Tickle to Political

Cartooning is an art of negation. Laxman’s cartoons have converted this rage into a humour over the years. Tanvi Malhotra finds out how a cartoonist through his drawings conveys his art to the masses.

Cartooning is just not the creativity of cartoonist but the insight to portray the contemporary world in the frame of column. Cartoons are not only a funny piece but a bang on satire to recall the loopholes in system and society. Political cartooning is ruling the roost ever since this art form came existence. Raj Thackeray’s recent cartoon stirred, the already agitated Mumbaikars. R K Laxman the legendary cartoonist’s cartoon changed the look of ‘Aam Aadmi’ through his cartoon ‘The Common Man’.

Politicians consider themselves above everyone, but a cartoonist who is watching and sketching him will show them the mirror through their columns. These cartoons are sometimes ridicules at the society, sometimes ridicules at the system or person but it is taken in good spirit and appreciated well by the reader. “I have myself created a cartoon of Sushil Kumar Shinde when he was the CM of Maharashtra. He was so amazed to see his cartoon that he couldn’t express through any words.” It’s not limited to sarcasm infact cartoonist plays with every shade of humour - wit, irony, slap-stick and tragic comedy, need not be mockery.

A cartoonist needs to be abreast of happening around the world so that to capture those moments and blog correctly in the column as Cartooning is the journalism through pictures. They have to be unbiased so that their creativity is not hampered. “If you are powerful enough people will themselves approach you, Chalta hai kind of attitude doesn’t work in this stream,” says Vikas Sabnis, who has been freelancing in this field for the past 40 years”. He started his career with weekly called ‘Marmik’ run by Bal Thackeray. Simultaneously, he also drew cartoons for magazine called ‘Vasan’.

“You are not required to be very good at drawing if you want to get into cartooning,” says Vikas Sabnis. All what you need is skill which will help you being a good artist and good journalist as without the sense of words you will not be able to give justice to any cartoon,” he concludes.

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Tanvi R Malhotra

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