# The Photoshop State:

Image Manipulation, Visual Culture and Electoral Politics in Digital India

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07 Photo

# Photoshop Helps Indian Minister Gather Crowd in Political Rallies



hat can politicians do when they are addressing a political rally and there aren't enough people in the audience?

#### **Setting the stage...**

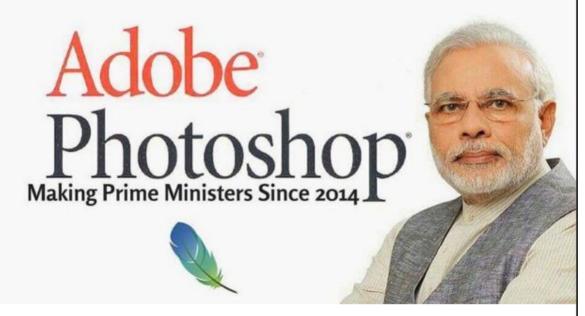
Critically evaluate selected images

Examine cultures of use of digital image manipulation tools

Explore the ways in which the "Photoshop State" may be realized

Beyond typology...

Your Nation's development just one click away...





Mishal Hamza @MishaalH · May 11

Modi Thot he wud b the only pioneer with Photoshop, The memes wit his latest words are proof dat any1 can #PoMoneModi









...







Every party has its own protocol for which images you can use and not use.

We generally avoid people who ask for *fancy items* and only do it for those who can manage if there is trouble...we started doing this after the police came around and started asking about specific banners.

Velusamy, Photoshop Operator



झकं - 3 कं 93 வது பிறந்த நாள் விழா காணும் TETTILE .....துங்கன் வணங்குகிறோம்.....

**மா.சுப்பிரமணியன்** 

சென்னை தெற்கு மாவட்ட கழக செயலாளர் B.A., LLB., சைதாப்பேட்டை சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர்

## **S. அரவிந்த்ரமேஷ்** ма

சோழிங்கநல்லூர் சட்டமன்ற உறுப்பினர்

#### S.V.ரவிசந்திரன் த.விஸ்வநாதன்

ஆ.சம்பத் ஆ.சங்கர் தமிழரசி க.ராமு

E.லட்சுமணன் R.கணேசன்

M.பாண்டு லீலாவதி பெஞ்சமின் விநாயகம் மணிகண்டன்

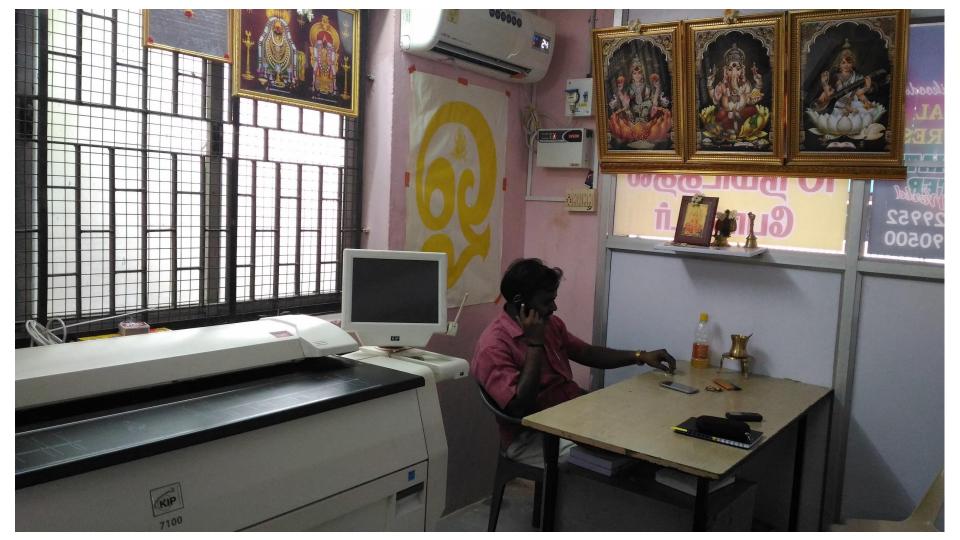
м.அரசழகன்



I don't think even the guy who invented Photoshop knows all the tools available in it. We're discovering new things about it everyday. And we have to keep learning to go to the next level.

Now, if I want to learn animation, I have to take classes. I need to have a good *system.*Photoshop, I can figure it out myself with an old version.

David, Photoshop Operator



### **Browsing**

We are always browsing the net for new ideas. We keep looking at Facebook, Whatsapp etc to see what the other parties are doing. Only by browsing do you know what the trend is, and only if you know the trend, you can survive.

Krishnan, Party Member

## **Setting**

If you want a new *setting*, it will take 4 or 5 hours easily. So, party workers trying to get stuff done in bulk won't try this. Only 1 or 2 in a 100 want special *setting*. In such cases, cinema cutout people draw these by hand and we just do the touchup.

David, Operator



#### **Forwarding**

Even as the design is getting finalized, JPEGs are forwarded on Whatsapp and spread within groups. What get forwarded? That which has something new or funny or useful. Everyone's fate is determined by the *mobile* now.

Rajendran, Owner

#### In the classroom...

Build online archives of political posters, banners, wall paintings etc

Annotate with what is 'unseen' or 'unsaid'

Eg.

Freedom's Ring

(done using

Scalar)

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