

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA

R-1 BAISHNABGHATA PATULI, KOLKATA 700094

ECONOMICS STUDY GROUP SEMINAR

T. C. Shinali

shall present

Vote, Violence and Public Good

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Abstract

Besides policy intervention which is considered instrumental for getting votes, in countries such as India, violence and intimidation are used as strategies for winning votes. In this paper, we examine the relative efficacy of two potential election winning strategies: provision of targeted public goods and violence. Specifically we focus on two such strategies: cow vigilantism and construction of in-house toilets under the Swaachh Bharat Mission (SBM). While the first one largely captures a Hindu nationalistic agenda, the second one featured in the electoral promise of the National Democratic Alliance led by the Bharatiya Janata Party. Using instrumental variable strategy, we causally estimate the effect of these two factors on the vote share of Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2019 election. We find that both these factors have a positive impact but the effect of cow vigilantism is much stronger.

Date: 6th December 2023 (Wednesday)

Time: 3 P.M.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

All are welcome to attend

Dr. Sattwik Santra

(Co-Convener, Seminar Sub-Committee)