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# Right to protest can't be 'anytime, everywhere': SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

14/2/21  
New Delhi: Holding that there cannot be a right to protest "anytime and everywhere" and rights of other people affected cannot be neglected, the Supreme Court has refused to re-examine its Shaheen Bagh verdict in which it had said public roads could not be blocked during the protest.

The court's order comes in the midst of a prolonged protest by farm unions opposed to new farm laws at Delhi borders since November. Residents in these areas have protested barricades and restrictions affecting their movement and livelihoods.

A bench of Justices SK Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari said there may be some spontaneous protests at public places but there could not be continued occu-

## Courts for the loud & powerful: Ex-CJI

Ex-CJI and RS MP Ranjan Gogoi said people regret their decision to approach court and it is the rich and corporate world denizens who are better suited to take their chances in court. He said people with "power and loud voice" try to malign others, including judges. P 9

pation of a place by protesters.

"We have considered the earlier judicial pronouncements and recorded our opinion that the Constitutional scheme comes with a right to protest and express dissent but with an obligation to have certain duties. The right to protest cannot be anytime and everywhere," the SC said.

► No open hearing, P 11

## SC: No open court hearing on review plea

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14/2/21  
There may be some spontaneous protests but in case of prolonged dissent or protest, there cannot be continued occupation of public place affecting the rights of others. Accordingly, the review petition is dismissed," the court said. The court dismissed the review petition of one Shaheen Bagh resident Kaniz Fatima and others seeking review of last year's verdict of October 7. The top court also refused the plea to grant open court hearing on its review plea. The apex court, however, had held public spaces cannot be occupied indefinitely and demonstrations expressing dissent have to be in designated places alone. It had said that pleas of demonstrators that they can assemble whenever they choose to protest cannot be accepted.

# People regret decision to go to court: Former CJI Gogoi

## 'Suited Only For Rich People, Corporates'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

12/2/21

New Delhi: In an admission that the judicial system is cumbersome and often fails to deliver justice on time, former Chief Justice and Rajya Sabha MP Ranjan Gogoi said people regret their decision to approach the court and it is the rich and corporate world denizens who are better suited to take their chances in court.

Appealing to members of the judiciary to take immediate steps for a roadmap to improve the situation, Justice Gogoi said the present system is not working for more than one reason and changes were needed in the way judges are selected and trained. He also said that delay in appointment of judges is also one of the problems.

Responding to a question



**“If you have to go to court, you will only be washing dirty linen in court and you will not get a verdict. I have no hesitation to say so. Who goes to court. You regret it if you go to court. You go to court as a corporate to take a chance. If you succeed then crores of rupees would come**

Ranjan Gogoi

whether he would file a case against people who are targeting him and making allegations, Gogoi said, “If you

have to go to court, you will only be washing dirty linen in court and you will not get a verdict. I have no hesitation to say so. Who goes to court. You regret it if you go to court. You go to court as a corporate to take a chance. If you succeed then crores of rupees would come...”

“We want to have five trillion dollar economy but we have ramshackle judiciary... In 2020, when the functioning of every organisation was at lower ebb, including judiciary, there was addition of 60 lakhs cases at subordinate judiciary and around three lakhs cases added in various high courts and six to seven thousand in Supreme Court. Time has come when we should have a roadmap. This is something for the judiciary to work out which is not being done,” he said.

He also expressed concern over the present time when people with “power and loud voice” try to target and malign others, including judges. The former CJI, said

that there are unfortunately some judges who are succumbing after being attacked. He said a robust judiciary is a must for attracting foreign investment in the country to sort out any commercial dispute in a time-bound manner.

“System has not worked.

If you want a thriving economy, you must have a forum to decide commercial disputes. Nobody is going to invest unless you have a robust system. Where is the mechanism? Commercial Courts Act has brought within its purview every conceivable commercial dispute. But who who is applying the law? The same judge who does other normal work. I do not think beginning has been made and I call judges to engage to make a roadmap,” he said.

Responding to questions on ongoing farmer agitation and protest against CAA, Gogoi said that some political legal solutions have to be evolved and courts should also examine these issues.