

Hindustan Times

New Delhi, 16 March 2024

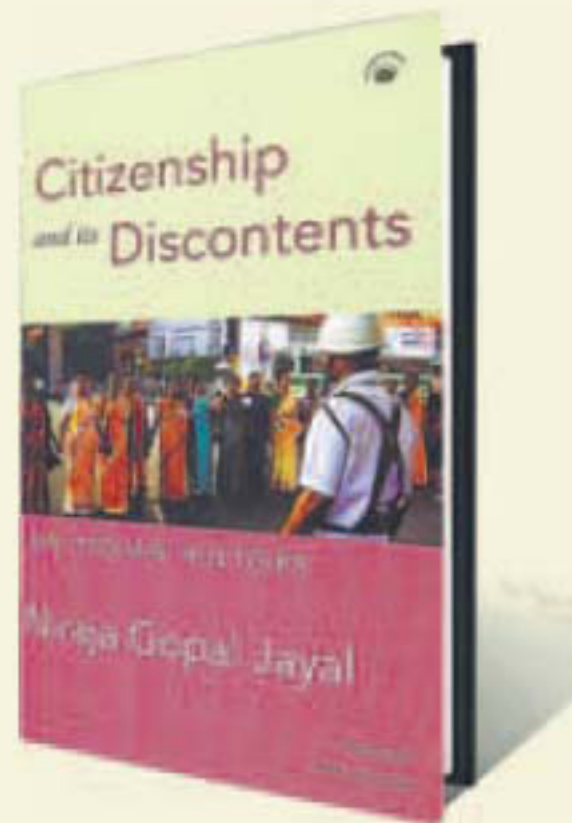
{ EDITOR'S PICK }

HT's editors offer a book recommendation every Saturday, which provides history, context, and helps understand recent news events

DEBATING CITIZENSHIP

The government on Monday notified rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, four years after the law was passed to fast-track citizenship to non-Muslims who came to India from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The passage of the law in December 2019 triggered protests. Opponents of the law insist it is unconstitutional as it links faith to citizenship.

This week, we recommend Niraja Gopal Jayal's *Citizenship and Its Discontents* tracing the history of citizenship in India. Jayal argues India began as a true republic of equals, unlike the West's mature democracies. The book cites a complex architecture of citizenship rights, which, she argues, was sensitive to the hierarchies of Indian society. It focusses on progressive civic ideals embodied in the Indian Constitution, which are challenged by exclusions based on inequality. Exploring the contestations over citizenship from the colonial period onwards, the book analyses evolving conceptions of citizenship.



Citizenship and Its Discontents: Niraja Gopal Jayal
Year: 2013