LitLuminous 2020: Satire in Literature and Cinema

The English Literary Society of Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi is organising its one-day annual literary festival *LitLuminous 2020* on 28th February 2020. Over the years we have had themes varying from Queer Narratives to Detection through the Ages. The theme for this year is 'Satire in Literature and Cinema'.

A form of constructive social criticism, satire aims to ridicule the follies and shortcomings of an individual or the society at large with the intention of shaming them into improvement. Every person who has watched stand-up comedians take a dig at our society and culture has already experienced satire.

Satire uses a variety of mediums ranging from literature and cinema to music, paintings, and social media. While we would love to explore as many avenues as possible, our primary focus is on literature and cinema.

In literature, some of the canonical and widely popular works of satire include *1984* by George Orwell, *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathon Swift, *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, and *Black Mirror* by Charlie Brooker, among many many others. Among films, *Fight Club* (1999) is an example of a satirical commentary on the consumer culture, lifestyle branding, and constructions of masculinity.

While satire may be intended to be humorous, its primary motive is to make the audience think after they laugh. Irony and sarcasm are the main pillars of satire and the other features include the use of burlesque, parody, exaggeration, juxtaposition, and double entendre. While satire as a genre evokes laughter, it also makes an individual pause and think. It temporarily makes us laugh about the dire situations before reminding us that we need to do something about it.

In light of the above concept, a variety of events would be organised during the festival. These include:

- Panel discussion
- Student paper presentation
- Meme-making competition
- Reading and making political cartoons
- Open mic
- Street play performance
- Film screening



