

# “Captain” Suresh and the Union Ship



*This comic is based on a study undertaken in 2020-21 by the Centre for Labour Studies at NLSIU, Bangalore, among platform food-delivery workers in Bangalore, and supported by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.*

*The comic book was conceived and prepared by Anu Biswas.*

6 am. Kengeri, Bangalore



BZZ BZZZZ BZZZ



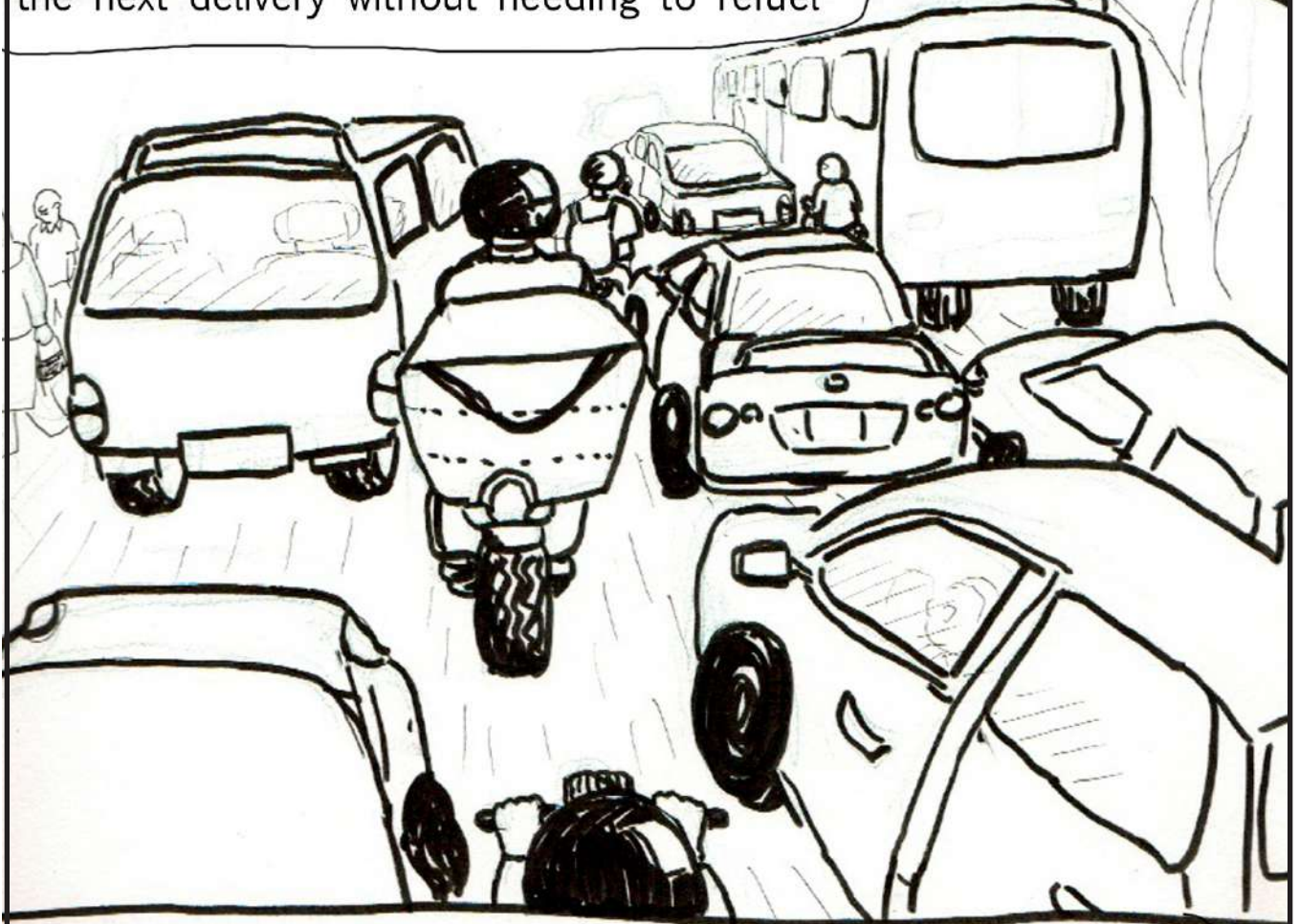
\*Yawn\*

Good morning Suresh! You have a delivery for Rupa at 5th Cross 10th main, Banashankari. Before you leave, remember to sanitize your hands!



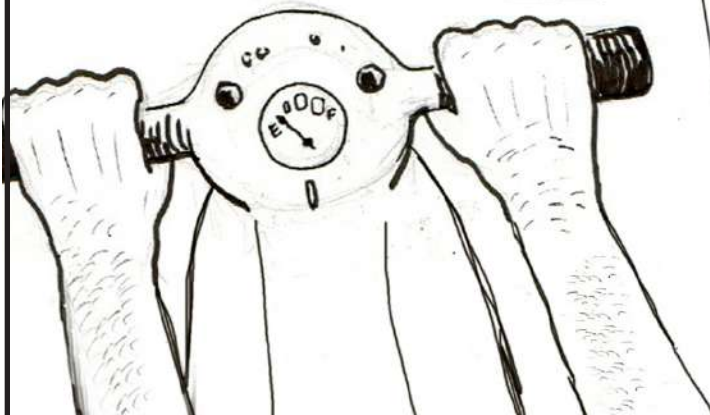



8am, two deliveries down.  
Oof this traffic is crazy..I'm going  
to be late...I wonder if I can make it to  
the next delivery without needing to refuel




Hmm better not risk it. Well,  
here goes a third of my  
earnings today! What's the point  
of earning 700 rupees a day  
when 400 goes to fuel and taxes?

This job seemed like good money  
when I started, but maintaining  
my scooter's been eating my wages  
with all the miles I'm putting on it!




A group of five people are riding a motorized rickshaw. One person is driving, and four passengers are seated behind them. The rickshaw is a three-wheeled vehicle with a large front wheel and two smaller rear wheels.

Some days I work 12 hour shifts. I've driven over 100 miles in 1 shift!

A person is riding a bicycle with a large basket attached to the front. The person is wearing a short-sleeved shirt and pants. The bicycle has a large front wheel and a smaller rear wheel.

My back has been killing me and my cough never really goes away because I'm driving through pollution every day

A person is riding a motorcycle with a large box attached to the back. The person is wearing a helmet and a short-sleeved shirt. The motorcycle is a standard two-wheeled bike.

And I'm always anxious about being able to carry out my deliveries on time.



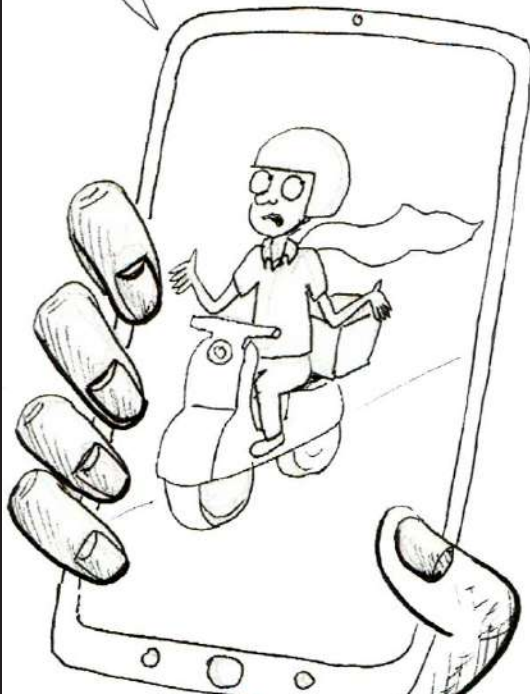
Why so gloomy captain?  
Just take advantage of  
your flexible hours!

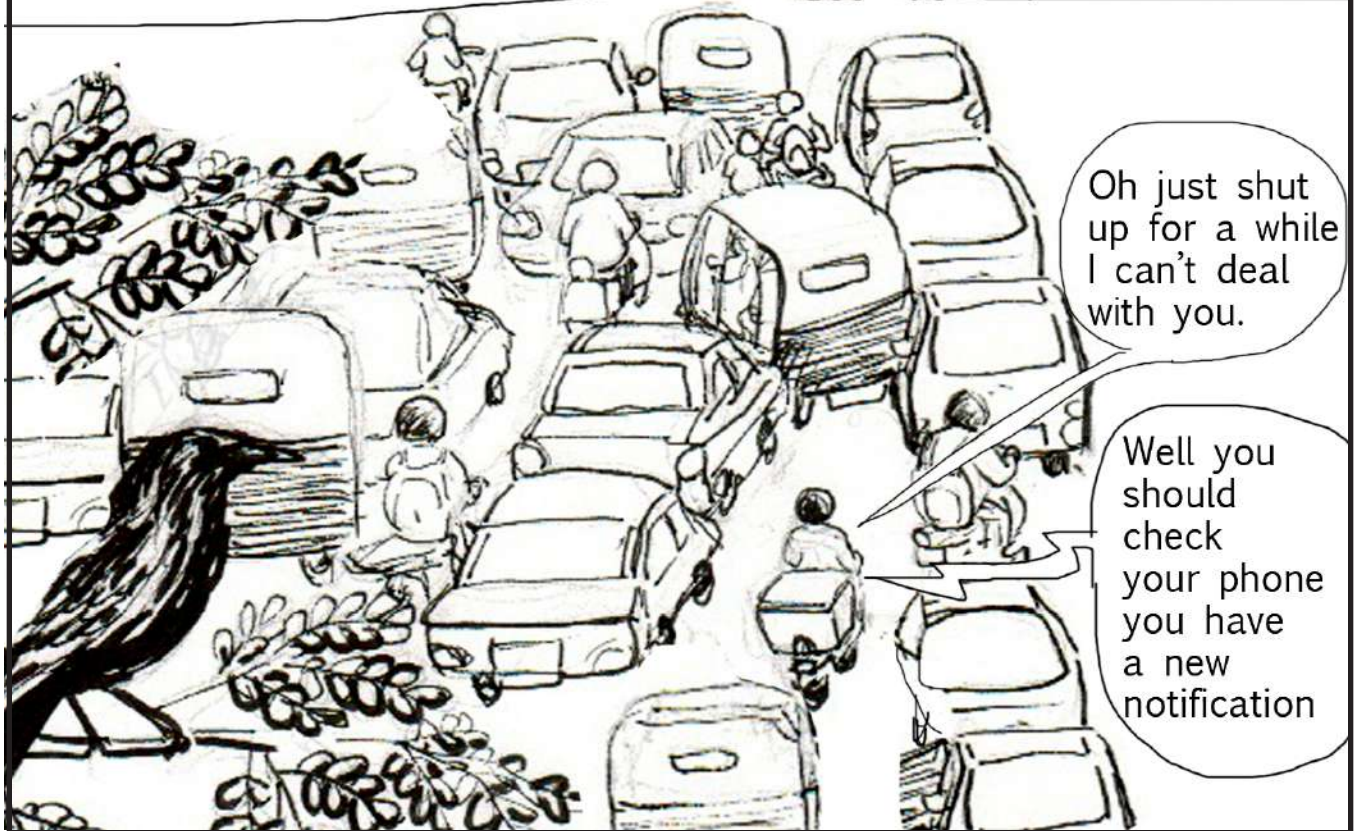
Flexible hours?! If I work any less  
than 10 hours a day you don't  
assign me deliveries!! What's the  
point of doing flexible hours  
if I'm not given any work ?



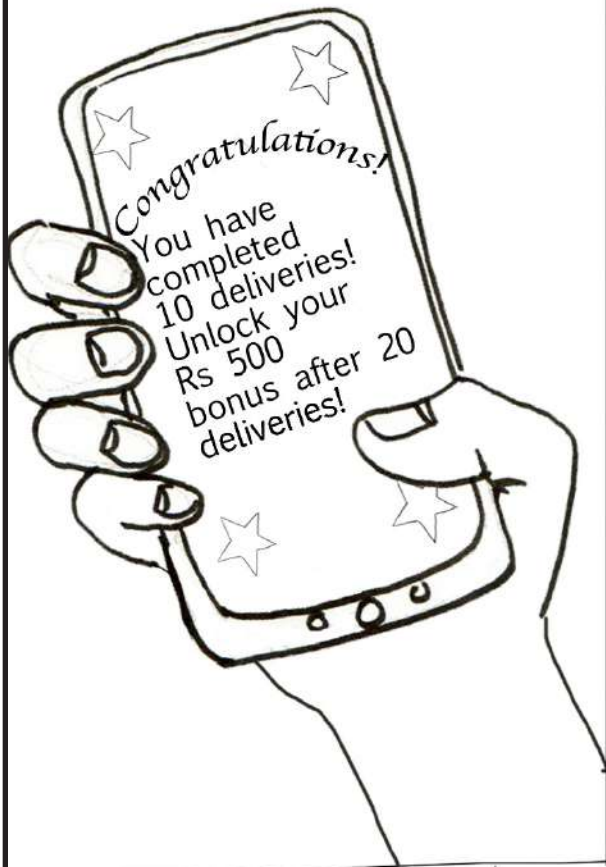
Hey, don't blame me-I'm your  
friend! Our algorithm is completely  
impartial. We love our captains!

Especially our Best Performing  
Captains who accept every  
order and execute each delivery...  
♥ Nothing makes us feel nicer than  
when you say yes to  
every single order









Oh I could really use that bonus! 20 rides in this traffic is a lot...but rent is due next week.



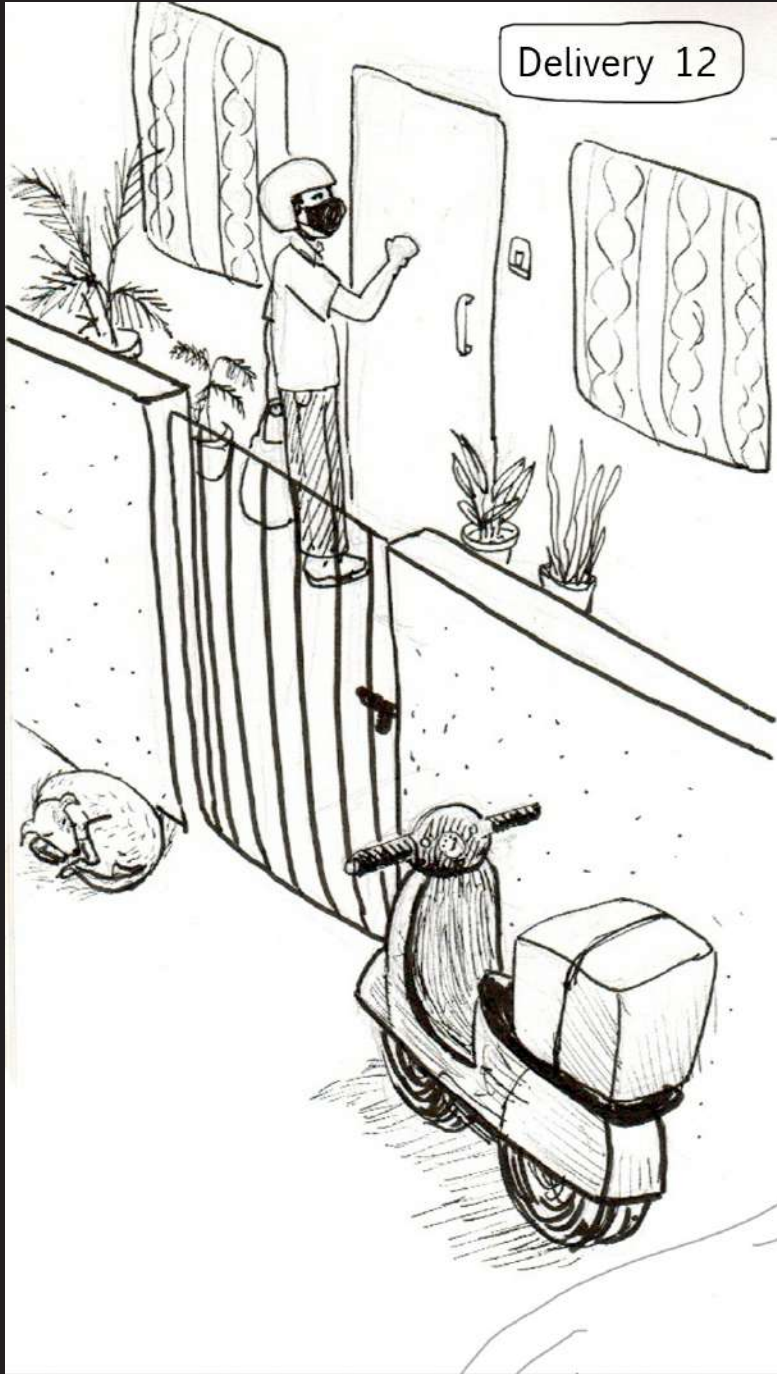
You know what...I'm gonna do this!!



20 rides here I come!!!



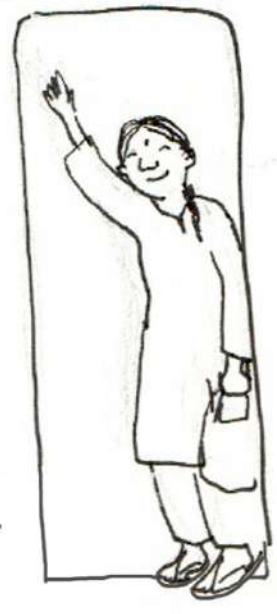
Delivery 12



Delivery 14



Delivery 16



Delivery 18

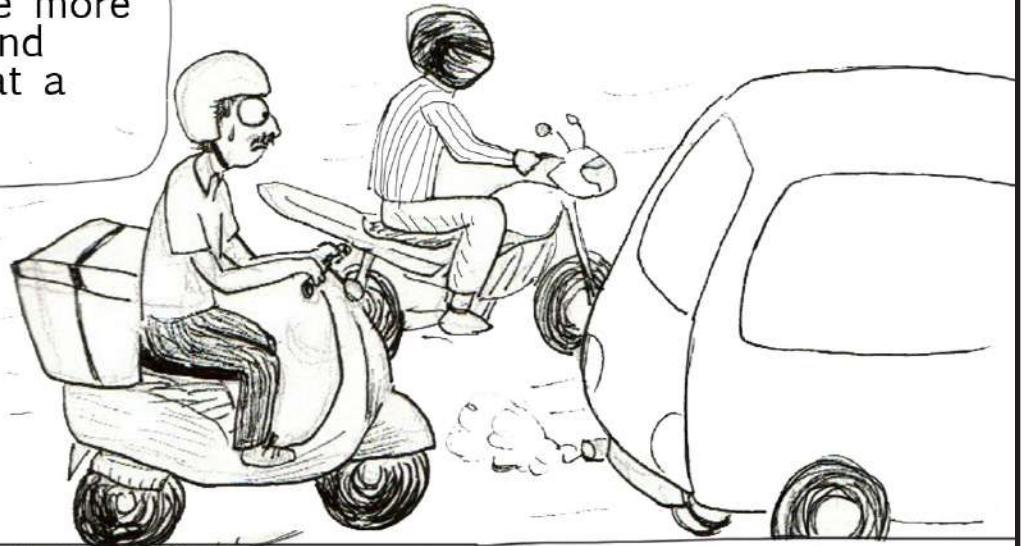


Delivery 19

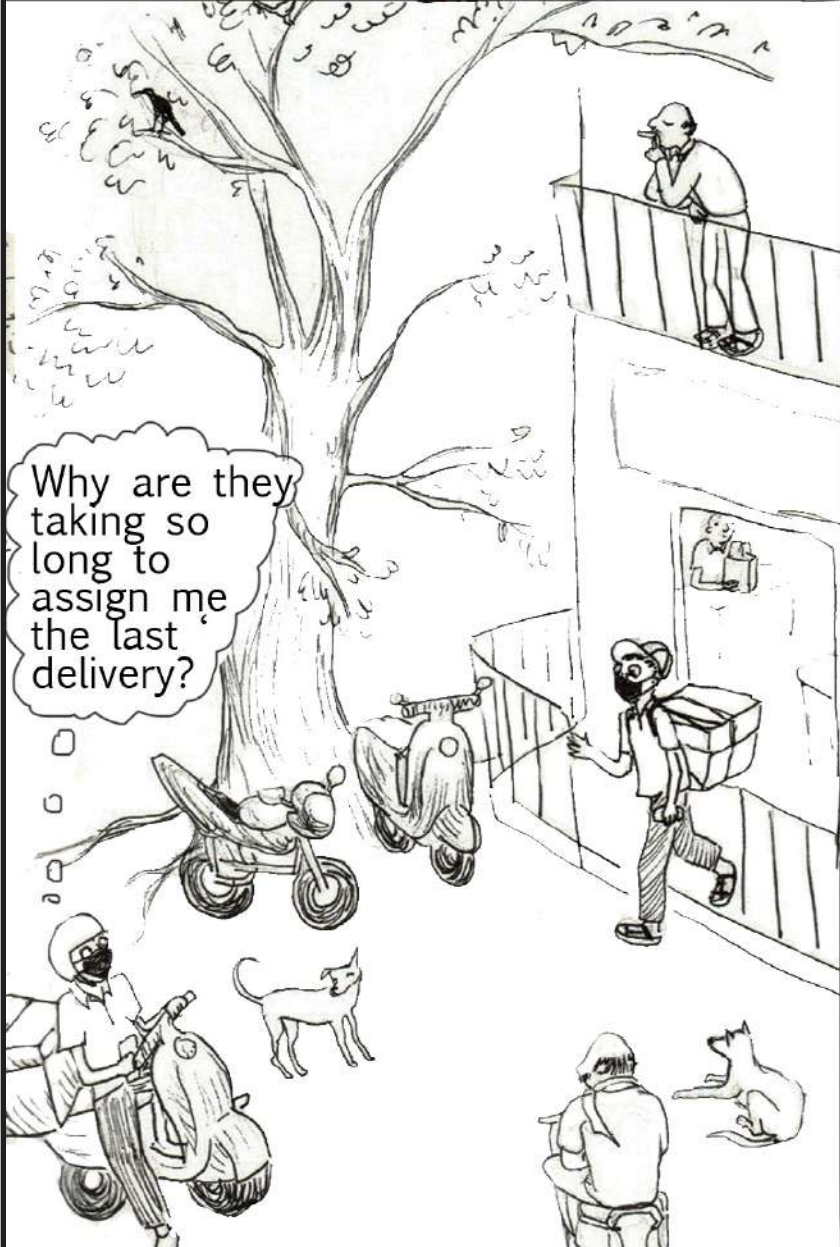




Phew, just one more delivery left and I'm done! What a crazy day.



Why are they taking so long to assign me the last delivery?

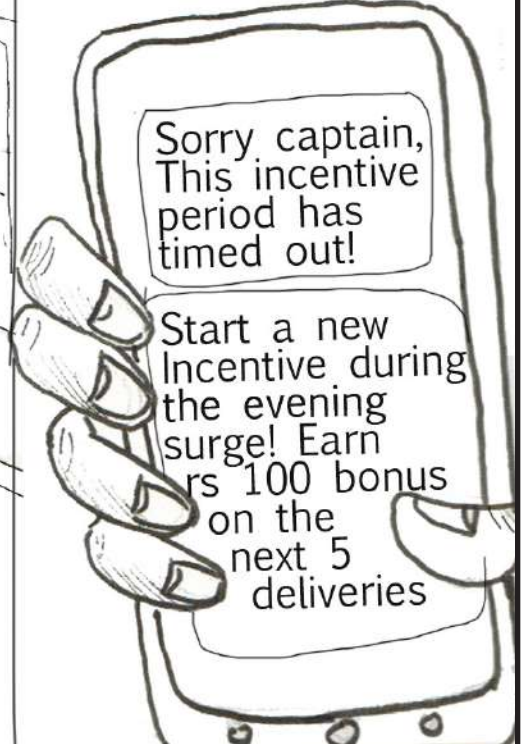


It's taking ages!



Sorry captain, This incentive period has timed out!

Start a new Incentive during the evening surge! Earn \$100 bonus on the next 5 deliveries



What?? But I just did 19 deliveries! I would never have done that many if I wasn't getting a bonus!! This is crazy!!



They skipped your last delivery for the bonus huh? That's happened to me twice now. Sometimes you get it, but there's no guarantee



This happened to you too?? It's totally unbelievable! I've been running around all afternoon!!



Yeah this job is nuts. Some of us have been meeting with the Food Delivery Worker's union to try and do something about it. I'm a member, and it feels good to just vent with other people working this job. Here's the union flyer. Come the next meeting?





That sounds great!  
I'll be there.



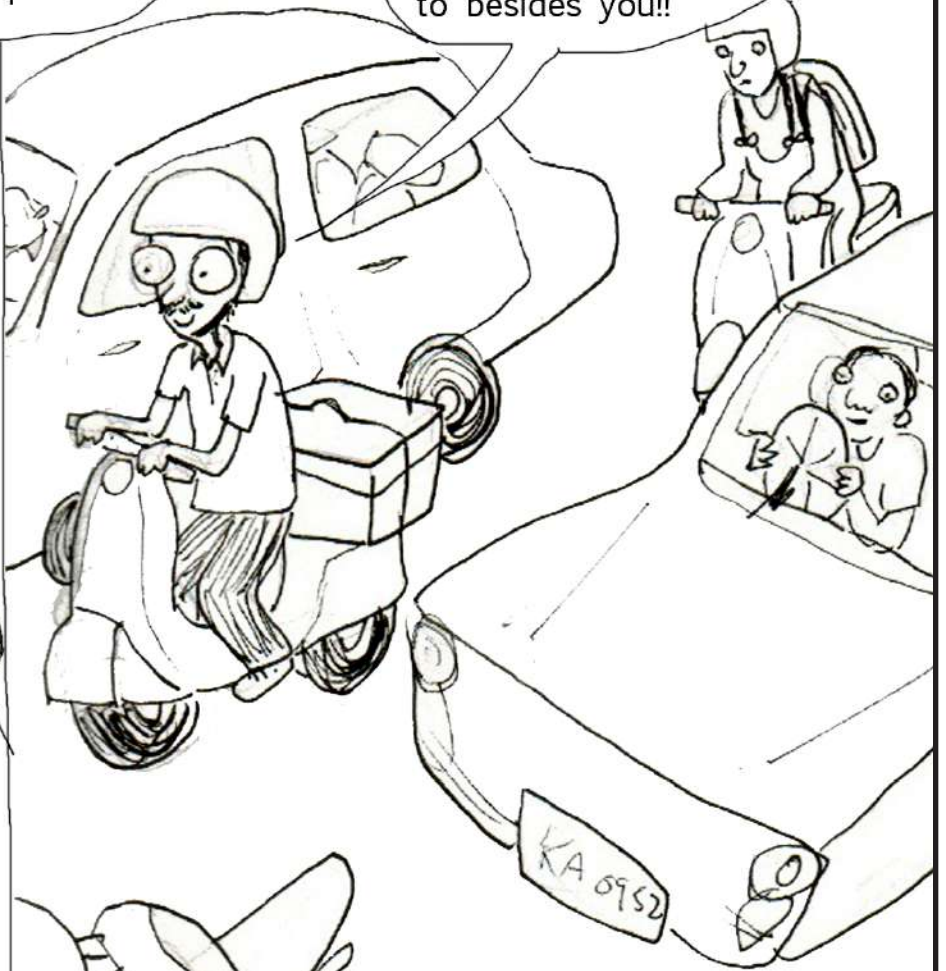
Wonderful  
I'll see you  
then!

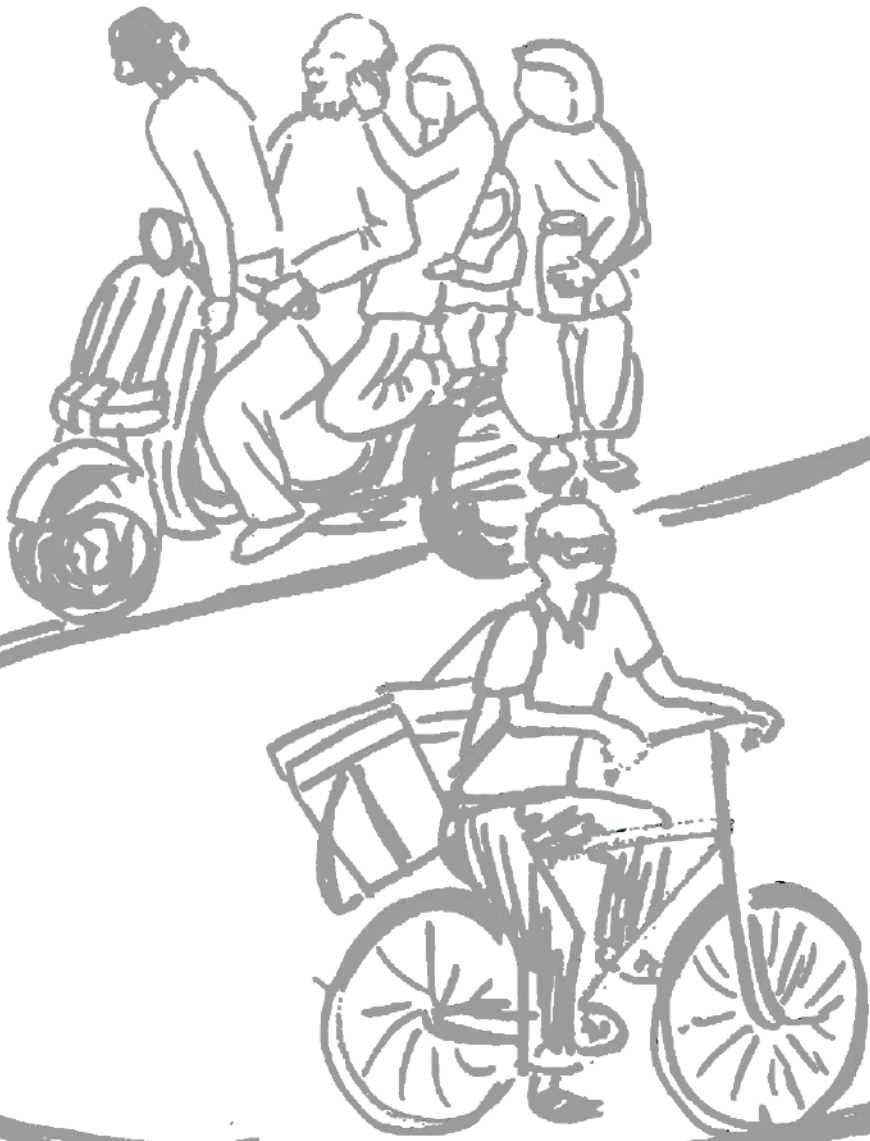


Don't join the union, captain!  
You're like family to us! We'll  
fix the algorithm, I promise!



No, I'm going to that  
meeting! I'll finally  
have someone to talk  
to besides you!!





*Design by Bhagwati Prasad*

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NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL  
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BANGALORE

