

Hailing from the small town of Solapur in Maharashtra, **S. Nagesh** graduated in Applied Art from Abhinav Kala Mahavidyalaya. After dabbling with advertising and illustration for some time, he took up caricature and political cartooning full time.



COGNIZANT STROKES

Cartoons make you laugh, giggle and smile at unexpected moments. And throw opinions that incite the feeling of, 'oh I didn't realise this!' Cartoonist S. Nagesh explains how he packages humour to educate people about the state of the nation.



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I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE!



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01 Bleeding Gaddafi. As rebels take over Libya, the dictator bleeds oil.

02 Nothing to Hide. Breaking his silence for the first time, our PM expressed the will to appear before Parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

A visual joke explains reality clearer. As a child, I was greatly influenced by the work of RK Laxman. It was not just the beginning of a life-long interest in the world of politics, but also a realisation that cartoons can perform more than just stating the facts. Early on, I realised that humour dulls the pain of a blow and facilitates the process of becoming aware. Cartoons, as a process, create a voluntary engagement that makes it easy to put in a bigger picture than merely communicating information.

Idea is incidental, but awareness is timeless. And precisely for that reason a humorous idea starts a relationship. Media, today, is processed at an astonishing rate. Therefore it is important to choose topics that are not going to be forgotten at the next 'Breaking News' segment. The importance of an 'idea' lies in the fact that it brings education along with the fun. This way, the news may become redundant but the awareness of the change that the news brings to the daily lives of the people, lingers on →

03 Ad legend Vikas Gaitonde. A token of honour for the first Indian winner of the prestigious 'ONE SHOW' and 'D&AD' awards.

taken his job very seriously.

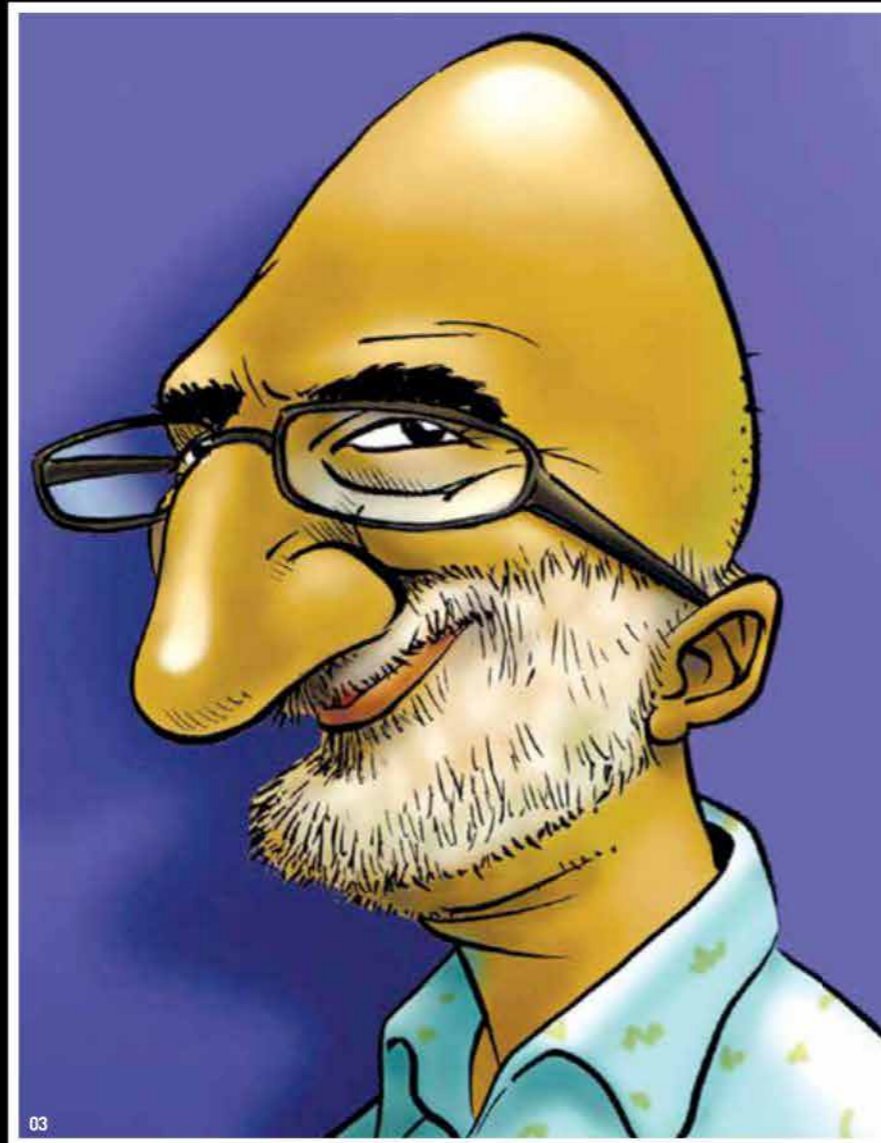
05 Raja Arrested. Look who was finally caught in his own ring!

04 The 'Green' Minister. Our minister of Environment and Forests seems to have

06 Rahul's Double Trouble! Rahul Gandhi's serious double trouble over his comments.

Cartoons are a marriage between idea and illustration. To choose one over the other would be blasphemy. The idea, what we refer to as the 'gag', is the soul of the piece. The illustration is the layer that wraps itself around the idea to give it a form and a tangible shape so that it is understood by the world at large. Ideas essentially originate from a weird sense of humour. Once this 'gag' takes birth, everything falls in place automatically.

There is a method to the madness. Indeed, the process of making cartoons is quite simple. Traditionally, cartoons have existed in the black-n-white sphere. But that was due to the fact that printing was a tedious and expensive medium. These days, digital tools are essential to the art of drawing. It saves time, leaving you free to explore and experiment with your strokes and colour. But I sometimes miss the charm of those brash brush strokes, the beauty of the patches. This is why I try to maintain the balance in my own cartoons by giving each drawing a sketchy look and colouring it with a real brush →



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07 Journey to Death. Kasab's never ending journey to prosecution is an example of our judiciary system.

08 The Weakening PM. Prime Minister's soft stand on recent scams by his own cabinet ministers.



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09 Evergreen Dialogue!
Mrs. Gandhi's face-saving techniques over Rahul's comments on 'Hindu-terrorism'.

13 Helpful Pets.
In solidarity with the pets who act as special friends in our lives.

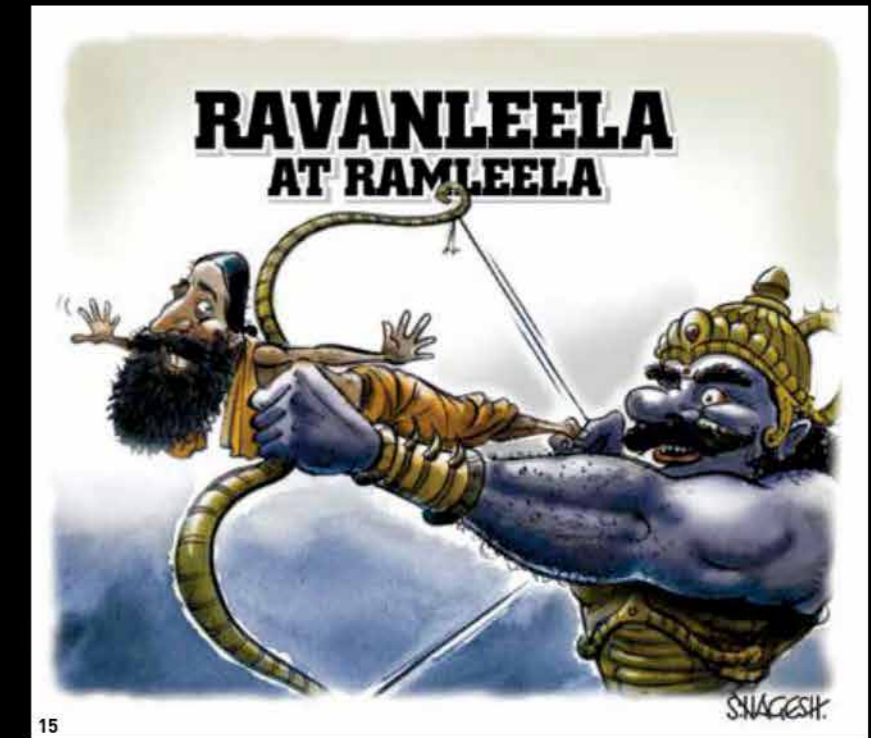
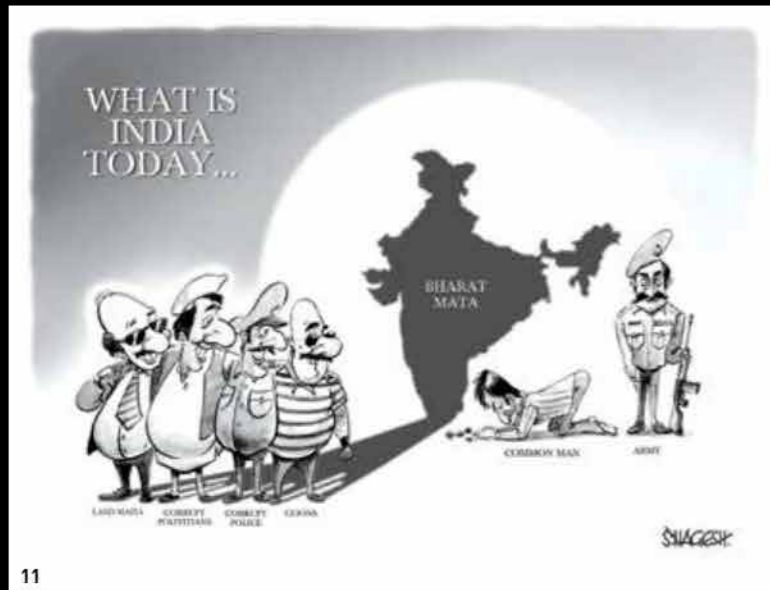
10 Who Killed Osama?
Uncle Sam, with the help of Pakistan, the once shelter of the most-wanted man.

14 The Colour of Terrorism.
Home Minister P. Chidambaram committed a faux pas with the term 'Saffron Terror'.

11 What is India Today?
Done for TOI's 'A day in the life of India' contest showcasing the present image of India.

15 Ravanleela.
The night-raid on the Baba at the Ramleela Maidan.

12 The Diplomatic Satta.
Despite the friendly invitation to watch cricket, our guests grabbed the opportunity to discuss Kashmir.



The less said, the better. It helps to keep the work clean and clutter-free. I keep my characters in a minimalistic tone. I outline my cartoons with brush strokes to maintain a consistency in my rendering style. I am partial to grey tones. As to the caricatures, a physical attribute is the best bet. Like Amitabh Bachchan's height for example. The joke is in the illustration and in the few words that are chosen to explain the idea.

Be inspired. Every artist evolves with each brush stroke and with each Ctrl+Z. One learns to render cartoons in colour or monotone with forceful brush strokes and create depth with minimalism. But what keeps the cartoons fresh is the influence of every new idea, every new style that one comes across. Be open to every inspiration that comes your way and let your art evolve with you ←