

unny
@
Indian Express

2021

Unny @ Indian Express

E. P. Unny

2021

E. P. Unny

URL: 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 2021



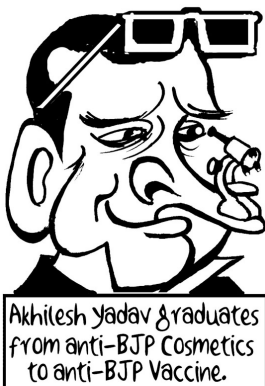
01 Jan 2021



02 Jan 2021



03 Jan 2021



04 Jan 2021



05 Jan 2021



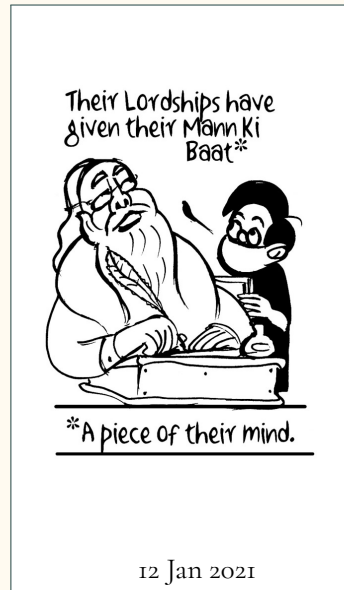
06 Jan 2021



07 Jan 2021



08 Jan 2021





Spare a thought
for the one who faces
an even bigger
challenge than

JABS:

JOBS

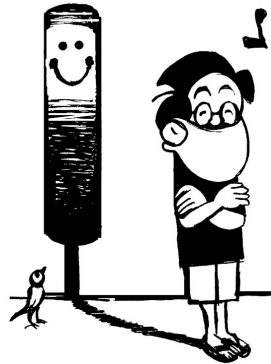
17 Jan 2021



18 Jan 2021



19 Jan 2021



20 Jan 2021

For a while, every day
will be Rx-Day. No one
expects a daily
speech with
big numbers.



25 Jan 2021

A true friend of the
Republic. Fuels the
economy with Maximum
Support Price.



26 Jan 2021

A major deficit
will be
addressed -
Opposition
Deficit.

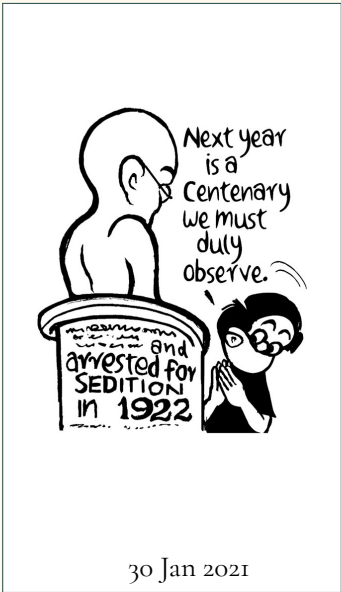


27 Jan 2021

Time for a slow drive
around Raj Ghat
to relearn.

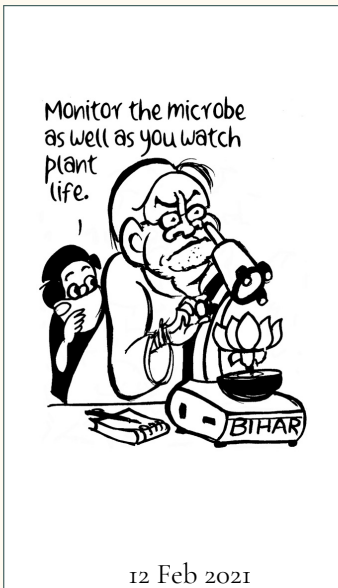


28 Jan 2021



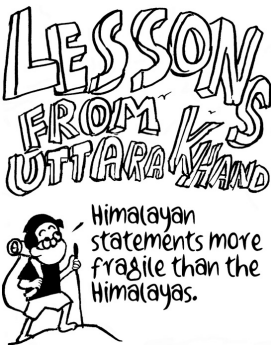








14 Feb 2021



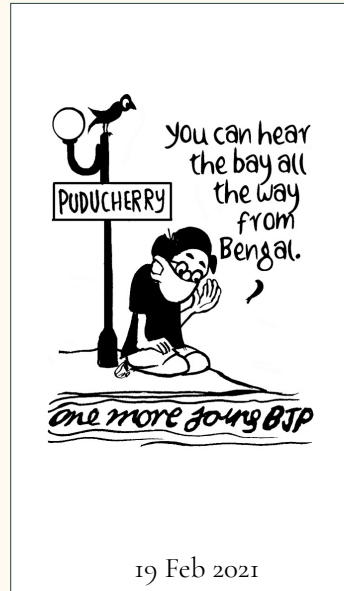
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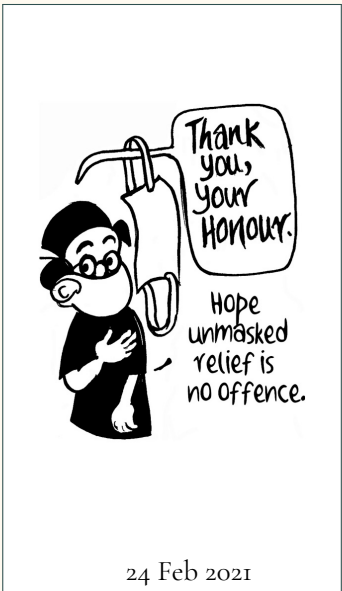
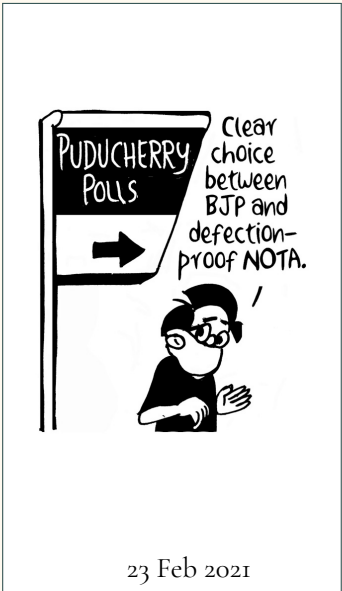


16 Feb 2021



17 Feb 2021







26 Feb 2021



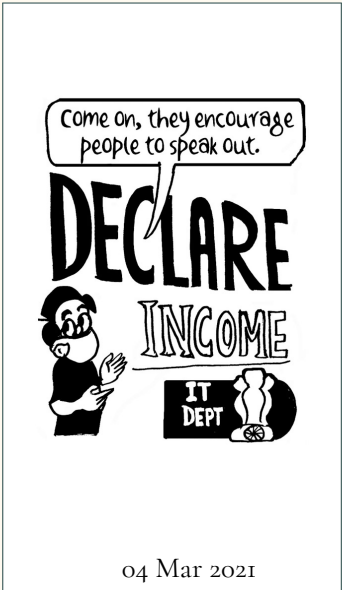
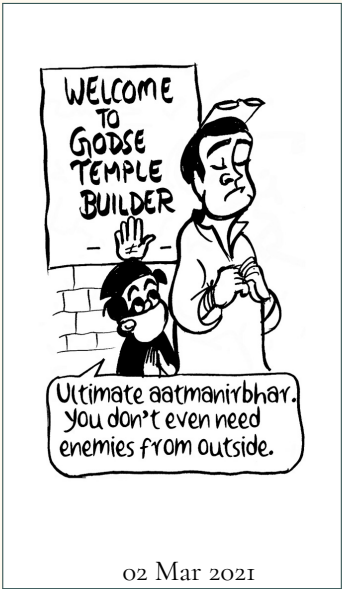
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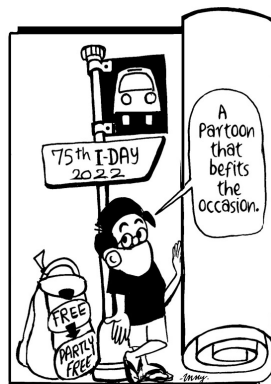
01 Mar 2021





Indelible ink,
Didi, has an
incredible flow.

06 Mar 2021



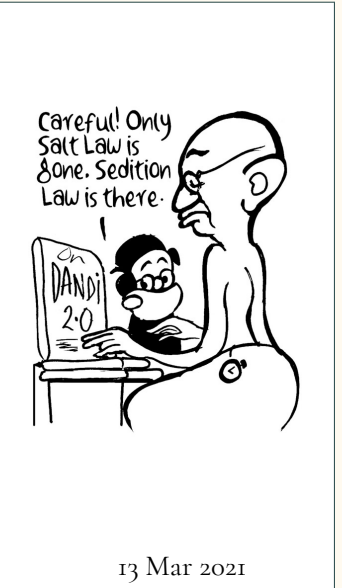
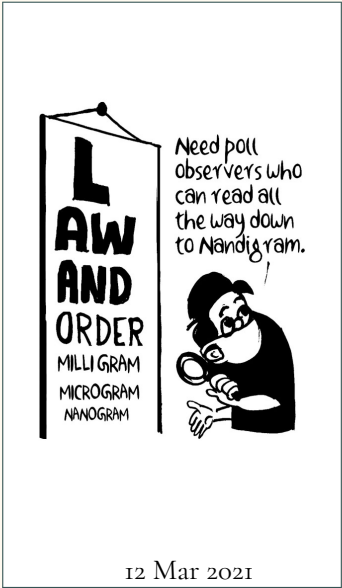
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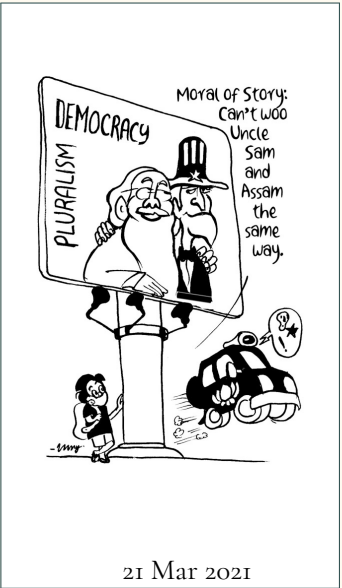
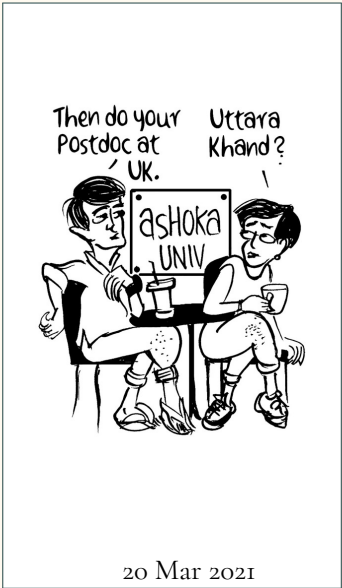
08 Mar 2021



09 Mar 2021









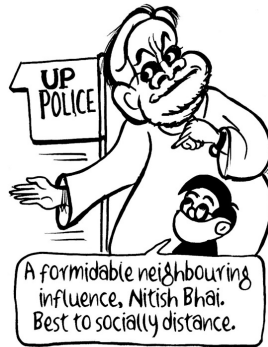
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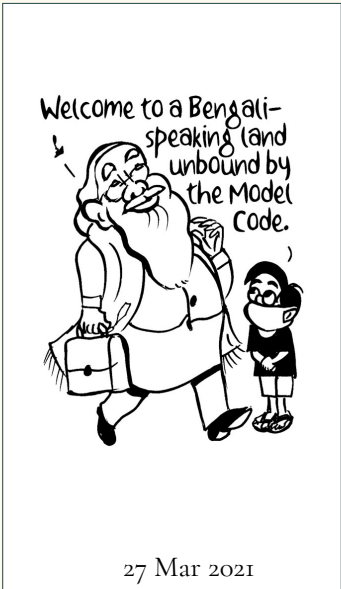
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24 Mar 2021

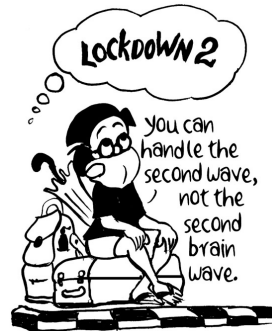


25 Mar 2021





30 Mar 2021



31 Mar 2021

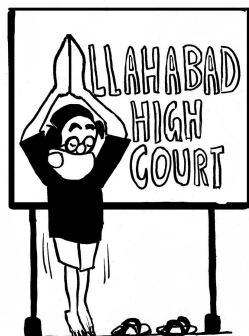


01 Apr 2021



02 Apr 2021





Express Investigation:
UP admin freely uses
National Security Act
and Allahabad HC strikes
down most orders.

07 Apr 2021



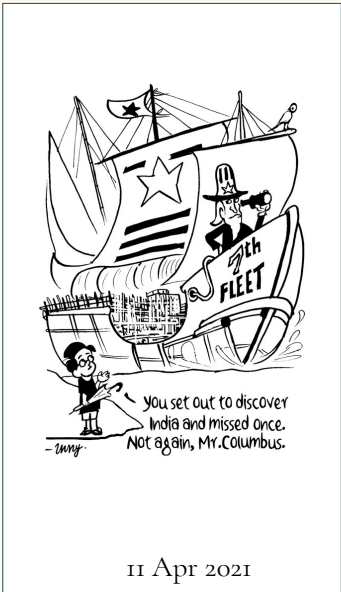
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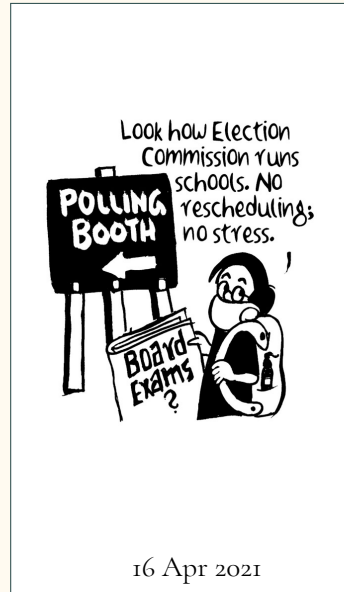


09 Apr 2021



10 Apr 2021







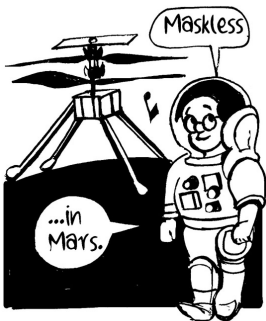
Thank God we don't have simultaneous polls.

19 Apr 2021



Goyalji could find a less negative way of talking about oxygen.

20 Apr 2021

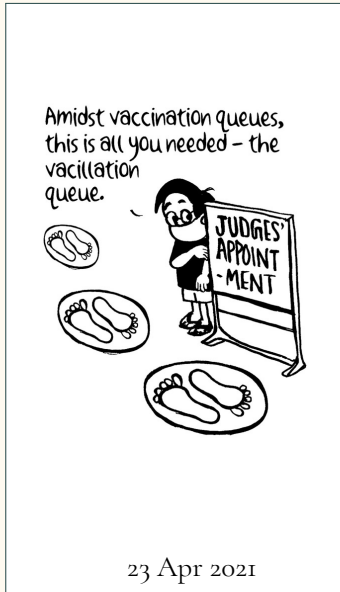


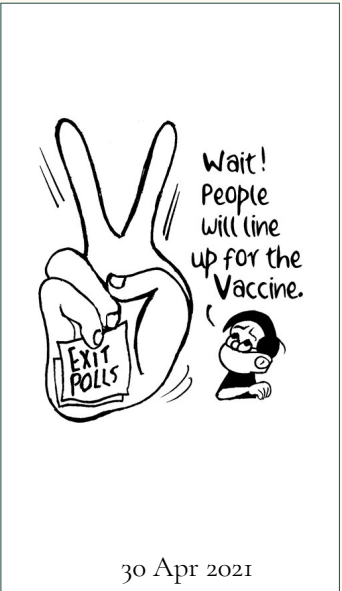
21 Apr 2021

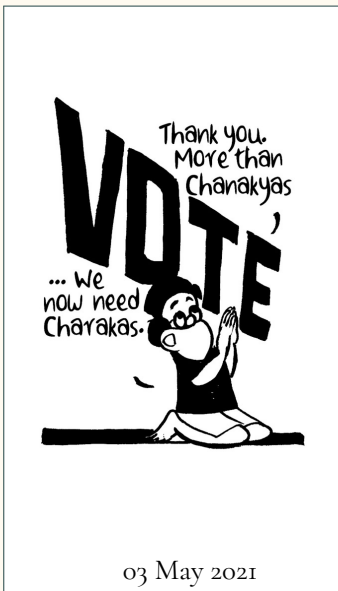
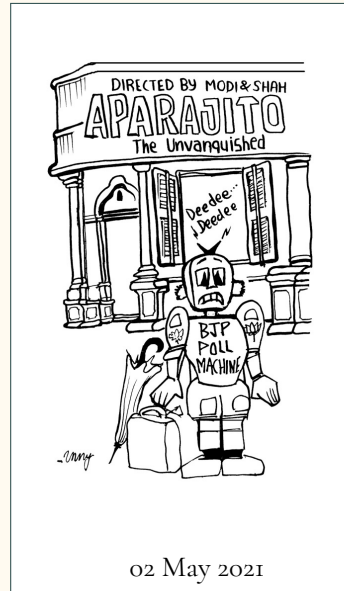
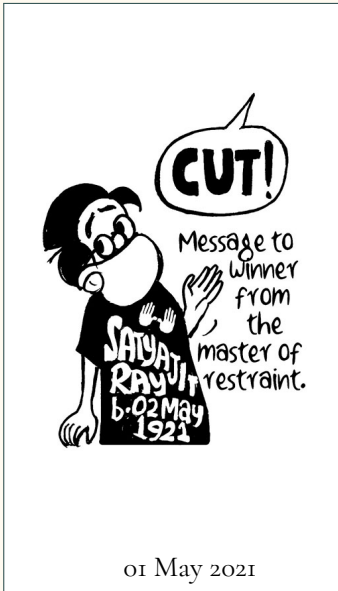


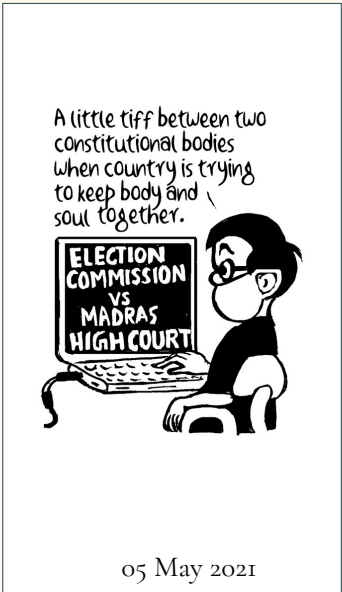
Make sure workers who can plug the leak aren't back in the village.

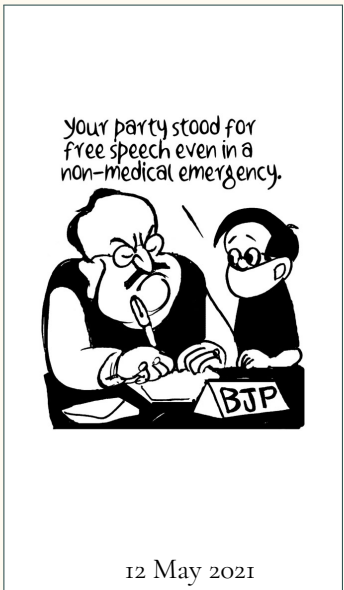
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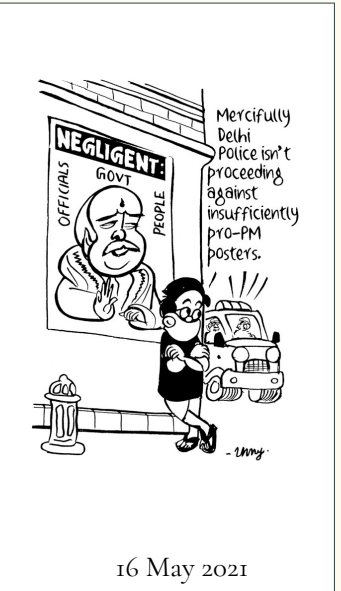














17 May 2021



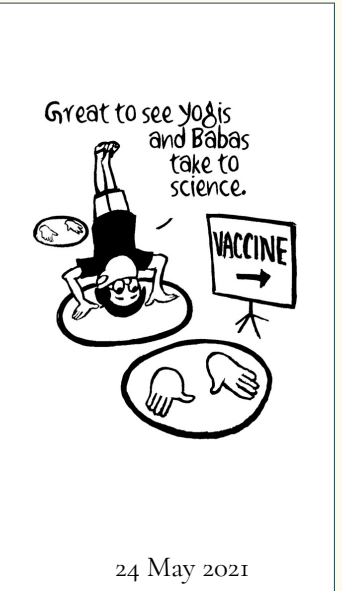
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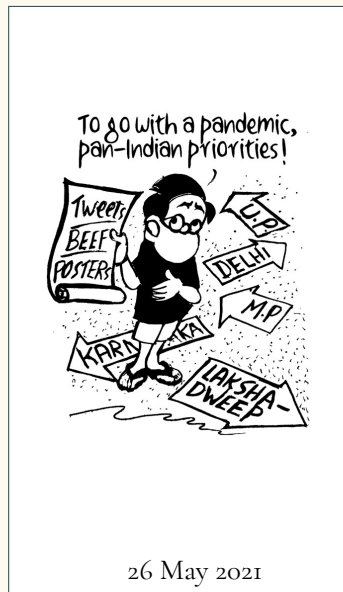


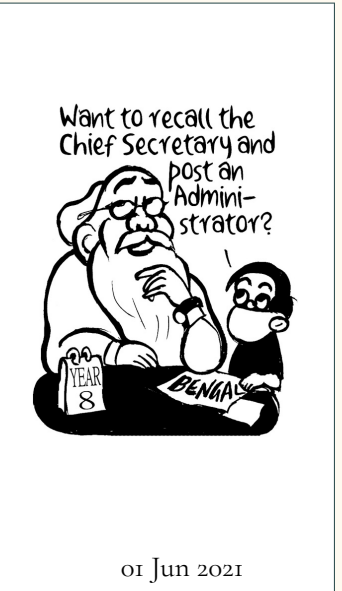
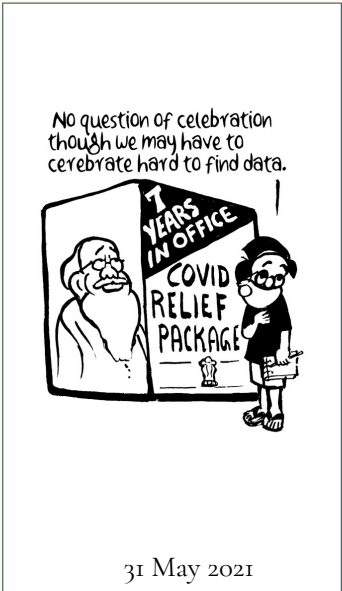
19 May 2021



20 May 2021







More and more jobless will
save more and
more on the
commute.



02 Jun 2021

Thank you all for
negotiating the
ceasefire.



03 Jun 2021



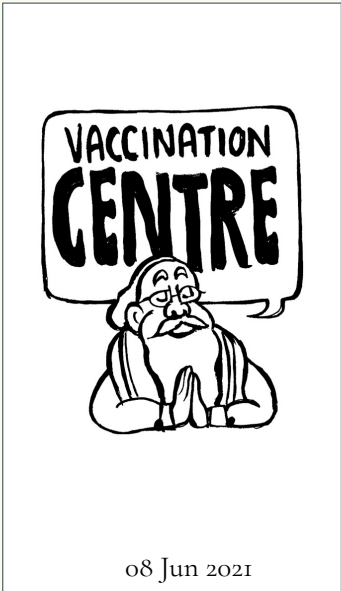
To be fair,
vaccination
certificates
must carry group photo of
PM, CM & Supreme Court.

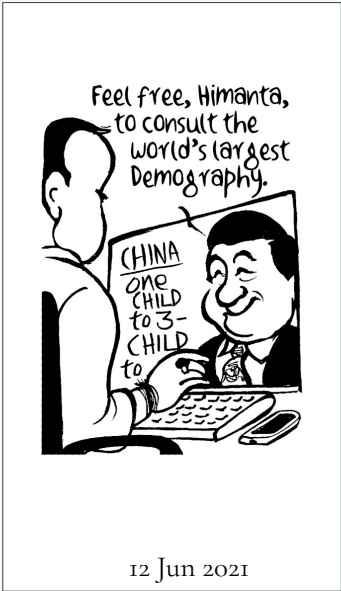
04 Jun 2021

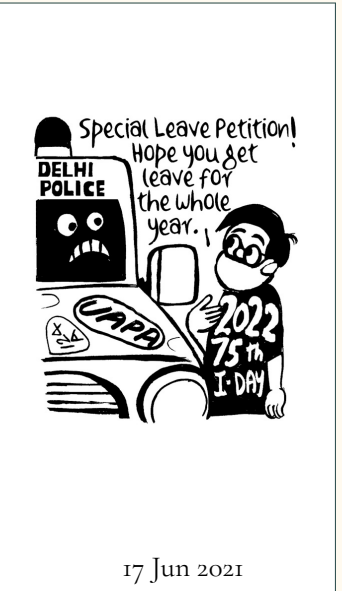
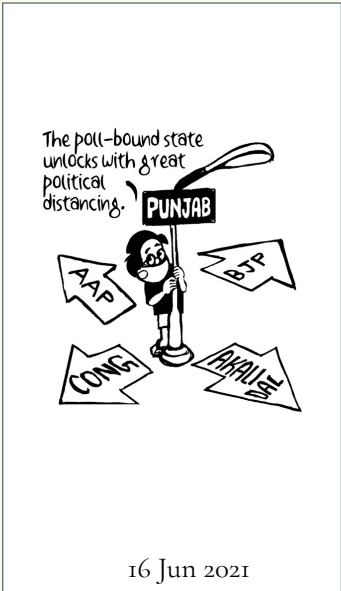


Courts won't let you
push a gag as a mask.

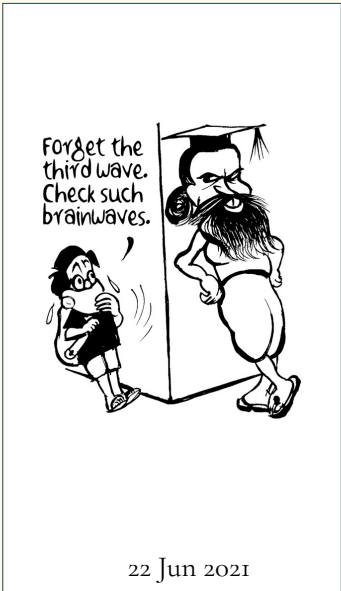
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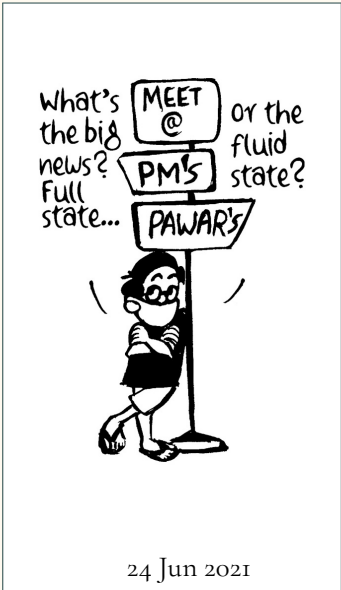




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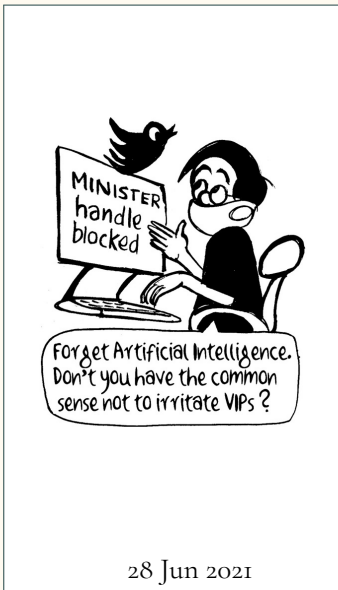
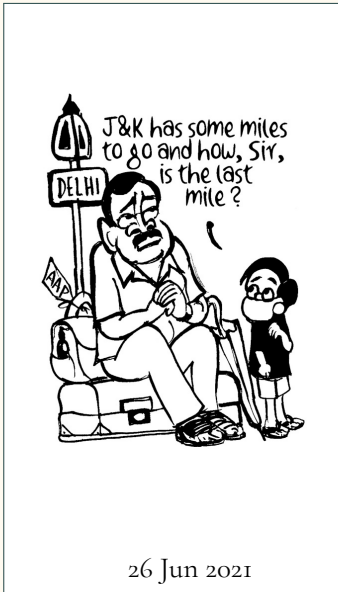
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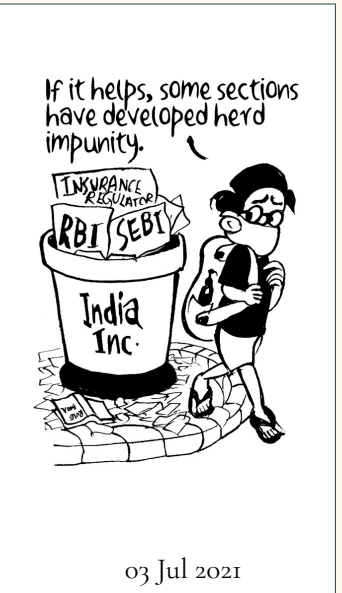
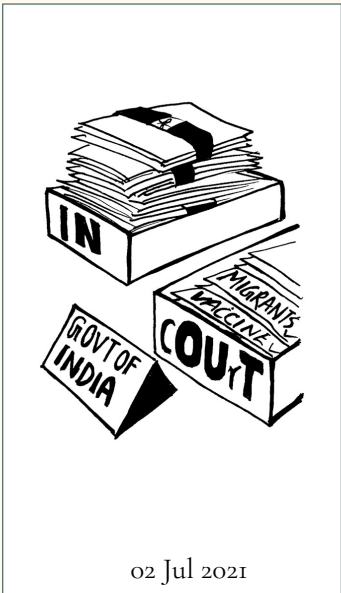
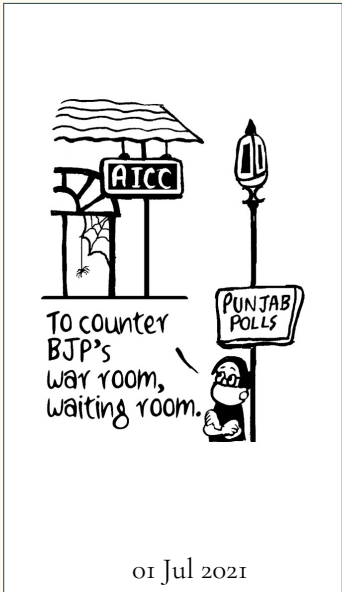
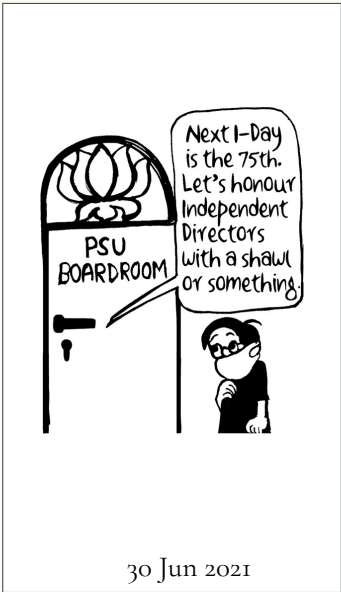


24 Jun 2021

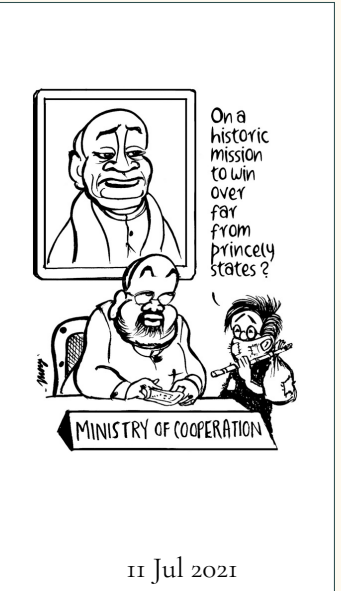
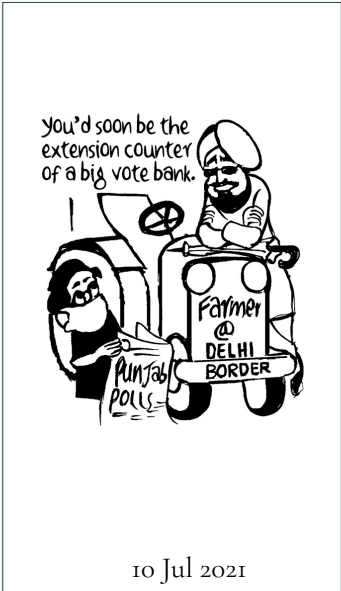
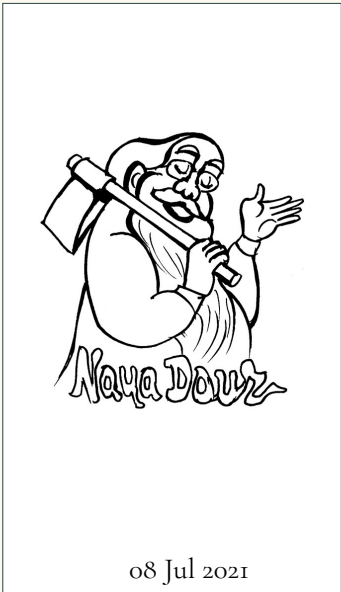


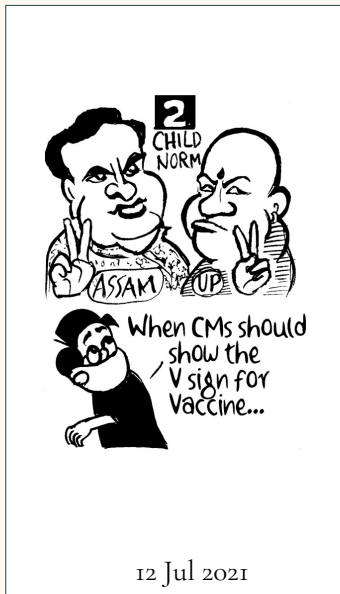
25 Jun 2021

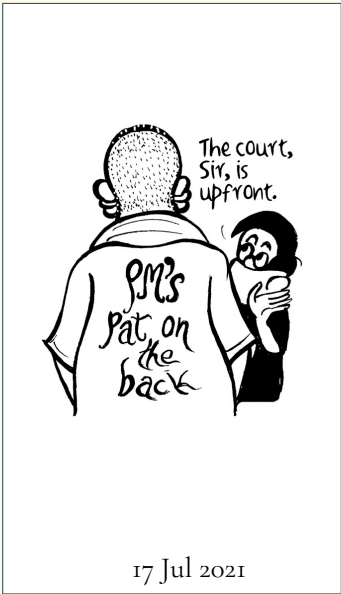


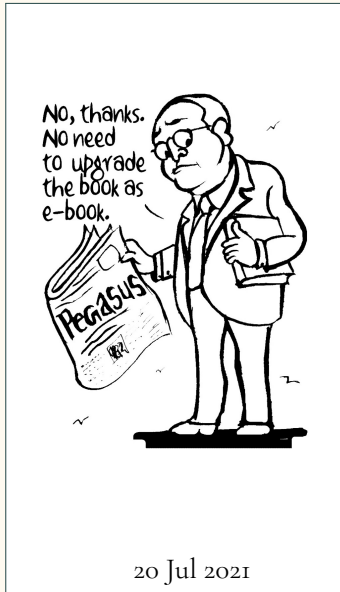


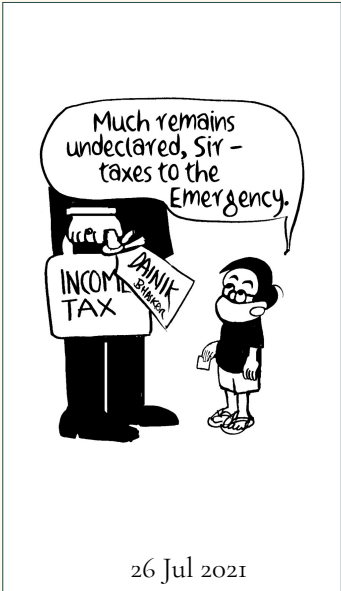




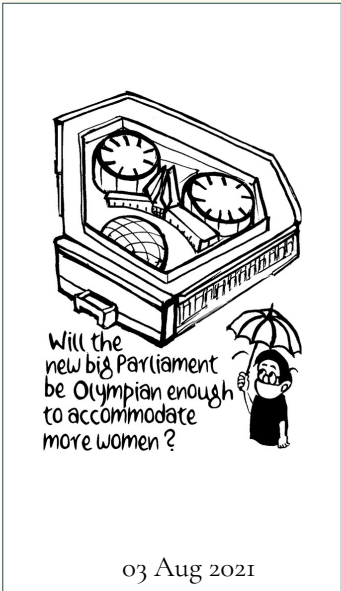


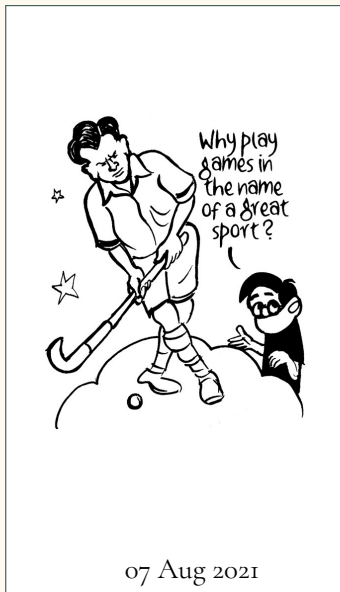


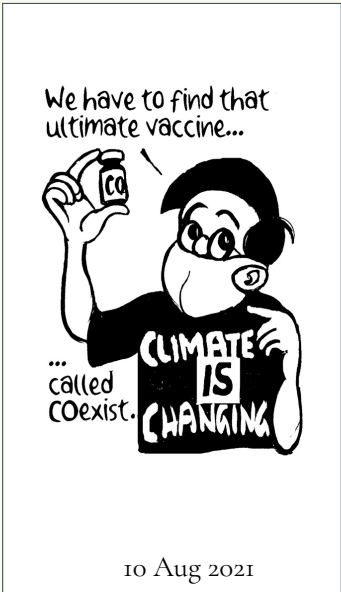
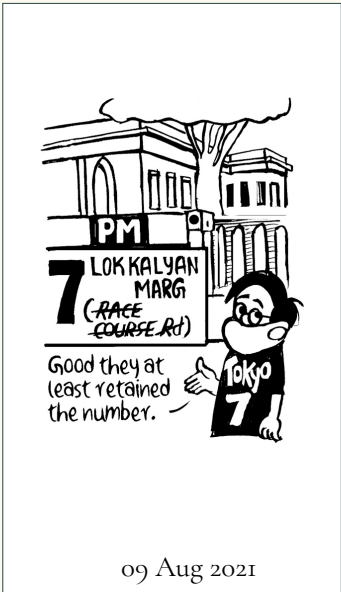
















Taliban might have evolved — not the Taliban watchers here.



21 Aug 2021



22 Aug 2021

More than Foreign Ministry, Election Commission must watch the T-word

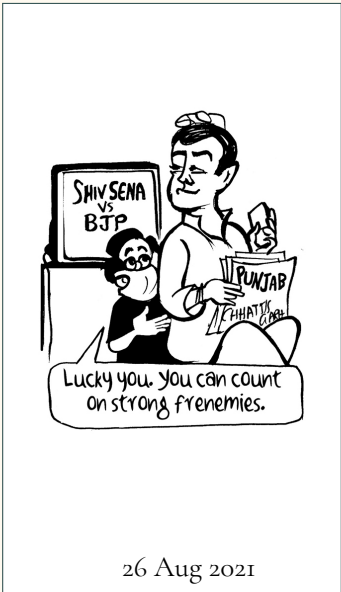


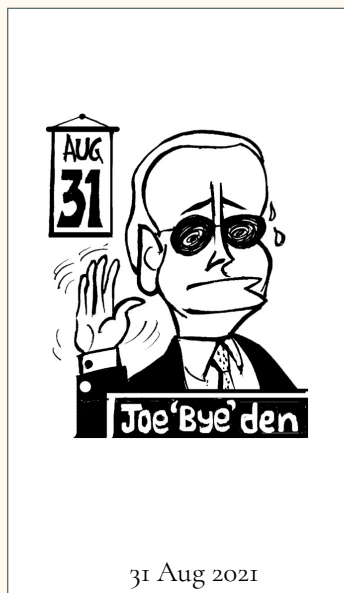
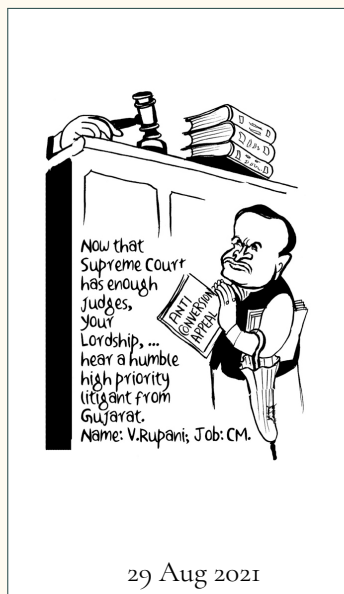
23 Aug 2021

Time we had a TRYST with ... DATA ...

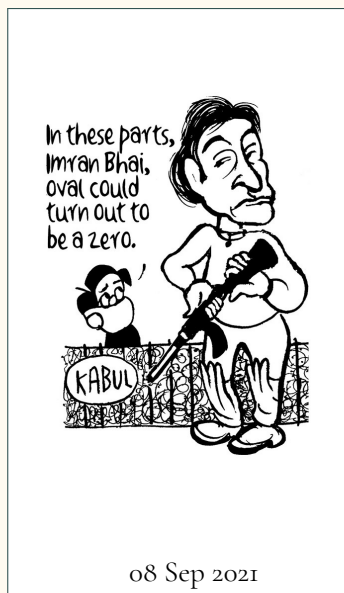
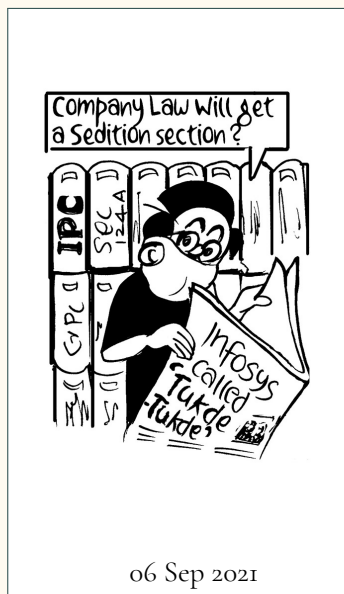


24 Aug 2021

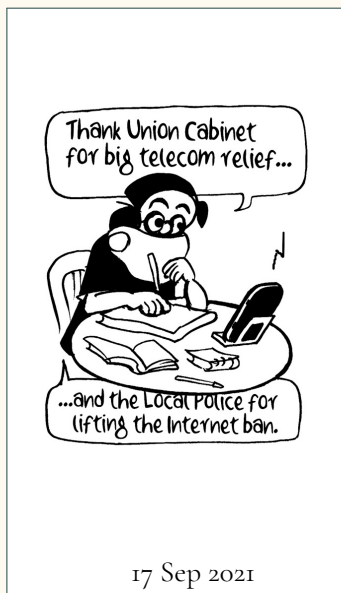
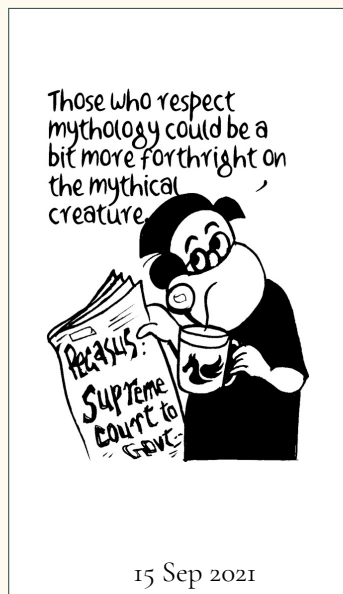


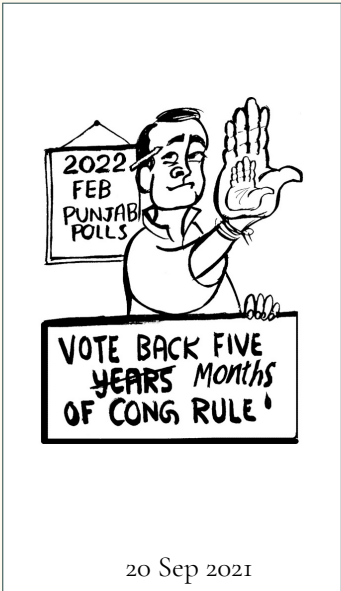
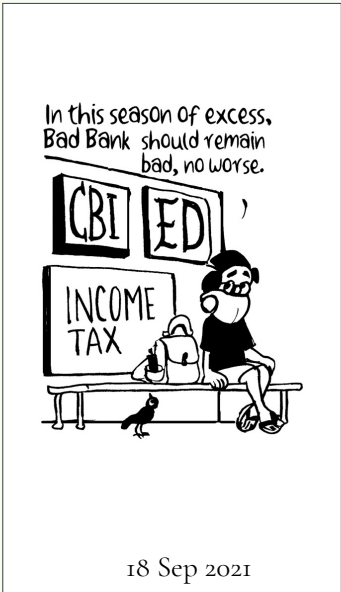


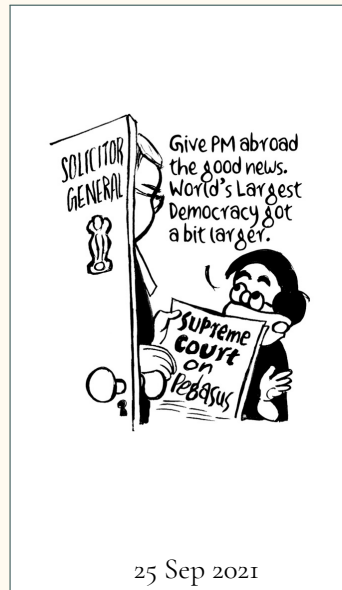
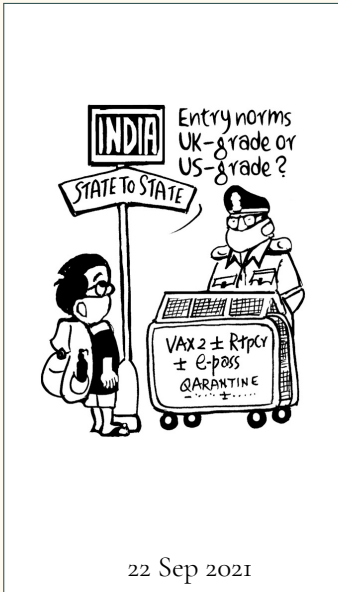




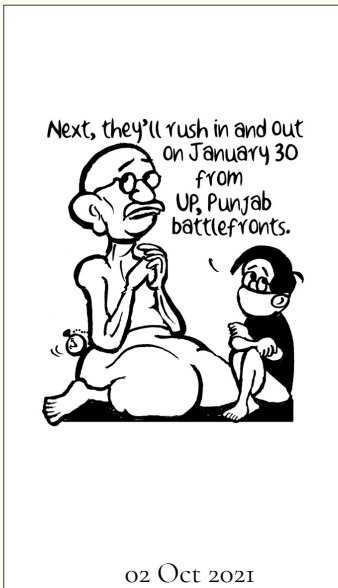


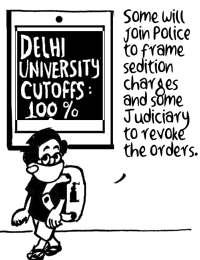












04 Oct 2021



05 Oct 2021



06 Oct 2021



07 Oct 2021



08 Oct 2021



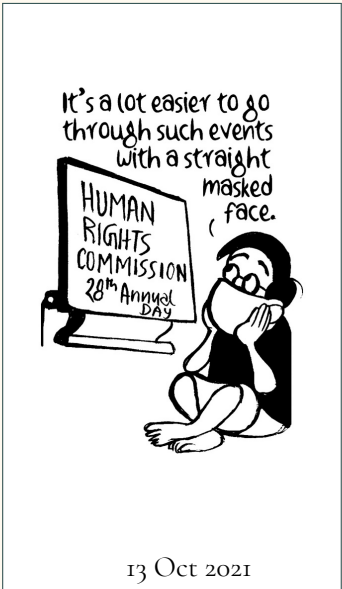
09 Oct 2021

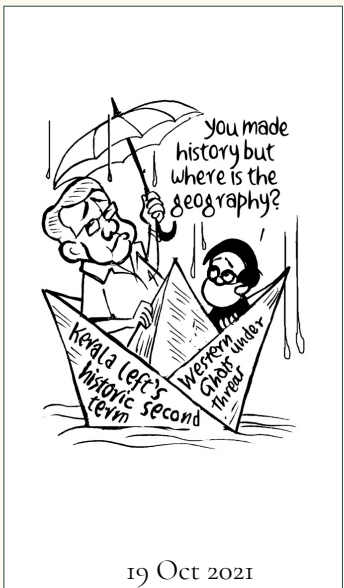
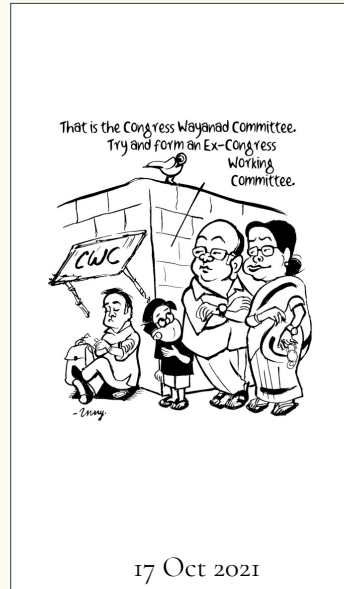


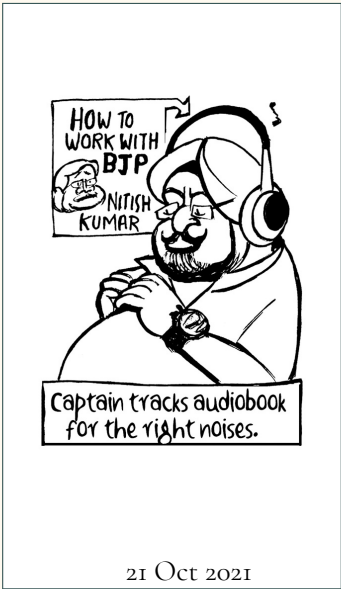
10 Oct 2021

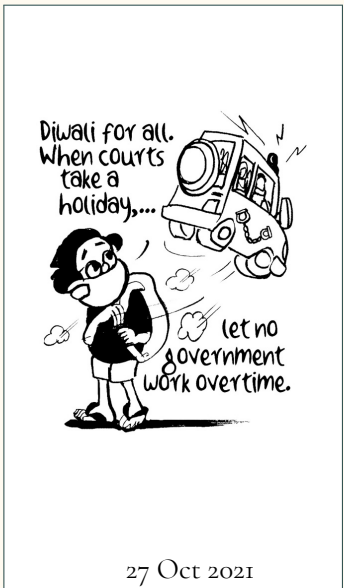
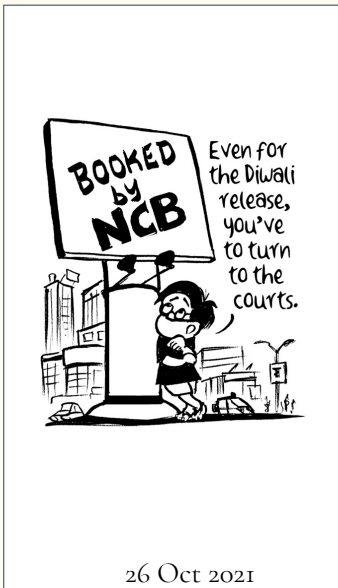


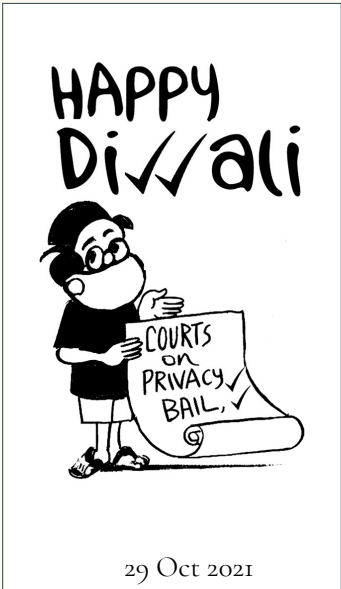
11 Sep 2021













01 Nov 2021



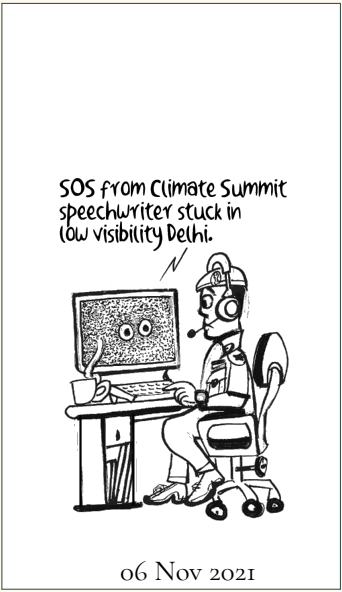
02 Nov 2021

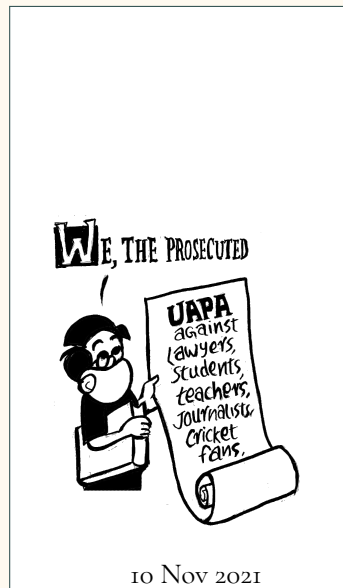


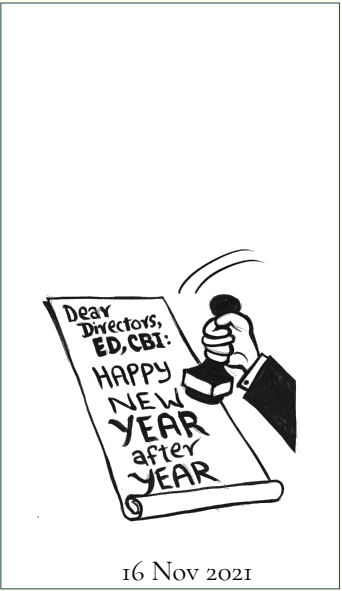
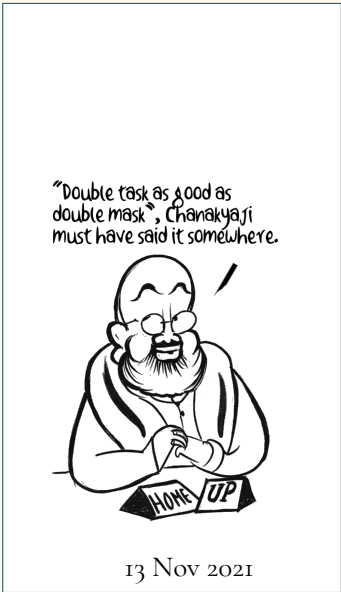
03 Nov 2021



04 Nov 2021





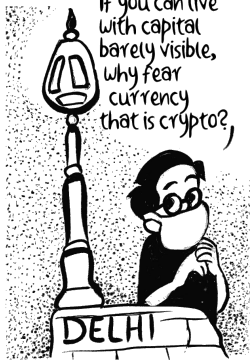


Now, will they push the
cart all the way to
poll-bound Goa?



17 Nov 2021

If you can live
with capital
barely visible,
why fear
currency
that is crypto?



18 Nov 2021



Look how
the little
Tripura
makes more
news than
Big U.P.

19 Nov 2021



20 Nov 2021

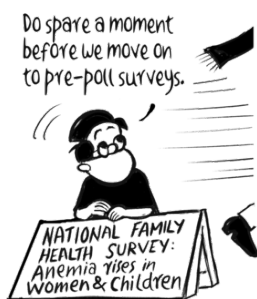




25 Nov 2021



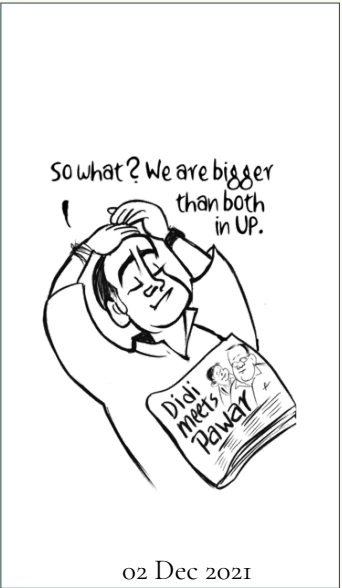
26 Nov 2021

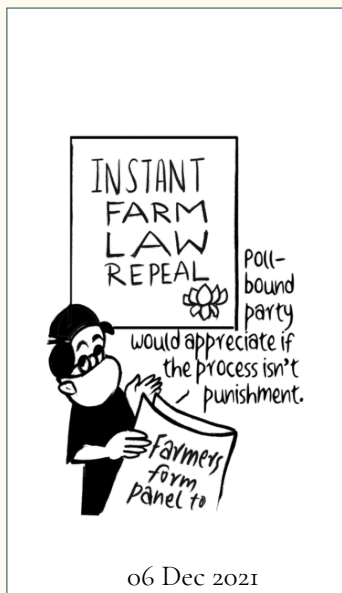
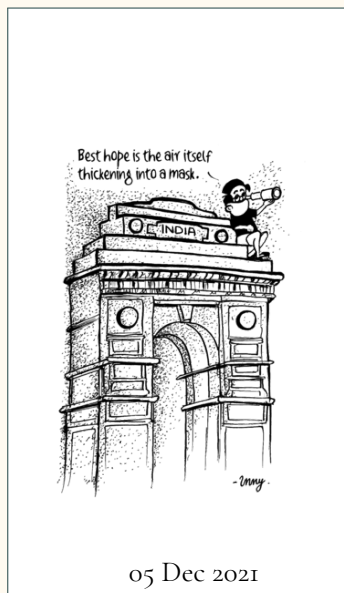
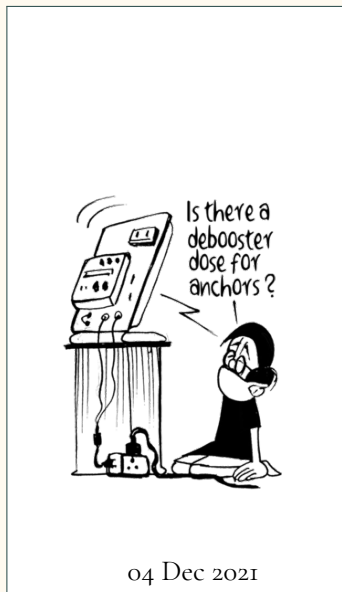


27 Nov 2021



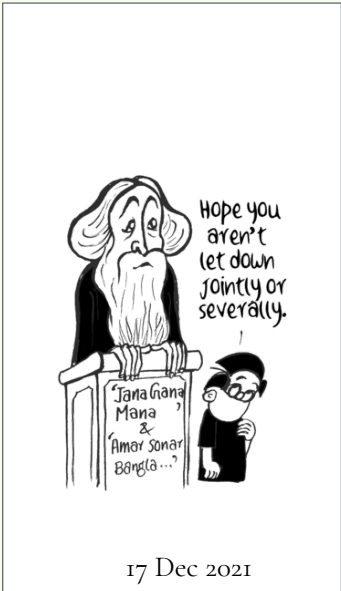
28 Nov 2021

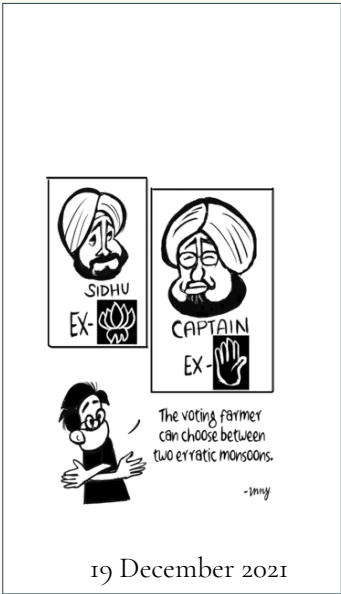




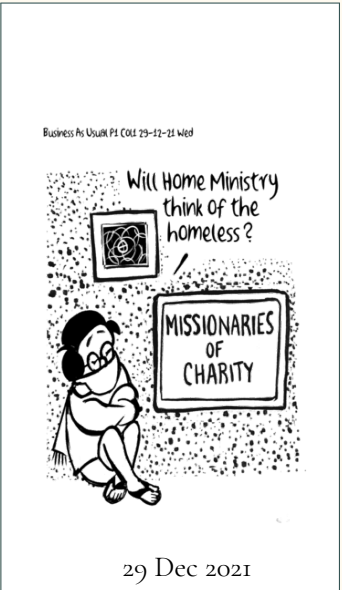
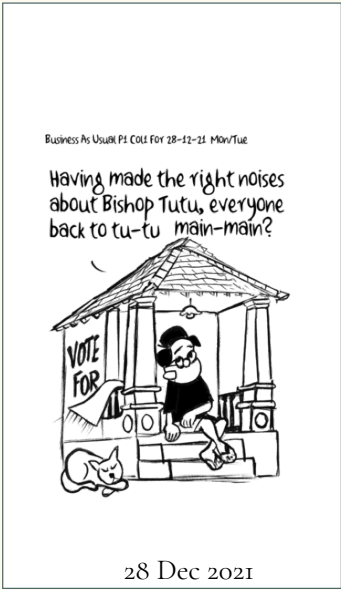
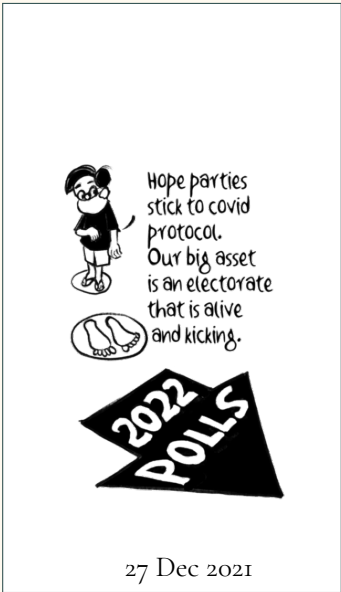














E. P. Unny



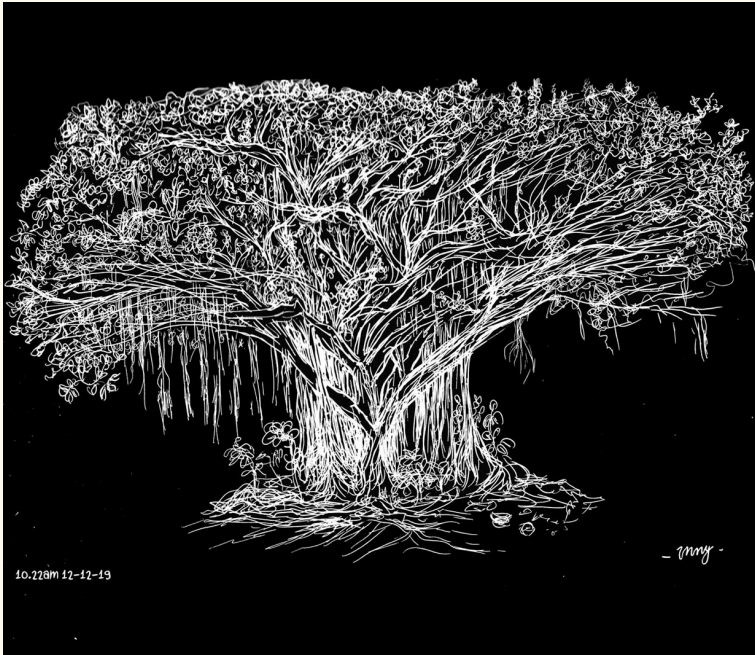
Credit: Harmit Singh

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.)

