



*unny*  
@

*Indian Express*

---

2020

# Unny @ Indian Express

E. P. Unny

2020

E. P. Unny

© 2020–2023, E. P. Unny.

The electronic versions were generated from sources marked up in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  after incorporating all the sketches provided by the author, in a computer running GNU/LINUX operating system. PDF was typeset using  $\text{\XeTeX}$  from  $\text{\TeX Live}$  2022. The base font used is Cormarant Garamond Medium at 10 pt.

Cover: Sketch by E. P. Unny.

URL: [www.sayahna.org](http://www.sayahna.org)





## Business as (un) usual

—Gokul Gopalakrishnan

The daily political newspaper cartoon is a dualistic cultural artifact. The duality arises from the constant tension between its ephemerality and continuity. Drawn as an immediate reaction to the day's news, it is transient and often overtaken by the hurried pace of the digital news cycle. However, it is also a continuing conversation between the cartoonist and the reader, cemented by repetition, familiarity and habit. Every political cartoonist who succeeds in grasping this idea of duality ends up celebrating and integrating it into their daily practice. To Unny, an ardent physics watcher, it must have come rather naturally.

Given the liminal nature of the art form, this attempt by Sayahna to publish an annual digital digests of Unny's cartoons of 2020, 2021 and 2022 appear a tad contrarian to the Einsteinian notion of time. But for all its purposes, it remains a meaningful exercise. With the world limping back to (a new) normal, the year under review has been a critical one in human history. The hope, revival and triumph of the human spirit the year fostered was unfortunately also accompanied by uncertainty, misery, death and economic destruction. But for all these multitude of challenges that necessitated new ways of thinking and resolution, there were also familiar stories of policy paralysis, state apathy, divisive politics,

widening economic disparity and undermining of constitutional values

Unny's cartoons reveal how strongman leaders across the globe cleverly reduced elementary public health emergency responses like vaccines distribution into an appalling exercise in personal PR, but-tressing their claims of a 'benevolent-strong leader', while conveniently sweeping systemic inequalities under the proverbial carpet. It faithfully and meticulously records electoral processes being undermined, democratic institutions being compromised and bulldozers delivering 'instant justice'. Then there is the curious case of the migrant labourer, routinely invisible to the system, but miraculously conjured back into existence when houses need to be built and streets cleaned.

Unny dissects these dichotomies, exploring economics, policy making, international relations, governance, and real politic. In his inimitable style, he chooses to have a dialogue with his readers rather than adopting a loud, 'declamatory', 'hard hitting' style that many have come to associate with political cartooning in recent times. Unny reminds us that there is merit in maintaining a continuing dialogue with the reader and in forming informed opinions, facilitated by the spatial and discursive continuity of the daily political cartoon. 'The year under review' format associated with Sayahna's endeavor might not capture that unhurried pace of daily conversation, but it clearly captures the essence of the time we left behind but continue to exist in. It records the continuity and cyclicity of events and themes that dominate the world around us. More importantly, by digitizing and cataloguing these daily interactions with history, this digest provides a useful archive, not only to students of comic art, but to those of politics, law, economics, history and governance as well.

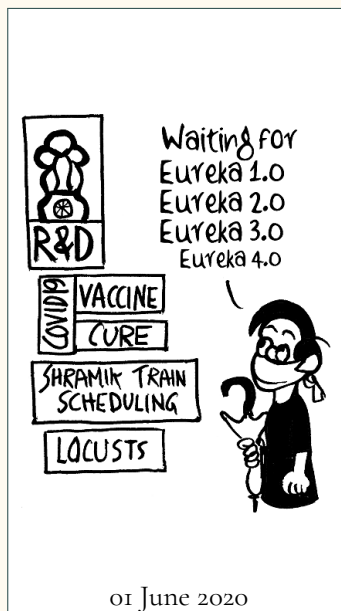
But above all dear reader, you'll find in this digest what cartoons are essentially meant to do. The WHO directive compliant and dutifully masked up newspaper boy unmasking larger-than-

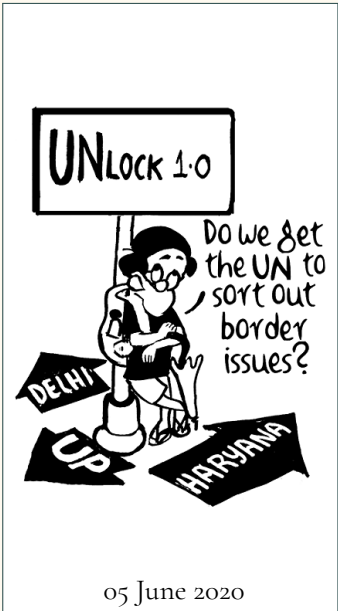
life leaders, fledgling institutions, extremist political ideologies and non-democratic agendas, one cartoon at a time.

# Cartoons of 2020

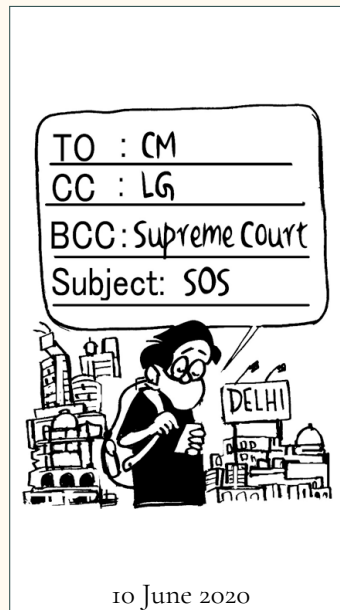




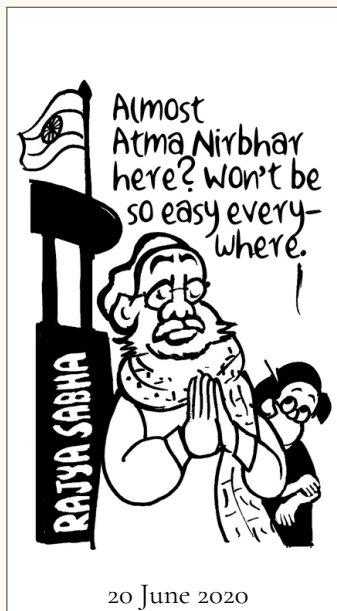






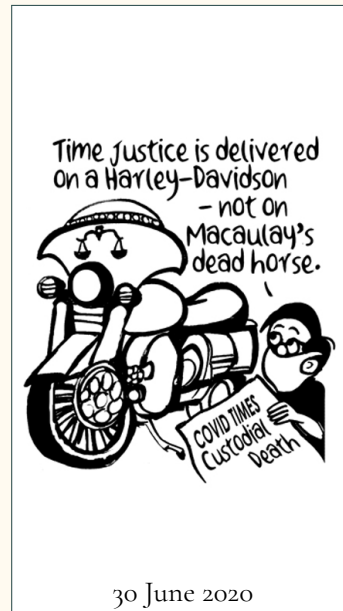


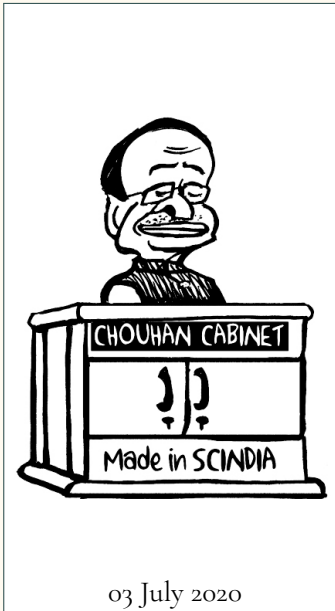


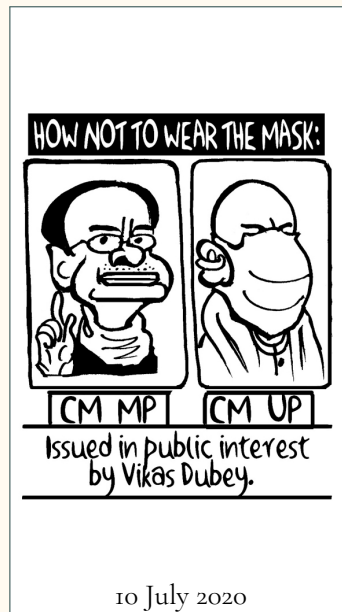
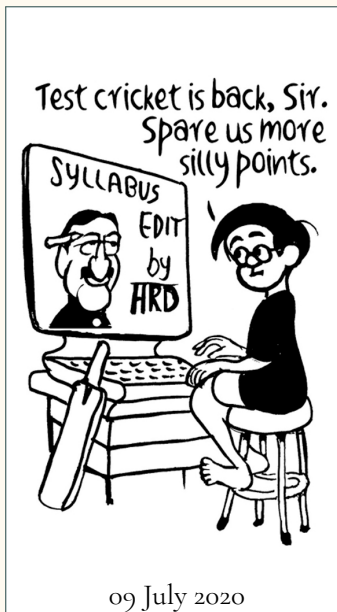






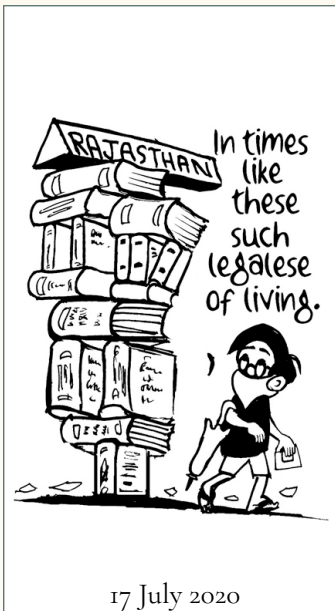
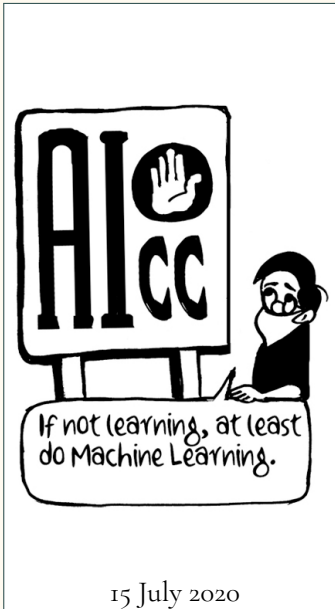


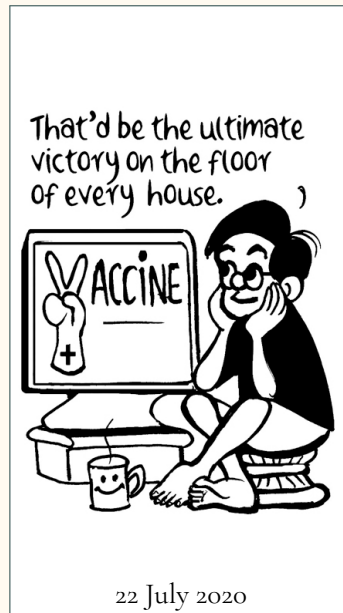
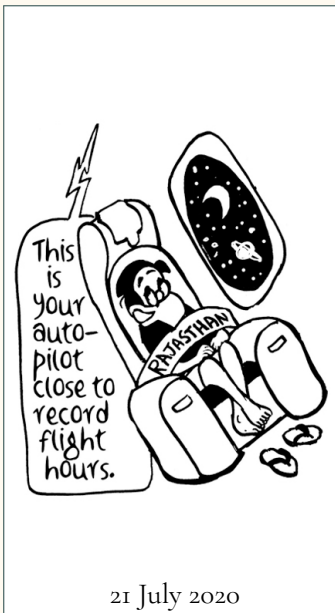
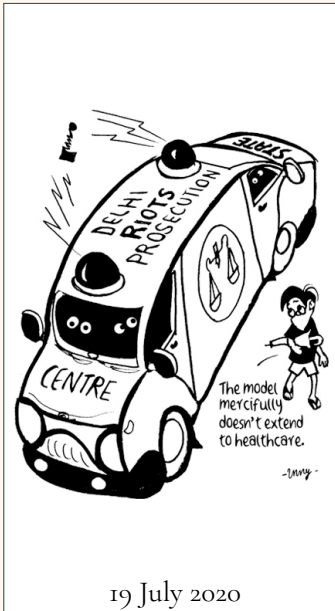


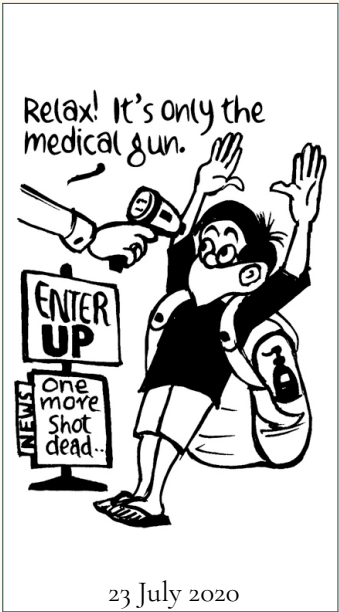


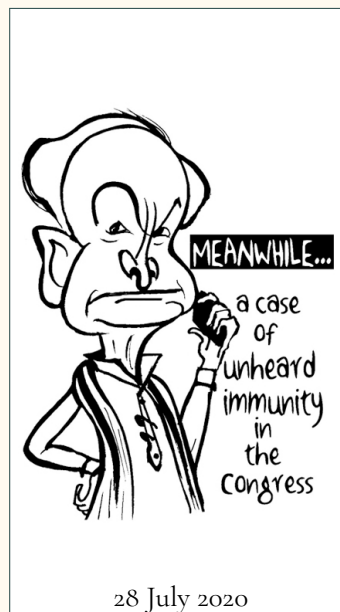


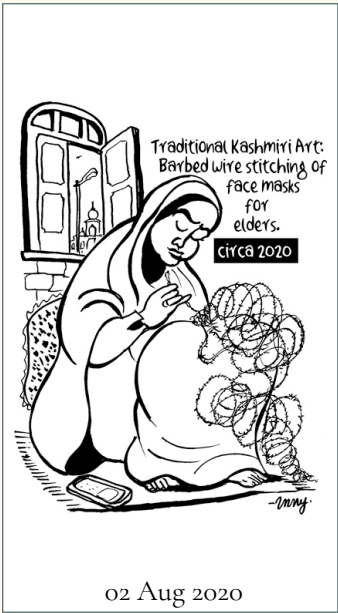
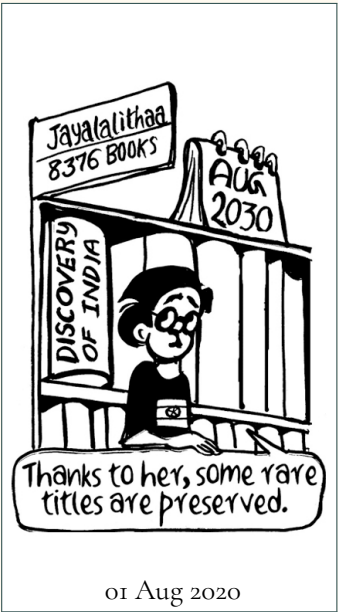
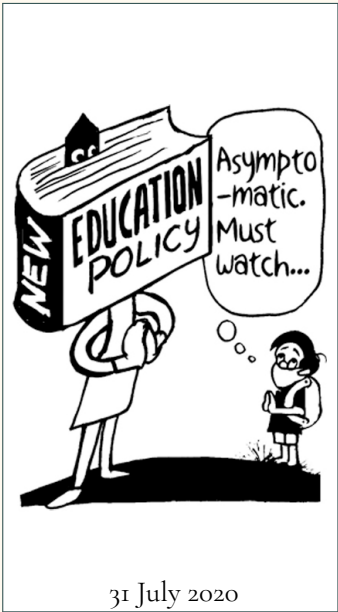


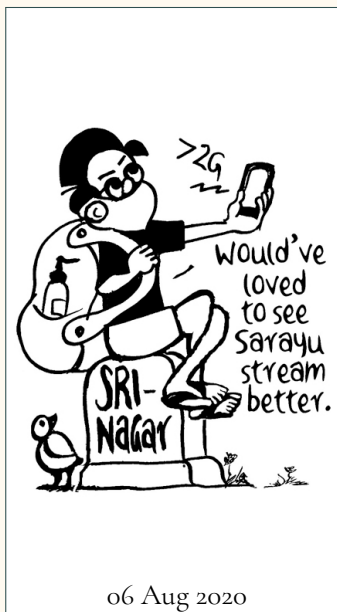








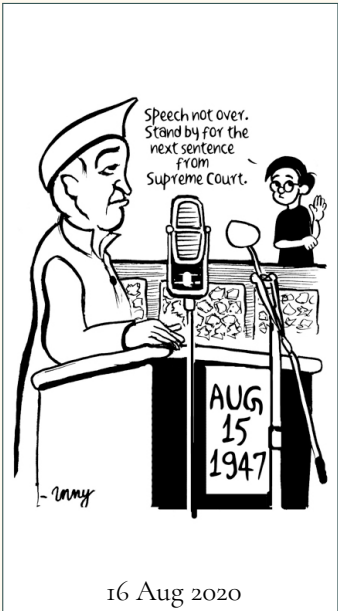


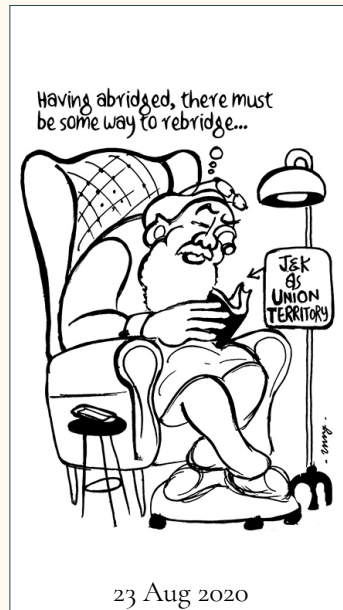
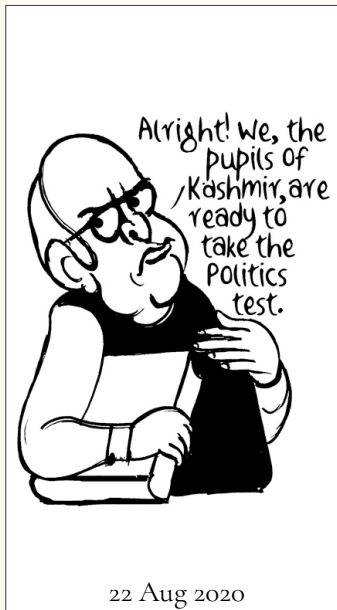
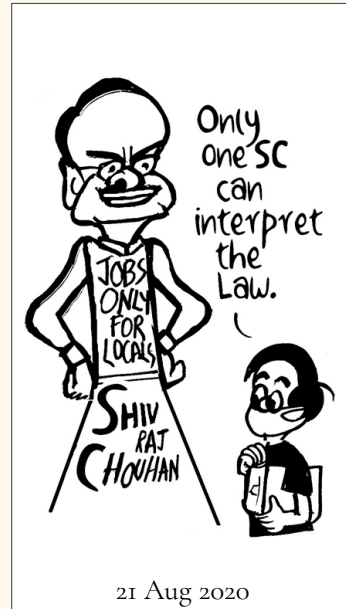




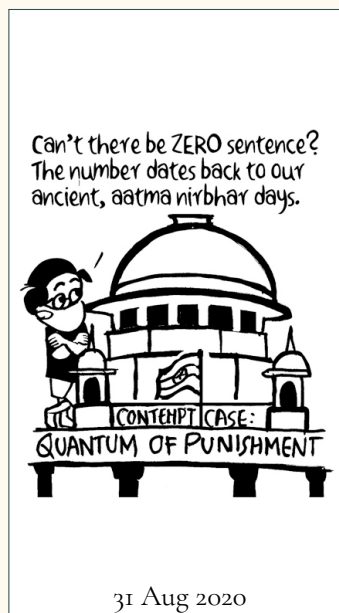


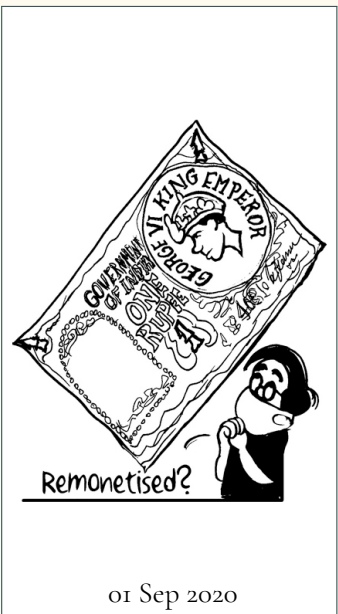
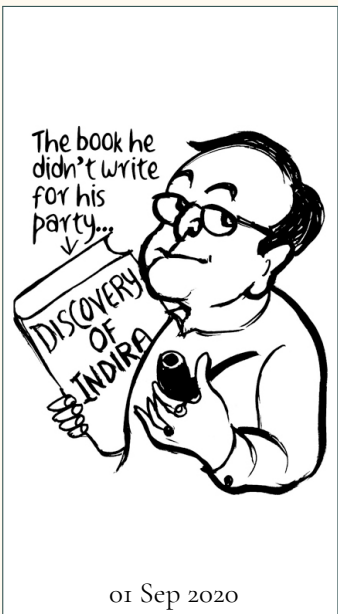




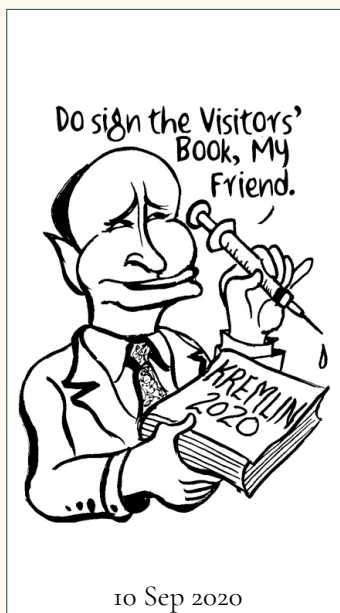




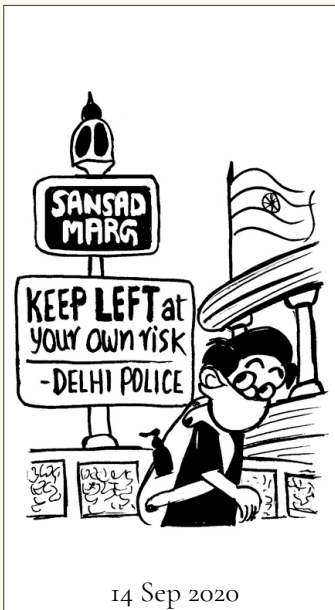


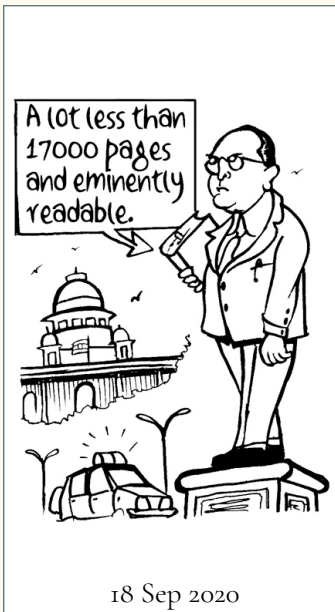
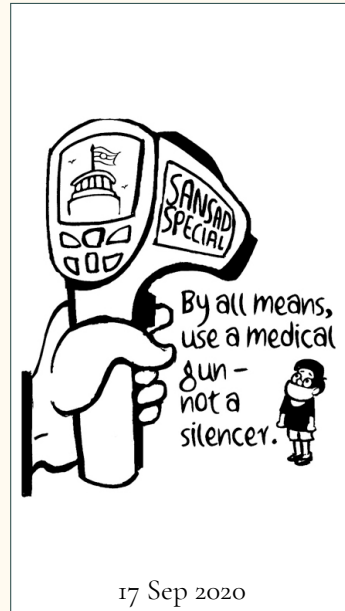




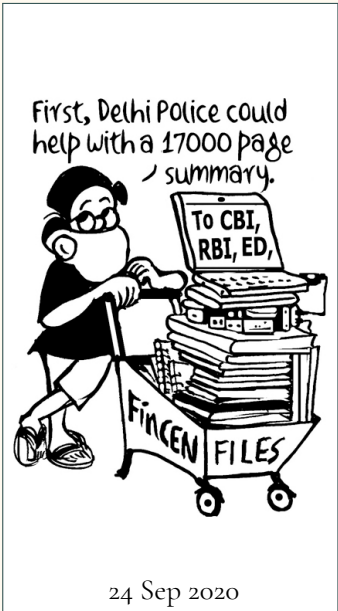


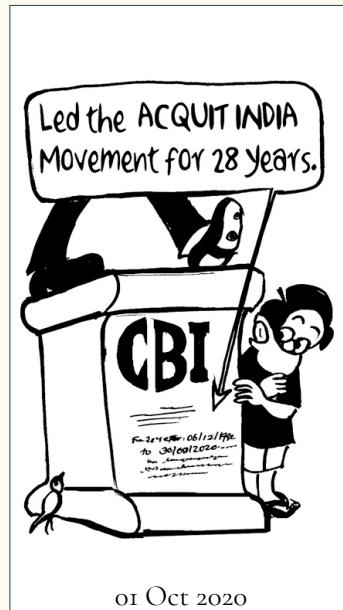


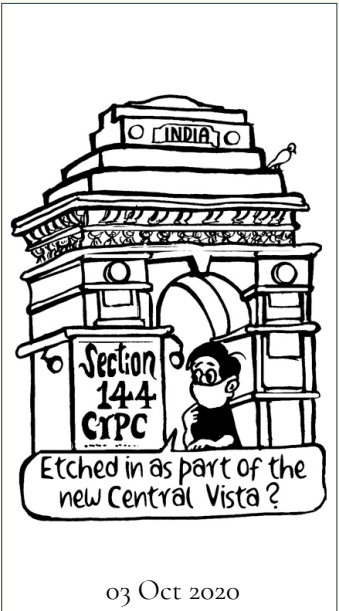
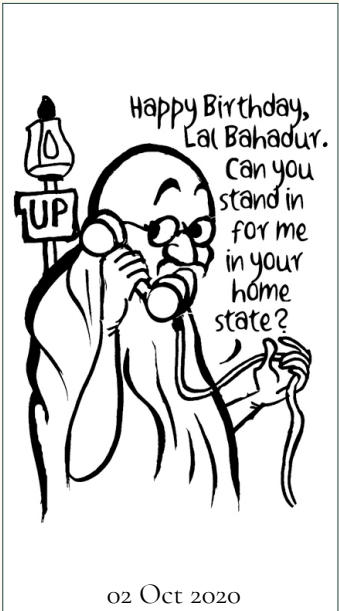








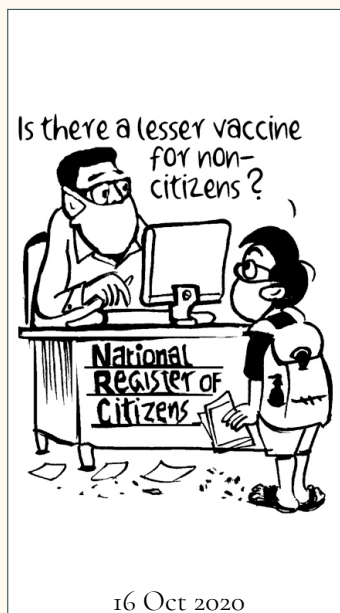


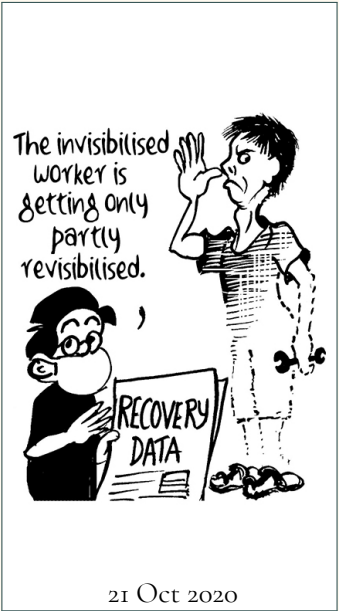
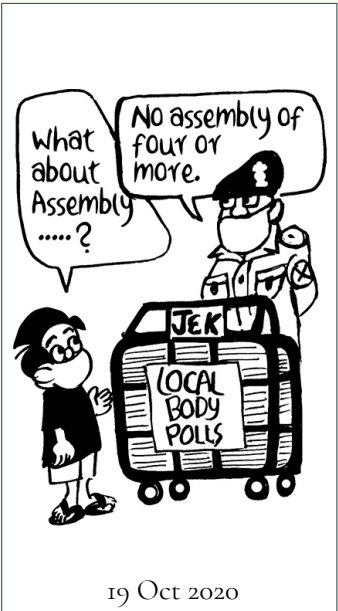


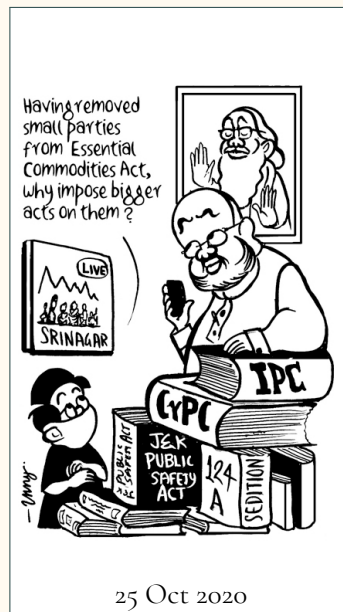
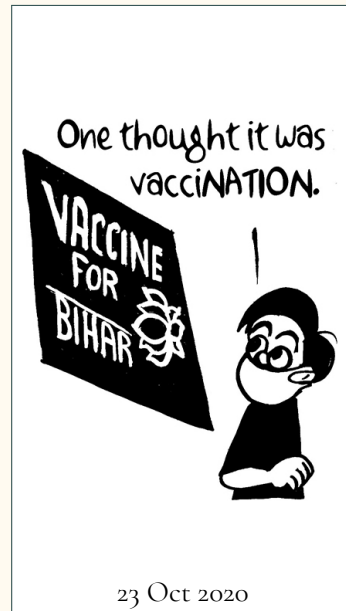


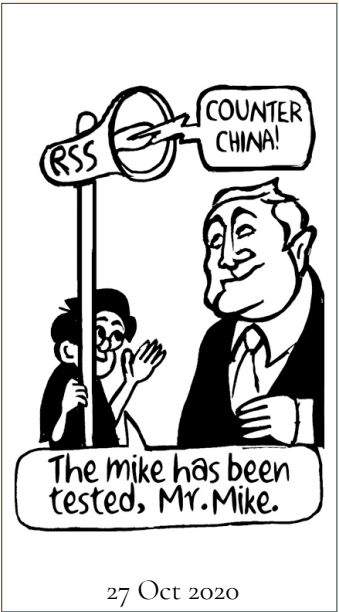


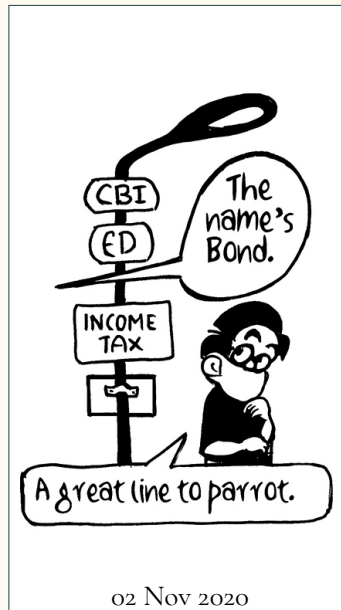
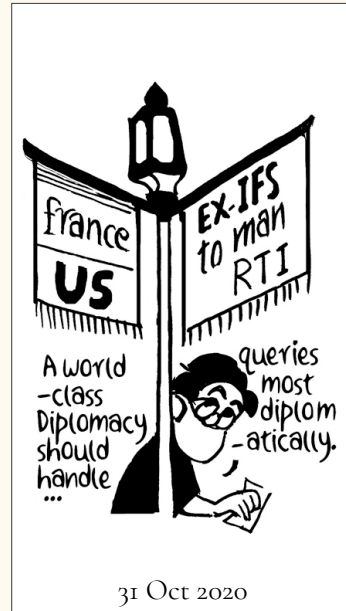










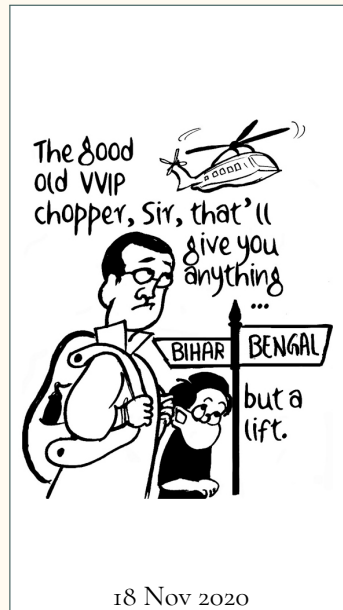
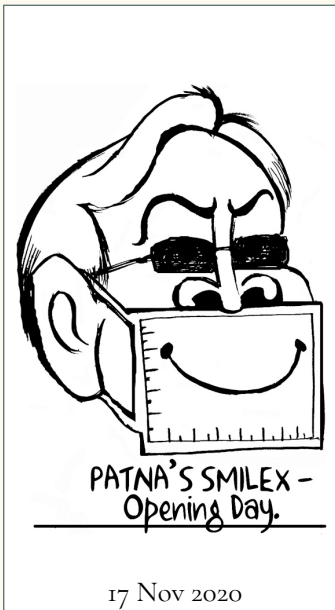


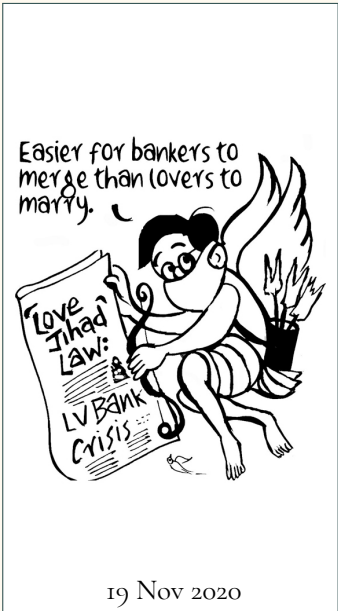


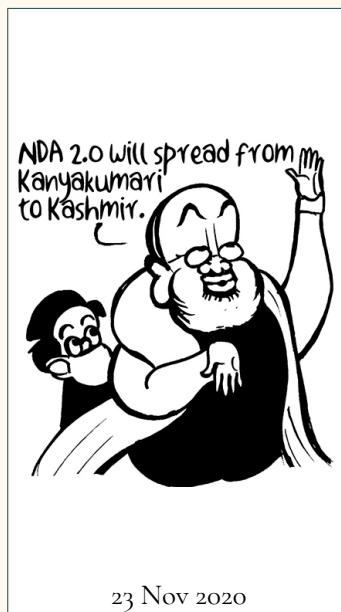


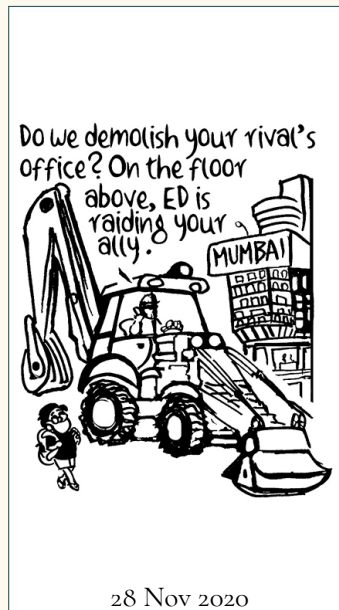












Sorry to distract...  
Should vaccine be  
taken before  
or after  
food?



01 Dec 2020

Perhaps the visiting farmers  
can help. This Delhi plant  
wilts the moment someone  
sneezes abroad.



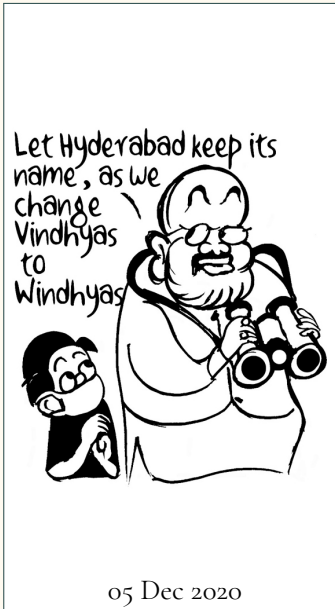
02 Dec 2020

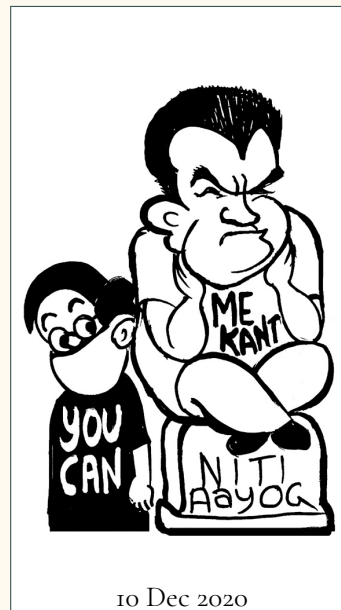


03 Dec 2020



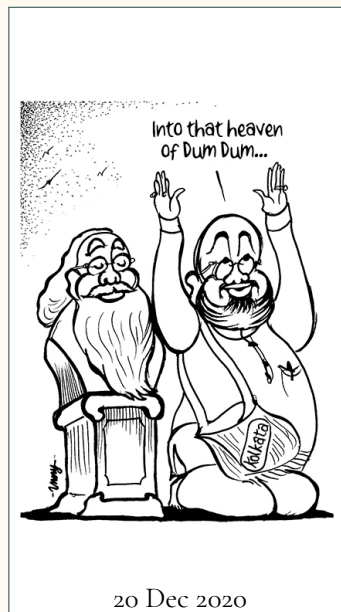
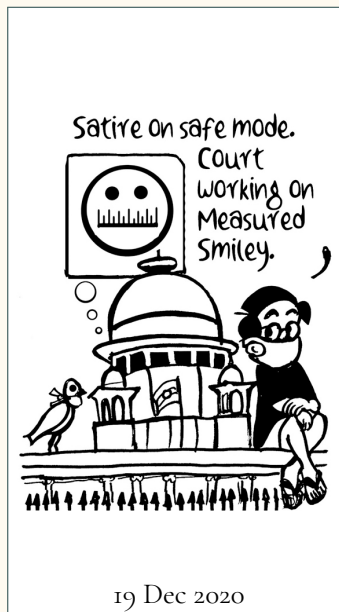
04 Dec 2020

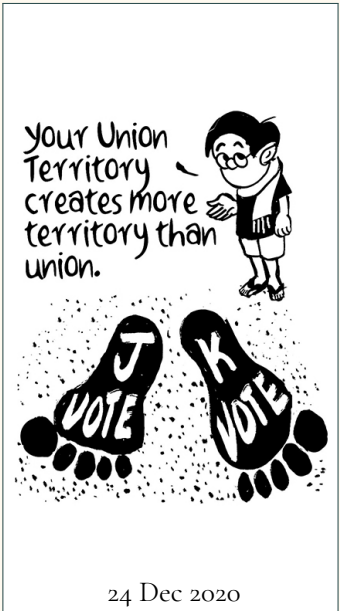
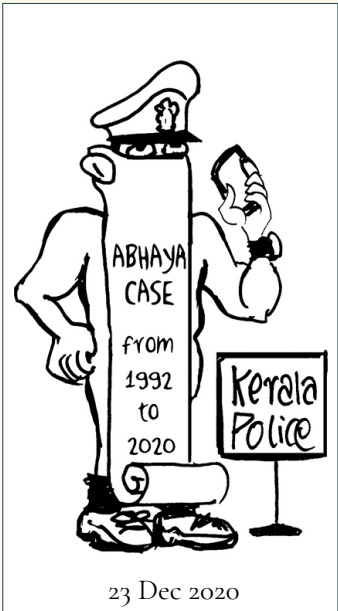
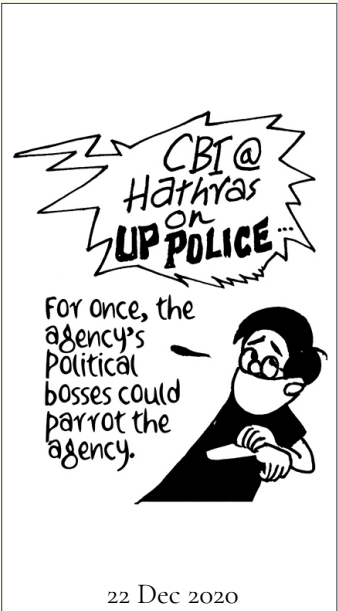














First they give gifts  
and then discuss  
the wishlist

25 Dec 2020



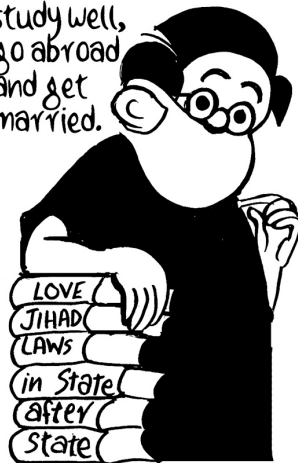
New Year is a good  
time for Opposition  
to introspect.  
We retrospect.

26 Dec 2020



27 Dec 2020

Incentive for lovers to  
study well,  
go abroad  
and get  
married.



28 Dec 2020



## E. P. Unny



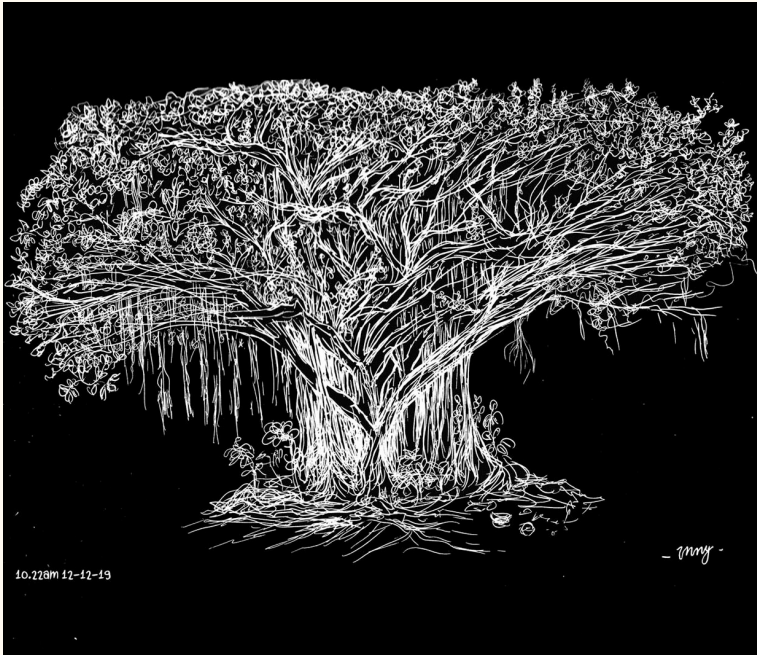
Credit: Harmit Singh

E. P. Unny or Ekanath Padmanabhan Unny, is a political cartoonist in India. He is a science graduate, has studied physics at the University in the Indian state of Kerala. He hails from the Ekanath Family of Elapully, Palakkad.

His first cartoon was published in *Shankar's Weekly* in 1973. He became a professional cartoonist in 1977 with *The Hindu*.

E. P. Unny has worked with the *Sunday Mail*, *The Economic Times* and is now the Chief Political Cartoonist with *The Indian Express Group*.

He has drawn and written graphic novels in Malayalam and a travel book on Kerala—*Spices and Souls: A doodler's journey through Kerala*. He has been doing graphic shorts in Malayalam literary journals as early as the 1990s. He has also written *Santa and the Scribes: The Making of Fort Kochi*, which was published in 2014. *Business as Usual* is another book which is a collection of his cartoons.



E. P. Unny, visited our campus during the first week of December 2019, stayed here for a week, interacted with our staffers and went on sketching the campus. Some of the sketches he created during his visit are presented in this link: [Sketches by Unny](#).

(The bio of Unny, courtesy Wikipedia.)

