

ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE

E-NEWSLETTER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

2024-2025

SATIRE AND THE STATE

Where politics meets punchlines, satire holds a mirror to power, reflecting the absurd and challenging the ordinary. In India's vibrant democracy, satire is the voice that dares to question, critique, and provoke.



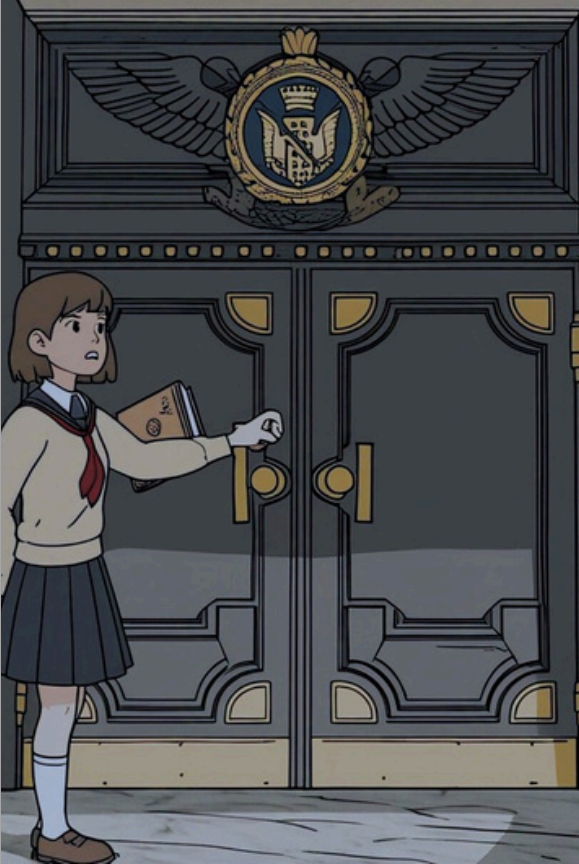
STATE AND SATIRE

O mighty State, with banners bold,
Your promises—new, your actions—old.
You sing of growth, of shining days,
While citizens queue in rationed haze.
You claim to serve, with people's voice,
Yet censor those who make their choice.
Your slogan thunders, loud and clear,
But satire grins from ear to ear.
A neta rides in convoy pride,
While potholes bloom on every side.
He speaks of roads that never crack,
While buffaloes swim the tarmac.
The budget comes with words so grand,
Yet farmers sell their fields for sand.
You fund a statue in the skies,
But fail to hear a widow's cries.
Parliament's roar—a daily play,
Where actors fight, then dine and sway.
The laws are passed with loyal cheers,
As satire jots them down in jeers.
Each manifesto's ink still wet,
With dreams the poor may never get.
But promises repeat on loop—
A circus act, a scripted troupe.
O State, so proud, so full of might,
You fear a meme more than a fight.
A cartoon draws your wrath so fast,
As if it mocks your royal past.
Yet satire lives in chai-shop talk,
In whispered jokes on evening walks.
It's in the eyes that roll and smirk,
When 'development' goes berserk.
So heed this verse, ye powers that be,
The nation's watching silently.
And though you boast and paint the sky—
The pen still laughs, the truth won't die.

-Vrity Sharma (BA 2nd Year)

NEWSLETTER RUNDOWN

SATIRE AND STATE



- The Great Indian Circus::Candidates, Promises,Drama
- Political Cartoons &Public opinion:A Dying Artform
- The Roar of Truth.
- P For Politics P for Partirachy
- Government Schemes:the Only Thing Faster Than Their Announcement Is Their Cancellation.
- Corruption In India:Blooming Industry
- Fake News Or Real Irony?:Satirical News Sites like Faking News & Their Impact
- Emergency Era to Present:Satirical Resistance in India
- The Laughing Lok Sabha
- The Aam Aadmi
- Operation Sindoor:Makeup of war
- Polity Canvas:The Artistic Insight
- The Role of satire in indian politics.
- Thanking Our Contributors
- Page from the heart

THE GREAT INDIAN VOTE FEST

Drums are beating, flags are flying,
Fake news feeds are multiplying.
One more season, same old show—
It's time again for polls to glow.

"Free gas, free cash, free holy threads!"
Echo speeches full of drowsy dreads.
CCTV, drone, and TV cam,
Catch leaders sharing biryani with aam.

Debates are rage, but facts are dead,
Journalists chase what Twitter said.
TV anchors scream in national pride,
While real issues quietly slide.



One neta swears by cows and grain,
Another rides on caste and pain.
A third proclaims a "Digital Age,"
While WhatsApp forwards write the page.

Promises rain, but never land,
They wave at slums from SUVs grand.
"Janata Janardan," they piously shout,
Then block the road, and take a route.

The EVM beeps, the selfie's snapped,
Another cycle neatly wrapped.
The voter smiles, returns to queue—
Hoping one day the lies turn true.

- SRIJAN SHARMA(BA 1st year)

THE GREAT INDIAN CIRCUS



New Delhi, May 2025 — In what political experts are calling “the most binge-worthy drama since Game of Thrones,” India has wrapped up yet another marathon general election — a democratic festival so long and chaotic, it made IPL matches look like short films.

“Democracy is thriving,” said Election Commissioner Prakash Virtue-Signaling while unveiling a new mobile app where voters can track their local candidate’s broken promises in real-time.

Voters, on their part, took to polling booths with a mix of enthusiasm, confusion, and existential dread. “I cast my vote while still trying to figure out what half the candidates stood for,” said 23-year-old Priya Sharma. “One of them promised free Wi-Fi, the other said he’d build a bullet train to my village, and the third just played a flute.”

Social media was ablaze throughout the election, with thousands of political influencers, bots, and NRIs who haven’t lived in India since the 90s offering unsolicited opinions. “Democracy is sacred,” tweeted one user from a Manhattan Starbucks, while sipping a \$7 coffee and complaining about Indian roads.

The results are expected next week, after which the winning party will deliver a heartfelt victory speech about unity and development, immediately followed by five years of blaming the previous government.

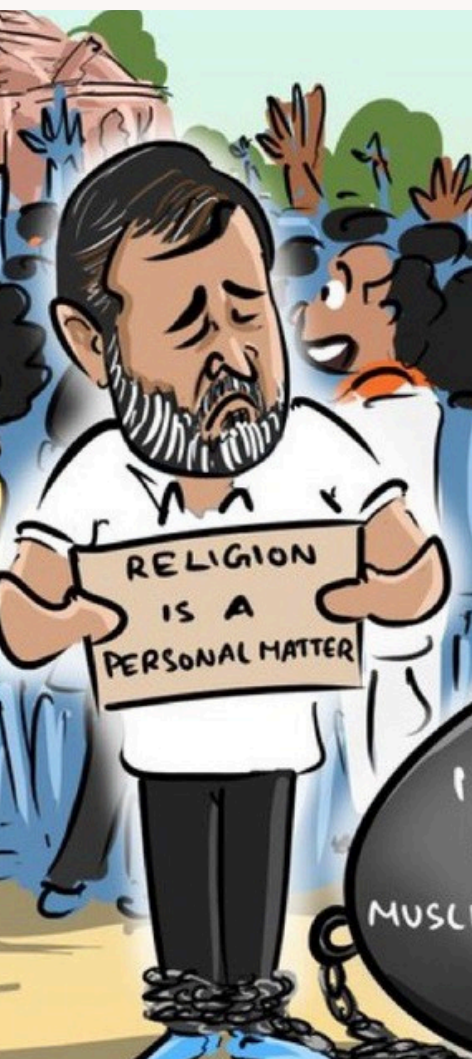
When asked what comes next, a senior political analyst shrugged and said, “We’ll argue on TV for a month and then forget everything until the next election. It’s the circle of life.”

-Ambika Sharma (BA 2nd year)

POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PUBLIC OPINION



A DYING ARTFORM



Once upon a time, a single ink sketch in a newspaper could terrify ministers, topple reputations, and make the public laugh while thinking. Today, political cartoons are hanging on like landlines – still around, but mostly ignored unless someone's outrage levels are dangerously low that day.

Cartoonists once wielded pens like swords. Now they wield them like feather dusters – careful not to offend, cautious not to get “cancelled,” and always ready to add a disclaimer. A figure with a broom in a cartoon once symbolized grassroots revolution. Today it risks a defamation notice and 300 quote-tweets from bot armies.

Meanwhile, public opinion has migrated from editorials to emojis. Where satire once drew complex critique in four panels, today's political expression is a meme with a dog in sunglasses and the caption: “Current govt vibes.”

Newspapers, once proud homes of biting wit, now bury cartoons somewhere between the Sudoku and stock market page. Public opinion is still loud – just not necessarily informed.

And so, as attention spans shrink and outrage grows, the political cartoon fades – a noble artform gasping in the age of clickbait and hashtags.

In memory of wit, nuance, and that one brave cartoonist still drawing with actual ink.

- Shrooti Sharma (BA 2nd year)

THE ROAR OF TRUTH

When they seal the truth, to cover the ugly ruth,
"Quiet!" they say, "You must not question."
For it's a sin to claim the right of expression,
"We've come to save the day!" they say,
"Don't listen to those who think some other way."

When they snatch the ink from the headlines,
The ink of truth shines on the blank lines.
You can't stage what's behind this pretense;
The truth will come, but at a greater expense.

Oh, the irony of these times
Their hands tremble not for their crimes,
But should a cartoon dance down the hall,
It may be the crack that causes their fall.

They scoff at the cries of the souls,
But can't bear the weight of a few trolls.
"Ban them! Ban them all!" they shout,
But they cannot ban the lingering doubt.

The common man stands, watching his plight,
"I'm just a commodity, this doesn't feel right."
Humor hums a freedom song,
Of justice long gone.

No guns, no bombs, could ever make them shake,
But the roar of laughter makes them break.
In every laugh, a seed is sown
A truth so bitter to stands alone.

They made us three monkeys, carved in stone
See no truth, only their throne.
Hear no cries, speak no wrong,
Obey in silence, sing their song.

-Vanshika Kaljotra (BA 1st year)

Dream in Debris

In the land of lip services, where
promises sleeps and problems wake.
Contrasting the reality of – posters of
progress and streets of dust.

Poor takes stairs of honesty- slow and
Struggling

While, corrupt ride Elevators- smooth
and rumbling

Government fights corruption with
Committee- headed by the very
Experts who perfected it.

They feed religious debate – the
opium for the people, just as Karl
Marx once said. They blame the
britisher for every

Past misdeed, yet continue their
legacy. – divide and Rule in a
different political costume.

They heal with health policies in one
hand And tax the alcohol with the
other like a circus performer-
government Juggling health and
liquor

For the rich, the government rolls out
the Red Carpet.

For the poor Justice is stuck in queue.
Where a rich kid speeds the car, the
law slows down.

Thus, with Empty promises and
mirrages of progress.

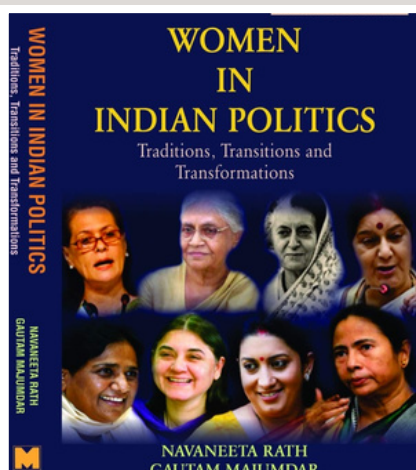
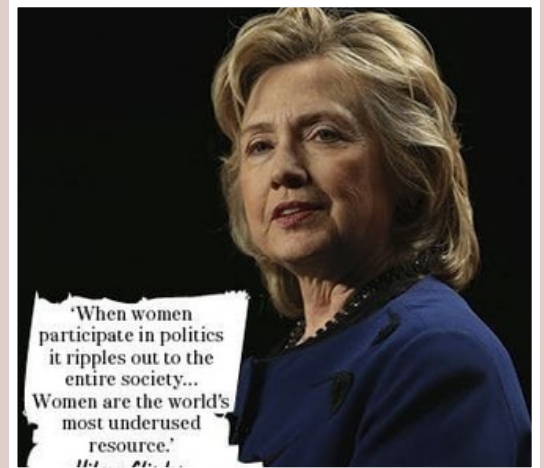
Democracy becomes a drama –
where the script stays the same, only
the actors change their faces and
swap their chairs.

-Diana Kaith (BA 2nd Year)

‘P’ FOR ‘POLITICS’, ‘P’ FOR ‘PATRIARCHY’

Politics being male dominated leads to patriarchal social structures and policies which therefore lead to the exclusion of women. Attitude towards politics in general being ‘dirty, corrupt, dangerous’ doesn’t help either. People believe that women inherently People believe that women do not possess the decision making, problem solving and other skills required to be strong leaders. Stereotypes in the media perpetuate the idea that women are less legitimate and capable leaders than men.

-Anuska Sharma (BA 1st year)



P for Parliament — where women are often outnumbered by microphones.

She walks in with a bill on gender equality; they respond with a joke about kitchen skills. Debates on women’s safety are led by men whose only idea of danger is losing Wi-Fi.

Politics welcomes women — as long as they’re someone’s wife, daughter, or symbol. Independent? Outspoken? Then it’s “attention-seeking,” “ambitious,” or worse — “Westernized.”

-Avni Gupta (Ba 2nd year)

P for Press Conferences, P for Patronizing.

“She’s very articulate... for a woman.”

“She’s strong... but aggressive.”

“She’s confident... maybe a little too confident.”

They praise women leaders the way you’d compliment a cat for barking.

P for Posters, P for Pinkwashing.

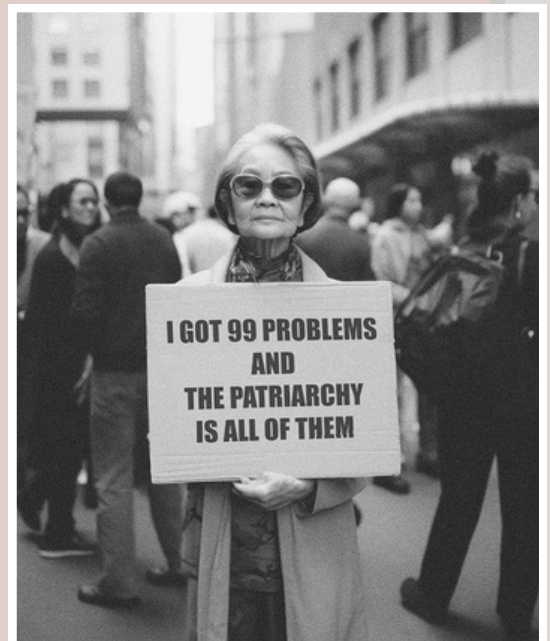
On Women’s Day, every political party releases a pastel-colored tweet about “honoring women,” followed by a year of ignoring them. Booths may be pink, but the decisions are still pale male.

P for Power — and who gets to hold it.

They say women belong in politics. Just not too many. Not too loud. Not too different.

But women aren’t waiting for permission anymore. They’re entering, organizing, leading — not just breaking the glass ceiling, but replacing the roof.

-Priyan Rukta (Ba 2nd year)



GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

**THE ONLY THING FASTER THAN THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT IS
THEIR CANCELLATION.**

"Scheme Today, Gone Tomorrow: A Great Indian Disappearing Act"



ACT 1: THE GRAND ANNOUNCEMENT

1. National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) – 2013

Announced with electrifying excitement to make India a global EV hub.

Status in satire:

10 years later, India is still charging — literally. Charging stations are rarer than pothole-free roads. The only thing that moved fast was the paperwork.

2. Skill India Mission (2015)

Goal: Train 40 crore Indians by 2022.

Reality: By 2022, lakhs were “trained,” but nobody knew what for. Some learned how to assemble solar panels — in villages with no electricity. Others got digital training — on paper.

ACT 2: THE VANISHING TRICK

3. Smart Cities Mission (2015)

100 smart cities promised. Flying cars? Nope. Not even working streetlights in many cases.

Quote-worthy satire:

“We were promised a Singapore, we got a broken footpath with free Wi-Fi that doesn't connect.”

4. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (2015)

Great slogan. But 80% of the funds (according to a 2021 report) were spent on publicity, not actual education or welfare.

Real-life punchline: Girls got posters. Not books.

ACT 3: THE DISAPPEARING SCHEMES

5. Namami Gange (2014)

Aim: Clean the Ganga by 2020.

Status: It's 2025. Ganga is still majestic... and murky. Scientists say the river now recognizes humans by smell.

6. Fasal Bima Yojana (2016)

Crop insurance for farmers. But more money went to private insurers than farmers.

Satirical fallout: A farmer claimed, “My crop failed, but the insurance company succeeded.”

7. Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme

Land records to go online.

Result: Farmers are told their land is now a lake. And the app works only on Tuesdays.

Welcome to India, where a government scheme is like a Bollywood trailer: high-energy, full of promise, and sometimes the movie never releases.

-Vrity Sharma(BA 2nd year)

CORRUPTION IN INDIA: BLOOMING INDUSTRY



CORRUPTION



"Power doesn't corrupt. Fear corrupts...perhaps the fear of loss of power."

While startups crash, the stock market swings, and agriculture faces unpredictable monsoons, one Indian industry remains hilariously immune to crisis — corruption. With no formal offices, no HR departments, and zero investment in branding, this sector is still outperforming Sensex and GDP combined.

It's the only business where everyone is a customer — from the villager needing a land certificate to the tycoon bidding for government contracts. Promotions come fast, and accountability? That's outsourced to tomorrow.

Need something done quickly? Pay. Want something delayed indefinitely? Still pay. It's the only service that charges you for both efficiency and inefficiency — a truly flexible model!

Despite occasional “anti-corruption crusades” and viral hashtags, the corruption industry adapts better than any startup ever could. It doesn't need funding rounds — just rounds of chai and envelopes.

Until honesty becomes more profitable than power, this is one business that will keep blooming — no matter who's in charge.

—Priyan Rukta (BA 2nd year)

FAKE NEWS OR REAL IRONY



BY: UNVERIFIED SOURCES, REPORTING LIVE FROM WHATSAPP UNIVERSITY

In a country where news spreads faster than fire—and is often just as destructive—India has become the global hub of a new-age industry: fake news, also known as “breaking lies”.

From political conspiracies to miracle cures (turmeric for everything), India’s fake news economy is thriving like a pothole during monsoon—ugly, avoidable, but somehow always there. Satire: The Last Honest Liar Enter Faking News, Scroll’s Satire, and parody pages like Andh Bhakt, which started as jokes but now seem more factual than prime-time news panels. In fact, satire in India has a tough time—because the actual news often sounds more absurd than parody.

For example, a satirical article saying, “Politician Promises Wi-Fi on Himalayas if Elected” was actually turned into a campaign promise two days later.

Satire pages joke about politicians jumping parties like it’s a game of musical chairs. Real-life politicians respond by proving it right—“Switched to five parties in one week. Feeling blessed.” Impact: Funny Until It’s Dangerous

Fake news has led to real consequences—lynchings, riots, and elections swayed by made-up stories. And the line between satire and misinformation keeps blurring. A satirical tweet saying “Internet to be banned during exams to prevent cheating” became a reality in Rajasthan. Who’s parodying whom now?

-Srijan Sharma(BA 1st year)

EMERGENCY ERA TO PRESENT

SATIRICAL RESISTANCE IN INDIAN HISTORY

1975 – EMERGENCY

Indira Gandhi suspended democracy “for its own good.” Newspapers were blank, opposition leaders were jailed — but trains ran on time!

1980S – RAJIV GANDHI:

Young, suave, and tech-friendly. He brought computers, and unfortunately, Bofors too. A visionary — with a paperwork problem.

1990S – CHAOS MEETS REFORM

Caste politics exploded, but so did liberalization. Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh opened the economy — while wearing invisibility cloaks.

2000S – VAJPAYEE TO MMS

Vajpayee gave us nuclear tests, roads, and poetry. Manmohan Singh gave us GDP growth — and silence so strong, it echoed

2014–NOW – MODI ERA

PM Modi brought bold reforms: Swachh Bharat cleaned toilets, UPI revolutionized payments, and India found its voice on the world stage. But also: Demonetization, WhatsApp governance, and “selfie with everything” politics.

PARLIAMENT TODAY

Sometimes serious, mostly theatrical. Bills pass in minutes, debates last seconds — but social media updates are punctual

MORAL OF THE STORY

India’s politics is a drama of flaws and feats.

From censored headlines to trending hashtags — we’ve stumbled, sprinted, and survived.

Democracy may cough now and then... but it’s still breathing. Loudly!!

an
ed
on
ed

4 Feb
Lok Sabha
extended
by 1 year

Constitution an
to protect
laws from

1976

INDIA'S DARKEST HOUR

A timeline of major events related to the Emergency

SS

1975



Source: News Reports

THE LAUGHING LOK SABHA



WHERE LAUGHTER IS THE BEST POLICY (WHEN POLICY IS MISSING)

BREAKING NEWS:

INDIA'S PARLIAMENT, THE LOK SABHA, HAS NOW BEEN REBRANDED BY THE PUBLIC AS THE "LAUGHING LOK SABHA", A PLACE WHERE SERIOUS NATIONAL CRISES ARE OFTEN MET WITH PUNCHLINES, PUNS, AND THE OCCASIONAL STAND-UP ROUTINE BY ELECTED OFFICIALS.

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Episode 1: "No-Confidence, No-Worries"

While Manipur burned and MPs begged for empathy, the Prime Minister turned into a stand-up comic, delivering a monologue that Comedy Central would envy. The opposition cried foul, but the treasury benches were too busy giggling to hear them.

Episode 2: "Joke Sabha in Session"

Speaker: "Order, order!"

MPs: "Why bother? We're already disorderly!"

Instead of debating bills, Parliamentarians engaged in banter battles, meme-worthy walkouts, and spontaneous poetry slams. Some say Netflix is in talks for rights to the next season.

Episode 3: "Democracy LOL-ed"

Parliament, once called the temple of democracy, now features less chanting of ideals and more chanting of slogans. Every serious issue is met with either deafening silence or hilarity. National emergencies are treated like punchlines. Policy-making? That's a subplot now.

Guest Appearance: Rahul Gandhi

He tried to inject sincerity into a no-confidence motion, only to be met with laughter. His hug once made headlines, but his criticism of the "laughing" PM during a crisis was brushed off like dandruff on a Nehru jacket.

PUBLIC

REACTIONS:

"We thought we elected lawmakers, but we got laugh-makers!"

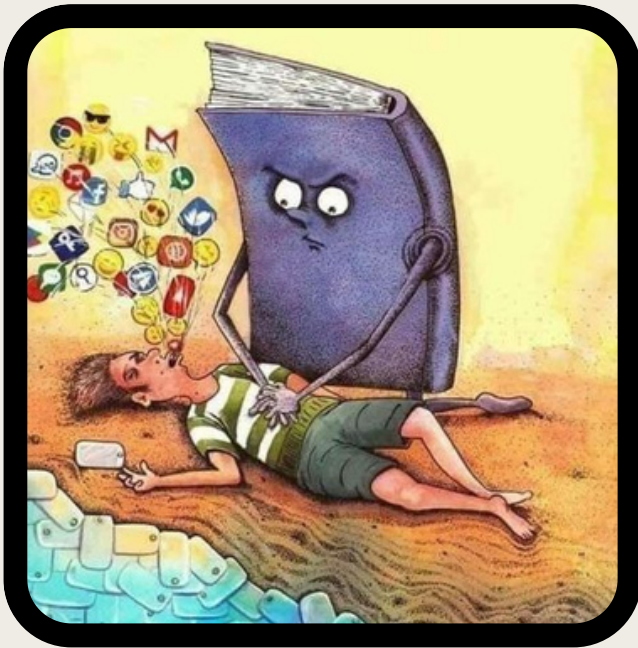
"If I wanted drama and comedy, I'd watch Bigg Boss, not Sansad TV."

-Saizal Sharma(BA 2nd year)

AAM AADMI

1.

The aam aadmi pays road tax, then drives on potholes deep enough to qualify as swimming pools—but still thanks the government for 'trying its best.'

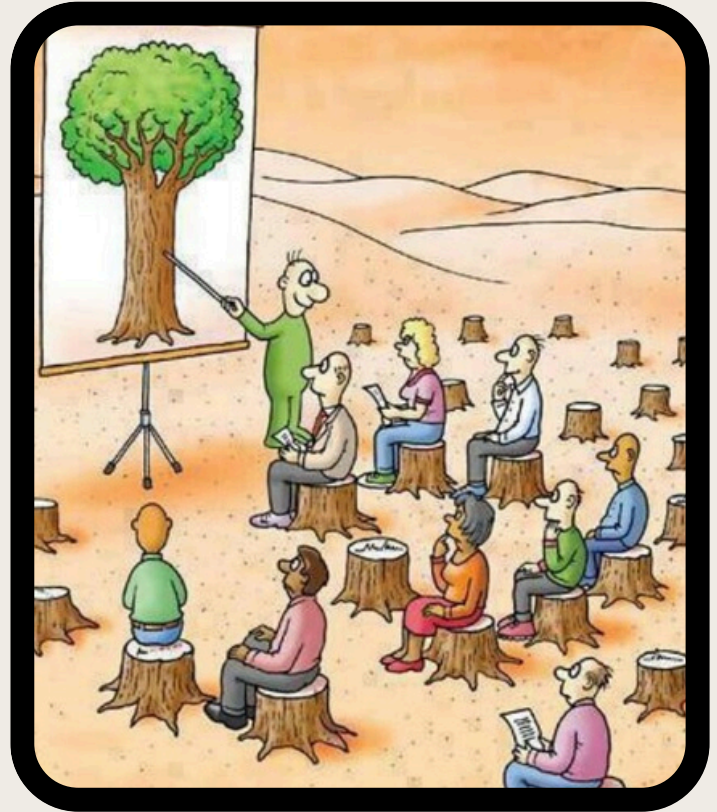


2.

He wakes up to rising fuel prices, sits in traffic jams caused by VIP convoys, and still manages to feel guilty for not being 'patriotic' enough.

3.

He pays taxes to fund schemes he'll never benefit from, cheers for politicians who forget him post-election, and finds out he's 'empowered' only through government ads.



4.

He is told India is progressing rapidly—though he's been stuck on the same local train platform for 20 years.

5.

During elections, he's a king; after elections, he's a QR code in a long queue.

6.

6. He receives 2 GB of free data per day to watch reels on development, while his children study under a broken streetlight.

-Priyan Rukta(BA 2nd year)



OPERATION SINDOOR: MAKEUP OF WAR

OPERATION SINDOOR

Three Verses in Reflection

They named it Sindoor, the mark of grace,
A symbol worn in sacred space.
But now it traced a crimson line
Through shattered homes and grief's design.
Jets flew not for parade or pride,
But vengeance cloaked in flames that ride.
Where songs of peace once touched the air,
Now silence falls on women's stare.
A war for justice, some will claim,
Yet widows bear another name.
And Sindoor, once of love and life,
Now stains the brow of loss and strife.

– Shrooti Sharma (BA 2nd year)

POLITY CANVAS

THE ARTISTIC INSIGHTS



THE ROLE OF SATIRE IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES



Satire is more than just a source of laughter—it is a powerful instrument in democratic societies. By using humor, irony, and exaggeration, satire exposes the flaws, hypocrisy, and corruption that is unnoticed in politics and social structures. In doing so, it promotes political awareness, sharpens public discourse, and holds those in power accountable. Satire is more than just a source of laughter—it is a powerful instrument in democratic societies. By using humor, irony, and exaggeration, satire exposes the flaws, hypocrisy, and corruption that is unnoticed in politics and social structures. In doing so, it promotes political awareness, sharpens public discourse, and holds those in power accountable.

In modern times, satire has evolved and expanded its reach. Television shows such as ‘The Daily Show’ and ‘Last Week Tonight’ bring sharp political commentary to millions. These shows blend comedy with in-depth reporting, often explaining complex political issues.

Satire also acts as a non-violent channel for expressing dissent. In societies where political frustration can lead to protests or civil unrest, satire offers a way to voice constructive criticism.

With the help of satire, citizens can release tension and bring attention to issues without resorting to confrontation. It creates a form of civic engagement, encouraging citizens to think critically and challenge the status quo.

In conclusion, satire is not just a form of entertainment—it is a democratic necessity. It informs, criticizes, provokes, and empowers. By questioning power and spotlighting injustice, satire helps ensure that democracy remains vibrant, transparent, and responsive to the people.

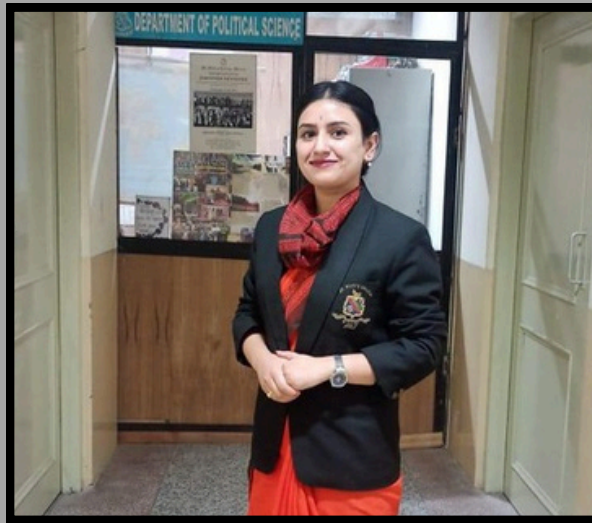
- ANNANDITA SHARMA (BA 2nd year)

THANKING OUR CONTRIBUTORS

**SUPERVISED BY: MRS. KOMAL SHARMA (Head of Department-
POLITICAL SCIENCE)**



Priyan Rukta



-Compiled by



Srijan Sharma



Shrooti
Sharma

THANKING OUR PARTICIPANTS



Saizal Sharma



Vritty Sharma



Avni Gupta



Diana Kaith



Ananndita



Anushka



Vanshika Kaljotra



Ambika

PAGE FROM THE HEART



Political science department of St. Bede's College, will forever feel like home to me. It made me explore the variety that political science has to offer. From how political science originated as a subject in the Greek city states, to Locke & Mill and all the way to Globalisation. I have understood my rights as a citizen of India as well all through my 2nd and 3rd year. Political science as a subject also inculcated in me leadership skills that were expected from me as the Admiral. I couldn't have enjoyed this journey without the constant support of Komal ma'am, all through my 3 years. I might have left Bede's but it will never leave me.

-Dianoor Aulakh