CONCLUSION
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Since the inception of Indian literature in English it is very much evident that today’s status is an outcome of gradual development through the ages. English language and literature came to India with the colonizers as a beautiful gift. It did the job of various areas like education, communication and literary effort. Hence English language and literature in India put its mark with the arrival of east India Company. English spread its impact throughout this vast land by and by. Educationists, political thinkers and the social elites adopted the language for convenience of communication or interaction paving the way for the rest in the society. Thus English language gained its ground in India and English literature is the byproduct of it. In current years it has attracted far-reaching attention both in India and abroad. Indian English Literature has attained maturity with the passage of time. Initially all other forms of literature like poetry, drama and non-fiction writings were impressive to the masses. During the initial period of writing the premier kind was poetry. It was followed by other kinds of literature especially drama. Fiction was actually last to arrive as this form far exceeded to other forms of literature.

Initially socio-cultural, economic and political upheavals in the nation had a great impact on Indian English fiction. But gradually fiction became the manifestation of the most influential and awareness of life and society. Its journey to the present day witnessed a rapid change and fiction got its due status perhaps during the last decades. Today Indian English fiction reached at the apex even in the realm of world literature. The realm of today’s fiction is gardened and nurtured by a number of writers. The novelists undertaken in this thesis belong to the contemporary Indian English who are distinguished from others in their use of humour and satire to ease the mind of the readers in particular and to rectifying the society as a whole. As a colonial child Indian novel cemented the way for the next generation of the literary figures. Contemporary writers have wide impressions on the readers not only in India but have a great influence in the world.
Fiction is the most dominant form of literary expressions and today it has been able to acquire an impressive place in Indian English literature. In fact it is unanimous across the world that novel is the main influential literary form for the investigation of experiences and ideas in the context of our time.

The fictional creations up to the nineteenth century are written by writers who have connection to the Presidencies of Bengal and Madras. As mentioned above the Indian English fiction came into existence only in the later part of the twentieth century most of them were emotionally attached with their regional languages. They considered that English was a foreign language but the concept gradually changed. The writers started to believe that learning English is not a slave mentality. People started using it for speeches, articles, pamphlets and discussing several current problems. Pramod Kumar Singh says, “In the mid nineteenth century, Raja Ramomohan Roy had initiated social programmers and in the process he favored English language or spreading the wealth of information and culture available in British publication”. An advocacy of social reform was a significant idea in the writings of early fiction. Place of women in the society, suffering of the peasants and the decaying upper classes got importance among the initial writers.

The Gandhian whirwind blew across the country during 1920 to 1927. Mahatma Gandhi was the core of influence among the writers. Under his dynamic leadership new ideas and notions got pace. The nationwide movement of Gandhi not only influenced the common man of the country but also the themes of the novels. The impact was quite remarkable and exemplary. It can be perceived by the works of many authors with the burning issues by that time.

The Indian English fiction got ripeness and wide applause in the post independence era. After the achievement of independence the novels experienced a change in themes. There was conceptual shifting in writing. Individualism started to
take the source instead of public issues. The feelings of sticky situation, fretfulness, isolation, disappointment and aloofness became the major issues which were best expressed through humour and satirical expressions. Besides some other themes like fantasy, humour started to get prominence in the process. Degradation of moral values, impact of westernization, dysfunctional bureaucratic attitudes, nausea, cultural differences, blind belief and superstitions of rural India and the stark reality of the society and life are observed in the writings of post independence era. The emergence of the ‘big three’ was a greatest landmark in the journey of fiction writing to the present day status. The writings of these three novelists took the right direction of the fiction writings in India. In fact the Indian novel got its identity because of them. They defined the vicinity in which Indian novel was to function.

During later half of the twentieth century yet another class of Indian fiction writers came into existence with variety of themes and issues in literature. Novelists like Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, Upamanyu Chatterjee, Allan Seally, Sashi Despande, Namita Gokhle, Sashi Tharoor, Farukh Dhondi, Amitav Ghosh etc. contributed well to Indian English fiction.

Although there is no water tight compartments separating contemporary writers from others still Indian contemporary literature is gigantic in its range and encompasses literature of various genres and style. Although impact of western philosophy and content was visible in Indian literature still Indian writers are well enough to maintain their uniqueness in writing with Indian flavor and richness. Use of humour and satire got prominence in some of the contemporary writers. Although it will be repetition of mentioning the same it is better to cite for recapitulation as the dissertation examines the role of humour and satire in the contemporary Indian English fiction.

Literature mirrors the society. On the other hand it is considered as a reflection of good values in the society and intends to rectify it. Most of the writers try their best
level to criticize their societies depicting people’s life and situations. Language is the vehicle to transform the bad one to good. The purpose of the writer is meant for that. At the same time they aim at to create laughter and ease the pain of the people in society. Writers of all ages respond to this trend. Hence the use of humour and satire is inevitable to discuss.

Humour and satire are closely related, but there are certain distinctions between them. As a form of criticism satire uses humour to accomplish its goals. Humour is the propensity of particular cognitive experiences to rouse laughter and present entertainment. The term takes its origin from ancient Greek which primarily meant to control human health and emotion. It is the quality of action, speech or writing which excites amusement. Being amused makes one to feel good. We expect literature to do more than simply amusement. True purpose of literature is elevating our spirits. It is the ability to others laugh and make him burden free. Moreover it is the most effective device which is used to please the readers. It serves many functions in literature. The functions of humour are varied and many. Steve Martin rightly remarks, “Comedy is the art of making people laugh without making them puke”. From the functional perspectives of humour it is considered that besides the primary function of humour providing amusement or entertainment to the readers it also develops social relationship in the society. It reduces social distances through interactions and facilitates interpersonal relations.

Jean Weisgerber defines satire as a genre of literature, irony is the reasoning rhetorical tool; humour is substance. Satire is described as a literary art of diminishing and a literary art with a corrective purpose of diminishing or derogating a subject by making it ridiculous. Satire can evoke the attitude of amusement, contempt, scorn or resentment for the betterment of society and exposes people’s stupidity and vices in the context of contemporary or topical issues. It is a genre of literature which targets to mend idiocy, vices, follies, abuses and shortcomings among the individuals, corporations, govt. or society into improvement. Its greater purpose is always
constructive to bring changes in a positive manner. Novel as the form of literature very often employs humour and satire as a weapon to reach at the huge number of readers. According to Irish Murdoch “Fiction must contain comedy if it attains a realistic portrayal of human life” As fiction mirrors the life the literary form has been well used by many writers to expound the lighter side and hideous things of our life. The purpose of comic vision is to satirize a given circumstance which the world literature has witnessed a lot.

In contemporary Indian English fiction, Upamanyu Chatterjee, Anurag Mathur and Chetan Bhagat are three distinguished creative writers who use humour and satire to make light of serious and often taboo subjects sometimes generating discomfort, serious thoughts as well as amusement to the audience. Each of these novelists stands out for this uniqueness but all three of them have adopted common narrative techniques of employment of humour and satire in decoding the complicate, multiple existences of an individual in a post modern era. While Upamanyu Chatterjee’s novels are predominantly informed by scathing satire against Indian bureaucracy and moral depravity, the novels of Anurag Mathur are comic portrayals of the power hungry politicians and the pseudo elite ways of the idolizing the west. Chetan Bhagat’s novels are on the other hand are a sharp reflection of the maladies that afflict Indian society at various levels of life and living in terms of the comic mode of burlesque and satire.

In the realm of contemporary Indian English fiction Anurag Mathur, Upamanyu Chatterjee and Chetan Bhagat deserve wide acclamation for their valuable contribution related to use of humour and satire in their novels. All three of them tried to their best level to reach at the huge number of readers making many light moments and easing pain and suffering from their mind. At the same time they intend to attack the superstitions, blind believes orthodox attitudes of the society. The trio have been successful in appropriating the use of humour and satire with an intention of articulating the irrationality of traditional beliefs and superstitions of rural India, the aspirations of the middle class to attain the life of prosperity and comfort,
the neo-colonial attitude of exploitation of the poor and innocent Indians by those who appropriate power through corrupt and devious means, the grotesque ways of imitating western life styles and manners and self-seeking mindset of politicians bureaucrats and businessman.

Anurag Mathur’s Making the Minister Smile published in 1996 is a humorous fiction on an American coming to India and at the same time a critic on the Indian way of life. It gives a picture of Indian poverty, politics and eccentricities from foreigner’s point of view. The fiction is a presentation of the relationship between Indian politicians and the businessman. As a novel of social realism it is full of humour, laughter, wit and surprises with packed of social satire. Corruption and the evil nexus in the Indian way of life and political circles got attracted. The novel exposes the controversy surrounding a company and its workers union. The controversy goes on between the union leaders and that management but fail to come to an amicable solution to resolve the factory problem makes the crux of the story. The author has been successful to maintain the wry sense of humour.

Anurag Mathur’s Inscrutable American is a dash of spice, mixed with humour, seasoned with suspense and toasted with a glass of drama. The novel gives a completely humorous take. The story narrates the experiences of an Indian boy named Gopal in a small university campus in U.S.A. who hails from Jajau, a small town of Madhya Pradesh. The whole story is comic and hilarious which centers round Gopal in America and America with Gopal. Gopal’s one year spent in America and his English provides a lot of amusement to the readers. Mathur differentiates America to India through a fictitious character and brings out issues of racial discrimination and sexual abuse in the country. Gopal’s mysterious notion on Americans, his simplest attitude in every step of intimacy and the language he uses gives a plenty of amusement to the audience. The readers get acquainted with the characters and situations easily. As far as humour quotient is concerned Anurag Mathur tries to make the most of the situations in his fifth novel ‘The Country is going to the Dogs’. It is light hearted in its tone and seeks to
attain its objective to create laughter among the readers from its very outset. Published in 2014 the novel attracts a huge number of students and seems a humorous novel with a great deal of satire. It’s a critique on the Indian mindset of modernism and conservatism. Three years of experience in the United States helped Mathur to come up with a theme of cultural conflict between two societies which according to him is the class conflict between our conventional traditional upbringing and the new India. Mathur’s novels aim at corrective measures and the humour is subtly integrated.

The world of Upamanyu Chatterjee’s novels is basically based on the satiric elements which have been detailed through alienation, regression and post colonial hangover of the late twentieth century adolescences and youth of India. His novels are the depictions of realistic social conditions of the time. Upamnyu Chatterjee is one of the important voices in the domain of Indian novel in English literature that has profound and comic vision and lasting impression on the readers. Chatterjee always tries to depict the comic aspects of everyday life. Various forms of comedy like farce, satire and irony got prominence. The maturation of his characters is characterized by a large number of social, historical, political and filial accumulations to be reflected in individual subjectivity through proper sense of humour and satire. The absence of struggle to construct identity is a very conspicuous motif in the novels. Characters become victims of pitfalls and ditches obstructing comfortable assertion of their existence.

_English, August: An Indian Story_ is well written and refreshingly witty and comical. The marvelous aspect of this novel is use of humour. The story revolves round a westernized city boy who is marooned in a small village with a job he is not interested in at all. Western influence on young generation and huge difference between urban and rural lives is also another theme which is beautifully described. It’s a witty commentary on the mammoth apparatus on the Indian bureaucracy with its inefficient administrative officers. Again the novel is the representation of alienated and misled youth of contemporary India which is severely satirized by the novelist. The
life of the protagonist is largely shadowed by the pull between the ethos’s of modernity and tradition. It is again fuelled by the fondness of the colonial desire and individual necessity. The characters attempt to assert their identities become illusion by the evils of the society. More the characters try to search the right path more the problem they face under the socio-political temporalities of the period. Agastya’s story is realistic, enjoyable, moving and timeless that merits a great compliment for funniest elements enriched with. Most of the characters actually lead a life of duality-one in superficially abstract plank and another in psychological inner realities. The readers can witness their false being. This is one of the funniest books of the writer and perhaps the best effort at comic and satiric blend of mind. It is a thought provoking ride of the Indian bureaucracy and its many unwanted evils through the eyes of considerate and skeptical individual named Augastya, the protagonist of the novel. In fact the book is a funny critique on the feelings of alienation, dislocation, daily musings and deep and confusing thoughts of Agastya. Marijuana and excessive alcohol prevents Agastya from confusion or perplexity. The author tries to expose various follies and vices through the character of Agastya and in the process provides hilarious moments for the readers. The author has made references to Indian objects. Humour is obviously the main stay of the novel. The humour in this novel ranges from amusing to the stupid, from the ridiculous to satire. The flow of comic reference is spontaneous and unhindered. Chatterjee manages to take situation of enormous variety of Indian mindsets and vices. The novel helps the readers to discover the new areas of vices and follies in the way Agastya looks at the world and is remarkable that readers like the protagonist in spite of all his misdoings and confusion over it. In spite of misdoings readers like because Agastya possesses lack of self importance and self confidence. Agastya manages to endear himself to the readers. The novelist is more satirical giving a reference to the Indian bureaucrats who are same and unchanged in spite of all the rules provided to them. The book is truly unique and the great idea is well executed.

Chetan Bhagat is one of the most well known authors in the landscape of Indian English fiction in recent times. Known as a, columnist, script writer, motivational speaker and a youth icon, Bhagat has penned down novels that have tested tremendous
popularity and success among Indian audiences. Born in Delhi in a middle class Punjabi family, Bhagat did most of his education in the national capital. The critical and the theoretical discourse on Chetan Bhagat’s status as a fiction writer writing in English and the popularity he has acquired in couple of years has made him a legendary figure and the best seller English language author all over the world. In all of his fictions he touches the sentiments of youths and provides the light moments for the youths. In fact, Bhagat is one of the leading novelists of this school of fiction writing in India. Again the global scientific wisdom and traditional Indian culture have placed Indian youth as a cross-road; he is a challenging task of balancing conflicting traits. Bhagat comes out with his writing tales about modern India; the ethos and isolation of an entire generation and an undercurrent of humanity. Bhagat uses humour to bring out the stark reality in the lives of educated youths, their human concern and their struggles and dilemmas. His ‘2 States: The Story of My Marriage’ projects the true spirit of nationalism which is based on two main characters of Ananya Swaminathan and Krish Malhotra through perfect use of humour and satire that creates much laughter among the readers. Bhagat’s *Half Girlfriend* reflects the stark reality of Indian youth.

As it is difficult to include all his novels from the perspectives of satiric and humorous elements, efforts have been made to go through his two novels i.e. *Two States: The Story of My Marriage* and *Half Girlfriend*. The element of humour is predominant in all his novels. Bhagat’s novels have humour as an undercurrent and it is black humour which is considers that suffering as ridiculous rather than deplorable, or it considers that human existence is satirical and pointless but somehow comic. On the other hand it is called black humour that uses farce and low comedy to make clear that individuals are helpless fatalities of destiny and character. Bhagat makes his humour to depict the contemporary society in a realistic approach.

His “2 States-The story of My marriage” is an autobiographical love story of the writer in which two love birds from two states of India, namely Ananya Swaminathan (his wife Anusha) a Tamil girl and Krish Malhotra (Chetan Bhagat) a Punjabi boy, were
in deep love. It is a lovely, heart-touching and attractive literary masterpiece in contemporary Indian literature. The story starts from IIT Ahmedabad where two came in contact with each other. Being the prettiest and attractive girl in the campus Ananya remains in the hearts most of the IITians. But eventually both Krish and vivacious Ananya came in close contact and spent many evenings together for study and fell in deep love although they are from two opposite cultural communities. The life of these two protagonists appears great for them until their family meet each other. In spite of their romantic attachment and seer longing to lead a conjugal life things do not happen to their expectation. In fact the readers are entertained by the incredible humour ingrained in this part of the novel. Both of them had to convince their orthodox family. Krish, a determined boy to get his love finally got it. The story is narrated in perfect humorous tone that intends at easing pain and creates laughter among the readers with an appropriate use of satire.

The humour in this novel is mostly situational. The cultural difference between the love birds where Krish is a Punjabi from Delhi while Ananya a Tamil Brahmin becomes the springboard for many humorous references and comic situations. Most of situations Chetan Bhagat uses humour to deal serious issues in light manner and make his readers to feel ease even in difficult time. His fictional pieces of writing have restored him remarkable success and this would not be exaggeration if we consider his success because of his light moments or situations created in his writings.

The very story of the novel reveals an important factor concerning Bhagat’s writing simple style and the selection of subject matter. He has raised the fundamental issues of love affair in Indian middle class family. Though it is a fictitious work it touches the youth sentiments of Indian middle class society. With perfect satiric intention he realistically presents the life and dilemma of Indian youth falling in love coming from different religious and cultural background. Indian youth have to struggle against the so called norms of the society to get the approval of their parents before marriage. In spite of their willingness both of their parents have to give consent. It is a
herculean task to motivate both sides that creates lot of trouble for them. Bhagat hits at the cultural extremism and satires at the attitude of society towards the happiness of their children.

In the present novel, Bhagat has tried to attack at the cultural confrontation before the future of their children. He warns that how the evils of the society give great shock on the behavioral aspects of its members. He shows that inter caste marriage and cultural differences create lot of problems and even the parents don’t allow this type of marriage. Sometimes the boy and the girl suffer from enormous mental and emotional ordeal and they even commit suicide making a great loss to the society. The very title of the novel is a reminiscent of the peculiar cultural distinctiveness of the north and the south. This confrontation is illustrated within a lively touch of humour. He evokes a comic situation when Krish’s mother makes racial and sarcastic remarks on Ananya’s family. Bhagat exposes the orthodox attitude of Indian middle class culture. Racial discrimination got satirized through his perfect use of satire.

As a sincere and avid advocate of national integrity Chetan Bhagat tries to criticize the evils of the society and suggests avoiding the issue of racism and considers being a national threat. Regarding the use of language Chetan Bhagat is undisturbed at the criticism and considers shattering such kind of criticism. He doesn’t like verbosity rather prefers to use common mans language which is understood by many. By using the language of the younger generation he comes to be closer to the youth. It can be observed that the novel is a wonderful work for the use of humour and satire in which he has used various social issues related to Indian society covering broad area of love, marriage, generation gap, dowry, etc. and intends to provide solutions. Among the contemporary writers Bhagat emerges as a realistic writer with objective opinion but leaves his readers to consider the prospective solutions of the problems they are grappling with.
Chetan Bhagat is a writer of modern India who tries hard to put many problems of youth through his novels. He is the symbol of new India and truly called the torch bearer of the unafraid generation. All his novels are touched with the objection to the deep concern of Indian youth, the problems, hopes and aspirations of the younger generation of the society. His area of concern is the length and breadth of the entire country especially of the urban youth. He uses different techniques using humour and satire to hit at these problems. Bhagat’s major concern is to remove the conservative attitude and the false myths of our society. The novel *Half Girlfriend* contains a harsh criticism on the true picture of Indian society in contemporary times. He comments on the problems faced by the Indian youth to fulfill their aspirations and the faulty education system of the nation. Bhagat’s sixth novel *Half Girlfriend* (2014) portrays the young adult romance in a comic way that attracts huge number of readers. The novel starts with interaction with Chetan Bhagat and Madhav Jha, a Bihari boy in a hotel. The course of interaction compelled the writer to convert it to a novel, named as *Half Girlfriend*. The title itself is funny and eye catching. It is a charming love story. The novel holds the attention of the readers because of its funny elements. Bhagat always takes up the issues which resonate with the masses. He touches on the problem of rural educational system of India. His writing style appears to be like simplistic literature of Earnest Hemingway and R.K.Narayan. He has his own style of writing simple, relatable and entertaining lovely stories. This novel is light hearted and full of fun with a criticism to social problems. After all it’s a charming love story that provides a lot of humour and satire to the readers. Indian English has gone through a lot of changes from its inception to the present time on the basis of attainment of a new intensity in terms of concept and presentation. All the three novelists are ease with the language and use an approach to reach at the readers. All of them got immense popularity through their techniques of using humour and satire in their works. In spite of several criticisms Bhagat’s place in India’s literary scene is hard to avoid because of his humour and satire related to masses. Bhagat’s ironical temper; imaginative impulse, comical vein and reformatory zeal place him in a position which is not easy to keep away from.