



CENTRE FOR COMIC ARTS
Foundation for the promotion of
the comic arts in Asia

presents

Anna Hazare: The long-drawn-out story



online exhibition of Unny's cartoons

Curated by
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Layout
Bhattathiri

Courtesy:
The Indian Express

An invitation to Anna Hazare – the long-drawn-out story

Welcome to Unny's collection of cartoons on Anna & Lokpal.

~

There are times when a cartoonist feels that contrary to the media hype, something doesn't seem to be right, and the unfolding of events prove him right.

It could be an intuition, refined through years of professional experience; it could be a political-animal instinct or a combination of both that leads to a 'discomfort' to the cartoonist. Whatever may it be, this guards the cartoonist from falling into a ditch.

As the curator of this show I find that Unny is the earliest cartoonist who was skeptical about the Anna movement since Day One and he consistently stayed the course. Others saw through the mega-farce soon enough. Going against the hyped cyber-mediated SMS-driven cap & t-shirt revolution, Unny patiently commented on the [melo]drama of a lifetime, demystifying the euphoric self-righteous revolution. None of the governing and non-governing elites escaped his gaze.

History, the ruthless teacher, has taught us that **Indira was NOT India** and contemporary history is gently asserting that **I am NOT Anna**.

~

Here is Unny's long-drawn-out story of Anna Hazare, for you to interact, comment, criticize, and appreciate... In the fairest of democratic spirit, I don't think we can afford to ignore this time capsule.

Pass it on to your family, friends and foes.

Unny also has briefly contextualized this exhibition.

Now it is your turn to respond.

Wish you a sober New Year.

Sundar Ramanathaiyer
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Anna Hazare: The long-drawn-out story

You can see Winston Churchill and his cronies as single-winged flying objects in a vintage Vicky cartoon, captioned “All God’s children have right wings”. Tweak the gag a bit and it would best describe how Anna Hazare arrived with his anti-graft mission – “All God’s children have righteous wings”.

Nobody would have quarreled with the mission, at any rate not in public.

Least of all the cartoonists, in any case pushing a non-threatening career well under the bribing radar. Today in public life no one is thin-skinned enough to persuade the caricaturist.

The last recorded instance of a bribe offer to a cartoonist however, was no mean offer and it dates back to the 1870s. It came to Thomas Nast, the legendary cartoonist of Harper’s Weekly, from William Marcy Tweed, the boss of the infamous Ring that ran New York City then – a princely \$ 500,000, one hundred times the salary the cartoonist drew in 1871. Nast turned it down and hit back with a vengeance.

So, the profession today can claim some pedigree to enter this war against corruption. But on whose side?

War is a messy business and this one turned doubly so with the very first battle cry, “ARREST, JAIL & HANG THE CORRUPT!” Even if you manage to hire hangmen

and cops by the truckload, where on earth can you locate builder after super clean builder to erect those mall-scale prisons?

Worse was the weapon in the making, the Weapon of Mass Redemption – Jan Lokpal (People’s Ombudsman). Such touchingly simple devices have always been christened most euphemistically. The first atomic detonation was code named “Trinity” and the bomb itself was referred to as the “gadget”.

The Jan-machine Team Anna proposes looks like a veritable carpet bomb that can finish the corrupt en masse in one go. But who’ll

be left for the victory march? Even as the trials were on, the bomb went off right in the war room. Ms.Kiran Bedi, a key operative, had to defend herself on some singular practices of

accounting air travel, brought to light by The Indian Express.

Unlike the spoilsports in sections of print, the TV studios aired the Generals generously. That hardly helped.

When five five-star Generals spoke all at once from five different TV channels, cacophony ensued. And the inevitable was about to happen

– the big yawn.

But help as always came from the least expected quarters. The Congress party lost nerve serially. Anna was arrested and released within hours. The compounded folly had a precedent – almost a dress rehearsal. The party had earlier sent four union ministers to ceremonially receive and dissuade Baba Ramdev who had landed in the capital to outdo Anna. The Anna-bolic Yogi went right ahead with his show, which the government eventually interrupted with a midnight police raid.

Meanwhile BJP, the other big party long power-starved, has been showing every sign of an indefinite fast. High ketone levels, plunging blood pressure and thorough disorientation leading to abject fantasy: Anna’ll finish the Congress and the rest is a cakewalk.

To be fair, Anna did as well as the best of cartoonists – exposed the big guys who are running this country. The worst victim of the tarring brush was however the new Mahatma’s model itself. This time it’s GANDHI; TAKE 2! And don’t look for that winning toothless smile. Nor, given the solemn national diversion, toothy ones on the young Indians.

E.P.Unny

Chief Political Cartoonist, The Indian Express

Seek Baba Ramdev's
blessings for a
good monsoon
—if not the
monsoon session.





All fingers
and thumbs



Best to discover India, Annaji,
before you experiment
with truth.



Having created an incredible
Spectrum
from
left to
right...



HAZARE = GANDHI
BABA = JP

UPA can't complain
about phoney
messaging.

Lokpal lawmaking is strange.
Act after Act comes *before*
the Bill.





CARTOONISTS
CLUB

Let's appeal to
Annaji to relax.
We are
tired of
drawing
crowds.





Since Husain Sab's
exile, the Great Wall
of India has become
greater.



One refuses to
open his mouth
to eat and the
other to talk.



A little partying after much fasting should help strike a balance.



This is UPA under attack from
civil society, courts,
Telangana activists,
... you are in
queue... please
wait...





*Since last visit:
Indian left-wing no
longer visible... but a
militant righteous-wing
sighted.*



I'd rather burn the
Jan Lokpal Bill

It seems to
have more
gas content.



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ANNA'S
CORRUPT!
blah, blah...

Best to
put your
loudmouths
on a verbal
fast.

And you, Sir,
don't return
to an
indefinite
maun vrat.





Having finally
broken the
parliamentary
fast, hope
MPs run up
moderate
bills

CANTEEN
←

JAN
LOK-
PAL

Gien-Lokpal!



While Ramlila is still on, it takes sheer genius to restart Kurukshetra War.



If they want a
solution, Sir, it
must surely
be fluid.



AHMEDABAD

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN

I'll develop a designer Satyagraha wear.

I'll build the brand.





SANSAD
STADIUM

You are free
to endorse
any brand.
But you must
play to win.



What's your takeaway —
Gandhi cap or the
dancer's scarf?



PARLIAMENT St.

BREACH OF
PRIVILEGE
Notice

The high road
needs a rubbish
bin, not a
recycle bin.



Look,
Roamlila!?





So Anna-grade
Lokpal will
have to be a
robot with
a halo!

Karnataka
Lokayukta
Comes &
Goes...

They've gone too far in the political capital. Hope they don't find any.



Lokpal can trigger a building boom, Sir - prayer rooms, courtrooms, prisons, hospitals,...



Relax! A well-known
frequent flyer.





Once
Kingmaker
& breaker,
now
Kingfisher?

Anna
Team
travaux

- May -



you'll fit in,
Comrade.
Leave out
little Tripura,
you're an NGO.



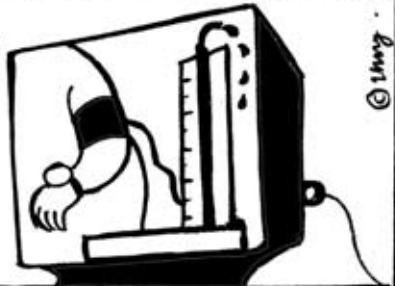


Can BJP
get into
this
Formula One?

Jan Lokpal
or NOTHING!
— TEAM ANNA!

The fast is creating medical history.

The anchor's BP is steadily rising.





yawn

The more you fast,
the less
they
feed.

Anna's
3rd
fast



BIGGER
BIGGER
BIGGER
BIGGER



Collider defies human laws.
Air thick with demigod particles.

Can the best of
magic potions
silence
Team Cacophonix?





Rath yatra

Maun vrat



And for us,
vanvaas?



AK Ramanujan's
Ramayana
article deleted
from syllabus

- Anus -

LOXPAL



If two out of the three wise men
sight the star, it's democratic enough.

Welcome to the
new bicameral
system!



The trendy T-shirt expands with every wash and can outsize you more and more.








The bill has become Act 1.
Await Act 2.

PARLIAMENT
St.

The road to
heaven is
paved with
good extensions.

LOK
PAL



Meanwhile...

If it helps,
there's a
website.

