA / Who will inculcate respect for law?

INDIA

Who will inculcate respect for law?

May 17, 2022, 4:12 PM IST / Jagdish Batra in Cultural Inputs, India, TOI

- FACEBOOK
- TWITTER
- LINKEDIN
- EMAIL



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

Whoever said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a dictator and that India lags behind other democracies (or even dictatorships, as some aver) in freedom of speech and action must have a weird sense of humour. One has just to cast a glance around to see how people are becoming more and more comfortable with ignoring the law and even taking the law into their hands, and cocking a snook

WRITE

at the government agencies and even the judiciary.

The silliest thing that happened on the law and order front and went without corrective action was the blockade of the roads in Shaheen Bagh way back in December 2019 which went on for months on the issue of Citizenship Amendment Act. The protesters merrily carried on their agitation, holding aloft the tricolor as a symbol of allegiance to the constitution of India while caring two hoots about the appeals from the leaders of the elected government and even the advice of the apex court to clear the site and not cause hardship to people! Had Covid19 not taken a fierce form in March 2020, and the people not been worried about their health, it would have gone on for, God knows, how long! If this agitation had been quelled the way such agitations had been during previous regimes, (one remembers the June 6, 2011 episode when Baba Ramdev's anti-graft agitation in Delhi with thousands of his followers was broken up following breakdown of talks with the central government emissaries including influential cabinet ministers and the protest site razed in no time), the vested interests at the back of such agitation would not have felt emboldened.

ADVE



BLOGS BY JAGD

- 1 A requiem for I
- 2 Dealing with d under duress
- 3 Let Justin Trud

[MORI](#)

TOP VOICES



SA Aiyar
Swaminon



Santosh
City City Ba



Chetan E
The Under



Arun Rar
Chennai Ta

The same stratagem was followed during the 2020-21 farmers' agitation which was, by all accounts, a protest carried out by a miniscule, though rich and powerful minority of farmers with links to foreign-based relatives and sympathizers. Again, we saw the public put facing huge inconvenience, industries closing down, workers losing jobs, patients dying in ambulances because of roadblocks and detours, but there was not even water canon charge, leave aside lathi-charge or firing in the air to scare the protesters away, and to clear the roads connecting Delhi with other states on the periphery. The government held many rounds of talks with the farmers, but neither the government nor the judiciary could make the protesters see reason. Rather the government buckled fearing loss of votes which it never got anyway. As for the imagined support for the farmers back in Punjab, the cat was out of the bag when the farmers' organizations that metamorphosed into political party were shown the door by the electorate. I suspect the government very well knew that it won't get any votes from Punjab, and still the way it handled with kid-gloves the agitation baffles one. Was it that the Prime Minister feared dent in his world image as a democrat that he desisted from strong action – the question remains unanswered.

ADVE



TOP EDITORIALS

- 1 Estimating you
- 2 Service pension gratitude
- 3 Giving Gyan: D education loan

Now that the Delhi corporations ruled by BJP have gone in for a demolition drive under court orders, the turning back of the demolition teams in Jehangirpuri and Shaheen Bagh has not come as a surprise. It is very easy to lure people into lawless action than prepare them to follow the law when it requires self-restraint and a bit of sacrifice. In this, the example has to be set by our politicians, because it is they who lead or mislead the people, but here too, many of them have yet to don the mantle of a model.

Not long ago, the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, gave the call to the parliamentarians to show discipline as he was piqued by frequent disruptions in the Rajya Sabha. While addressing a public meeting, the Vice president wanted public to hold the “disruptors” accountable by accosting them when they visit the relevant constituency. He also favoured public awareness through public meetings to discuss functioning of elected representatives, writing letters to newspapers, etc. Even penalizing them in the next election was suggested. Earlier in December 2017, addressing a meeting of PRS Legislative Research, he had wondered: “If the executive wings at various levels are being ranked within the country...Why cannot we rank the legislatures based on their functioning and effectiveness?” Indeed, it is a valuable

suggestion that has, however, awaits being taken up.

The problem is that the knowledgeable people who understand the machinations of politicians and have the means to stand up to them are in minority and are placed in ideologically different camps. They cannot rise above narrow lines of division and appreciate the common cause of value-based politics. While some intellectuals find political action as intruding into their ivory towers, others see risk to personal profit somewhere. So, they won't like and do not wish to take the trouble, even though their voice could matter a lot. On the other hand, the poor and the vulnerable sections, who constitute the majority, get won over by the politicians through trickery like appeal to caste and community or gifting freebies which make them forget all the political sins committed by the politicians in the past. When the politicians win through such means, they possibly end up finding ways to seek returns. This is indeed a queer situation out of which only enlightened leadership and opportune time can bring us out.

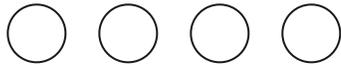
[FACEBOOK](#)[TWITTER](#)[LINKEDIN](#)[EMAIL](#)

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed above are the author's own.

..... END OF ARTICLE

About us	Advertise
Create Your	with us
Own Ad	RSS
Terms of	Newsletter
Use and	Feedback
Grievance	ePaper
Redressal	Sitemap
Policy	Archives
Privacy	
policy	

FOLLOW US ON**OTHER TIMES GROUP NEWS SITES**

The	Malayalam
Economic	Samayam
Times	Ei Samay
Hindi	I am Gujarat
Economic	Times Now
Times	Times Now
Navbharat	Navbharat
Times	TimesPoints
Maharashtra	Indiatimes
Times	
Vijaya	Brand
Karnataka	Capital
Telugu	Education
Samayam	Times
Tamil	Times Food
Samayam	Miss Kyra

POPULAR CATEGORIES

Headlines	Health &
Sports News	Fitness Tips
Business News	Indian TV
India News	Shows
World News	Celebrity
Bollywood	Photos
News	

TOP TRENDS

Russia Ukraine	LIC IPO
News Live	KKR vs GT
Coronavirus in	IPL Points
India Live	Table 2022
RCB vs RR Live	Sensex Today
Score	Cryptocurrency
Power Cut in	Exchange in
Mumbai	India
Jeff Bezos	Ethereum
AP Inter Hall	cryptocurrency
Ticket 2022	in India
Elon Musk	Cryptocurrency
India Covid	Price in India
Cases	Horoscope
Jack Dorsey	Today
Parag Agrawal	

LIVING AND ENTERTAINMENT

iDiva	Travel
MensXP.com	Destinations
Femina	Bombay Times
ETimes	Cricbuzz.com
Grazia	Filmfare
Zoom	Online Songs
	TV

Lifestyle	Food News
Longwalks App	Times Prime
Newspaper	Whats Hot
Subscription	

HOT ON THE WEB

Shilpi Raj	Ajith-Shalini
Priya Bhavani	Sidharth
Sachin	Malhotra
Tendulkars	KGF 2
Shilpi Raj	Collection
MMS Video	Arun Lal
Bhojpuri	Akash
Actress	Ambani
Aamrapali	
Dubey	

TRENDING TOPICS

Elon Musk	Anushka
Twitter	Sharma
Nusrat	Lock Upp
Jahans	Mobile
Bollywood	Phonesunder
Film	10000
Samantha	Mobile
Weekly	Phones
Fashion	under 15000
Roundup	Mobile Phone
Rashmika	under 20000
Mandannas	BSNL Bharat
KGF 2	Fiber
Collection	Broadband
Coronavirus	Plan
Kids Vaccine	Vivo Y55s
KGF 2 Full	Laptops
Movie	under 30000
Collection	WiFi Routers
Shah Rukh	Tablets under

Khan House 15000

SERVICES

Ads2Book	Bollywood
CouponDunia	News
Dineout	Times Mobile
Magicbricks	Gadgets Now
TechGig	Careers
TimesJobs	Colombia

Copyright © 2022 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: Times Syndication Service