



MANN KI BAAT

VOL.5



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Dear Children,

The future of our country and of this planet lies in the hands of our young people. Whether we rise to the position of the happiest and most prosperous nation in the world or not, depends on you.

We have tried our best, the generations before us have tried their best. We have also made mistakes. You have to learn from our efforts and our errors and carve the right path for India. That is why I like to showcase our young people who have done so much to improve lives, preserve culture, revive what is lost and bring hope.

In the fifth edition of our Mann ki Baat comic, you will read about Sagar Mule who has brought to life the almost extinct Konkan art form of 'Kaavi'.

You will learn about Poorna Malavath's struggles and triumph as she became the youngest girl in the world to reach the summit of Mount Everest, at the age of 13.

You will get to know Patayat Sahu who, from the age of six, followed his grandfather and learnt all about medicinal herbs and healing from him.

Be curious, be willing to learn and don't be afraid of facing challenges.

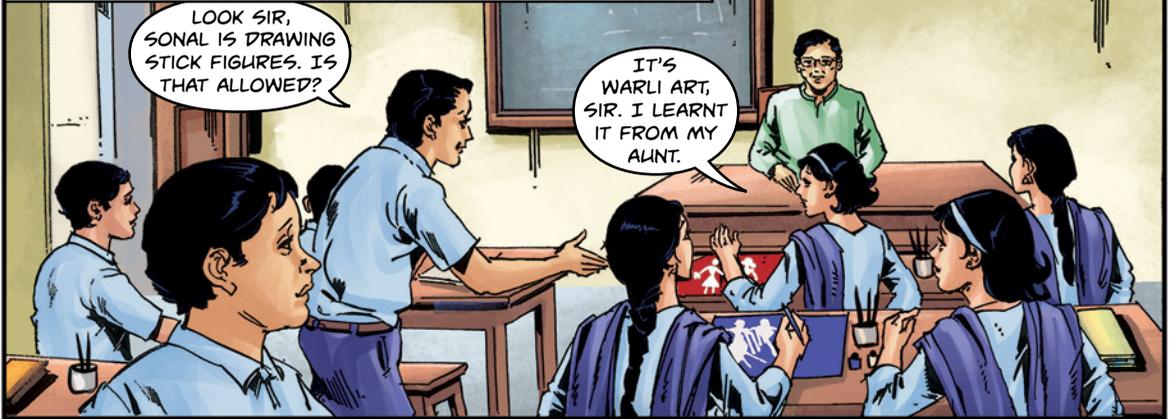


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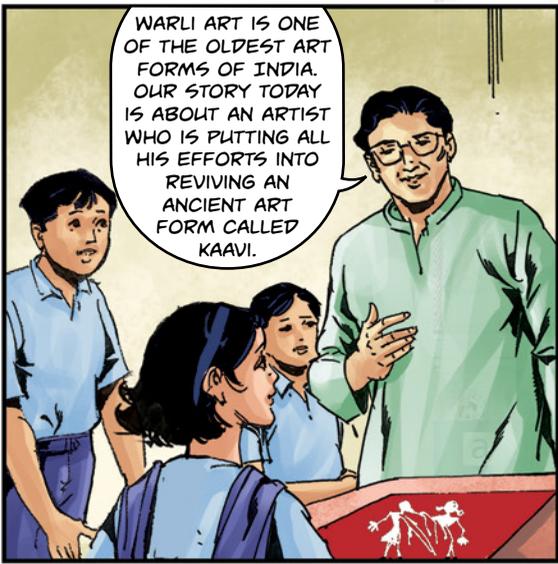
SAGAR NAIK MULE

IT WAS ART CLASS AND EVERYONE WAS BUSY BEING CREATIVE —

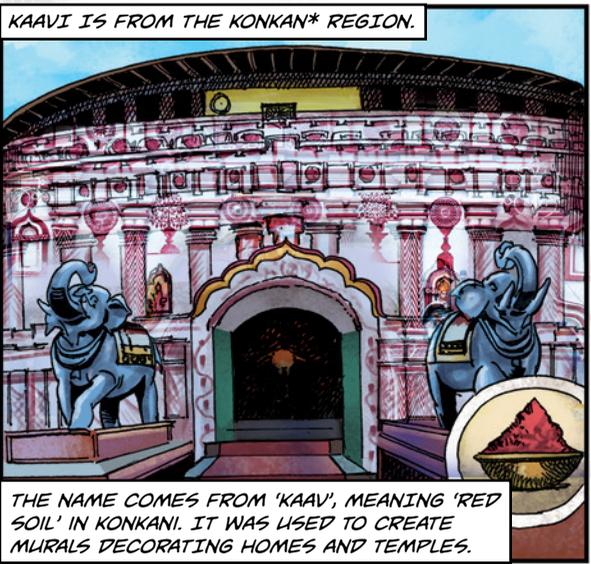


LOOK SIR, SONAL IS DRAWING STICK FIGURES. IS THAT ALLOWED?

IT'S WARLI ART, SIR. I LEARNT IT FROM MY AUNT.



WARLI ART IS ONE OF THE OLDEST ART FORMS OF INDIA. OUR STORY TODAY IS ABOUT AN ARTIST WHO IS PUTTING ALL HIS EFFORTS INTO REVIVING AN ANCIENT ART FORM CALLED KAAVI.



KAAVI IS FROM THE KONKAN* REGION.

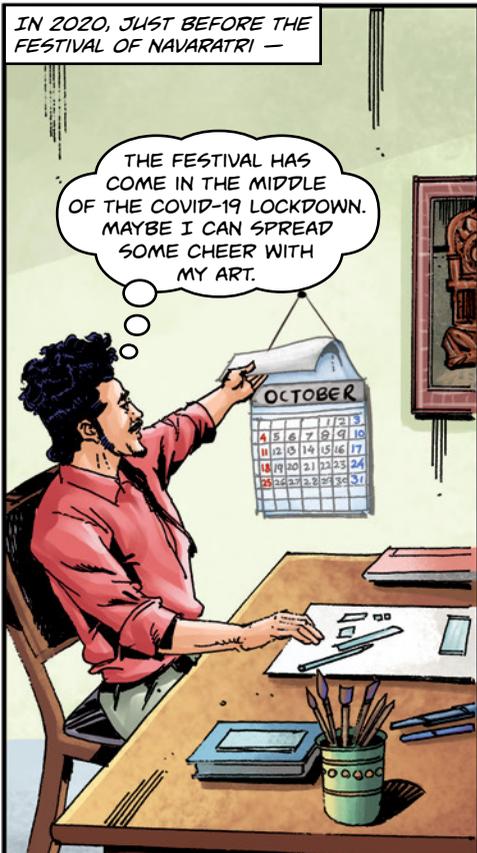
THE NAME COMES FROM 'KAAV', MEANING 'RED SOIL' IN KONKANI. IT WAS USED TO CREATE MURALS DECORATING HOMES AND TEMPLES.

THOUGH KAAVI IS ALMOST FORGOTTEN, ONE PERSON WHO IS WORKING TO REVIVE IT...



...IS SAGAR NAIK MULE, AN ARTIST FROM ADPAI VILLAGE IN GOA.

*AREA ALONG THE WESTERN COASTS OF GOA, KARNATAKA AND MAHARASHTRA



*CLAN GODDESSES



SINCE THEN, SAGAR HAS MADE MANY MORE KAAVI PAINTINGS.



IN 2023, INDIA BECAME THE HOST COUNTRY FOR THE G20 SUMMIT*. IN HONOUR OF THIS, SAGAR CREATED A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF ART AT MIRAMAR BEACH, GOA.



WHAT AN HONOUR TO CREATE ART FOR THIS SUMMIT! IT'S JUST HALF DONE, IT'S GOING TO BE MUCH BIGGER.

THIS WAS A KAAVI PATTERN CALLED THE 'FLOWER OF LIFE'.

MY WORK IS BASED ON AN ANCIENT ART FORM, BUT I ENJOY EXPERIMENTING WITH IT. MY GOAL IS NOT ONLY TO REVIVE KAAVI BUT PROMOTE IT IN A MODERN WAY.



THIS PATTERN TOOK HIM 48 HOURS TO FINISH.

AFTER BEING MENTIONED ON MANN KI BAAT, SAGAR HAS RISEN TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE.

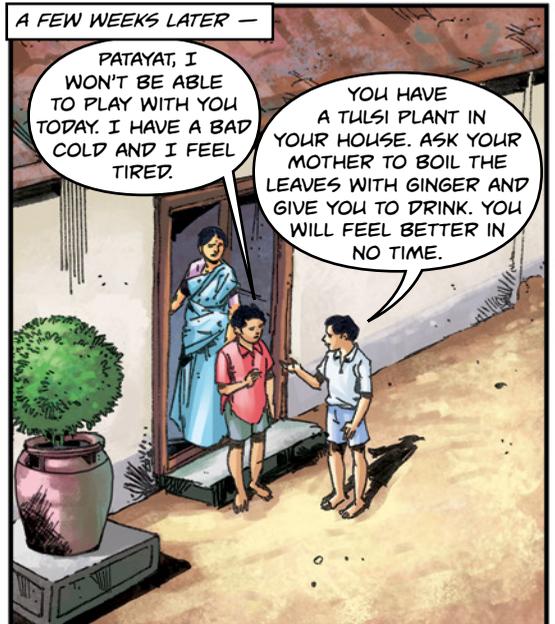
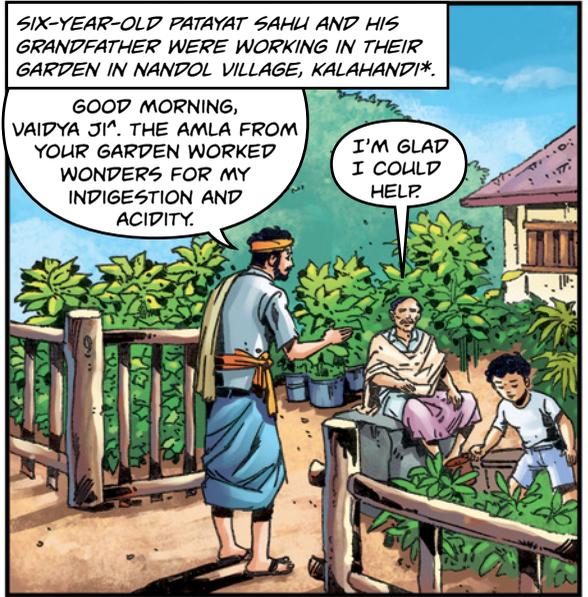
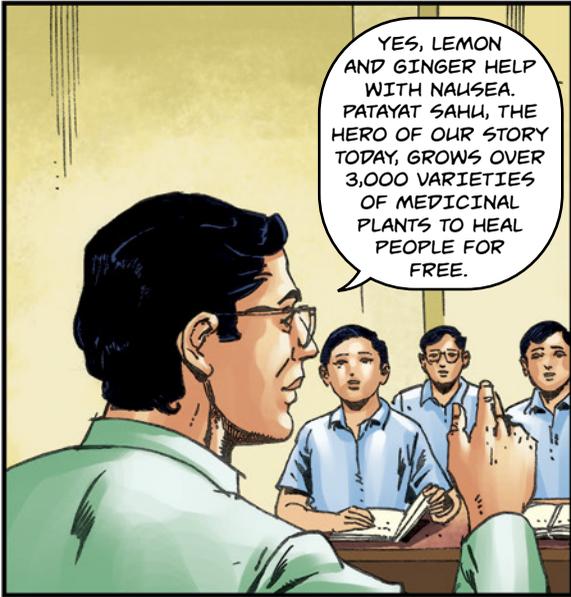
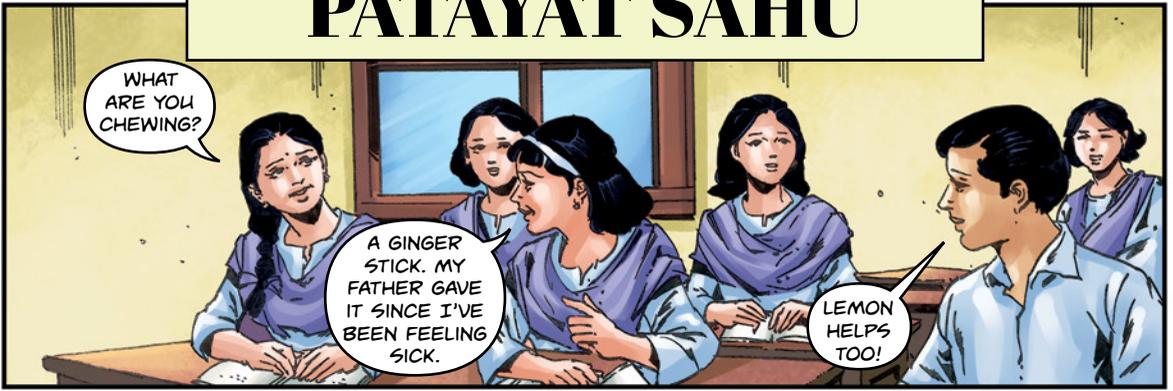


I AM SO GLAD THAT MY EFFORTS HAVE BROUGHT RECOGNITION TO REGIONAL ART. I WILL CONTINUE WORKING FOR IT.

*FORUM FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN MANY COUNTRIES

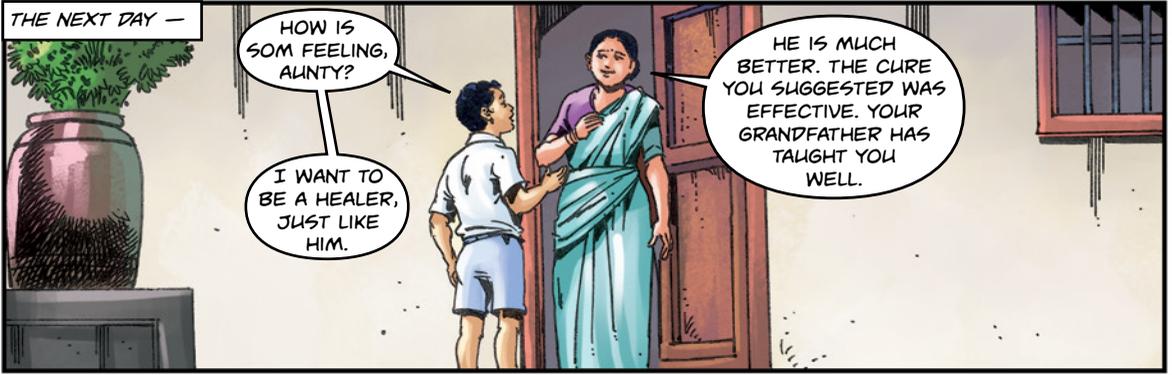


PATAYAT SAHU



*DISTRICT IN ODISHA
**GRANDFATHER IN ODISHA

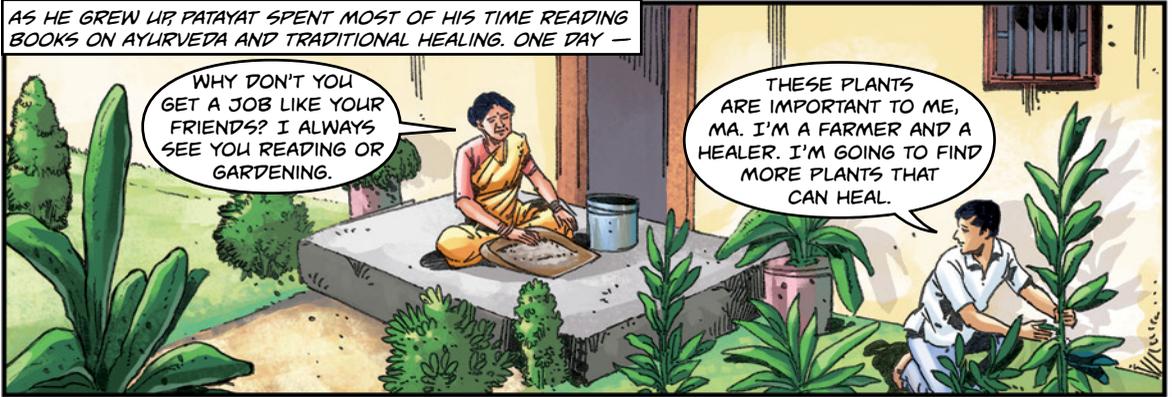
*TRADITIONAL HEALER



THE NEXT DAY —

HOW IS SOM FEELING, AUNTY?
I WANT TO BE A HEALER, JUST LIKE HIM.

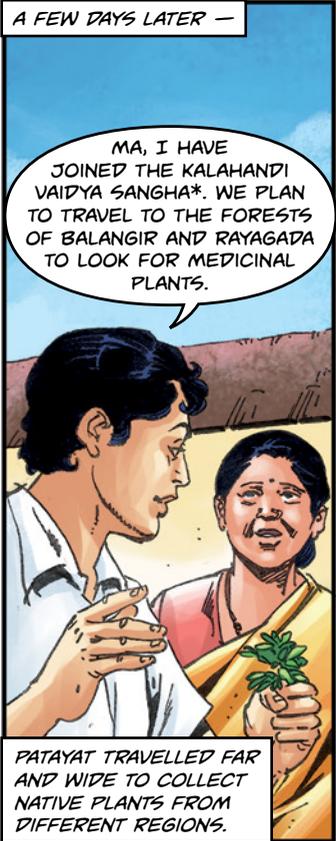
HE IS MUCH BETTER. THE CURE YOU SUGGESTED WAS EFFECTIVE. YOUR GRANDFATHER HAS TAUGHT YOU WELL.



AS HE GREW UP, PATAYAT SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME READING BOOKS ON AYURVEDA AND TRADITIONAL HEALING. ONE DAY —

WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB LIKE YOUR FRIENDS? I ALWAYS SEE YOU READING OR GARDENING.

THESE PLANTS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME, MA. I'M A FARMER AND A HEALER. I'M GOING TO FIND MORE PLANTS THAT CAN HEAL.



A FEW DAYS LATER —

MA, I HAVE JOINED THE KALAHANDI VAIDYA SANGHA*. WE PLAN TO TRAVEL TO THE FORESTS OF BALANGIR AND RAYAGADA TO LOOK FOR MEDICINAL PLANTS.

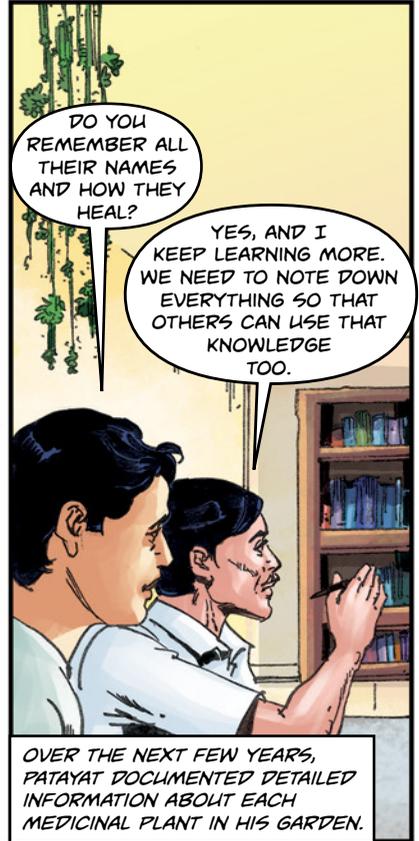
PATAYAT TRAVELLED FAR AND WIDE TO COLLECT NATIVE PLANTS FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS.



OVER THE NEXT FORTY YEARS, PATAYAT'S SMALL GARDEN EXPANDED TO OVER 1.5 ACRES WITH MORE THAN 3,000 DIFFERENT PLANT SPECIES. HIS OWN FAMILY HAD ALSO GROWN.

BABA*, ARE YOU DRAWING THE PLANTS IN OUR GARDEN?

YES, SUSHANT, EVERY PLANT HAS A PURPOSE. I'M SKETCHING THEM TO REMEMBER THEIR USES.



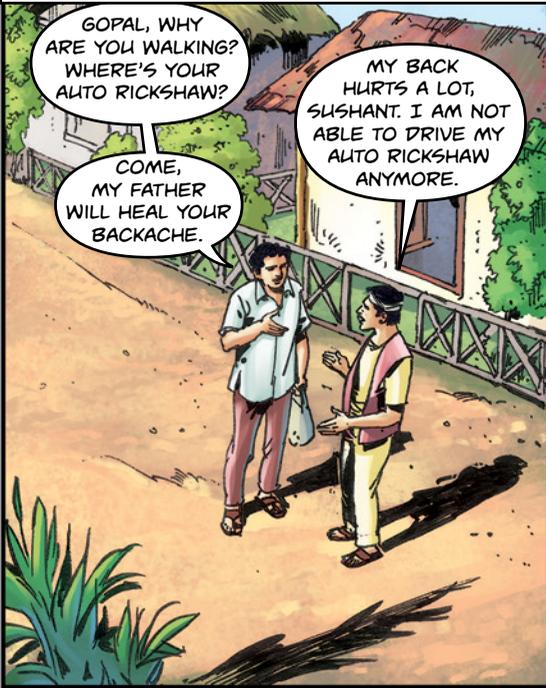
DO YOU REMEMBER ALL THEIR NAMES AND HOW THEY HEAL?

YES, AND I KEEP LEARNING MORE. WE NEED TO NOTE DOWN EVERYTHING SO THAT OTHERS CAN USE THAT KNOWLEDGE TOO.

OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, PATAYAT DOCUMENTED DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT EACH MEDICINAL PLANT IN HIS GARDEN.

*A COLLECTIVE OF TRADITIONAL HEALERS IN KALAHANDI DISTRICT
*FATHER IN ODIA

PATAYAT CONTINUED TO WORK AS A FARMER DURING THE DAY AND A VAIDYA AT NIGHT. ONE EVENING —



GOPAL, WHY ARE YOU WALKING? WHERE'S YOUR AUTO RICKSHAW?

MY BACK HURTS A LOT, SUSHANT. I AM NOT ABLE TO DRIVE MY AUTO RICKSHAW ANYMORE.

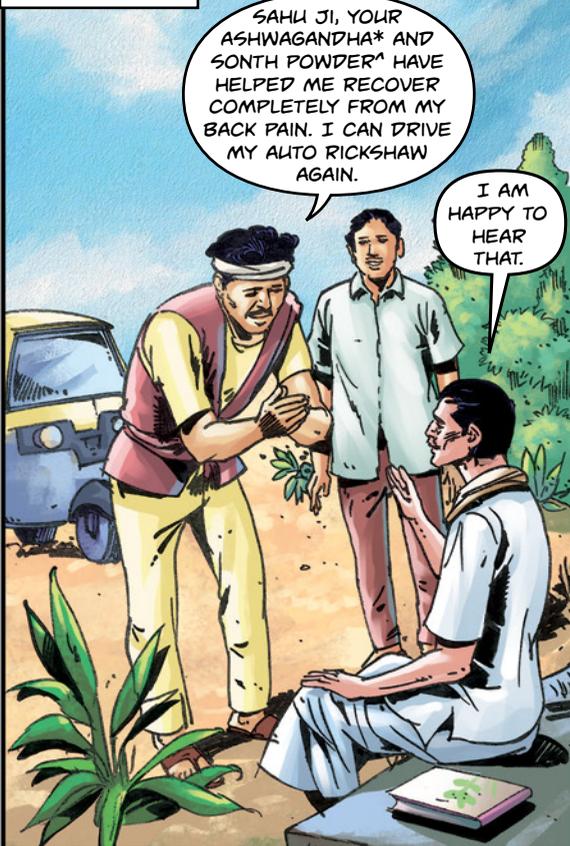
COME, MY FATHER WILL HEAL YOUR BACKACHE.



BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR IT.

MY FATHER TREATS PEOPLE FOR FREE.

A WEEK LATER —



SAHU JI, YOUR ASHWAGANDHA* AND SONTH POWDER^ HAVE HELPED ME RECOVER COMPLETELY FROM MY BACK PAIN. I CAN DRIVE MY AUTO RICKSHAW AGAIN.

I AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.

IN 2021, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI PRAISED PATAYAT SAHU ON HIS RADIO PROGRAMME, MANN KI BAAT.



65-YEAR-OLD PATAYAT SAHU JI'S WORK IN TRADITIONAL HEALING IS AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND HEALTHCARE.

PATAYAT SAHU RECEIVED THE PADMA SHRI IN 2023, FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE CONSERVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS.



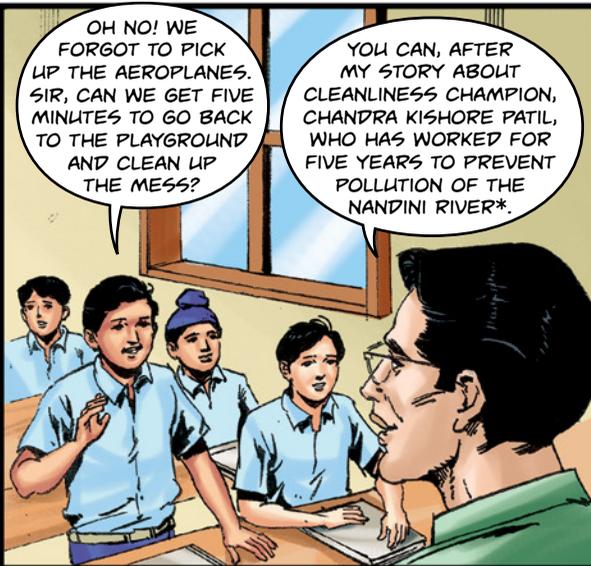
*HEALING HERB
^HERBAL POWDER WITH DRIED GINGER

CHANDRA KISHORE PATIL

IT WAS RECESS AND THE CHILDREN WERE BUSY PLAYING WITH PAPER PLANES.



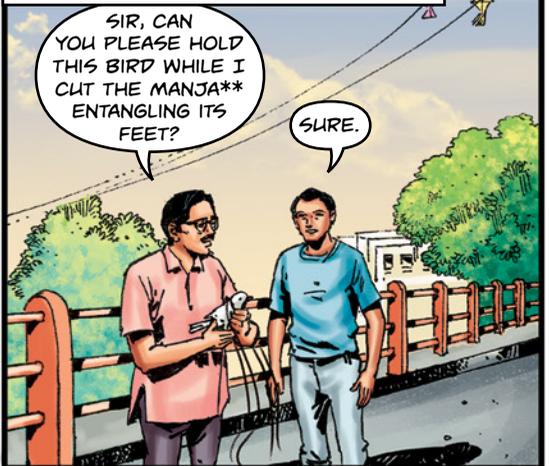
JUST THEN, THE BELL RANG AND THE STUDENTS RUSHED BACK TO CLASS.



OH NO! WE FORGOT TO PICK UP THE AEROPLANES, SIR, CAN WE GET FIVE MINUTES TO GO BACK TO THE PLAYGROUND AND CLEAN UP THE MESS?

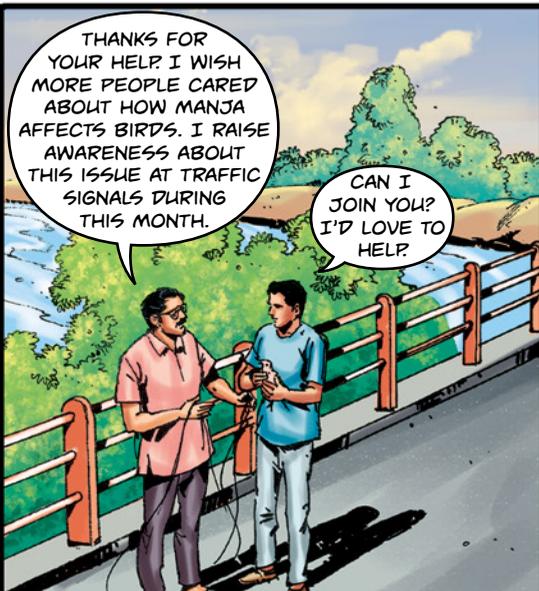
YOU CAN, AFTER MY STORY ABOUT CLEANLINESS CHAMPION, CHANDRA KISHORE PATIL, WHO HAS WORKED FOR FIVE YEARS TO PREVENT POLLUTION OF THE NANDINI RIVER*.

IT WAS THE DAY OF SANKRANTI[†] IN 2015. CHANDRA KISHORE PATIL WAS TAKING A WALK ON THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE NANDINI RIVER IN NASHIK, WHEN —



SIR, CAN YOU PLEASE HOLD THIS BIRD WHILE I CUT THE MANJA** ENTANGLING ITS FEET?

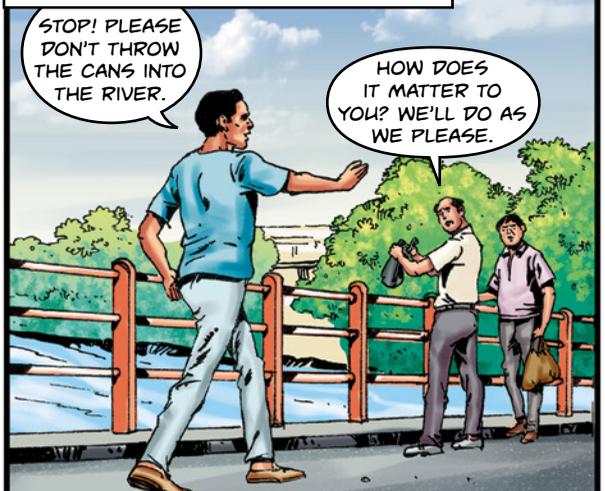
SURE.



THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. I WISH MORE PEOPLE CARED ABOUT HOW MANJA AFFECTS BIRDS. I RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THIS ISSUE AT TRAFFIC SIGNALS DURING THIS MONTH.

CAN I JOIN YOU? I'D LOVE TO HELP.

ONE DAY, AS CHANDRA KISHORE STOOD ON THE BRIDGE TALKING TO PASSERS-BY, HE SAW PEOPLE DUMPING GARBAGE INTO THE RIVER. ONE EVENING —



STOP! PLEASE DON'T THROW THE CANS INTO THE RIVER.

HOW DOES IT MATTER TO YOU? WE'LL DO AS WE PLEASE.

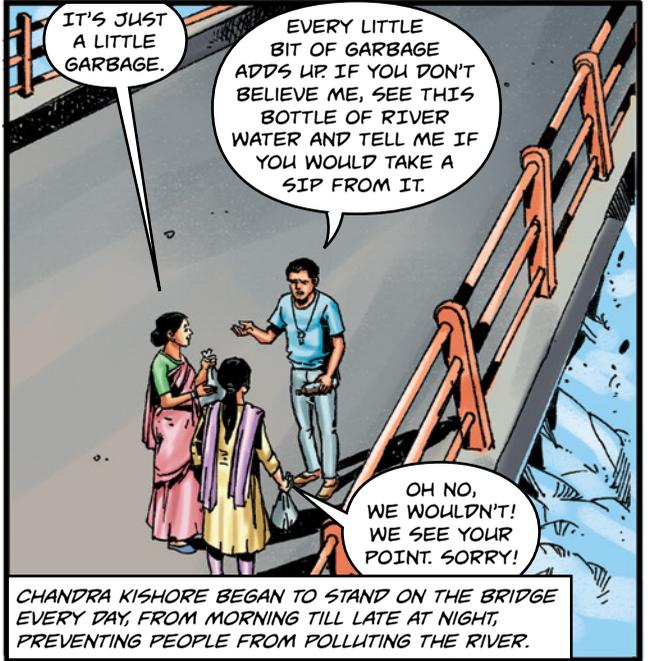
*A TRIBUTARY OF THE GODAVARI RIVER
[†]HINDI FESTIVAL

**STRING COATED WITH GLASS POWDER, USED FOR KITE FLYING

THE INCIDENT DEEPLY DISTURBED CHANDRA KISHORE. ARMED WITH A WHISTLE, HE WALKED TO THE BRIDGE EARLY NEXT MORNING —



STOP! DON'T THROW GARBAGE INTO THE RIVER. IT'S POLLUTING THE RIVER.



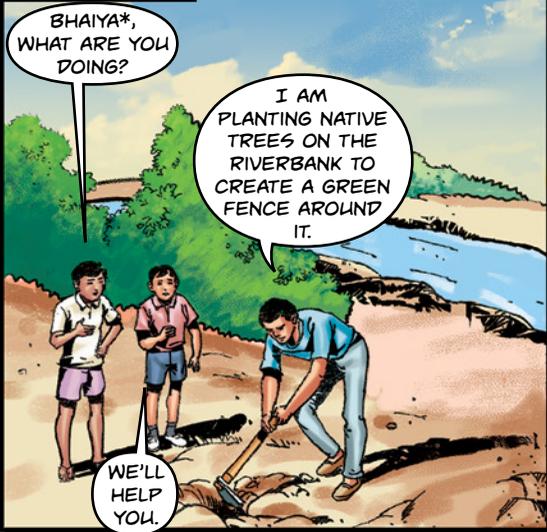
IT'S JUST A LITTLE GARBAGE.

EVERY LITTLE BIT OF GARBAGE ADDS UP. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, SEE THIS BOTTLE OF RIVER WATER AND TELL ME IF YOU WOULD TAKE A SIP FROM IT.

OH NO, WE WOULDN'T! WE SEE YOUR POINT. SORRY!

CHANDRA KISHORE BEGAN TO STAND ON THE BRIDGE EVERY DAY, FROM MORNING TILL LATE AT NIGHT, PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM POLLUTING THE RIVER.

A YEAR LATER —

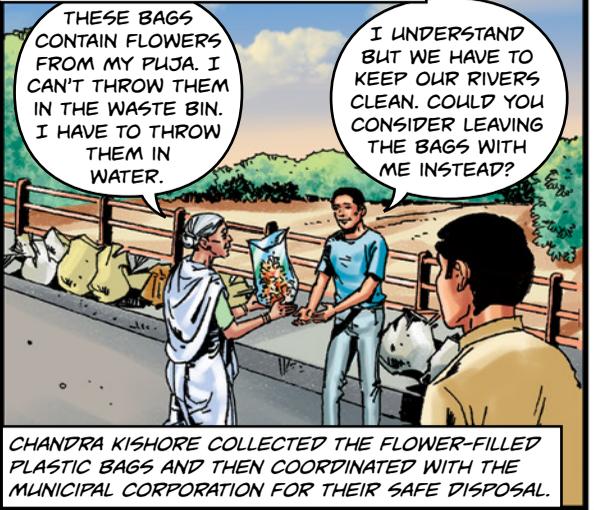


BHAIYA*, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I AM PLANTING NATIVE TREES ON THE RIVERBANK TO CREATE A GREEN FENCE AROUND IT.

WE'LL HELP YOU.

DURING DUSSEHRA*, CHANDRA KISHORE ENCOUNTERED FRESH CHALLENGES.



THESE BAGS CONTAIN FLOWERS FROM MY PUJA. I CAN'T THROW THEM IN THE WASTE BIN. I HAVE TO THROW THEM IN WATER.

I UNDERSTAND BUT WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR RIVERS CLEAN. COULD YOU CONSIDER LEAVING THE BAGS WITH ME INSTEAD?

CHANDRA KISHORE COLLECTED THE FLOWER-FILLED PLASTIC BAGS AND THEN COORDINATED WITH THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR THEIR SAFE DISPOSAL.

IN MARCH 2022, WHEN PM MODI PRAISED HIS EFFORTS ON HIS RADIO PROGRAMME —



I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE RECOGNITION FROM PM MODI. MANY PEOPLE BEHAVE RUDELY WITH ME, BUT I STILL PUSH THEM TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. I WANT OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF THIS RIVER.

*BROTHER IN HINDI

*HINDU FESTIVAL

JATIN LALIT SINGH

THERE WAS MUCH EXCITEMENT IN THE CLASS.



LAKSHMI AND I ARE GOING TO TAKE PART IN THE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ AT THE INTER SCHOOL MEET NEXT MONTH.

THAT'S GOOD. MAKE SURE YOU BOTH SPEND TIME READING LOTS OF BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY TO BRUSH UP YOUR KNOWLEDGE.



YES, OUR LIBRARY HAS A LOT OF BOOKS ON DIFFERENT TOPICS.

UNFORTUNATELY, SOME PLACES IN OUR COUNTRY DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SO MANY BOOKS. OUR STORY TODAY IS ABOUT A MAN CALLED JATIN LALIT SINGH WHO SET UP A COMMUNITY LIBRARY IN UTTAR PRADESH.

IN MARCH 2020, INDIA WENT UNDER LOCKDOWN DUE TO COVID-19. JATIN LALIT SINGH ALSO WENT HOME TO HIS VILLAGE IN HARDOI*. THE 24-YEAR-OLD WAS A LAWYER PRACTISING IN DELHI.



BHAIYA*, CAN YOU HELP ME GET THE BOOKS I NEED FOR MY ENGINEERING ENTRANCE EXAM? THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND BOOK STORES ARE CLOSED.

LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

A WEEK LATER, JATIN MANAGED TO GET SOME BOOKS FROM HIS FRIENDS.



THANK YOU, BHAIYA. I WILL SHARE THESE WITH MY FRIENDS TOO.

THERE MUST BE SO MANY YOUNGSTERS STRUGGLING WITHOUT BOOKS DURING THIS PANDEMIC.

JATIN DECIDED TO FIND A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION.

HE NOTICED VACANT LAND IN THE PREMISES OF A NEARBY TEMPLE AND APPROACHED THE AUTHORITIES.



CAN I USE THIS PLACE TO BUILD A COMMUNITY CENTRE? IT WILL HOUSE A LIBRARY AND A STUDY CENTRE.

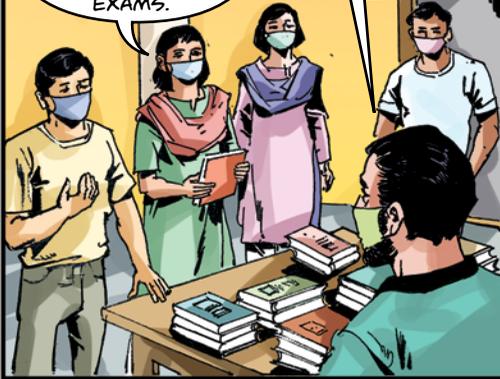
THAT IS A GOOD THOUGHT. WE WILL SUPPORT YOU.

*A DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH
*BROTHER IN HINDI

WHILE THE CENTRE WAS BEING BUILT, JATIN AND HIS FRIENDS STARTED A BOOK COLLECTION DRIVE. A FEW WEEKS LATER —

WE NOW HAVE OVER 100 BOOKS ON HINDI AND ENGLISH LITERATURE, AS WELL AS BOOKS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS.

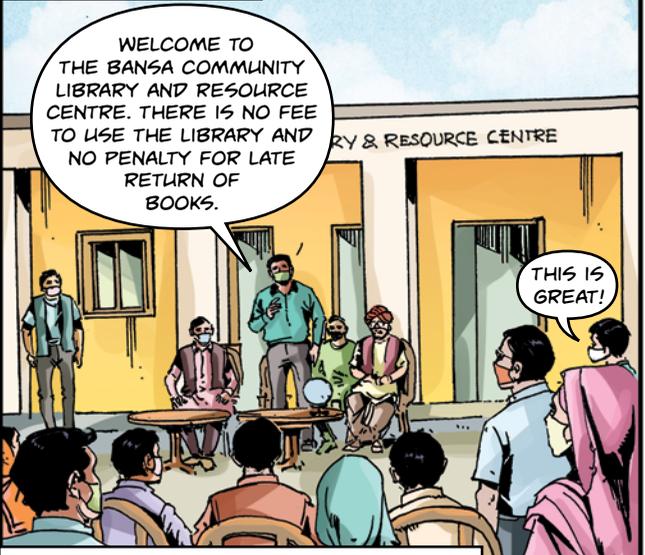
EXCELLENT JOB, EVERYONE! LET'S KEEP SPREADING THE WORD.



IN NOVEMBER 2020 —

WELCOME TO THE BANSA COMMUNITY LIBRARY AND RESOURCE CENTRE. THERE IS NO FEE TO USE THE LIBRARY AND NO PENALTY FOR LATE RETURN OF BOOKS.

THIS IS GREAT!



A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WENT AROUND ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO VISIT THE LIBRARY.

ALONG WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS, WOMEN TOO BEGAN TO VISIT THE LIBRARY.

I HAVEN'T READ A BOOK SINCE MY SCHOOL DAYS. THERE ARE SO MANY BOOKS HERE.

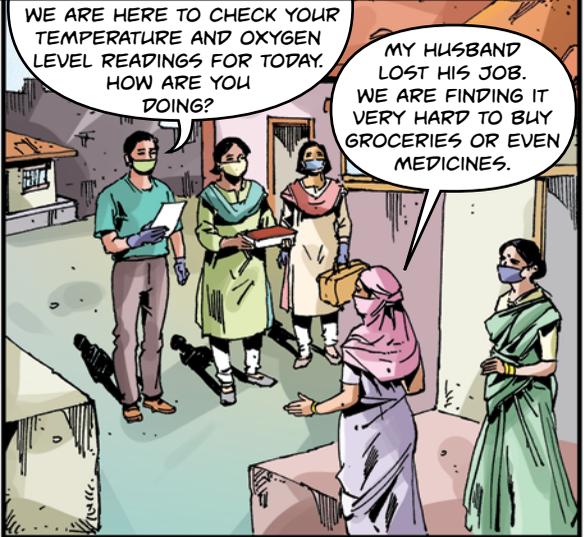
WE CAN EVEN MEET HERE ONCE IN A WHILE TO READ TOGETHER.



WHEN THE SECOND WAVE OF THE PANDEMIC STRUCK IN MARCH 2021, JATIN LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN CALLED 'RURAL COVID RELIEF WORK'.

WE ARE HERE TO CHECK YOUR TEMPERATURE AND OXYGEN LEVEL READINGS FOR TODAY. HOW ARE YOU DOING?

MY HUSBAND LOST HIS JOB. WE ARE FINDING IT VERY HARD TO BUY GROCERIES OR EVEN MEDICINES.



YOU'RE NOT ALONE, THE COMMUNITY IS HERE FOR YOU. WE'LL GIVE YOU A RATION KIT AND HELP YOU HANDLE YOUR HEALTH EXPENSES TOO.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU!



JATIN AND HIS TEAM GATHERED FUNDS AND EXTENDED SUPPORT TO OVER 11,000 PEOPLE IN BANSA AND THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES. THEY EVEN HELPED THE VILLAGERS GET COVID VACCINATIONS.



MANY MONTHS LATER, WHEN NORMALCY RETURNED —



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS DURING THE PANDEMIC. NOW, WE SHOULD FIND WAYS TO SPREAD THE LOVE FOR READING BEYOND BANSA.

LET US ORGANISE READING WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS TO INSTIL THE LOVE OF READING IN CHILDREN.

JATIN AND HIS TEAM TRAVELLED ACROSS HARDOI DISTRICT, CONDUCTING WORKSHOPS IN LOCAL SCHOOLS.



JATIN BHAIYA, THE BOOKS YOU HAVE READ TO US ARE WONDERFUL. CAN WE GET MORE BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY?

CAN WE START A BOOK CLUB, SO WE CAN MEET EVERY WEEK TO TALK ABOUT OUR FAVOURITE BOOKS?

ABSOLUTELY! WE WILL HELP YOU.

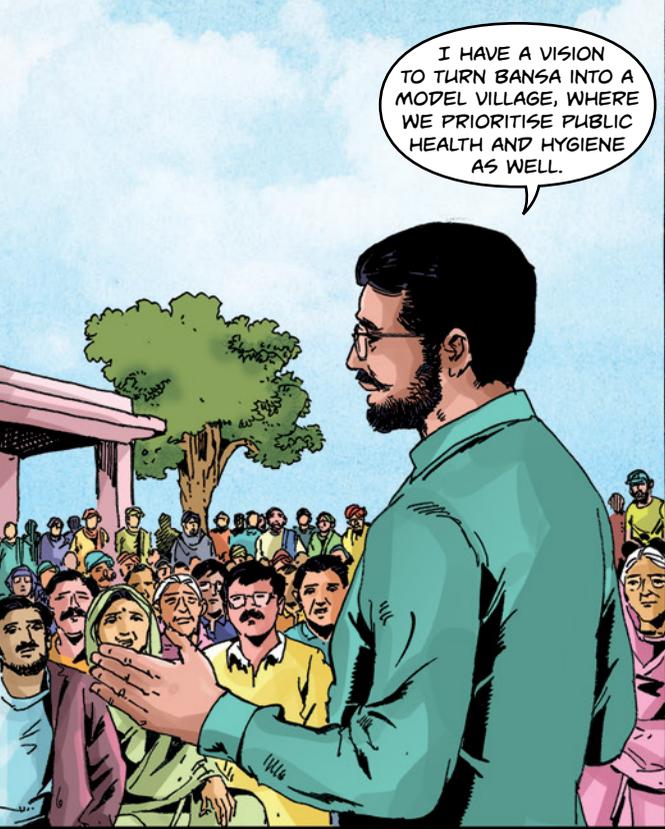
BY 2022, JATIN AND HIS TEAM WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE READING MATERIAL TO PEOPLE IN 36 VILLAGES. THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY CURRENTLY HOUSES MORE THAN 3,000 BOOKS.

JATIN'S EFFORTS WERE PRAISED BY PM NARENDRA MODI, ON HIS PROGRAMME, MANN KI BAAT.



EVEN A SMALL LAMP LIT IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION CAN ILLUMINATE ALL OF SOCIETY. JATIN LALIT SINGH JI OF BANSA VILLAGE IS ENGAGED IN KINDLING THE FLAME OF EDUCATION.

HUMBLED BY THE PRAISE, JATIN WANTS TO DOUBLE HIS EFFORTS FOR THE WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY.



I HAVE A VISION TO TURN BANSA INTO A MODEL VILLAGE, WHERE WE PRIORITISE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE AS WELL.

ROHAN KALE

NAIR SIR AND THE STUDENTS HAD GONE ON A SCHOOL TRIP TO THE MEHRAOLI ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK.

WE HAVE BEEN WALKING FOR AN HOUR LOOKING AT TOMBS AND RUINS. I'M TIRED.

HEY, WHAT'S THIS?

THIS IS RAJON KI BAOLI, A FAMOUS STEPWELL* COMMISSIONED BY DAULLAT KHAN[†]. LET'S REST HERE WHILE I TELL YOU HOW ROHAN KALE HAS RESTORED HUNDREDS OF STEPWELLS IN MAHARASHTRA.

IT WAS 2017 AND ROHAN KALE, A HUMAN RESOURCES PROFESSIONAL FROM MUMBAI, HAD GONE ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO GUJARAT.

EXCUSE ME, CAN YOU RECOMMEND SOME HISTORIC PLACES TO SEE OVER THE WEEKEND?

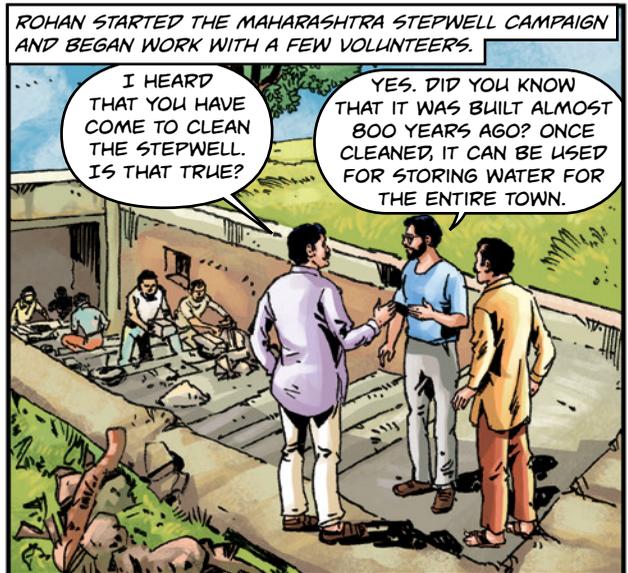
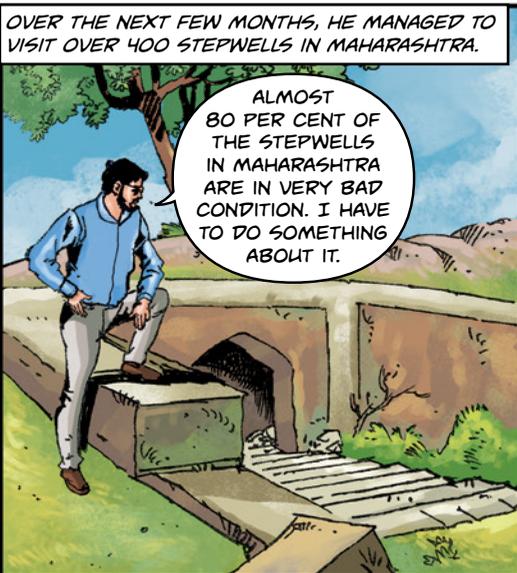
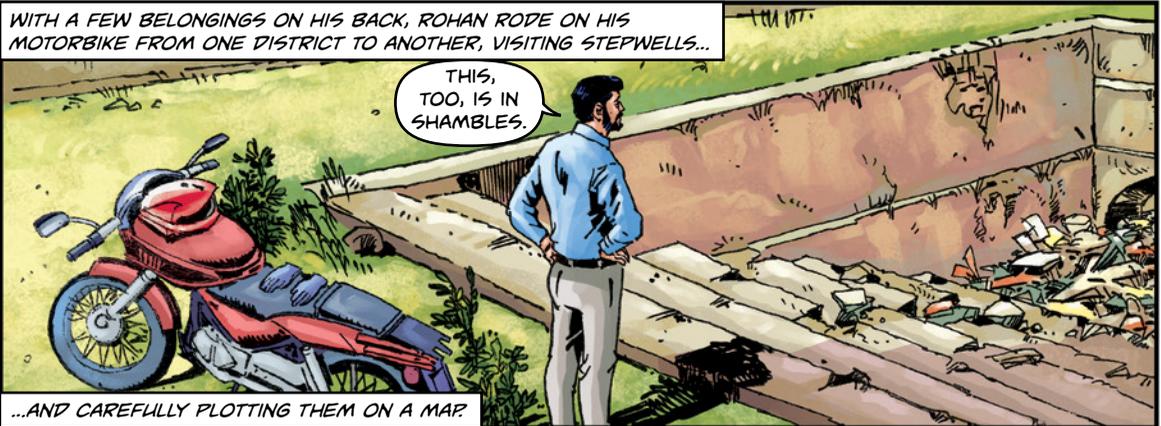
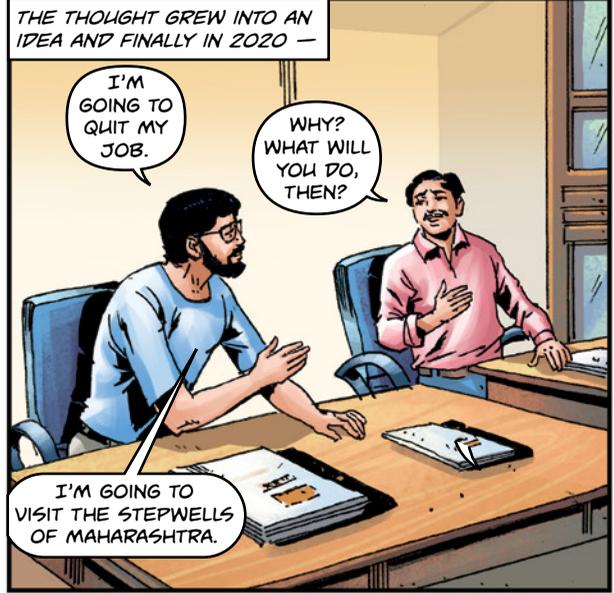
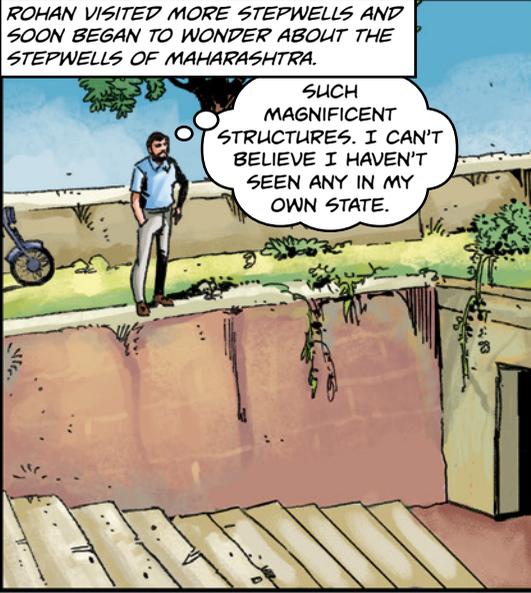
THERE ARE A LOT OF HERITAGE SITES HERE — FORTS AND STEPWELLS THAT ARE ARCHITECTURAL WONDERS.

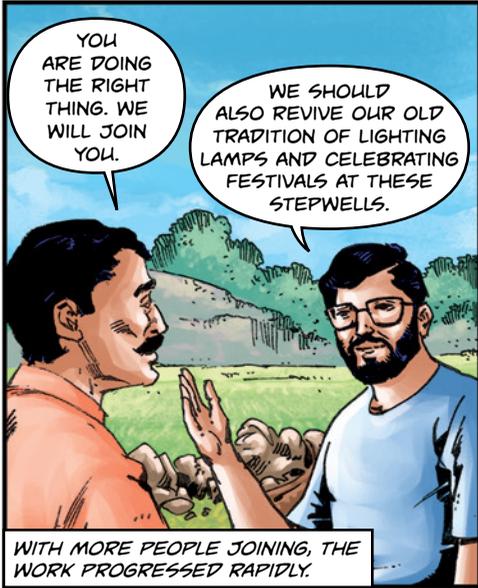
ROHAN'S FIRST STOP WAS RANI KI VAV, AN ANCIENT STEPWELL.

THE ARCHITECTURE IS SO INTRICATE. SIR, WOULD YOU KNOW HOW OLD IT IS?

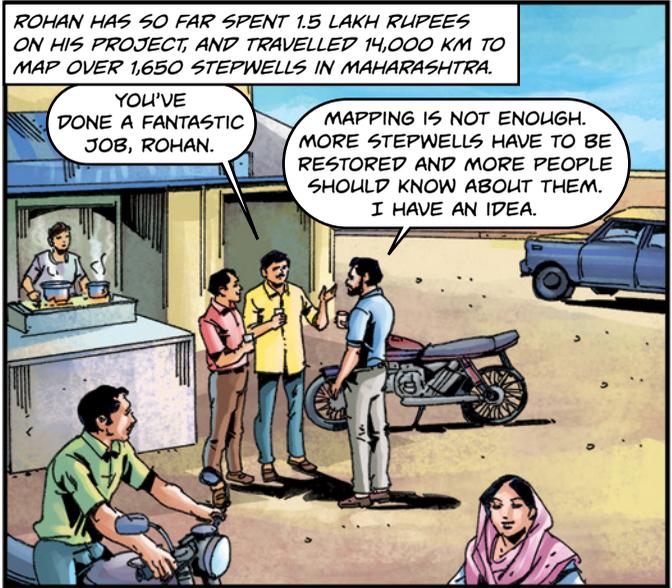
IT WAS BUILT IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY. STEPWELLS WERE BUILT FOR STORING WATER FOR THE SUMMER. THERE ARE OVER 500 STEPWELLS IN GUJARAT.

*WELLS OR PONDS WITH LONG FLIGHTS OF STEPS LEADING DOWN TO GROUNDWATER LEVEL
[†]GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB IN THE 16TH CENTURY

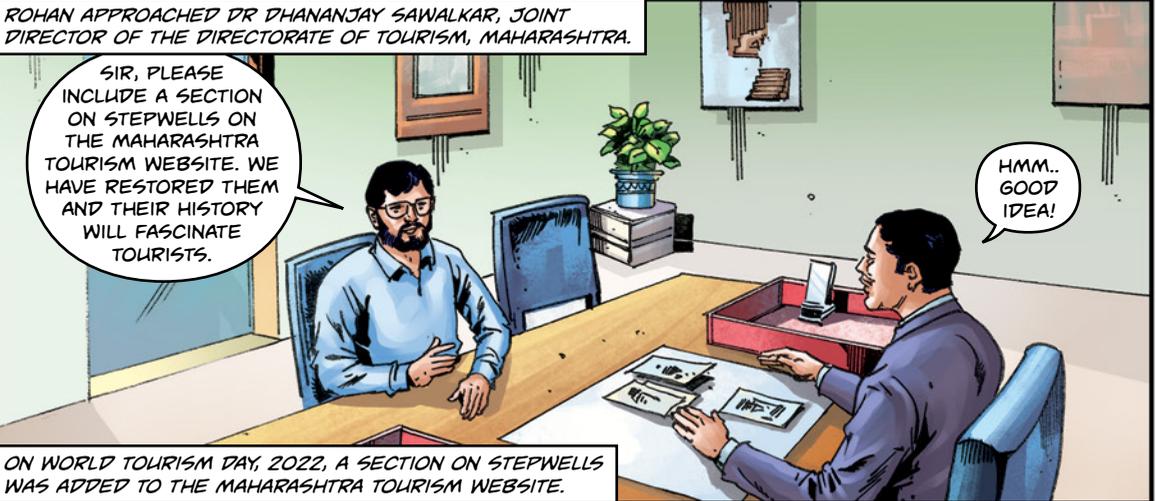




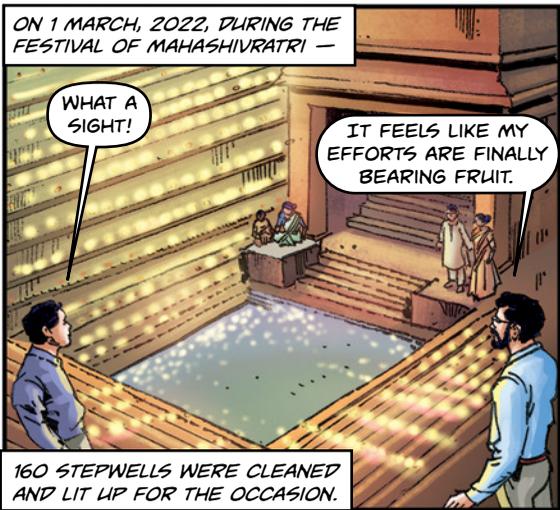
WITH MORE PEOPLE JOINING, THE WORK PROGRESSED RAPIDLY.



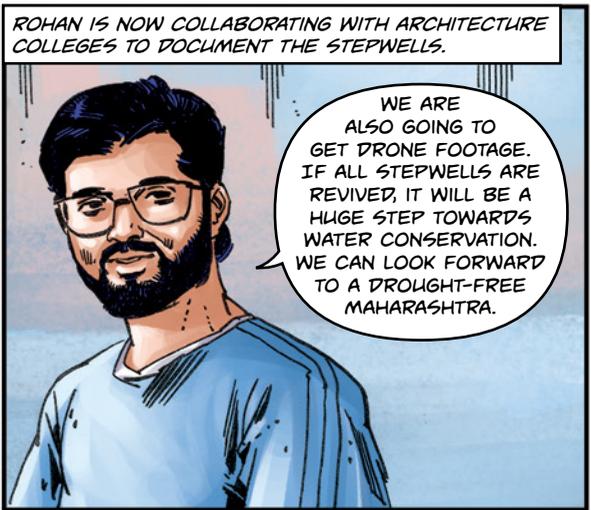
ROHAN HAS SO FAR SPENT 1.5 LAKH RUPEES ON HIS PROJECT, AND TRAVELLED 14,000 KM TO MAP OVER 1,650 STEPWELLS IN MAHARASHTRA.



ON WORLD TOURISM DAY, 2022, A SECTION ON STEPWELLS WAS ADDED TO THE MAHARASHTRA TOURISM WEBSITE.

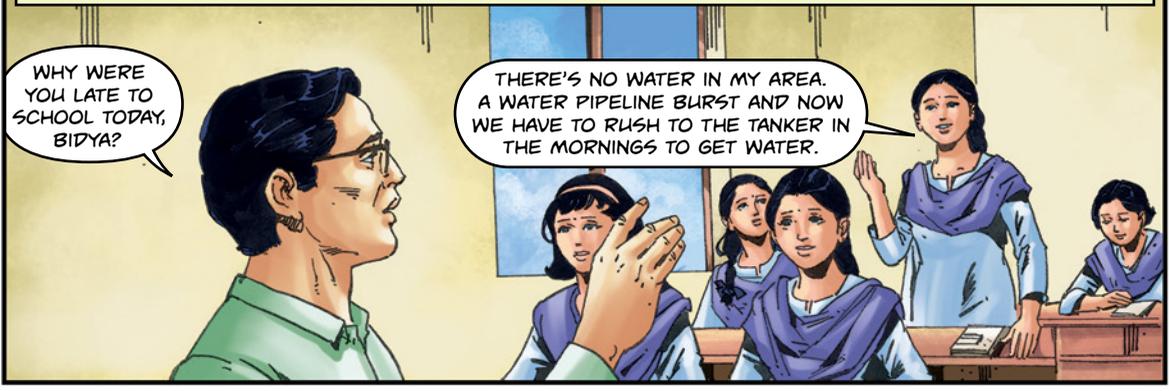


160 STEPWELLS WERE CLEANED AND LIT UP FOR THE OCCASION.



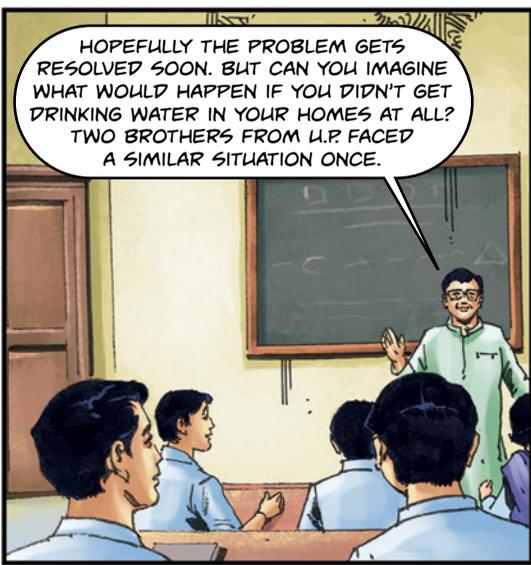
ROHAN IS NOW COLLABORATING WITH ARCHITECTURE COLLEGES TO DOCUMENT THE STEPWELLS.

SHYAM SINGH AND KUNWAR SINGH

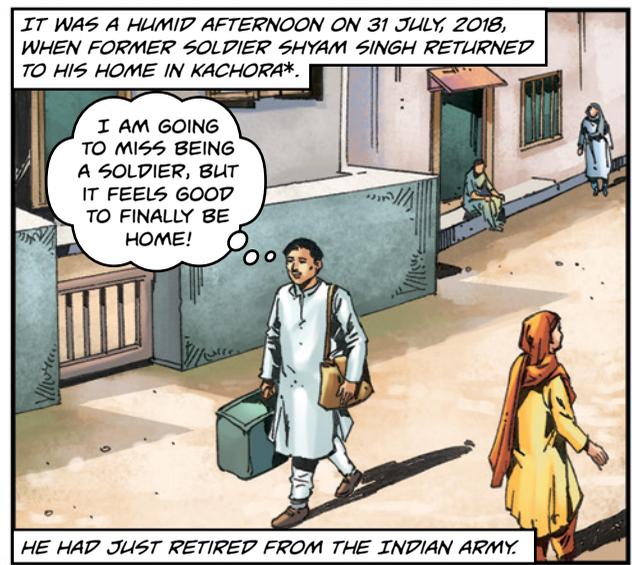


WHY WERE YOU LATE TO SCHOOL TODAY, BIDYA?

THERE'S NO WATER IN MY AREA. A WATER PIPELINE BURST AND NOW WE HAVE TO RUSH TO THE TANKER IN THE MORNINGS TO GET WATER.



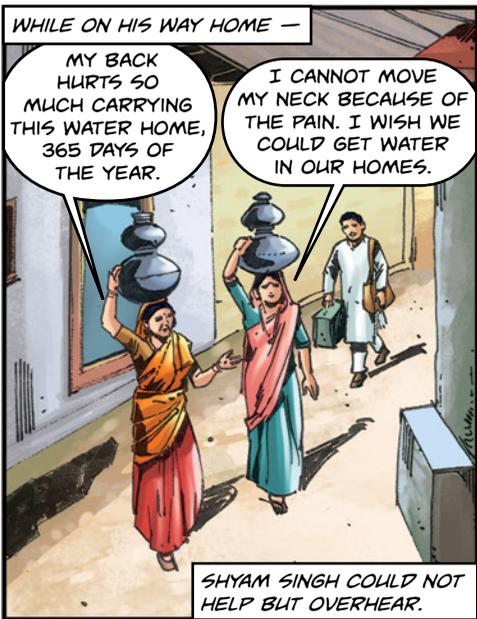
HOPEFULLY THE PROBLEM GETS RESOLVED SOON. BUT CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU DIDN'T GET DRINKING WATER IN YOUR HOMES AT ALL? TWO BROTHERS FROM U.P. FACED A SIMILAR SITUATION ONCE.



IT WAS A HUMID AFTERNOON ON 31 JULY, 2018, WHEN FORMER SOLDIER SHYAM SINGH RETURNED TO HIS HOME IN KACHORA*.

I AM GOING TO MISS BEING A SOLDIER, BUT IT FEELS GOOD TO FINALLY BE HOME!

HE HAD JUST RETIRED FROM THE INDIAN ARMY.



WHILE ON HIS WAY HOME —

MY BACK HURTS SO MUCH CARRYING THIS WATER HOME, 365 DAYS OF THE YEAR.

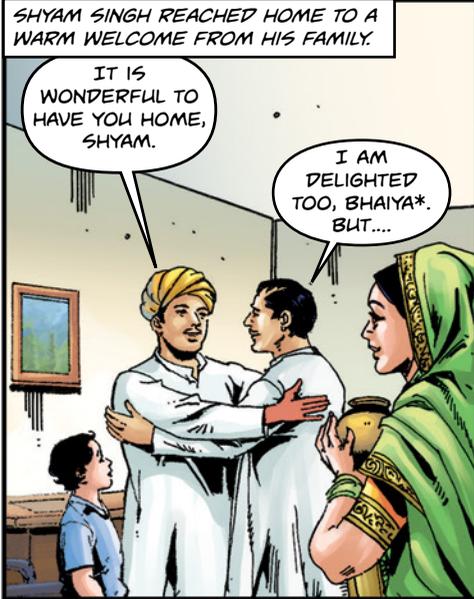
I CANNOT MOVE MY NECK BECAUSE OF THE PAIN. I WISH WE COULD GET WATER IN OUR HOMES.

SHYAM SINGH COULD NOT HELP BUT OVERHEAR.



SO MANY YEARS HAVE GONE BY BUT THE WATER SHORTAGE PROBLEM REMAINS THE SAME. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

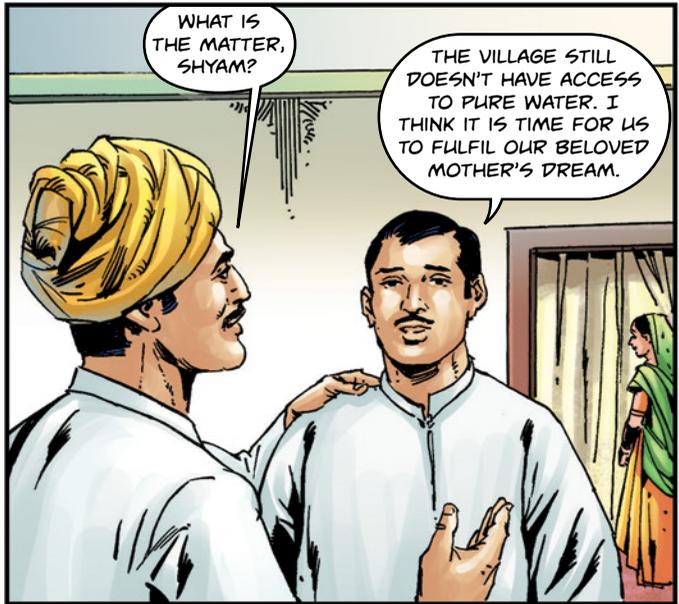
*A VILLAGE IN AGRA DISTRICT, U.P.



SHYAM SINGH REACHED HOME TO A WARM WELCOME FROM HIS FAMILY.

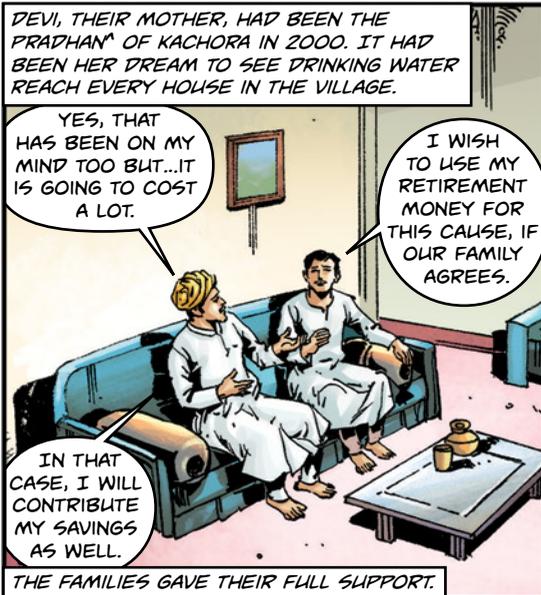
IT IS WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU HOME, SHYAM.

I AM DELIGHTED TOO, BHAIYA*. BUT...



WHAT IS THE MATTER, SHYAM?

THE VILLAGE STILL DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS TO PURE WATER. I THINK IT IS TIME FOR US TO FULFIL OUR BELOVED MOTHER'S DREAM.



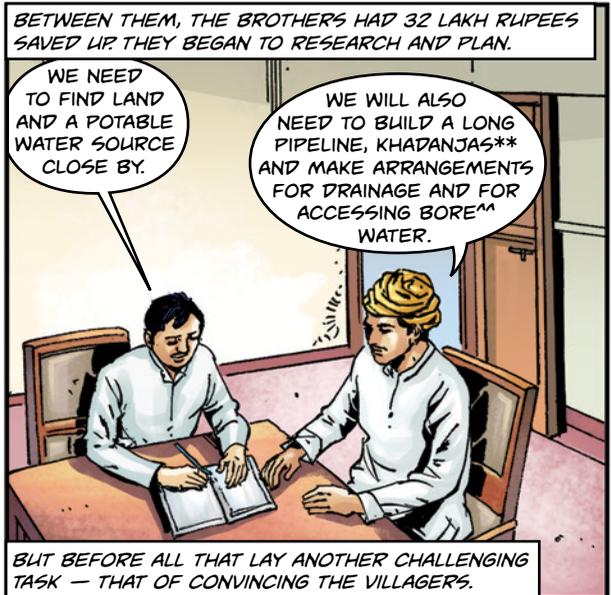
DEVI, THEIR MOTHER, HAD BEEN THE PRADHAN[^] OF KACHORA IN 2000. IT HAD BEEN HER DREAM TO SEE DRINKING WATER REACH EVERY HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE.

YES, THAT HAS BEEN ON MY MIND TOO BUT...IT IS GOING TO COST A LOT.

I WISH TO USE MY RETIREMENT MONEY FOR THIS CAUSE, IF OUR FAMILY AGREES.

IN THAT CASE, I WILL CONTRIBUTE MY SAVINGS AS WELL.

THE FAMILIES GAVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT.

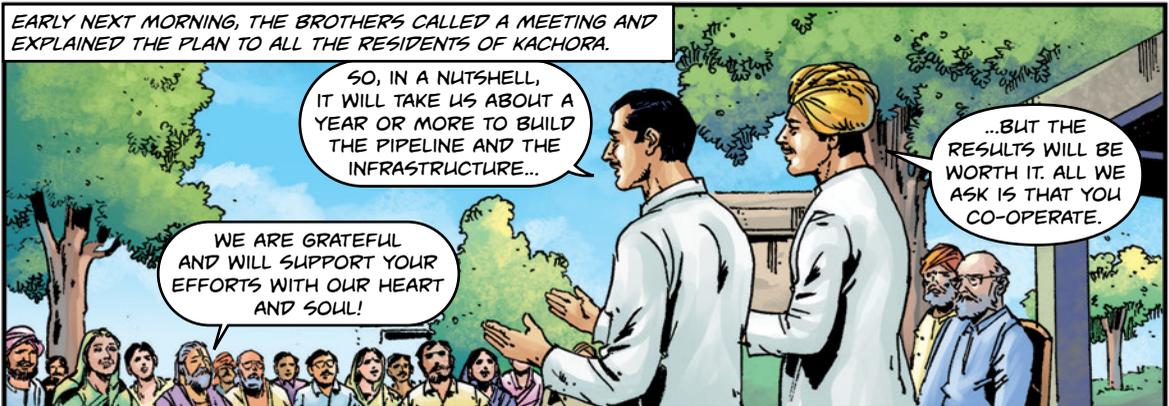


BETWEEN THEM, THE BROTHERS HAD 32 LAKH RUPEES SAVED UP. THEY BEGAN TO RESEARCH AND PLAN.

WE NEED TO FIND LAND AND A POTABLE WATER SOURCE CLOSE BY.

WE WILL ALSO NEED TO BUILD A LONG PIPELINE, KHADANJAS** AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DRAINAGE AND FOR ACCESSING BORE[^] WATER.

BUT BEFORE ALL THAT LAY ANOTHER CHALLENGING TASK — THAT OF CONVINCING THE VILLAGERS.



EARLY NEXT MORNING, THE BROTHERS CALLED A MEETING AND EXPLAINED THE PLAN TO ALL THE RESIDENTS OF KACHORA.

SO, IN A NUTSHELL, IT WILL TAKE US ABOUT A YEAR OR MORE TO BUILD THE PIPELINE AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE...

...BUT THE RESULTS WILL BE WORTH IT. ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU CO-OPERATE.

WE ARE GRATEFUL AND WILL SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS WITH OUR HEART AND SOUL!

*BROTHER IN HINDI
^CHIEF

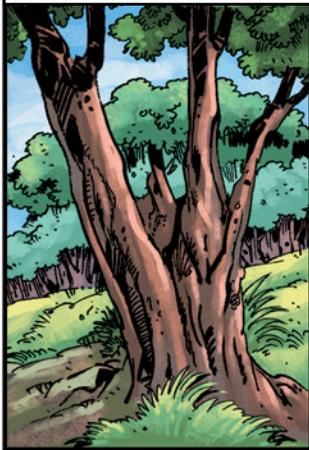
**FOOTPATH/ROAD COVERED WITH BRICKS
^^WATER THAT HAS ACCUMULATED UNDERGROUND



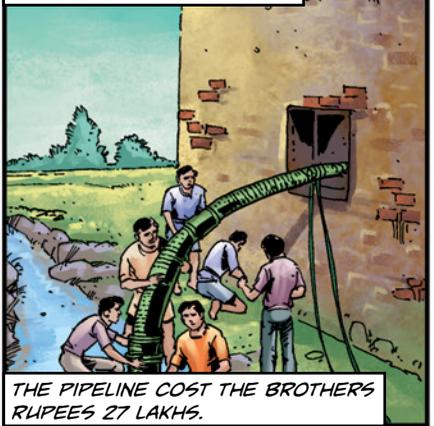
FIVE KILOMETRES AWAY, LAY THE CANAL OF BASTA*. THE BROTHERS CHOSE THIS AS THE SOURCE OF SWEET WATER...



...BOUGHT THE LAND AROUND IT FOR RUPEES FIVE LAKHS...

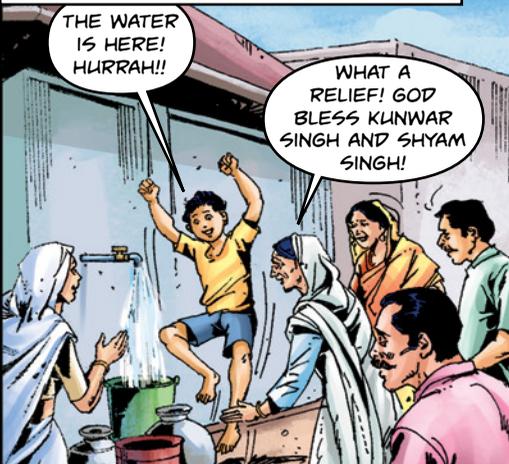


...AND BEGAN BUILDING THE FIVE-KILOMETRE-LONG PIPELINE IN AUGUST 2018.



THE PIPELINE COST THE BROTHERS RUPEES 27 LAKHS.

THE PIPELINE WAS FINALLY BUILT BY 2020.

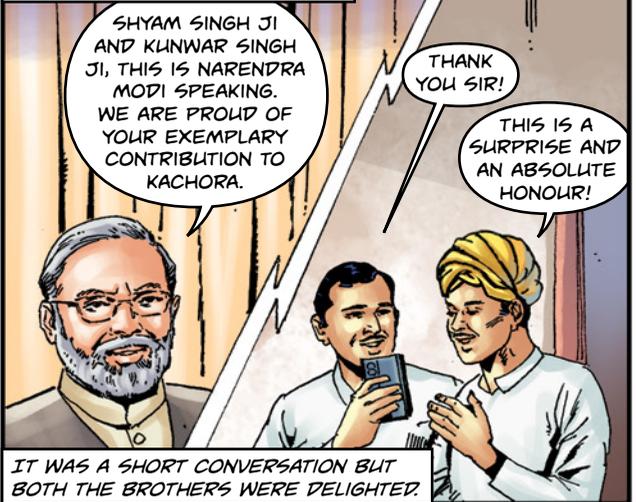


THE WATER IS HERE! HURRAH!!

WHAT A RELIEF! GOD BLESS KUNWAR SINGH AND SHYAM SINGH!

OVER 1,200 HOUSEHOLDS IN THE VILLAGE GOT ACCESS TO FRESH WATER. SOON, KUNWAR SINGH WAS ELECTED AS THE PRADHAN.

THE STORY OF THE BROTHERS' SELFLESS CONTRIBUTION PLAT KACHORA ON THE MAP ONE MORNING, THE BROTHERS GOT AN IMPORTANT PHONE CALL.



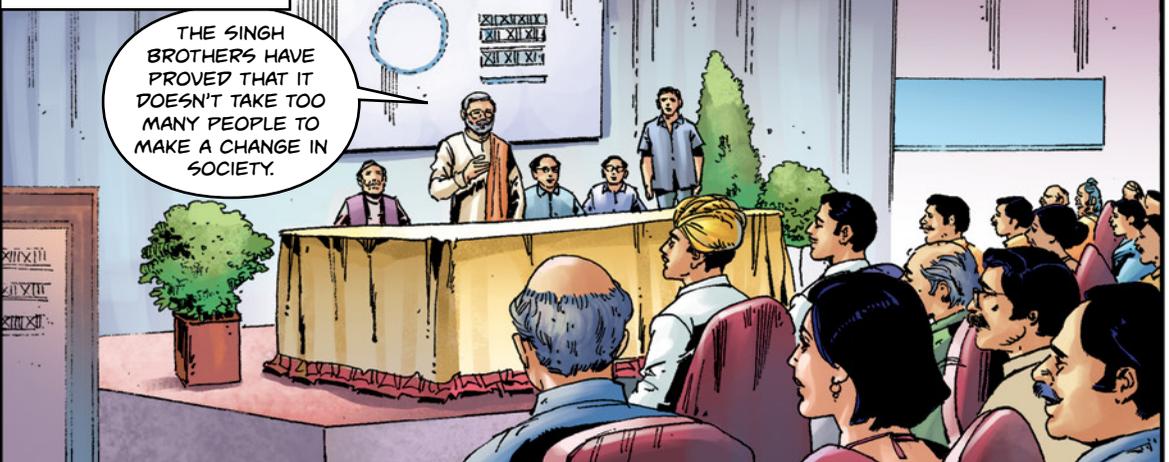
SHYAM SINGH JI AND KUNWAR SINGH JI, THIS IS NARENDRA MODI SPEAKING. WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO KACHORA.

THANK YOU SIR!

THIS IS A SURPRISE AND AN ABSOLUTE HONOUR!

IT WAS A SHORT CONVERSATION BUT BOTH THE BROTHERS WERE DELIGHTED.

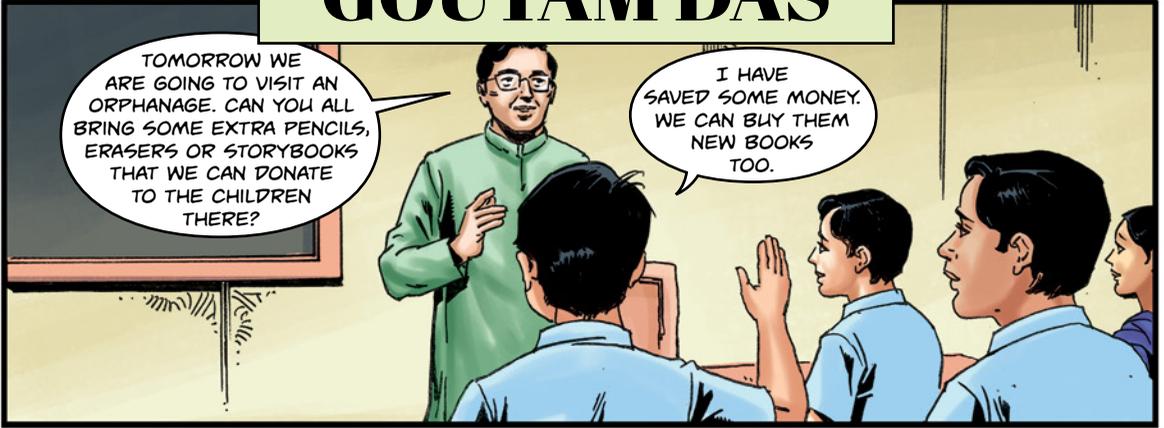
BOTH OF THEM WERE ALSO INVITED TO DELHI FOR A SPECIAL PROGRAMME AND ACKNOWLEDGED ON A LIVE BROADCAST BY PM MODI.



THE SINGH BROTHERS HAVE PROVED THAT IT DOESN'T TAKE TOO MANY PEOPLE TO MAKE A CHANGE IN SOCIETY.

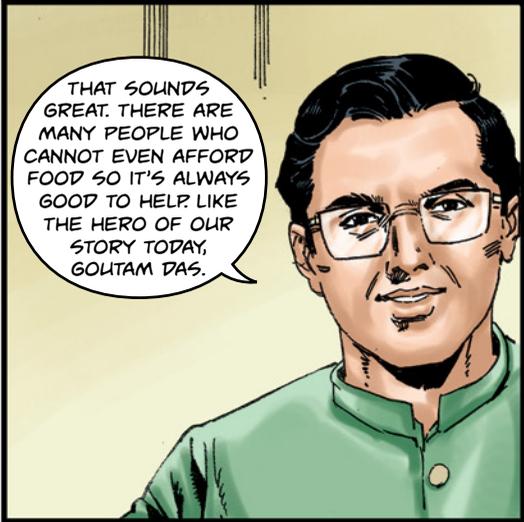
*A VILLAGE CLOSE BY

GOUTAM DAS

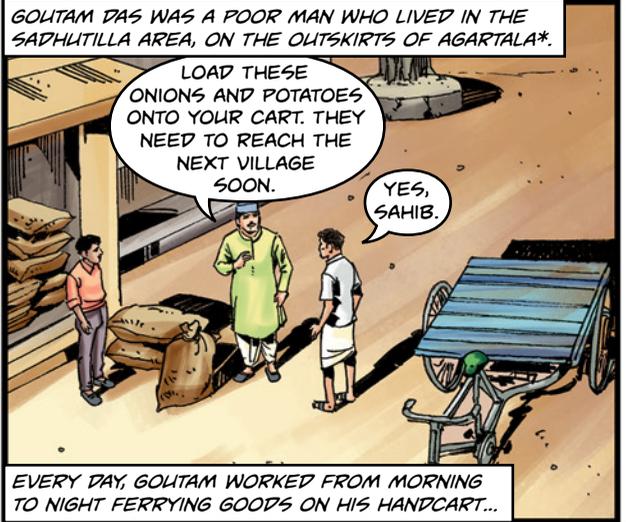


TOMORROW WE ARE GOING TO VISIT AN ORPHANAGE. CAN YOU ALL BRING SOME EXTRA PENCILS, ERASERS OR STORYBOOKS THAT WE CAN DONATE TO THE CHILDREN THERE?

I HAVE SAVED SOME MONEY. WE CAN BUY THEM NEW BOOKS TOO.



THAT SOUNDS GREAT. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT EVEN AFFORD FOOD SO IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO HELP. LIKE THE HERO OF OUR STORY TODAY, GOUTAM DAS.



GOUTAM DAS WAS A POOR MAN WHO LIVED IN THE SADHUTILLA AREA, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF AGARTALA*.

LOAD THESE ONIONS AND POTATOES ONTO YOUR CART. THEY NEED TO REACH THE NEXT VILLAGE SOON.

YES, SAHIB.

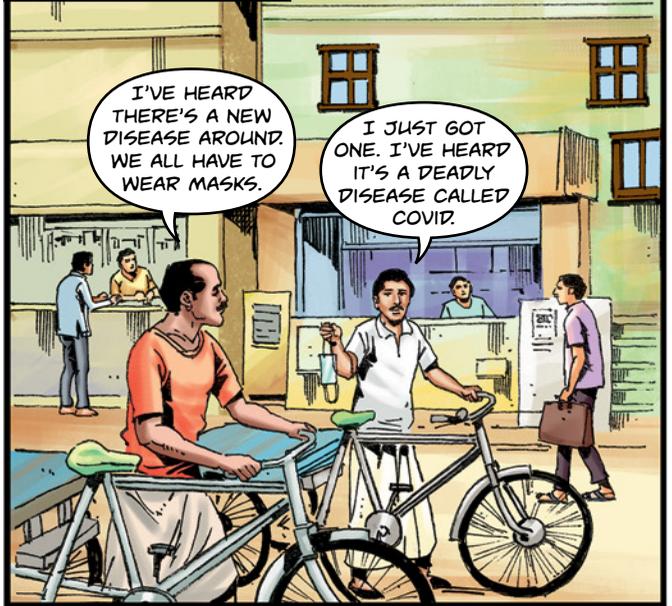
EVERY DAY, GOUTAM WORKED FROM MORNING TO NIGHT FERRYING GOODS ON HIS HANDCART...

...FOR A DAILY WAGE OF JUST RS 200.



AFTER MY TWO MEALS, I HAVE RS 30 LEFT TODAY. I WILL ADD THIS TO MY SAVINGS. I HOPE IT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR A RAINY DAY.

A FEW MONTHS LATER —



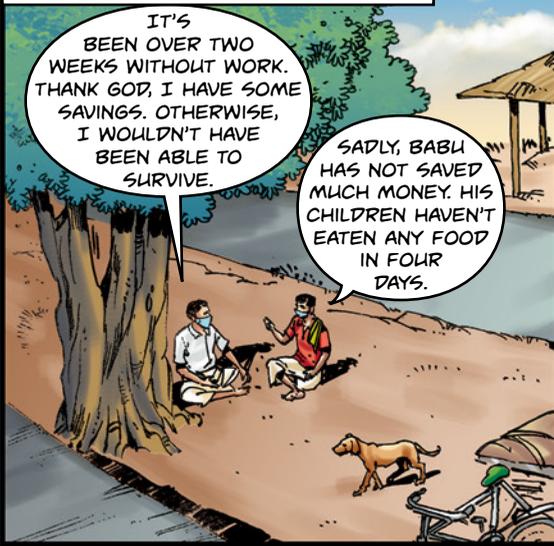
I'VE HEARD THERE'S A NEW DISEASE AROUND. WE ALL HAVE TO WEAR MASKS.

I JUST GOT ONE. I'VE HEARD IT'S A DEADLY DISEASE CALLED COVID.

*CAPITAL CITY OF TRIPURA



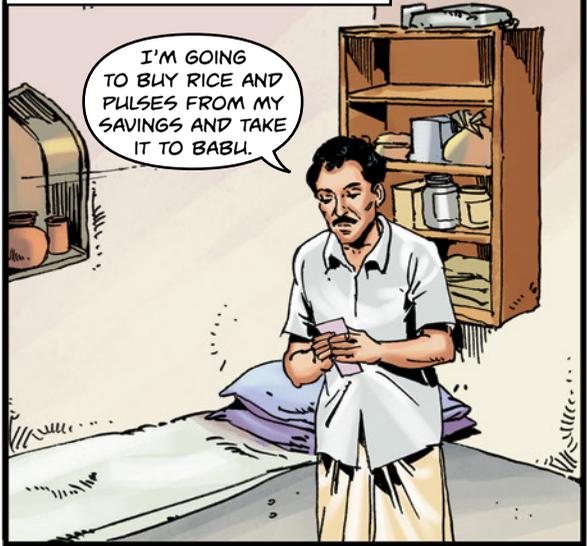
A FEW WEEKS LATER, A LOCKDOWN WAS ANNOUNCED THROUGHOUT THE NATION.



IT'S BEEN OVER TWO WEEKS WITHOUT WORK. THANK GOD, I HAVE SOME SAVINGS. OTHERWISE, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE.

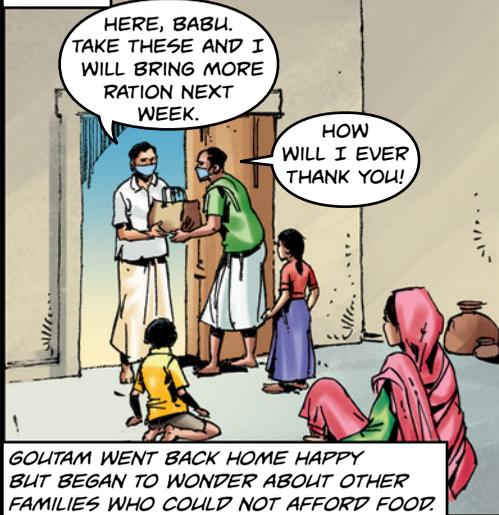
SADLY, BABU HAS NOT SAVED MUCH MONEY. HIS CHILDREN HAVEN'T EATEN ANY FOOD IN FOUR DAYS.

GOUTAM COULD NOT SLEEP ALL NIGHT. AS SOON AS DAWN BROKE —



I'M GOING TO BUY RICE AND PULSES FROM MY SAVINGS AND TAKE IT TO BABU.

SOON —

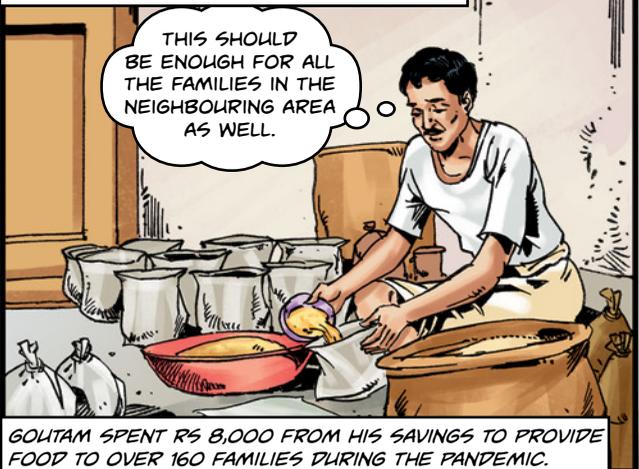


HERE, BABU. TAKE THESE AND I WILL BRING MORE RATION NEXT WEEK.

HOW WILL I EVER THANK YOU!

GOUTAM WENT BACK HOME HAPPY BUT BEGAN TO WONDER ABOUT OTHER FAMILIES WHO COULD NOT AFFORD FOOD.

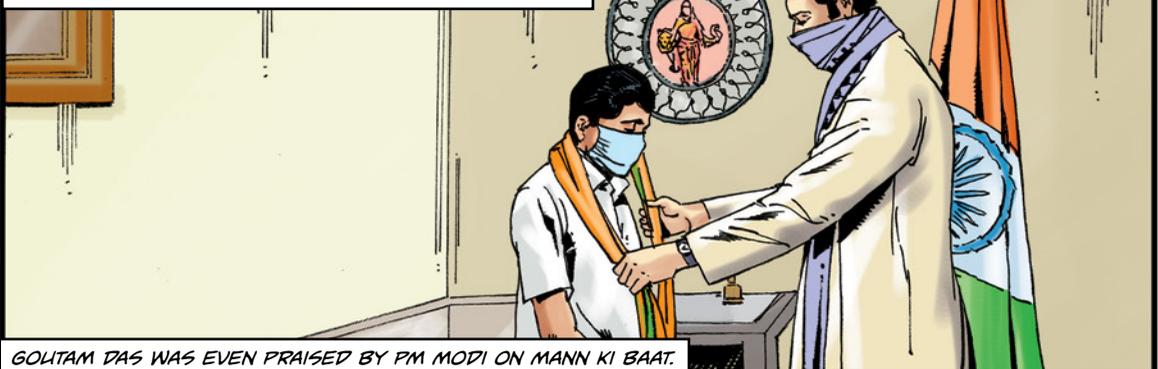
HE SOON BOUGHT MORE RICE AND PULSES AND MADE PACKETS TO DISTRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.



THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ALL THE FAMILIES IN THE NEIGHBOURING AREA AS WELL.

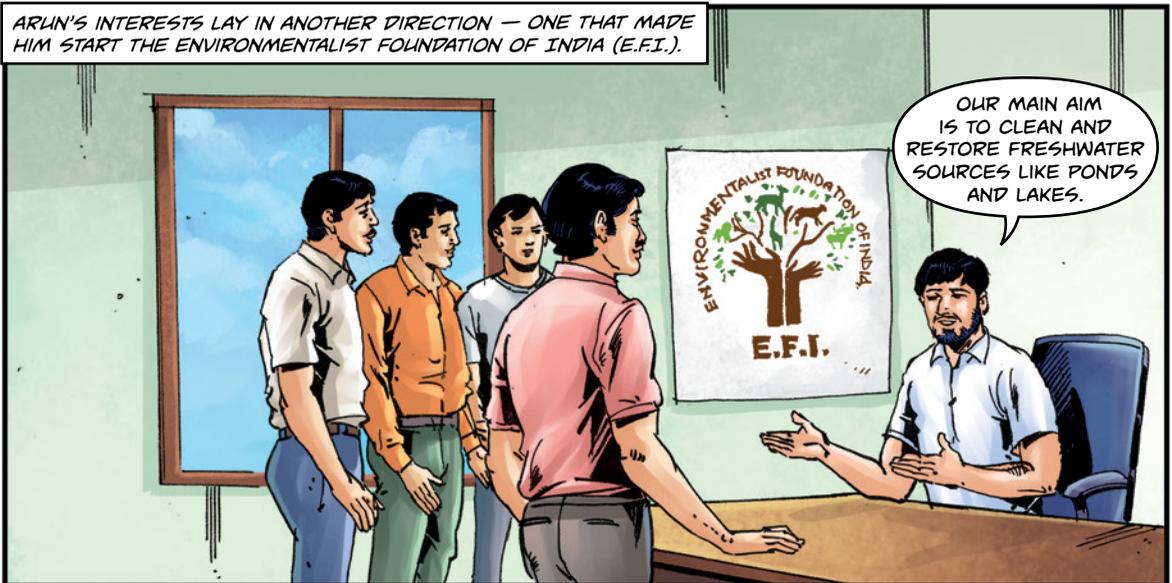
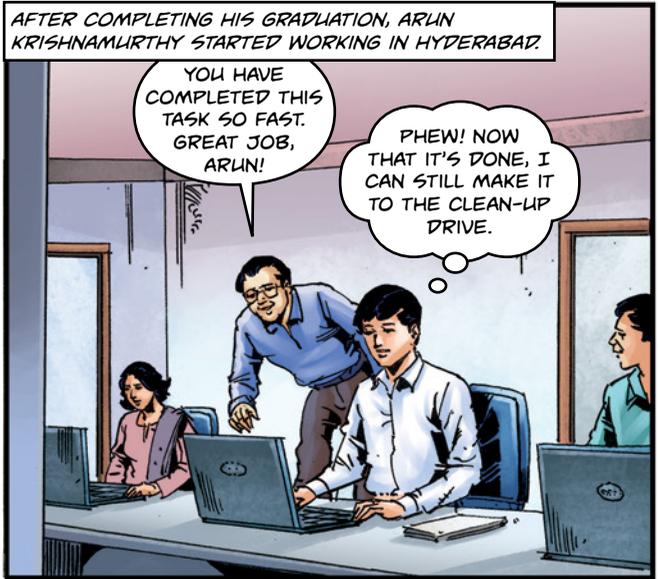
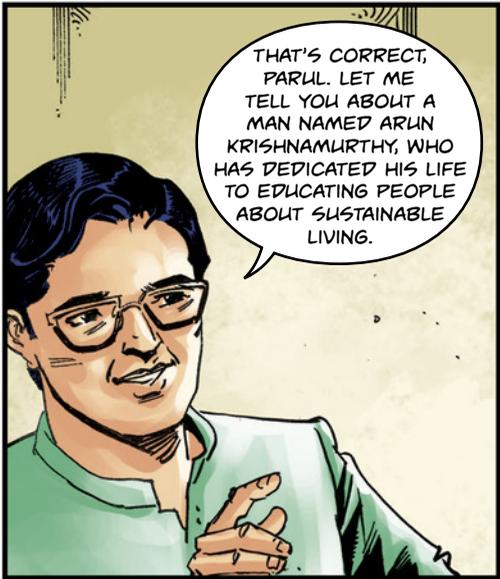
GOUTAM SPENT RS 8,000 FROM HIS SAVINGS TO PROVIDE FOOD TO OVER 160 FAMILIES DURING THE PANDEMIC.

FOR HIS SELFLESS EFFORTS, GOUTAM WAS FELICITATED BY THE THEN-CHIEF MINISTER BIPLAB KUMAR DEB, WHO ALSO PROMISED TO HELP AND SUPPORT HIM.



GOUTAM DAS WAS EVEN PRAISED BY PM MODI ON MANN KI BAAT.

ARUN KRISHNAMURTHY

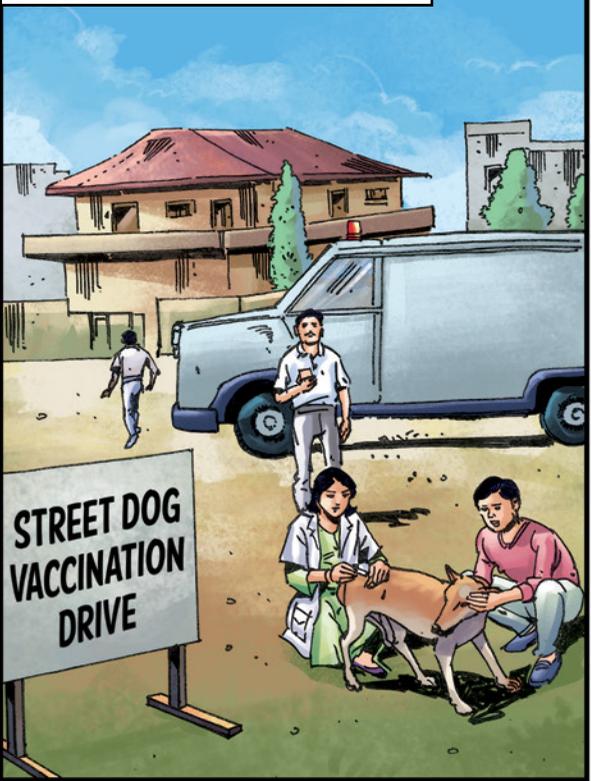


AS PART OF E.F.I. ARUN AND HIS TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN MANY CAPACITIES, LIKE WASTE MANAGEMENT...

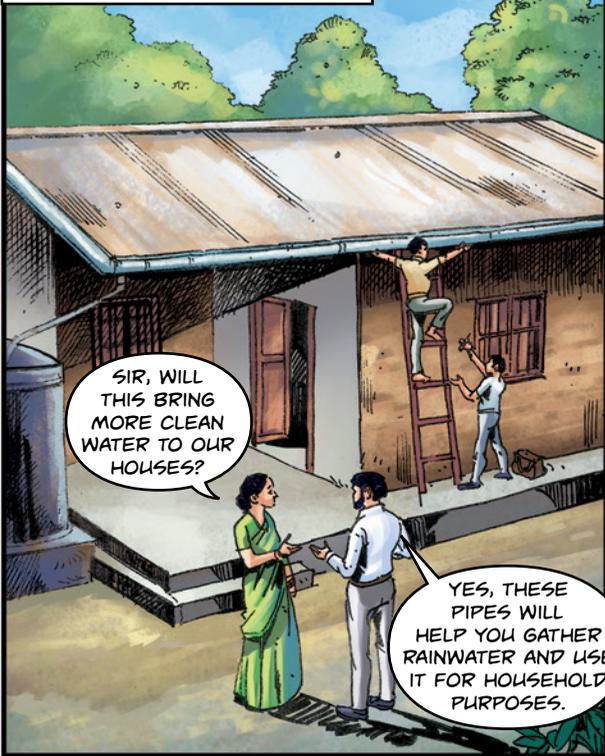


THIS PIT SHOULD BE USED FOR DISPOSING FOOD WASTE. IN SOME TIME, IT WILL BECOME A FERTILISER FOR YOUR PLANTS.

...ANIMAL RESCUE AND REHABILITATION...



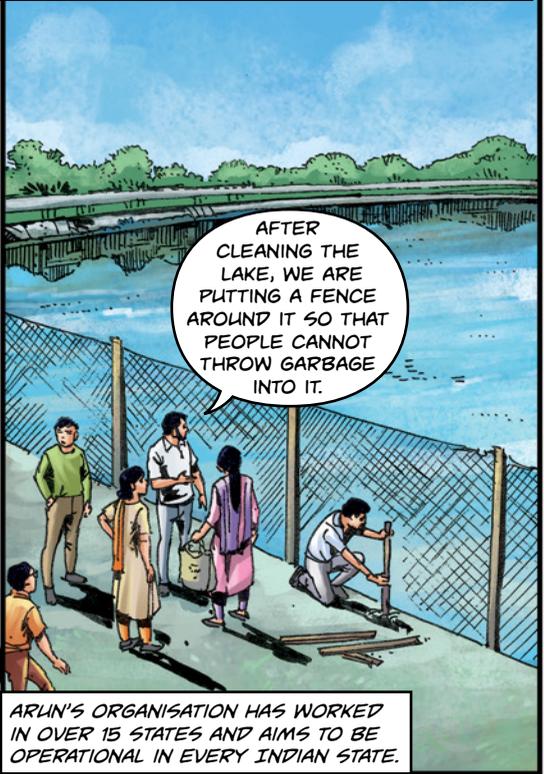
...HELPING VILLAGES BECOME ECO-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE...



SIR, WILL THIS BRING MORE CLEAN WATER TO OUR HOUSES?

YES, THESE PIPES WILL HELP YOU GATHER RAINWATER AND USE IT FOR HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES.

...AND CLEANING AND PROTECTING WATER BODIES.



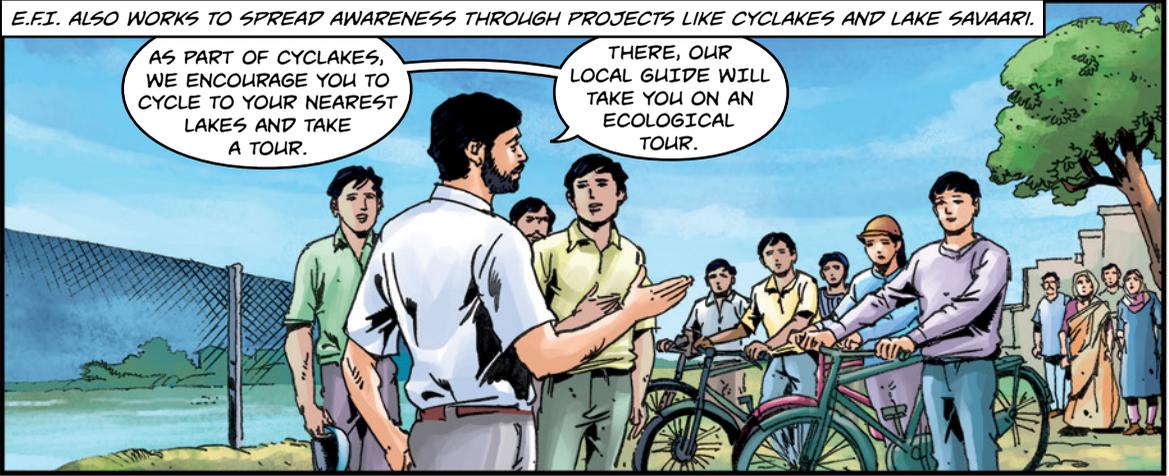
AFTER CLEANING THE LAKE, WE ARE PUTTING A FENCE AROUND IT SO THAT PEOPLE CANNOT THROW GARBAGE INTO IT.

ARUN'S ORGANISATION HAS WORKED IN OVER 15 STATES AND AIMS TO BE OPERATIONAL IN EVERY INDIAN STATE.

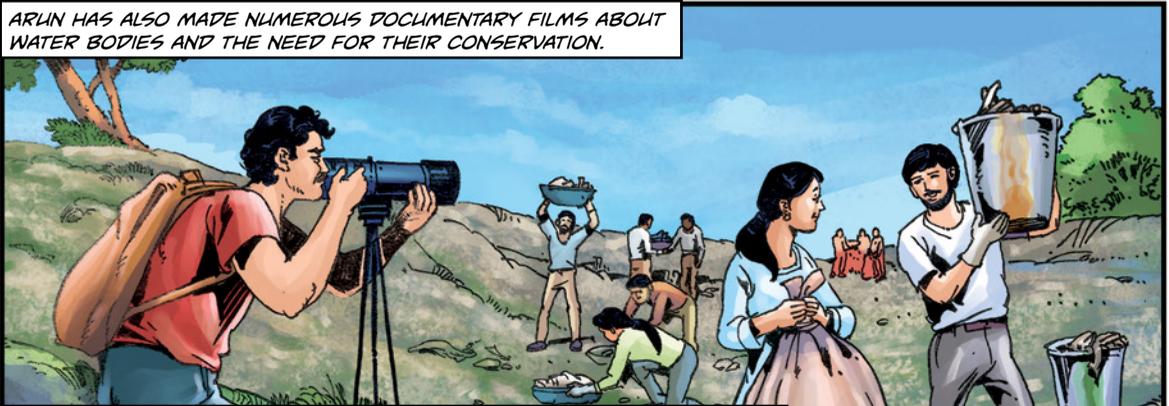
E.F.I. ALSO WORKS TO SPREAD AWARENESS THROUGH PROJECTS LIKE CYCLAKES AND LAKE SAVAARI.

AS PART OF CYCLAKES, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CYCLE TO YOUR NEAREST LAKES AND TAKE A TOUR.

THERE, OUR LOCAL GUIDE WILL TAKE YOU ON AN ECOLOGICAL TOUR.



ARUN HAS ALSO MADE NUMEROUS DOCUMENTARY FILMS ABOUT WATER BODIES AND THE NEED FOR THEIR CONSERVATION.

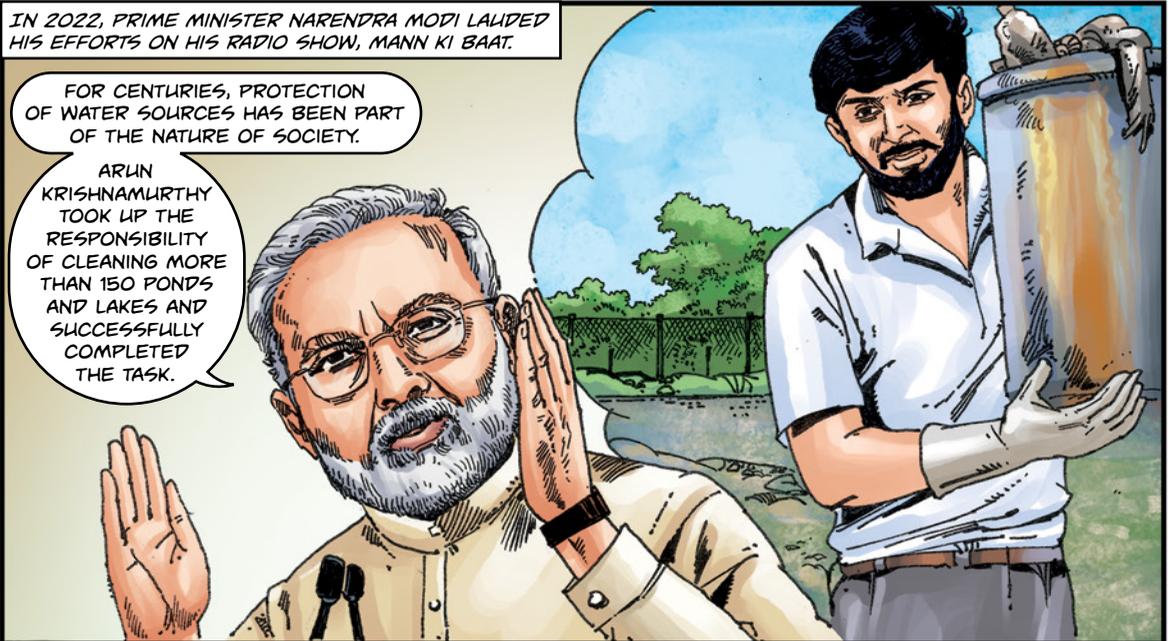


IN 2012, ARUN BECAME THE YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF THE 'ROLEX AWARD FOR ENTERPRISE' FOR THE RESTORATION OF LAKE KILKATTALAI IN CHENNAI. TIME MAGAZINE NAMED HIM A 'NEXT GENERATION LEADER' IN 2022.

IN 2022, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI LAUDED HIS EFFORTS ON HIS RADIO SHOW, MANN KI BAAT.

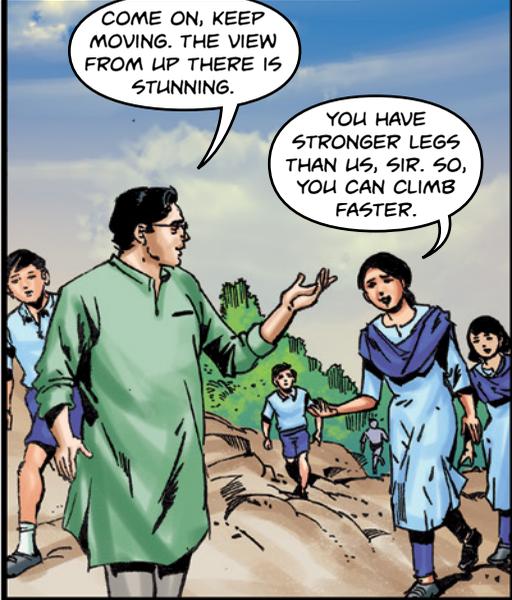
FOR CENTURIES, PROTECTION OF WATER SOURCES HAS BEEN PART OF THE NATURE OF SOCIETY.

ARUN KRISHNAMURTHY TOOK UP THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CLEANING MORE THAN 150 PONDS AND LAKES AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE TASK.



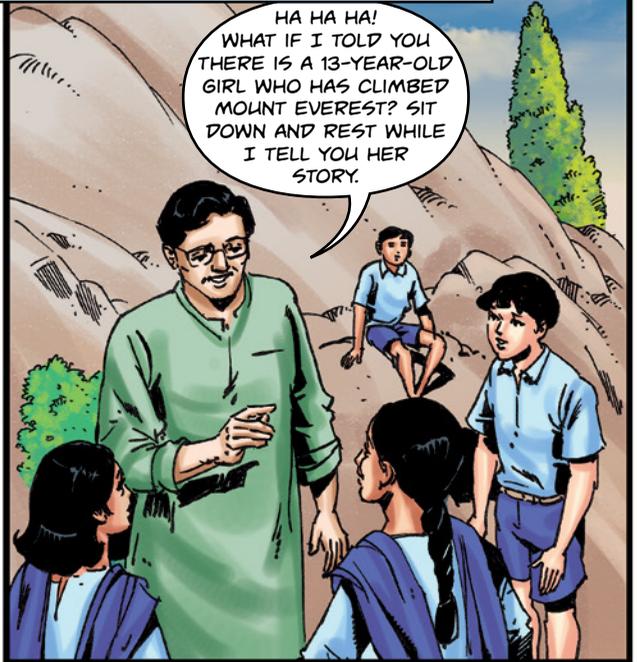
POORNA MALAVATH

NAIR SIR AND THE STUDENTS HAD GONE FOR A NATURE TREK.



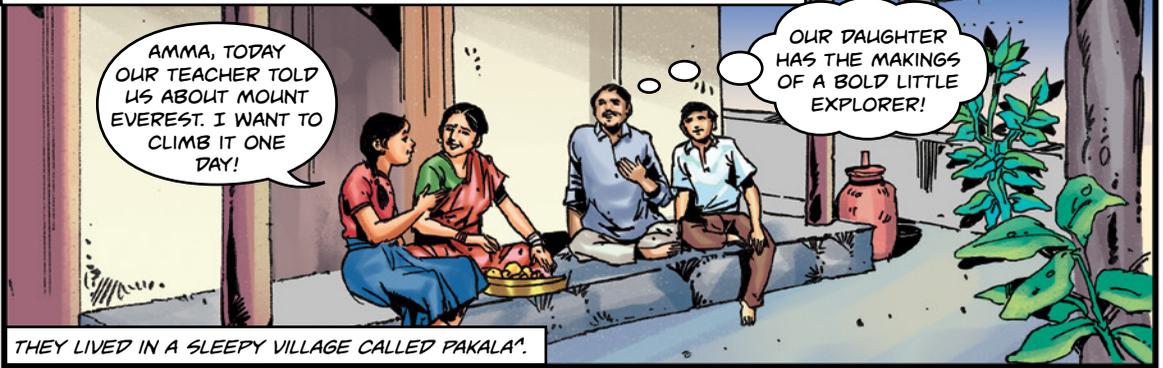
COME ON, KEEP MOVING. THE VIEW FROM UP THERE IS STUNNING.

YOU HAVE STRONGER LEGS THAN US, SIR. SO, YOU CAN CLIMB FASTER.



HA HA HA! WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THERE IS A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO HAS CLIMBED MOUNT EVEREST? SIT DOWN AND REST WHILE I TELL YOU HER STORY.

DEVADAS AND LAKSHMI MALAVATH, BOTH HUMBLE ADIVASI* FARM WORKERS, WERE DOTING PARENTS TO POORNA AND HER BROTHER, NARESH.

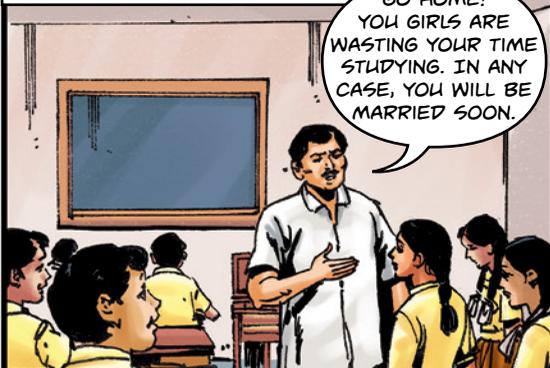


AMMA, TODAY OUR TEACHER TOLD US ABOUT MOUNT EVEREST. I WANT TO CLIMB IT ONE DAY!

OUR DAUGHTER HAS THE MAKINGS OF A BOLD LITTLE EXPLORER!

THEY LIVED IN A SLEEPY VILLAGE CALLED PAKALA*.

POORNA ATTENDED A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN HER VILLAGE, BUT —



GO HOME! YOU GIRLS ARE WASTING YOUR TIME STUDYING. IN ANY CASE, YOU WILL BE MARRIED SOON.

MOST GIRLS WERE DISCOURAGED AND LEFT SCHOOL.

AT THE AGE OF 11, POORNA WAS ADMITTED TO TSWREIS**, A GIRLS' SCHOOL IN TADWAI**.



KABADDI... KABADDI...

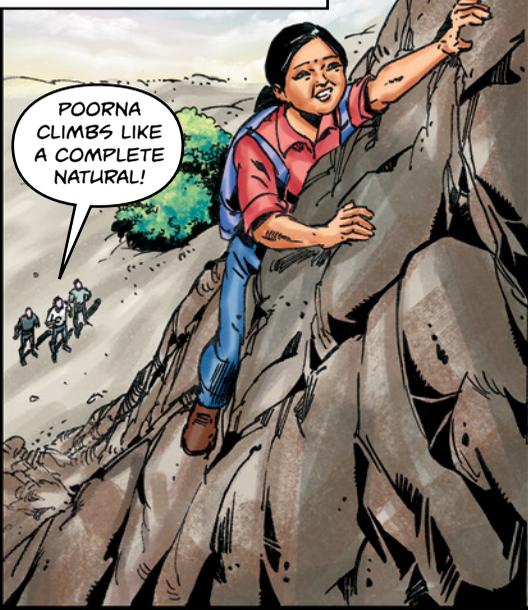
THIS GIRL HAS GREAT POTENTIAL.

POORNA EVEN BEGAN LEARNING ROCK CLIMBING ON WEEKENDS AT BHONGIR.

*TRIBAL
*A VILLAGE IN TELANGANA

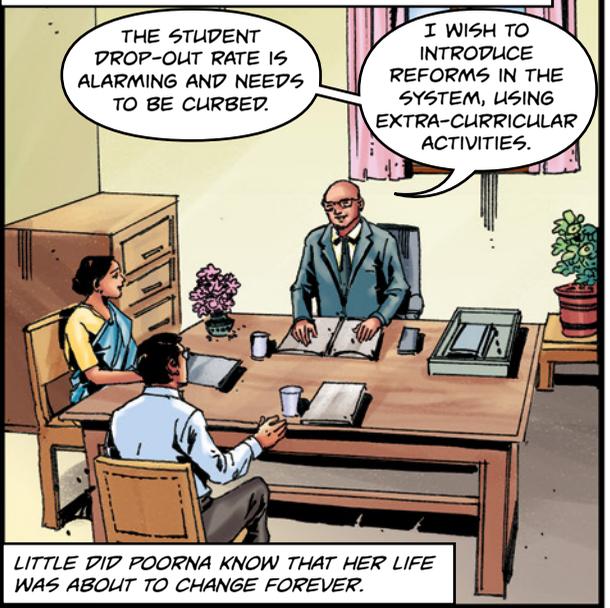
**TELANGANA SOCIAL WELFARE RESIDENTIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SOCIETY
**A TOWN IN TELANGANA

POORNA'S COACH, SEKHAR BABU BACHINEPALLY, WAS A SKILLED MOUNTAINEER WHO HAD SUMMITTED EVEREST IN 2007.



POORNA CLIMBS LIKE A COMPLETE NATURAL!

ONE DAY, DR R.S. PRAVEEN KUMAR, A RETIRED IPS* OFFICER AND THE THEN-SECRETARY OF TSWREIS, ARRIVED AT THE SCHOOL WITH A MISSION.

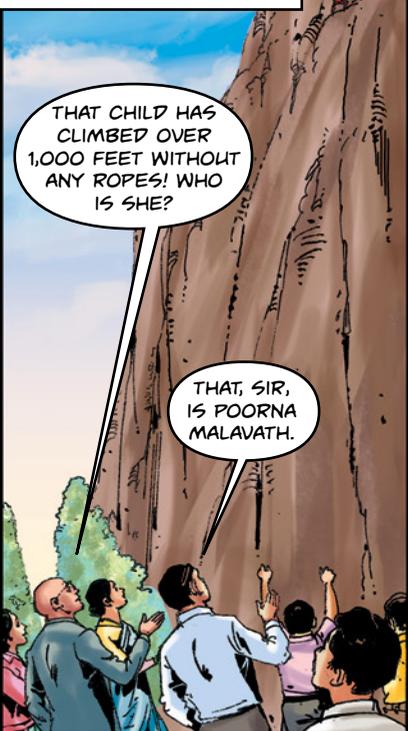


THE STUDENT DROP-OUT RATE IS ALARMING AND NEEDS TO BE CURBED.

I WISH TO INTRODUCE REFORMS IN THE SYSTEM, USING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

LITTLE DID POORNA KNOW THAT HER LIFE WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE FOREVER.

WHEN DR KUMAR VISITED THE ROCK-CLIMBING EXCURSION AT BHONGIR —



THAT CHILD HAS CLIMBED OVER 1,000 FEET WITHOUT ANY ROPES! WHO IS SHE?

THAT, SIR, IS POORNA MALAVATH.

IMPRESSED, DR R.S. PRAVEEN KUMAR IMMEDIATELY CHOSE POORNA TO LEARN HIGH-ALTITUDE MOUNTAINEERING AT DARJEELING....

...AND THEN SNOW MOUNTAINEERING AT LADAKH, WHERE SHE ALSO LEARNT TO SURVIVE AT SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES AS LOW AS -35 DEGREE CELSIUS.



AFTER EIGHT MONTHS OF INTENSE TRAINING, POORNA WAS PREPARED TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST.

ON 29 MAY, 2014, 13-YEAR-OLD POORNA BECAME THE YOUNGEST GIRL IN THE WORLD TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST — AN ALTITUDE OF 29,035 FEET!



AT THE SUMMIT, SHE PROUDLY PLANTED THE INDIAN TRICOLOUR, THE FLAG OF TELANGANA AND HER SCHOOL FLAG.

*INDIAN POLICE SERVICE



POORNA WENT ON TO CLIMB MANY PEAKS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

MT KILIMANJARO IN 2016...



MT ELBRUS IN 2017...



MT ACONCAGUA IN 2019...



MT CARSTENZ PYRAMID IN 2019...

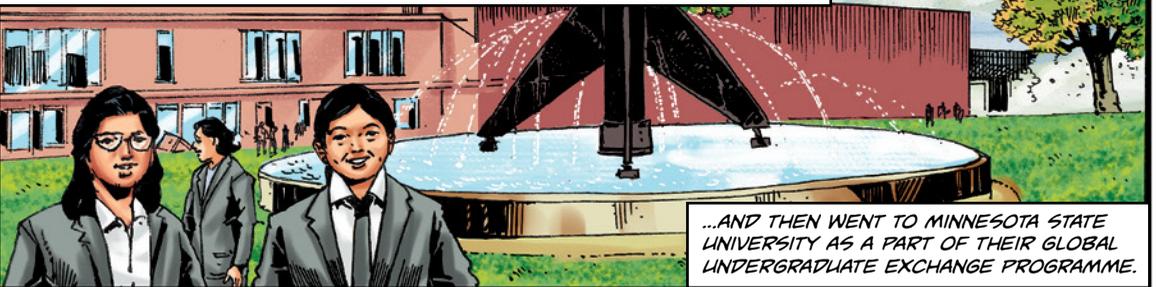


MT VINSON MASSIF IN 2019...



AND FINALLY, MT DENALI IN 2022, THUS COMPLETING THE 'SEVEN SUMMITS CHALLENGE'.

POORNA PARALLELY PURSUED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE FROM TSWREIS...



...AND THEN WENT TO MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY AS A PART OF THEIR GLOBAL UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME.

PM NARENDRA MODI AND MANY OTHERS HAVE FELICITATED POORNA. SHE HAS ALSO RECEIVED RUPEES 25 LAKHS, A HOME AND A 5-ACRE PLOT, AMONG OTHER HONOURS.



POORNA HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO MILLIONS WITH HER DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK.



I CLIMBED EVEREST TO PROVE THAT WOMEN CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING THEY SET OUT TO DO.

THE BIGGEST CHANGE CAME IN THE GOVERNMENT VILLAGE SCHOOLS WHERE POORNA STUDIED. WHERE ONCE THERE WERE EMPTY CLASSROOMS, THERE ARE WAITING LISTS FOR ADMISSION — A TRIUMPH AS GOOD AS SCALING THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN.



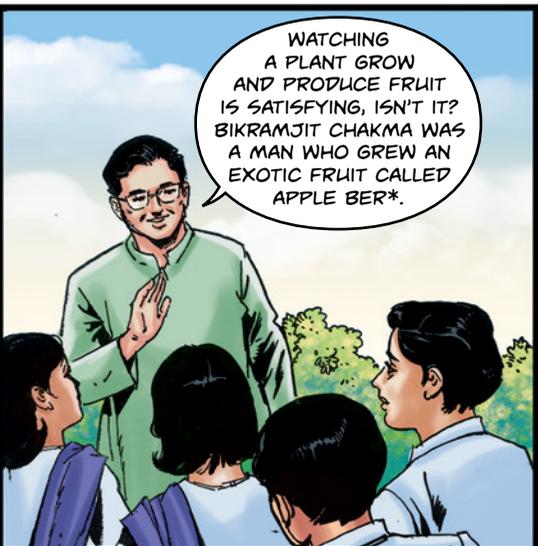
BIKRAMJIT CHAKMA

IT WAS THE GARDENING CLASS AND ALL THE STUDENTS WERE EXCITED.



LOOK AT ALL THE RIPE RED TOMATOES!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GREW THEM OURSELVES.



WATCHING A PLANT GROW AND PRODUCE FRUIT IS SATISFYING, ISN'T IT? BIKRAMJIT CHAKMA WAS A MAN WHO GREW AN EXOTIC FRUIT CALLED APPLE BER*.

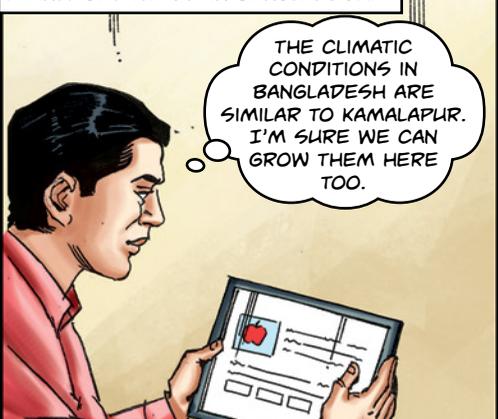
31-YEAR-OLD BIKRAMJIT CHAKMA, A RESIDENT OF KAMALAPUR[^], WAS IN DEEP THOUGHT.



DESPITE WORKING SO HARD, WE EARNED ONLY 15,000 RUPEES THIS YEAR FROM OUR FARM. WE NEED TO GROW CROPS THAT ARE MORE PROFITABLE.

BIKRAMJIT WORKED WITH THE TRIPURA GOVERNMENT, AND ALSO ON THE FARM HIS FAMILY OWNED.

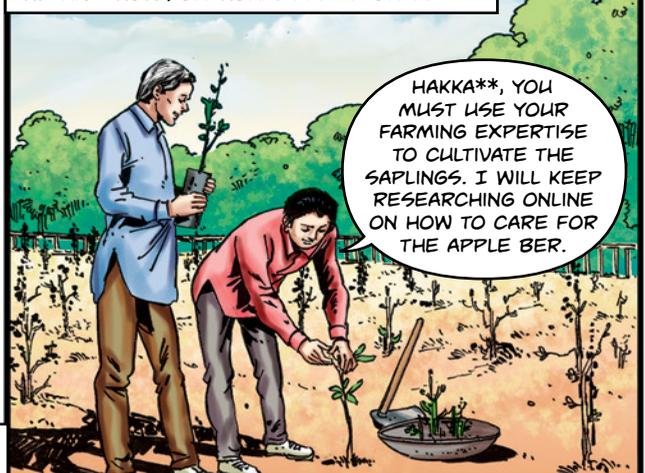
HIS SEARCH FOR VALUABLE CROPS LED HIM TO THE APPLE BER, A FRUIT MAINLY CULTIVATED IN BANGLADESH.



THE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN BANGLADESH ARE SIMILAR TO KAMALAPUR. I'M SURE WE CAN GROW THEM HERE TOO.

BIKRAMJIT APPLIED FOR A LOAN, AND BOUGHT 1,300 APPLE BER SAPLINGS FROM WEST BENGAL.

ON 13 MARCH, 2020, BIKRAMJIT PLANTED THE SAPLINGS WITH THE HELP OF HIS BROTHERS AND HIS UNCLE, CHANCHAL KUMAR CHAKMA.



HAKKA**, YOU MUST USE YOUR FARMING EXPERTISE TO CULTIVATE THE SAPLINGS. I WILL KEEP RESEARCHING ONLINE ON HOW TO CARE FOR THE APPLE BER.

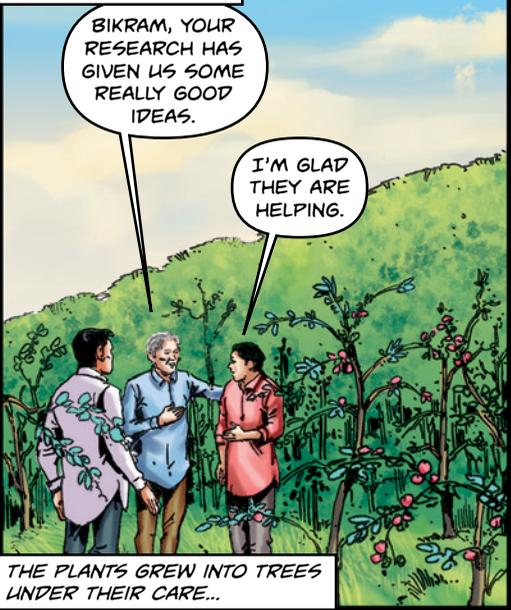
*JUJUBE BERRY

[^]A VILLAGE IN PECHARHTAL, TRIPURA

**UNCLE, IN THE CHAKMA LANGUAGE



IN A FEW MONTHS —

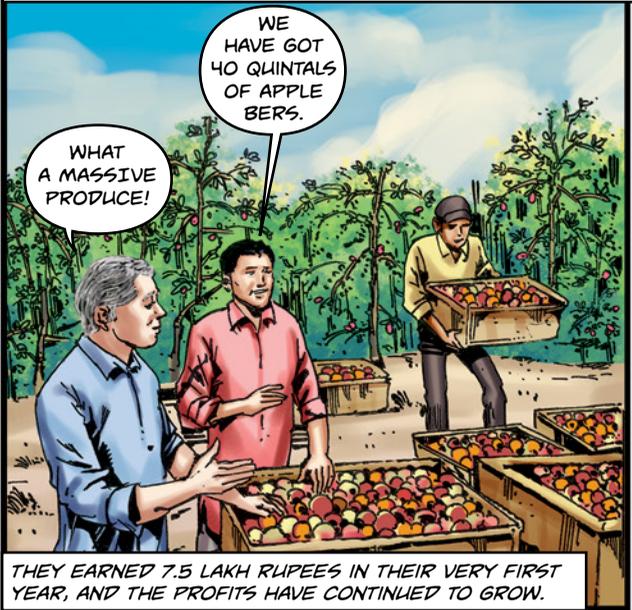


BIKRAM, YOUR RESEARCH HAS GIVEN US SOME REALLY GOOD IDEAS.

I'M GLAD THEY ARE HELPING.

THE PLANTS GREW INTO TREES UNDER THEIR CARE...

...AND BY JANUARY 2021, THE FRUIT COULD BE HARVESTED.



WE HAVE GOT 40 QUINTALS OF APPLE BERS.

WHAT A MASSIVE PRODUCE!

THEY EARNED 7.5 LAKH RUPEES IN THEIR VERY FIRST YEAR, AND THE PROFITS HAVE CONTINUED TO GROW.

BIKRAMJIT REGULARLY SHARES HIS KNOWLEDGE ON HORTICULTURE*...

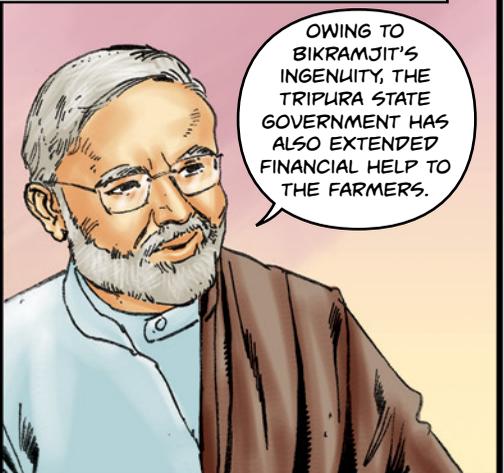


...AND THAT IS HOW YOU KNOW WHICH BRANCH TO SNIP OFF, AND WHICH ONE TO RETAIN.

...WHICH HAS HELPED SEVERAL STRUGGLING FARMERS INVEST IN, AND PROFIT FROM, CULTIVATING APPLE BER TREES.



HE HAS BEEN LAIDED BY PM NARENDRA MODI AND FELICITATED IN DELHI BY THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, ANURAG THAKUR.



OWING TO BIKRAMJIT'S INGENUITY, THE TRIPURA STATE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO EXTENDED FINANCIAL HELP TO THE FARMERS.

BIKRAMJIT LIVES BY A SIMPLE PRINCIPLE —



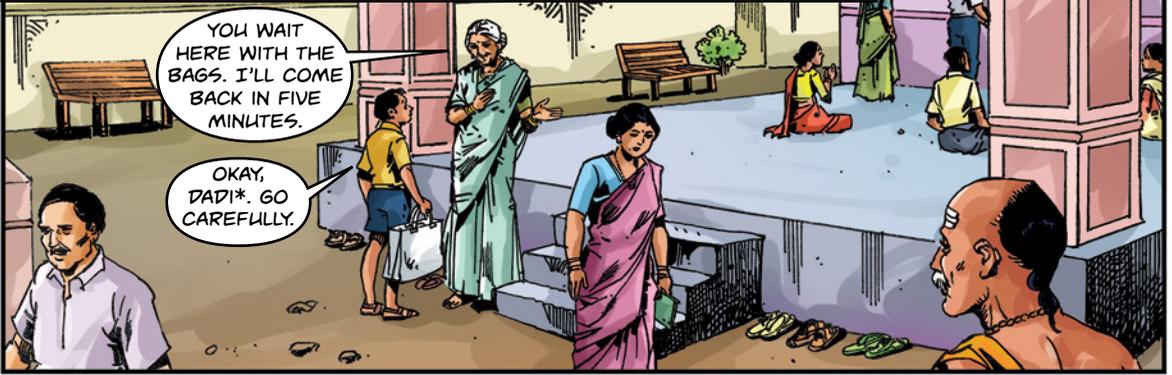
REMEMBER, IF YOU CAN'T DO SOMETHING BIG, DO SOMETHING SMALL IN A BIG WAY — IT'S THE SMALL THINGS THAT WILL MAKE YOU BIG!

HE ALSO PLANS TO GROW A VARIETY OF CROPS, REMAIN INNOVATIVE AND CONTINUE TO INSPIRE.

*CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN GARDENS OR GREENHOUSES

MANOJ BENJWAL

SHREYAS HAD ACCOMPANIED HIS GRANDMOTHER TO THE MARKET AND THE TEMPLE.



YOU WAIT HERE WITH THE BAGS. I'LL COME BACK IN FIVE MINUTES.

OKAY, DADI*. GO CAREFULLY.

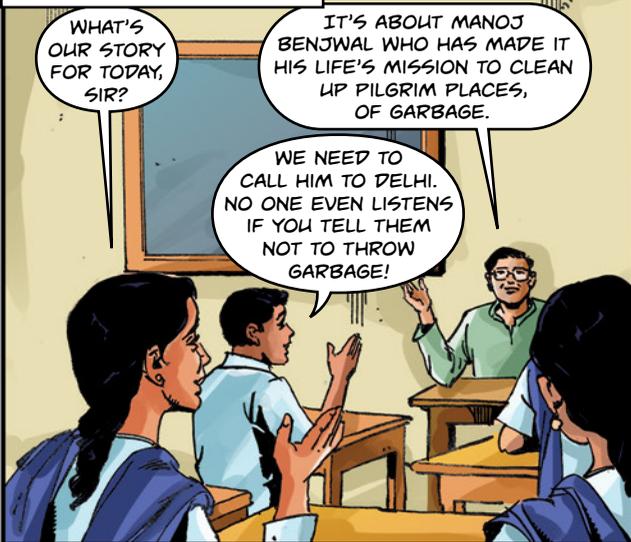
AS SHREYAS WAITED, A WOMAN CAME OUT AND —



MA'AM, PLEASE DON'T THROW GARBAGE.

CAN'T YOU SEE THE MESS ALL AROUND? WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL MY PLASTIC BAG MAKE?

THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL —



WHAT'S OUR STORY FOR TODAY, SIR?

IT'S ABOUT MANOJ BENJWAL WHO HAS MADE IT HIS LIFE'S MISSION TO CLEAN UP PILGRIM PLACES, OF GARBAGE.

WE NEED TO CALL HIM TO DELHI. NO ONE EVEN LISTENS IF YOU TELL THEM NOT TO THROW GARBAGE!

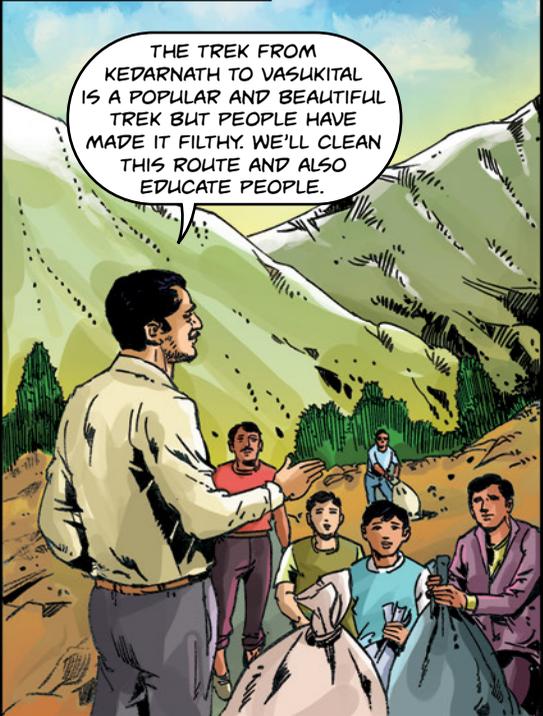


IT'S TOUGH, I KNOW BUT DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, SHREYAS. MANOJ'S STORY HAS A LESSON FOR ALL OF US.

*PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER

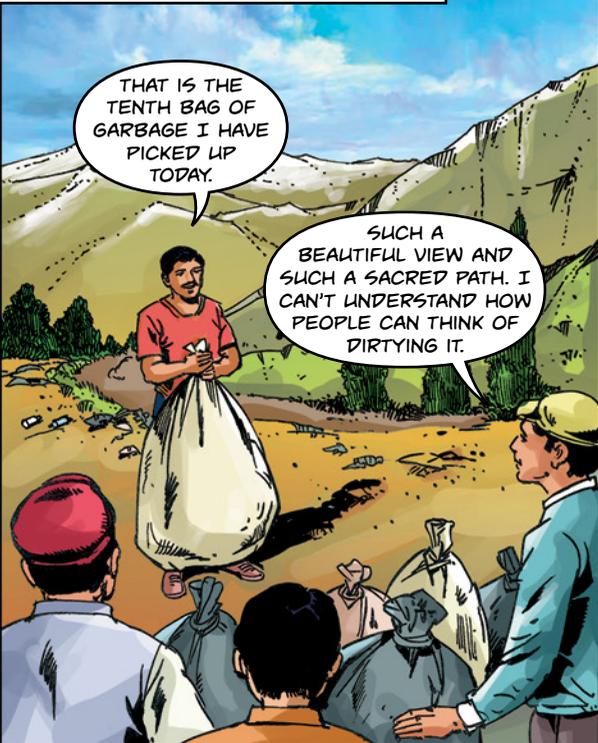


WHEN MANOJ BENJWAL WAS A STUDENT, HE JOINED A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON A CLEANING MISSION.



THE TREK FROM KEDARNATH TO VASUKITAL IS A POPULAR AND BEAUTIFUL TREK BUT PEOPLE HAVE MADE IT FILTHY. WE'LL CLEAN THIS ROUTE AND ALSO EDUCATE PEOPLE.

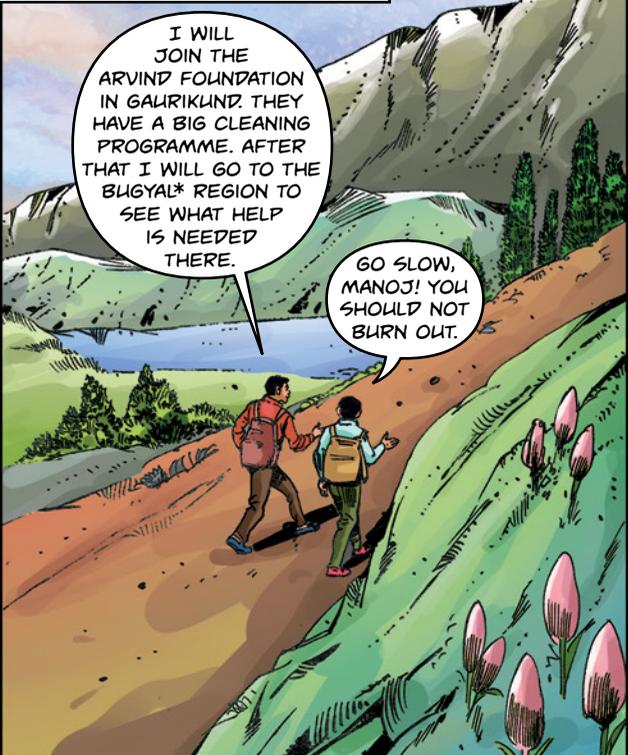
MANOJ SPENT MANY DAYS WORKING WITH HIS COMPANIONS TO CLEAN THE PATH.



THAT IS THE TENTH BAG OF GARBAGE I HAVE PICKED UP TODAY.

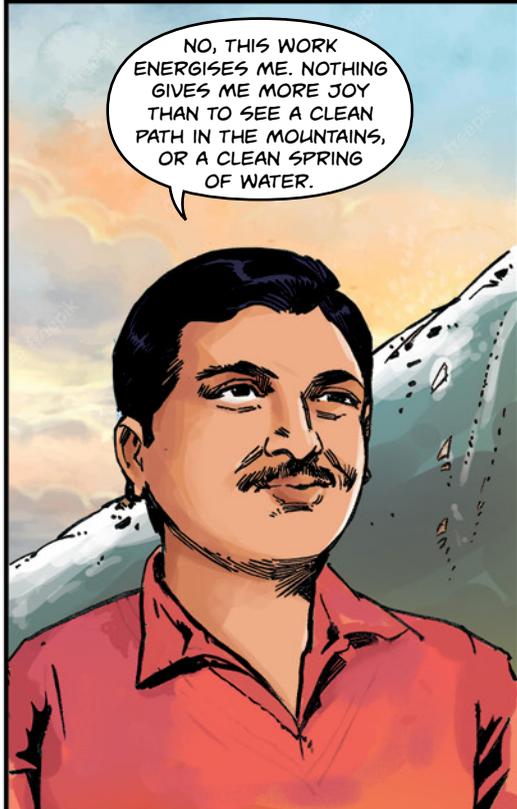
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL VIEW AND SUCH A SACRED PATH. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE CAN THINK OF DIRTYING IT.

THIS EXPERIENCE OF HIS STUDENT DAYS STAYED WITH MANOJ.



I WILL JOIN THE ARVIND FOUNDATION IN GAURIKUND. THEY HAVE A BIG CLEANING PROGRAMME. AFTER THAT I WILL GO TO THE BUGYAL* REGION TO SEE WHAT HELP IS NEEDED THERE.

GO SLOW, MANOJ! YOU SHOULD NOT BURN OUT.



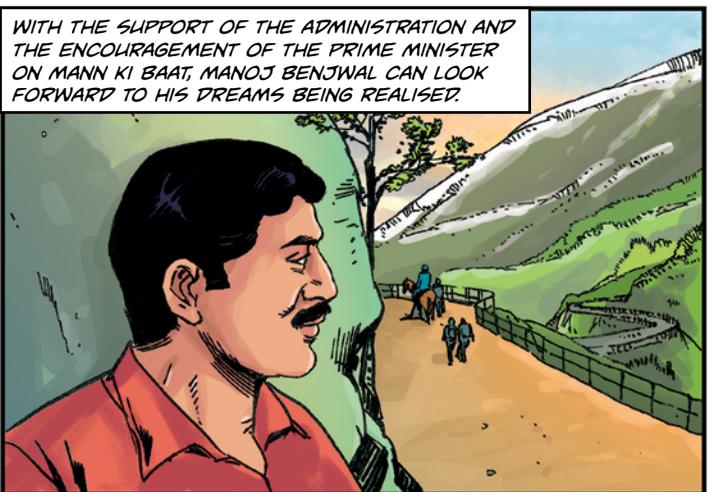
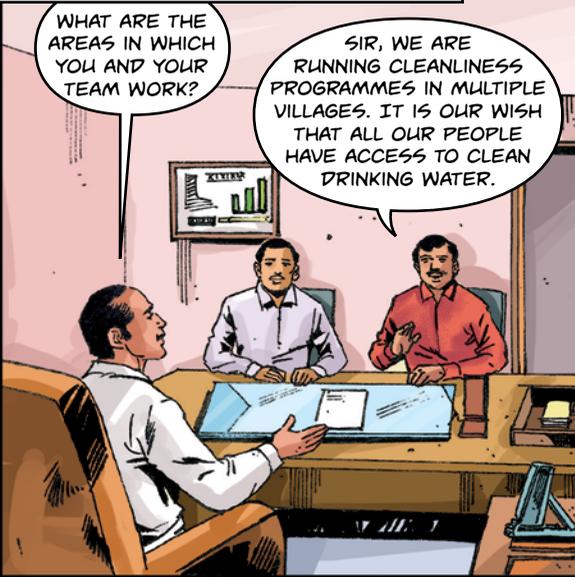
NO, THIS WORK ENERGISES ME. NOTHING GIVES ME MORE JOY THAN TO SEE A CLEAN PATH IN THE MOUNTAINS, OR A CLEAN SPRING OF WATER.

*HIMALAYAN GRASSLANDS

MANOJ HAS STAYED TRUE TO HIS WORD. IN 2019 HE JOINED SEWA INTERNATIONAL AND THEIR PROGRAMME, 'PRAVAH', IN UTTARAKHAND.



IMPRESSED BY MANOJ'S WORK, THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF RUDRAPRAYAG, MAYUR DIKSHIT, HELD A MEETING WITH HIM.







MANN KI BAAT

VOL.5

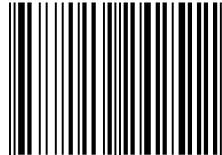
When Rohan Kale was on a work trip to Gujarat, he visited some of the famous stepwells there. Impressed by their upkeep he decided to start a clean-up mission for the stepwells in Maharashtra. Before long these stepwells were included in tourist itineraries and festivals began to be celebrated on their stairs, as in olden times.

In Mann ki Baat, Volume 5, Nair Sir continues to tell engrossing stories of real-life heroes who have worked hard to make their surroundings, their country and the world, a better place. Stories of great grit, courage and perseverance that inspire and encourage others to step forward and do something worthwhile.



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