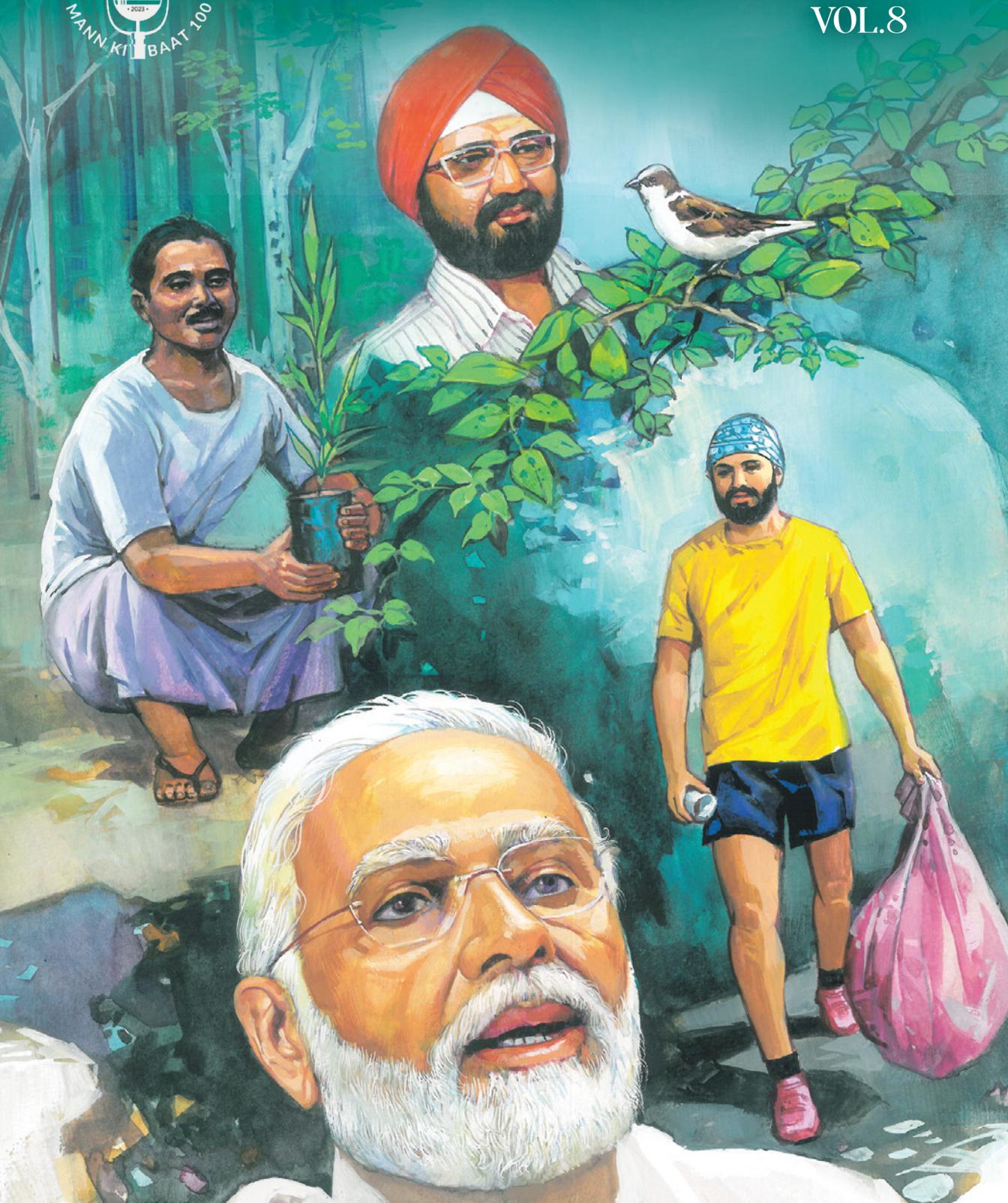




MANN KI BAAT

VOL.8



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My dear children,

It is said that India is a country of diversity. This is true. We are made up of people with different languages and cultures, but we are also interconnected. What connects us all are values, our thoughts and our attitude.

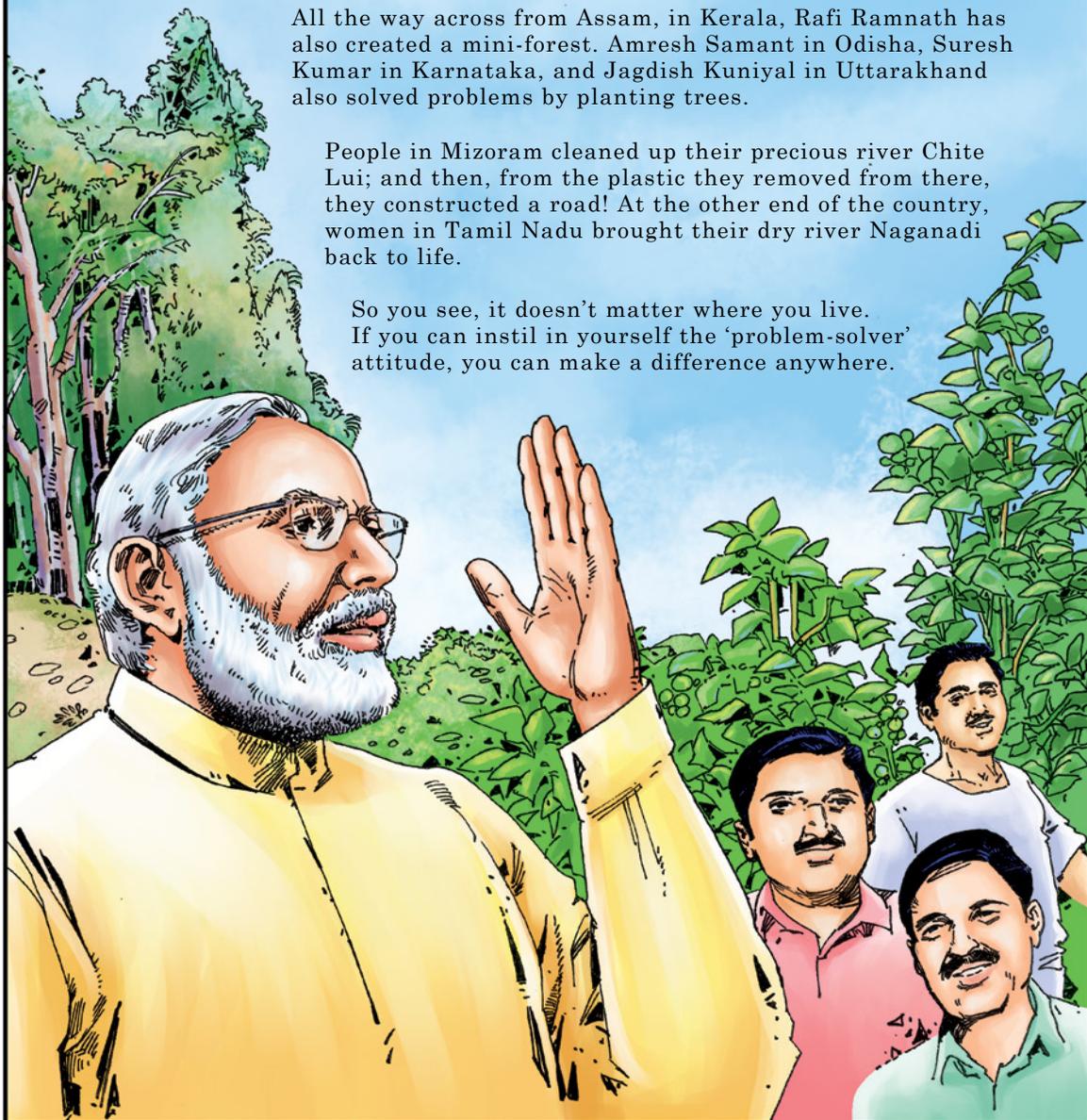
You all know that natural resources are growing scarce everywhere. Forests are dwindling and water is drying up. But there are people all across our country, who have a 'problem-solver' attitude. They have seen the problem, thought of the solution and then done everything they could to implement it. In doing so, they have improved their own lives, the lives of their neighbours and even the lives of birds and animals.

It makes me proud to tell you about Jadav Payeng from Assam who created a forest all by himself. A forest where today, tigers and rhinos have made their homes.

All the way across from Assam, in Kerala, Rafi Ramnath has also created a mini-forest. Amresh Samant in Odisha, Suresh Kumar in Karnataka, and Jagdish Kuniyal in Uttarakhand also solved problems by planting trees.

People in Mizoram cleaned up their precious river Chite Lui; and then, from the plastic they removed from there, they constructed a road! At the other end of the country, women in Tamil Nadu brought their dry river Naganadi back to life.

So you see, it doesn't matter where you live. If you can instil in yourself the 'problem-solver' attitude, you can make a difference anywhere.





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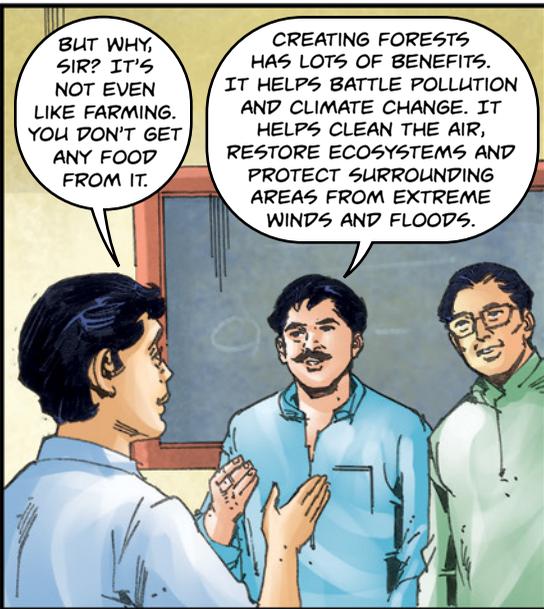
AMRESH SAMANT

THE STUDENTS WERE HAVING A SPECIAL CLASS ON CLIMATE CHANGE WITH AN ENVIRONMENTALIST.



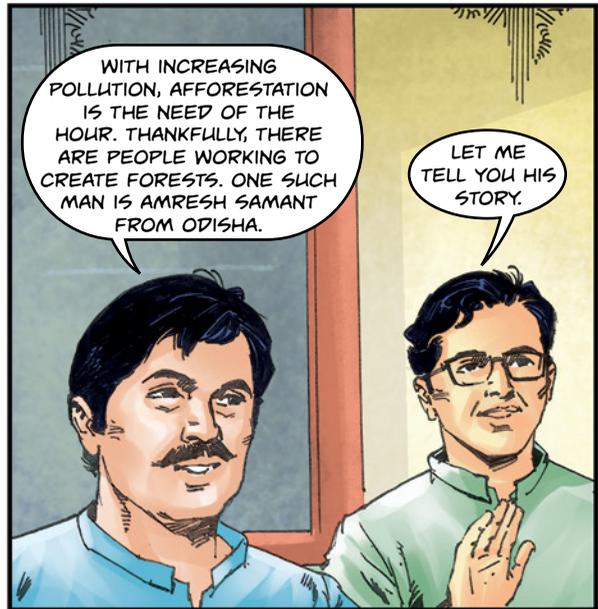
SIR, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU HAVE CREATED A FOREST ALL BY YOURSELF?

NOT YET, BUT I AM WORKING ON IT WITH A FEW OTHERS.



BUT WHY, SIR? IT'S NOT EVEN LIKE FARMING. YOU DON'T GET ANY FOOD FROM IT.

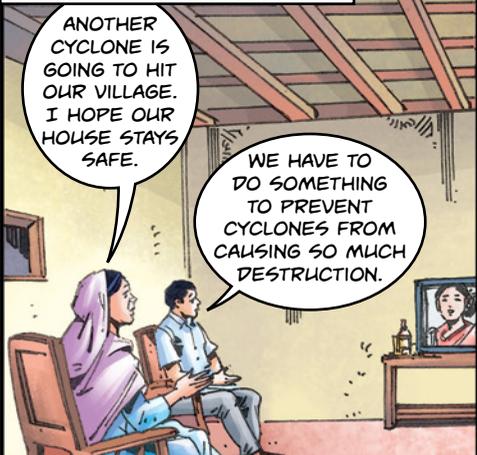
CREATING FORESTS HAS LOTS OF BENEFITS. IT HELPS BATTLE POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. IT HELPS CLEAN THE AIR, RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS AND PROTECT SURROUNDING AREAS FROM EXTREME WINDS AND FLOODS.



WITH INCREASING POLLUTION, AFFORESTATION IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR. THANKFULLY, THERE ARE PEOPLE WORKING TO CREATE FORESTS. ONE SUCH MAN IS AMRESH SAMANT FROM ODISHA.

LET ME TELL YOU HIS STORY.

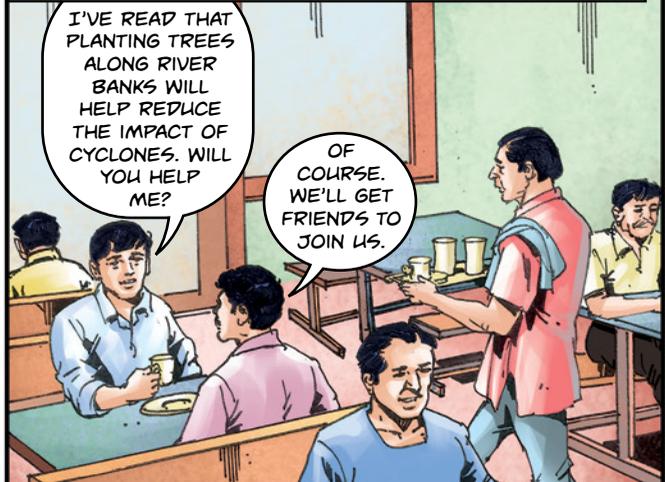
AMRESH SAMANT GREW UP IN A VILLAGE CALLED BILWALI IN THE COASTAL REGION OF ODISHA.



ANOTHER CYCLONE IS GOING TO HIT OUR VILLAGE. I HOPE OUR HOUSE STAYS SAFE.

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO PREVENT CYCLONES FROM CAUSING SO MUCH DESTRUCTION.

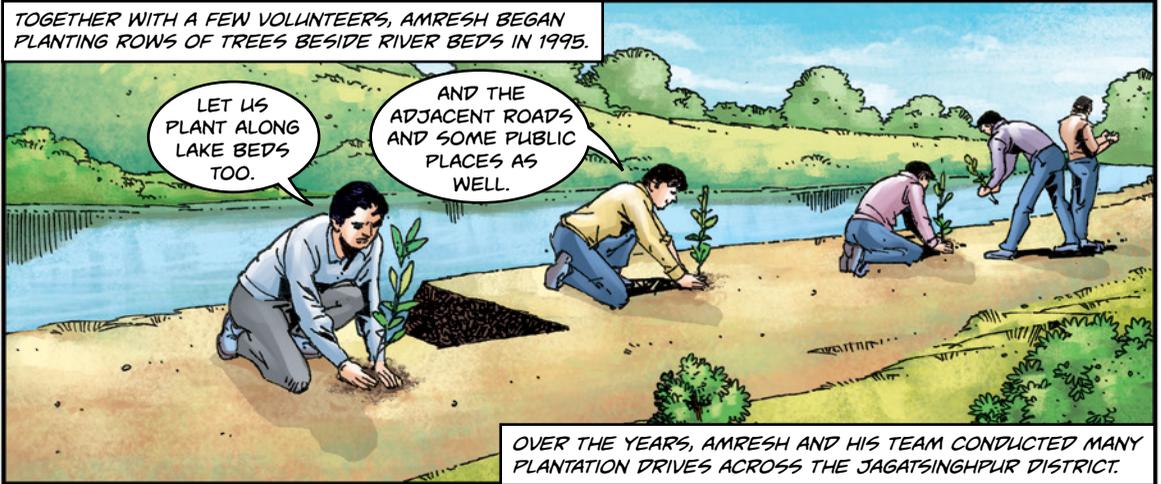
AMRESH WAS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, BUT THE THOUGHT OF PREVENTING NATURAL DISASTERS WAS ALWAYS WITH HIM.



I'VE READ THAT PLANTING TREES ALONG RIVER BANKS WILL HELP REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CYCLONES. WILL YOU HELP ME?

OF COURSE. WE'LL GET FRIENDS TO JOIN US.

TOGETHER WITH A FEW VOLUNTEERS, AMRESH BEGAN PLANTING ROWS OF TREES BESIDE RIVER BEDS IN 1995.



LET US PLANT ALONG LAKE BEDS TOO.

AND THE ADJACENT ROADS AND SOME PUBLIC PLACES AS WELL.

OVER THE YEARS, AMRESH AND HIS TEAM CONDUCTED MANY PLANTATION DRIVES ACROSS THE JAGATSinghpur DISTRICT.

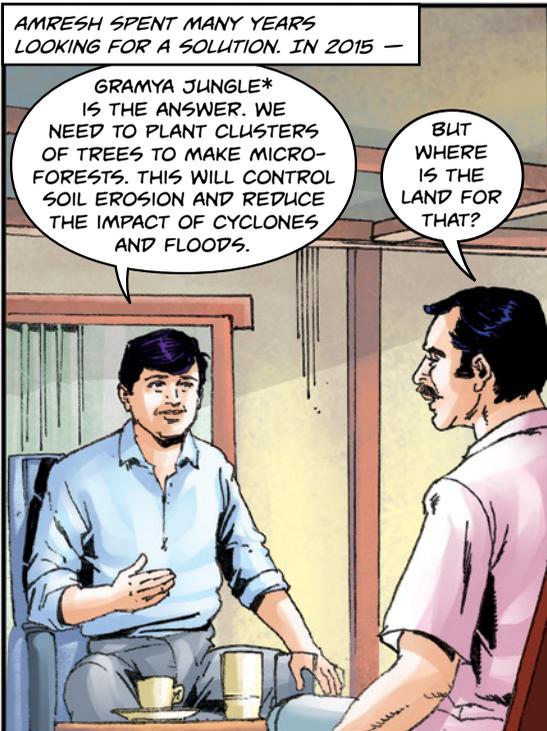
BUT WHEN A CYCLONE HIT ODISHA —



THE TREES HAVE BEEN UPROOTED!

THE DAMAGE TO HOMES AND PROPERTY HAS NOT REDUCED AT ALL.

AMRESH SPENT MANY YEARS LOOKING FOR A SOLUTION. IN 2015 —



GRAMYA JUNGLE* IS THE ANSWER. WE NEED TO PLANT CLUSTERS OF TREES TO MAKE MICRO-FORESTS. THIS WILL CONTROL SOIL EROSION AND REDUCE THE IMPACT OF CYCLONES AND FLOODS.

BUT WHERE IS THE LAND FOR THAT?

AMRESH AND HIS TEAM BEGAN ASKING VILLAGERS TO DONATE SOME LAND.



WHY SHOULD WE GIVE AWAY LAND FOR FREE?

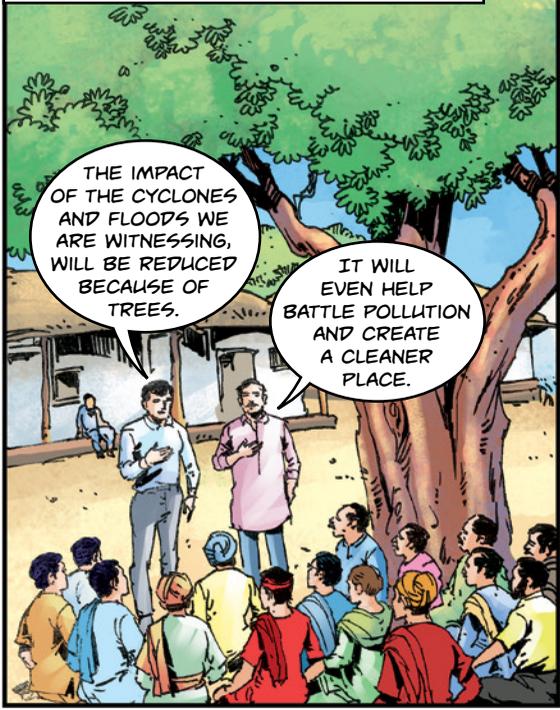
WE CAN MAKE BETTER USE OF IT TO GROW SOME CROPS FOR FOOD.

MANY VILLAGERS REFUSED THEIR REQUEST.

*RURAL FOREST



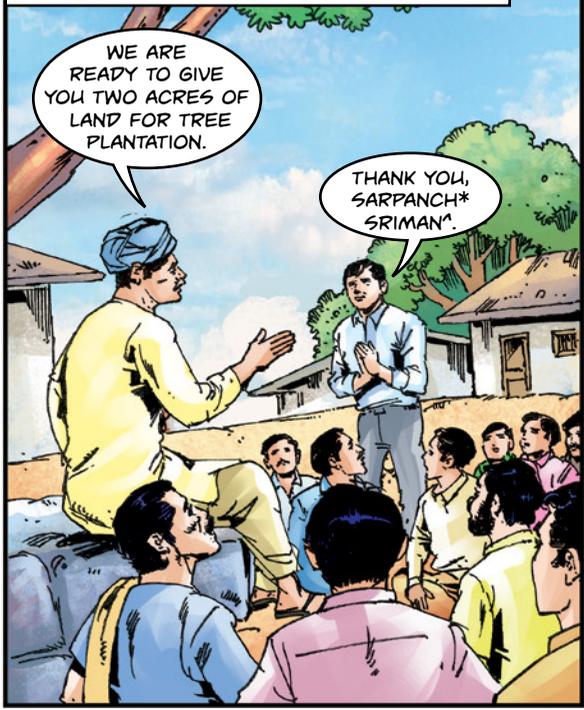
TO HELP CONVINCE THE VILLAGERS, AMRESH DECIDED TO CONDUCT ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CAMPS IN THE VILLAGES.



THE IMPACT OF THE CYCLONES AND FLOODS WE ARE WITNESSING, WILL BE REDUCED BECAUSE OF TREES.

IT WILL EVEN HELP BATTLE POLLUTION AND CREATE A CLEANER PLACE.

AMRESH CONDUCTED MANY SUCH AWARENESS DRIVES AND SLOWLY THE MINDSET OF THE VILLAGERS BEGAN TO CHANGE. ONE DAY —



WE ARE READY TO GIVE YOU TWO ACRES OF LAND FOR TREE PLANTATION.

THANK YOU, SARPANCH* SRIMAN*

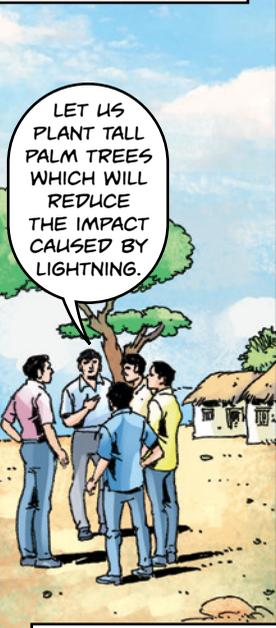
AMRESH AND HIS TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS BEGAN TO PLANT NATIVE TREES IN THE VILLAGE.



EACH CLUSTER IN A VILLAGE SHOULD HAVE 500 TO 1,000 TREES.

SOON, MORE VOLUNTEERS JOINED HIM AND MORE VILLAGES OFFERED LAND FOR THE PLANTATION DRIVES.

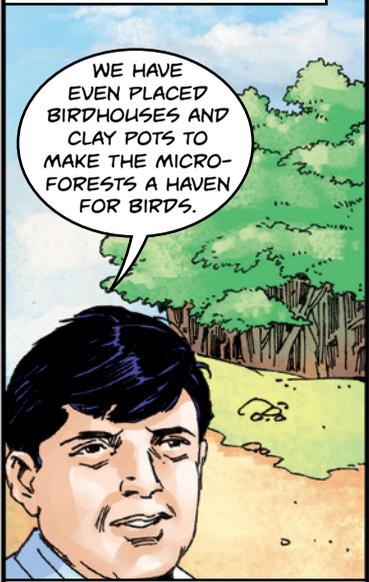
IN 2016, AMRESH DECIDED TO WORK ON A SOLUTION FOR THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY LIGHTNING.



LET US PLANT TALL PALM TREES WHICH WILL REDUCE THE IMPACT CAUSED BY LIGHTNING.

THE PALM TREES THEY PLANTED HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT.

AMRESH AND HIS TEAM OF OVER 100 VOLUNTEERS HAVE SO FAR PLANTED MORE THAN ONE LAKH TREES IN 20 VILLAGES OF ODISHA.



WE HAVE EVEN PLACED BIRDHOUSES AND CLAY POTS TO MAKE THE MICRO-FORESTS A HAVEN FOR BIRDS.

AMRESH'S WORK RECEIVED APPRECIATION FROM ODISHA CHIEF MINISTER, NAVEEN PATNAIK, AND FOUND MENTION IN PM MODI'S MANN KI BAAT.

*VILLAGE HEADMAN

*TERM OF RESPECT

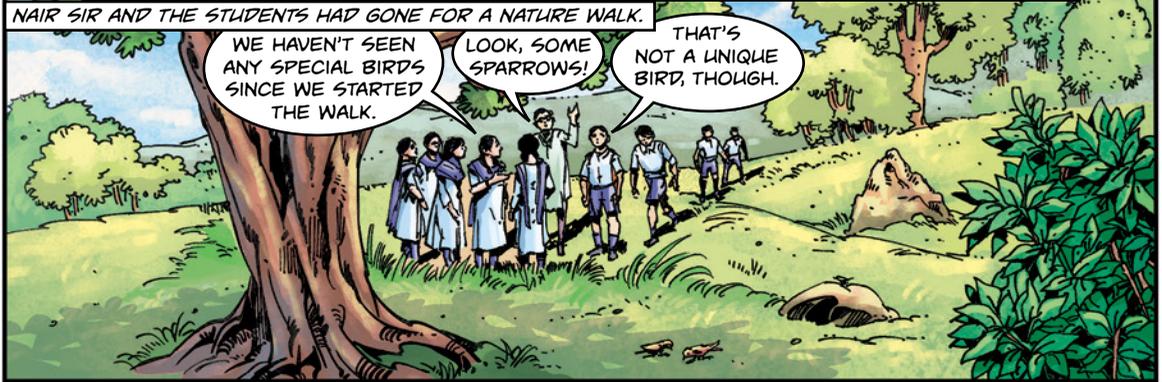
INDERPAL SINGH BATRA

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

WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SPECIAL BIRDS SINCE WE STARTED THE WALK.

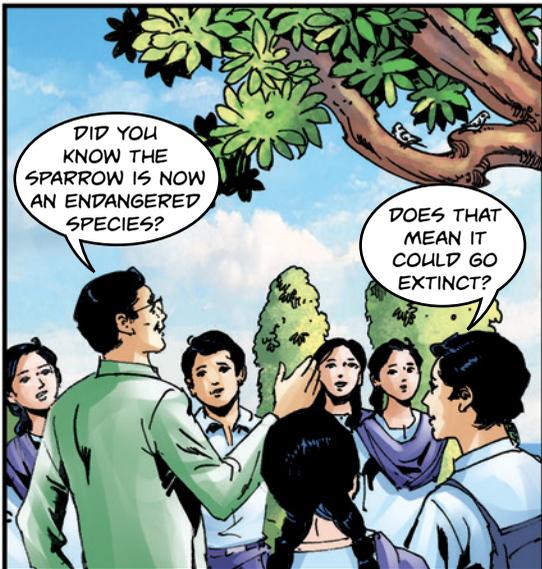
LOOK, SOME SPARROWS!

THAT'S NOT A UNIQUE BIRD, THOUGH.

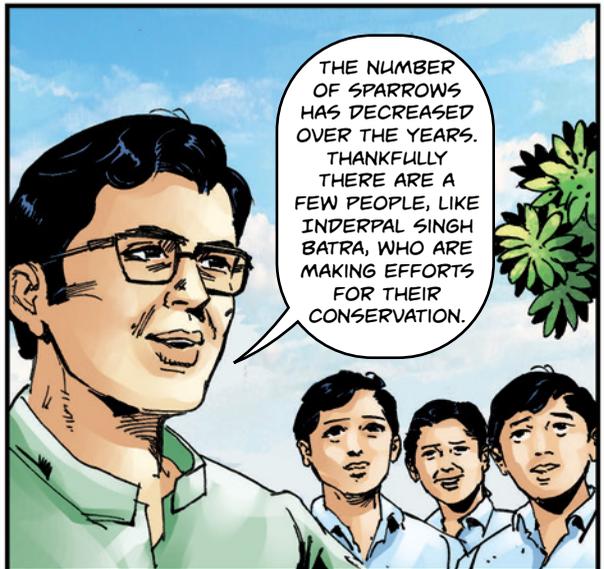


DID YOU KNOW THE SPARROW IS NOW AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

DOES THAT MEAN IT COULD GO EXTINCT?



THE NUMBER OF SPARROWS HAS DECREASED OVER THE YEARS. THANKFULLY THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE, LIKE IINDERPAL SINGH BATRA, WHO ARE MAKING EFFORTS FOR THEIR CONSERVATION.



IINDERPAL SINGH BATRA WAS A FOOD ENTREPRENEUR WHO LIVED IN VARANASI. ONE DAY -

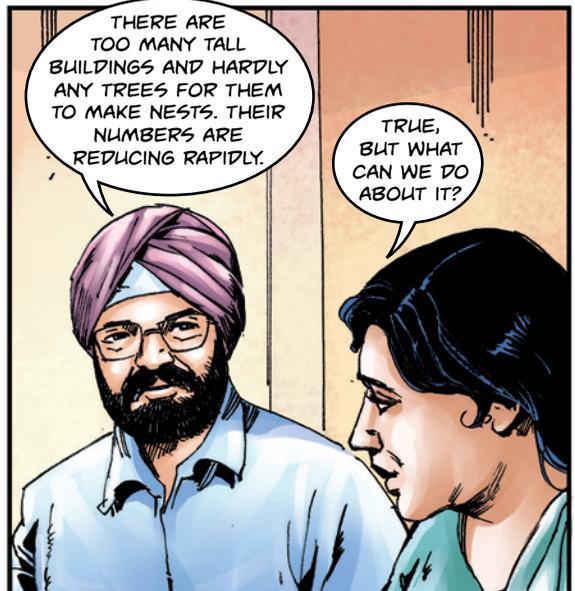
SONIA, I SAW A SPARROW LAST EVENING WHEN I WENT FOR A WALK. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I SAW ONE.

I USED TO SEE SO MANY WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.



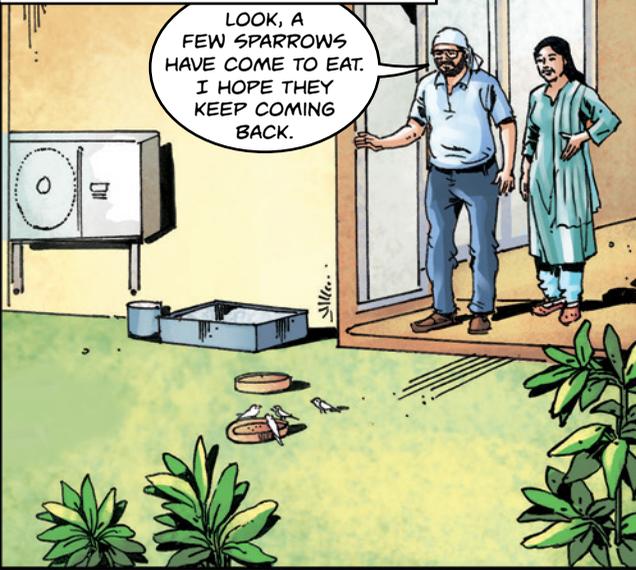
THERE ARE TOO MANY TALL BUILDINGS AND HARDLY ANY TREES FOR THEM TO MAKE NESTS. THEIR NUMBERS ARE REDUCING RAPIDLY.

TRUE, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?





INDERPAL STARTED PUTTING OUT GRAINS AND SEEDS FOR SPARROWS. SOON —



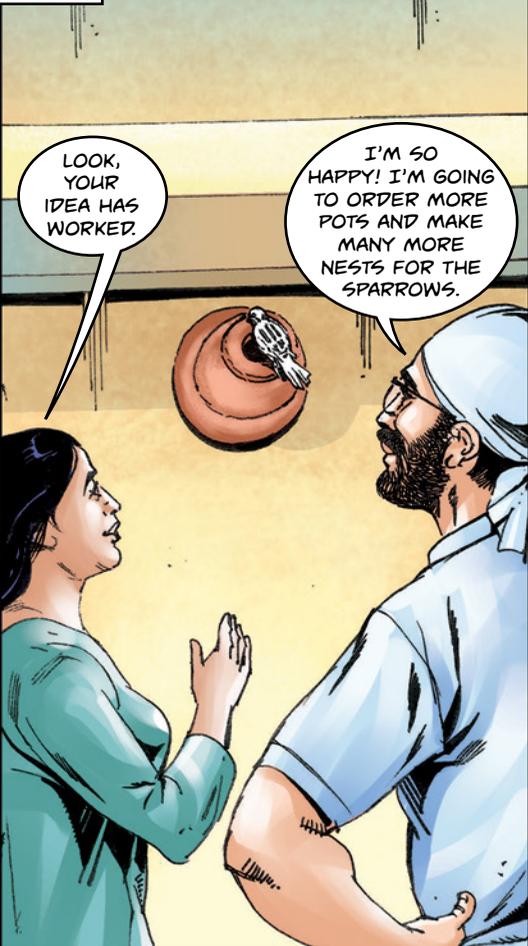
LOOK, A FEW SPARROWS HAVE COME TO EAT. I HOPE THEY KEEP COMING BACK.

A FEW WEEKS LATER, INDERPAL HAD AN IDEA —



I'VE MADE A HOLE IN THIS POT AND FILLED IT WITH STRAW. I'M GOING TO STICK IT TO THE OUTSIDE OF OUR HOME, AND HOPEFULLY SPARROWS WILL USE IT FOR A NEST.

SOON —



LOOK, YOUR IDEA HAS WORKED.

I'M SO HAPPY! I'M GOING TO ORDER MORE POTS AND MAKE MANY MORE NESTS FOR THE SPARROWS.

INDERPAL MADE MANY EARTHEN POT NESTS AND PUT THEM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HIS HOUSE.



OUR HOUSE SURE HAS A UNIQUE LOOK NOW!

IT DOES, AND SO WILL OUR SURROUNDINGS WHEN THEY ARE FILLED WITH SPARROWS.

INDERPAL REGULARLY KEPT FOOD AND WATER FOR THE SPARROWS AND OVER THE YEARS, MANY SPARROWS MADE HIS HOME THEIR OWN.

PAPA, LOOK, SHE'S SITTING ON MY HAND.

THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM NOW, AMRITA. ISN'T IT AMAZING?



INDERPAL EVEN BEGAN TO PLANT TREES IN HIS SURROUNDING AREAS TO ENSURE MORE BIRDS COULD BUILD NESTS.



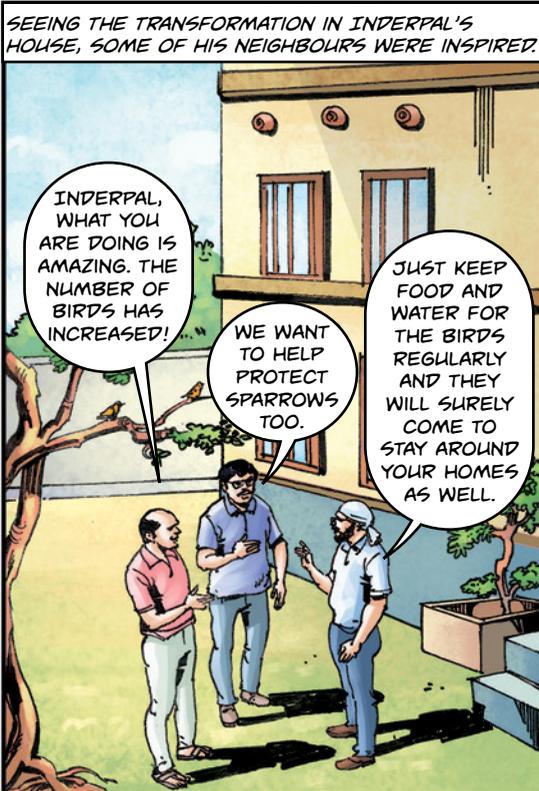
HE HAS PLANTED HUNDREDS OF TREES OVER THE YEARS.

SEEING THE TRANSFORMATION IN INDERPAL'S HOUSE, SOME OF HIS NEIGHBOURS WERE INSPIRED.

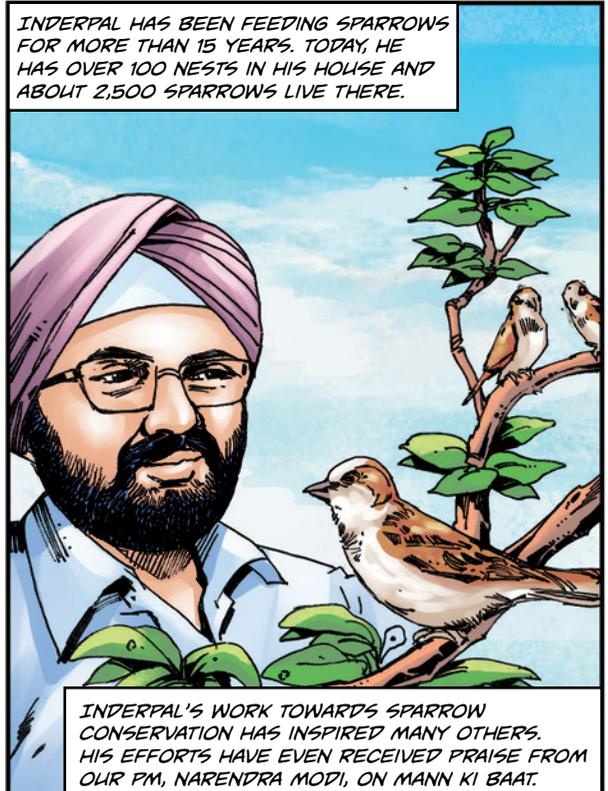
INDERPAL, WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS AMAZING. THE NUMBER OF BIRDS HAS INCREASED!

WE WANT TO HELP PROTECT SPARROWS TOO.

JUST KEEP FOOD AND WATER FOR THE BIRDS REGULARLY AND THEY WILL SURELY COME TO STAY AROUND YOUR HOMES AS WELL.



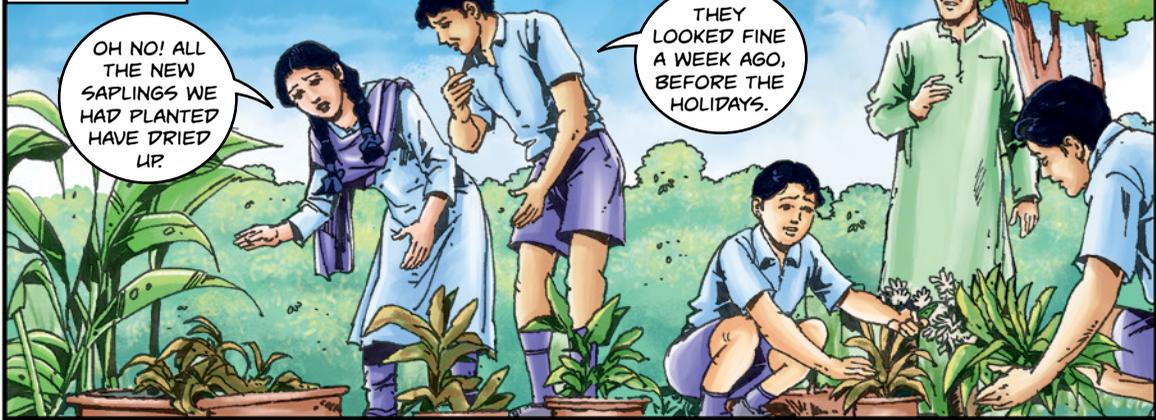
INDERPAL HAS BEEN FEEDING SPARROWS FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS. TODAY, HE HAS OVER 100 NESTS IN HIS HOUSE AND ABOUT 2,500 SPARROWS LIVE THERE.



INDERPAL'S WORK TOWARDS SPARROW CONSERVATION HAS INSPIRED MANY OTHERS. HIS EFFORTS HAVE EVEN RECEIVED PRAISE FROM OUR PM, NARENDRA MODI, ON MANN KI BAAT.

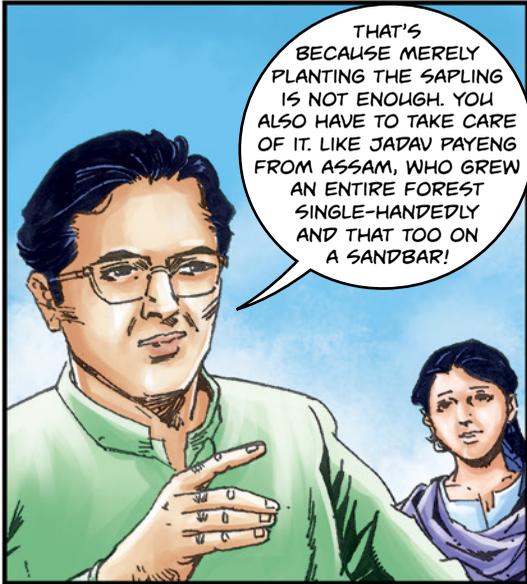
JADAV PAYENG

IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN —

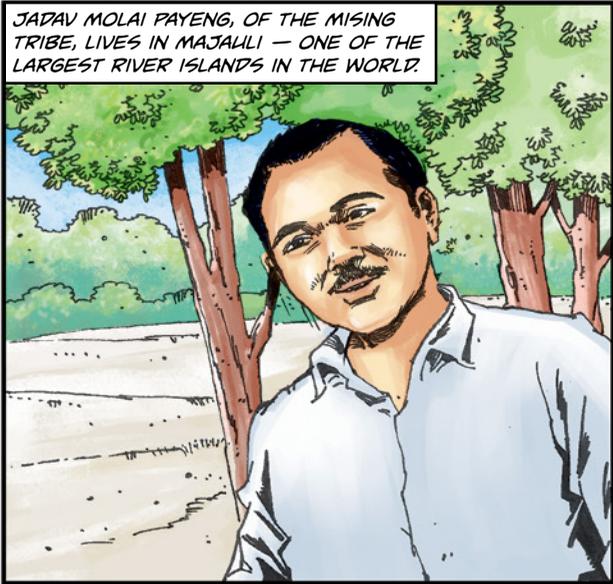


OH NO! ALL THE NEW SAPLINGS WE HAD PLANTED HAVE DRIED UP

THEY LOOKED FINE A WEEK AGO, BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS.



THAT'S BECAUSE MERELY PLANTING THE SAPLING IS NOT ENOUGH. YOU ALSO HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT. LIKE JADAV PAYENG FROM ASSAM, WHO GREW AN ENTIRE FOREST SINGLE-HANDEDLY AND THAT TOO ON A SANDBAR!

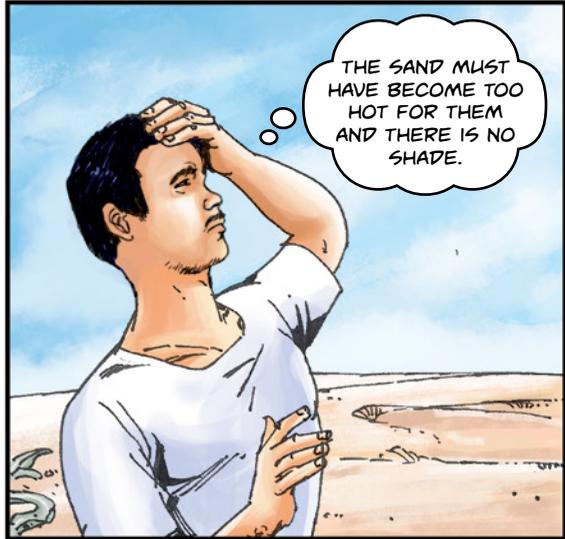


JADAV MOLAI PAYENG, OF THE MISING TRIBE, LIVES IN MAJALLI — ONE OF THE LARGEST RIVER ISLANDS IN THE WORLD.

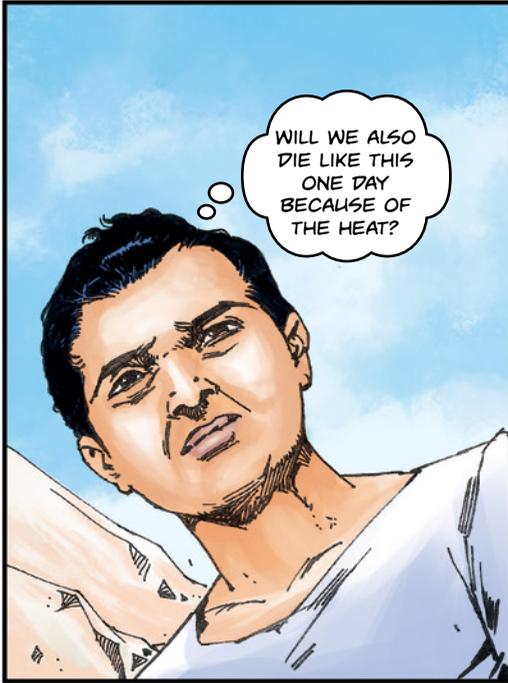
ON A HOT AFTERNOON IN 1979, WHEN HE WAS 16 YEARS OLD, JADAV SAW SOMETHING THAT WOULD CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER.



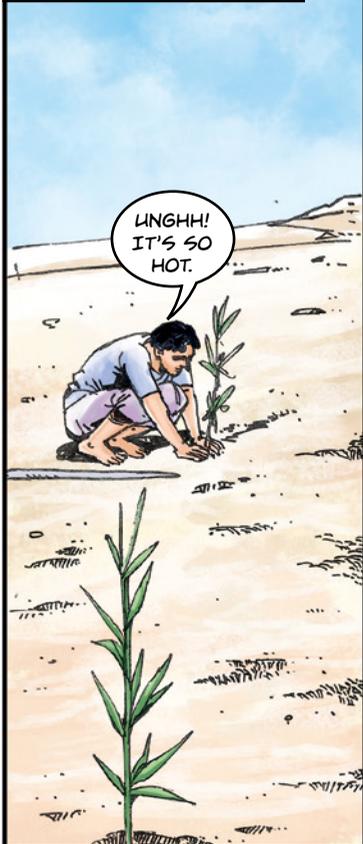
SO MANY SNAKES! ALL DEAD!



THE SAND MUST HAVE BECOME TOO HOT FOR THEM AND THERE IS NO SHADE.



JADAV PLANTED A FEW BAMBOO SAPPLINGS ON THE SANDBAR THE NEXT DAY...



...AND THE NEXT.

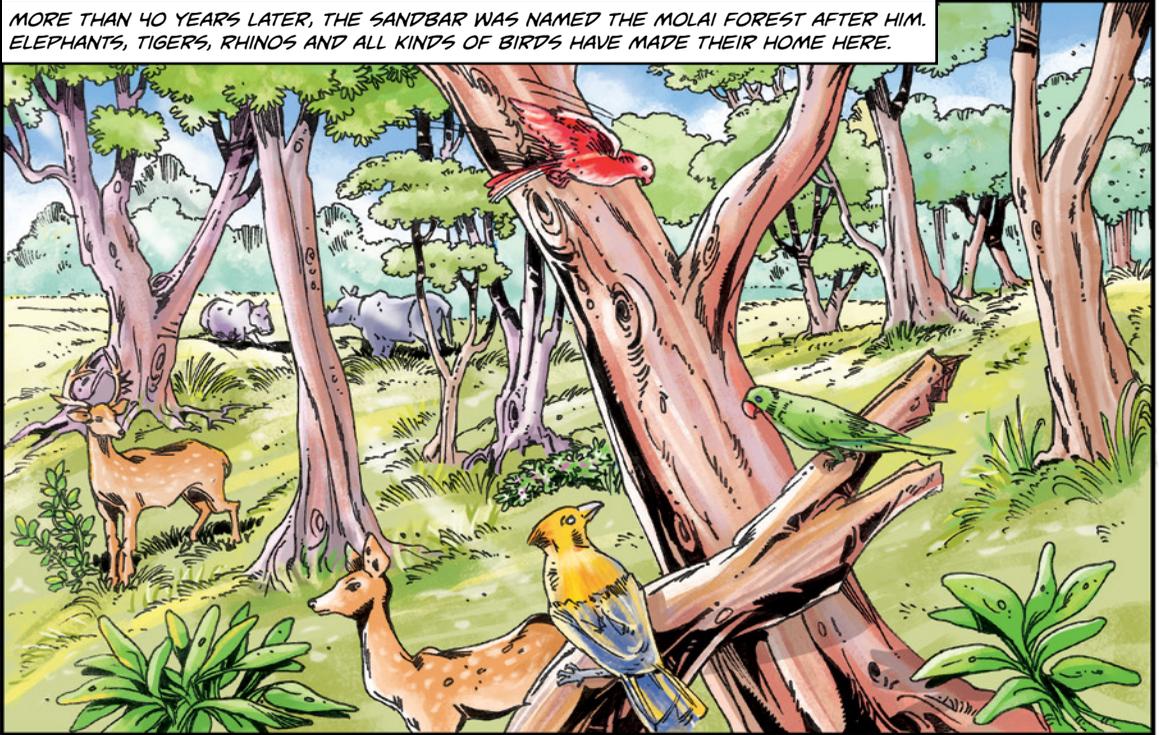


THEN, HE STARTED PLANTING OTHER KINDS OF TREES. HE PLANTED ONE TREE EVERY DAY, UNTIL...

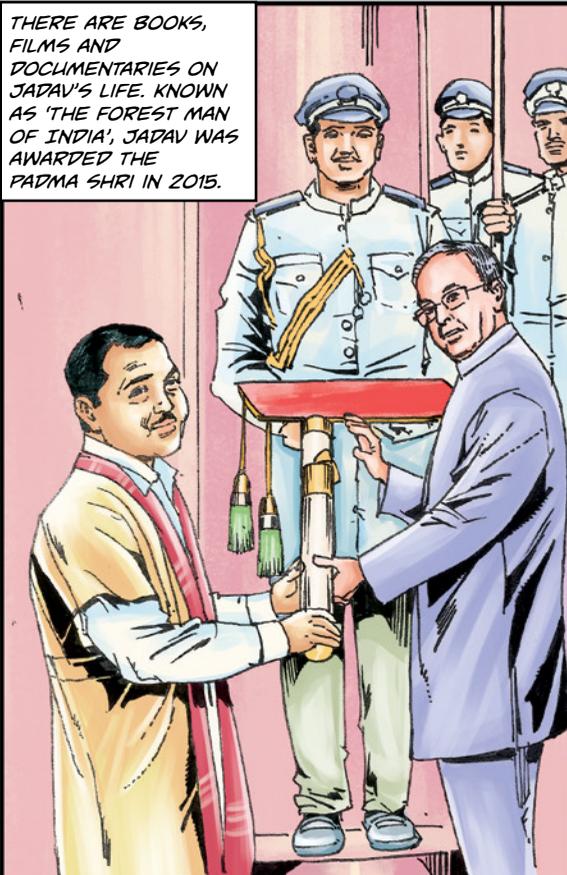




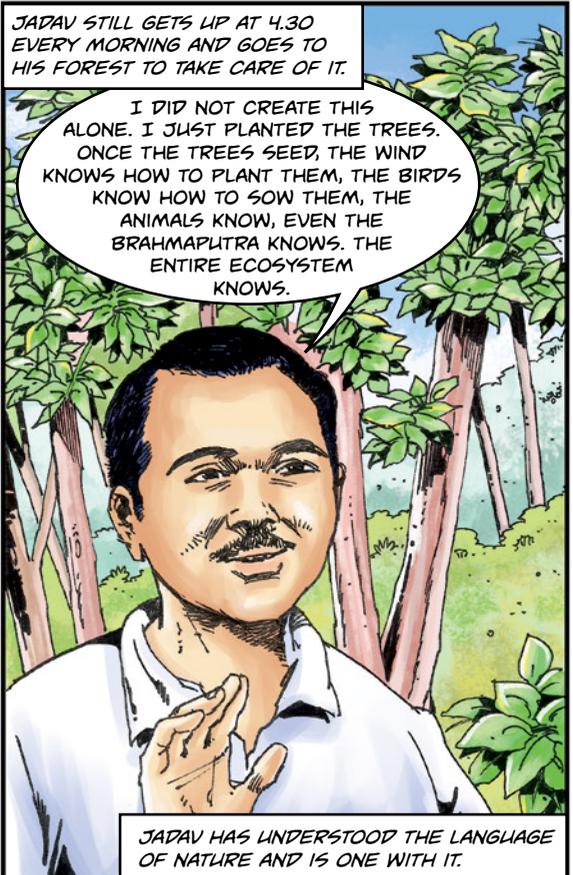
MORE THAN 40 YEARS LATER, THE SANDBAR WAS NAMED THE MOLAI FOREST AFTER HIM. ELEPHANTS, TIGERS, RHINOS AND ALL KINDS OF BIRDS HAVE MADE THEIR HOME HERE.



THERE ARE BOOKS, FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES ON JADAV'S LIFE. KNOWN AS 'THE FOREST MAN OF INDIA', JADAV WAS AWARDED THE PADMA SHRI IN 2015.



JADAV STILL GETS UP AT 4.30 EVERY MORNING AND GOES TO HIS FOREST TO TAKE CARE OF IT.



I DID NOT CREATE THIS ALONE. I JUST PLANTED THE TREES. ONCE THE TREES SEED, THE WIND KNOWS HOW TO PLANT THEM, THE BIRDS KNOW HOW TO SOW THEM, THE ANIMALS KNOW, EVEN THE BRAHMAPUTRA KNOWS. THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM KNOWS.

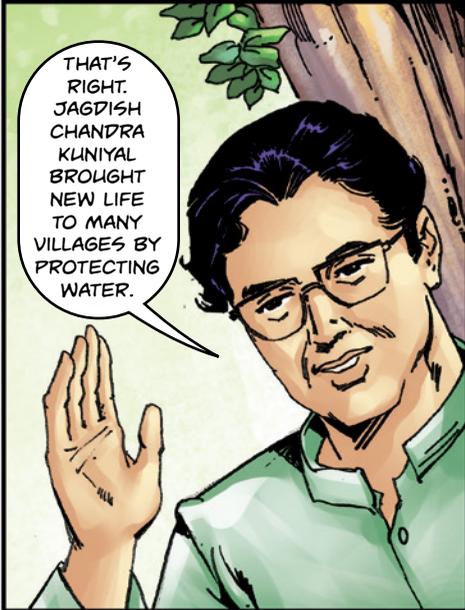
JADAV HAS UNDERSTOOD THE LANGUAGE OF NATURE AND IS ONE WITH IT.

JAGDISH CHANDRA KUNIYAL

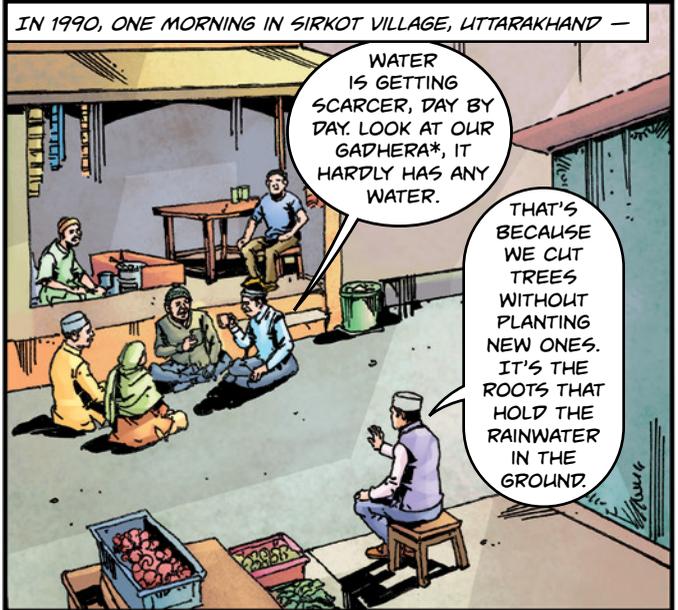


SO MANY OF OUR MANN KI BAAT STORIES ARE CENTRED AROUND WATER. CAN YOU TELL ME WHY?

WATER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR THE SURVIVAL OF PEOPLE.



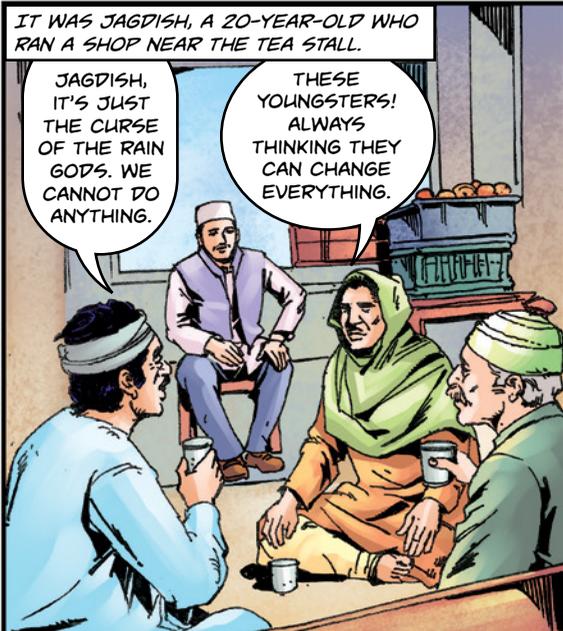
THAT'S RIGHT. JAGDISH CHANDRA KUNIYAL BROUGHT NEW LIFE TO MANY VILLAGES BY PROTECTING WATER.



IN 1990, ONE MORNING IN SIRKOT VILLAGE, UTTARAKHAND —

WATER IS GETTING SCARCER, DAY BY DAY. LOOK AT OUR GADHERA*, IT HARDLY HAS ANY WATER.

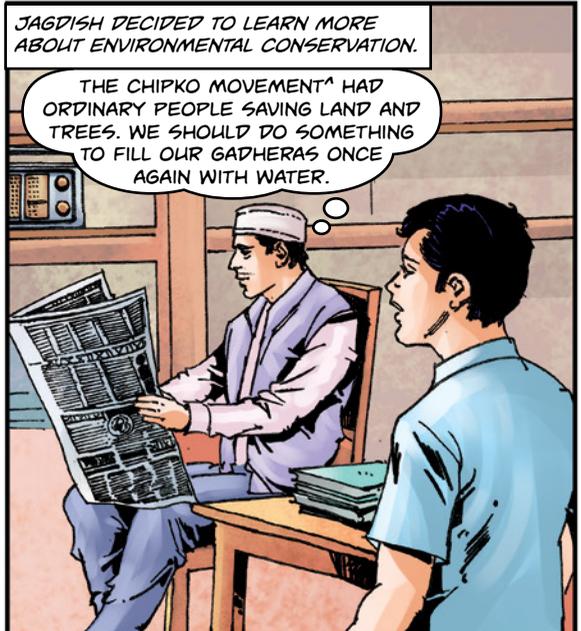
THAT'S BECAUSE WE CUT TREES WITHOUT PLANTING NEW ONES. IT'S THE ROOTS THAT HOLD THE RAINWATER IN THE GROUND.



IT WAS JAGDISH, A 20-YEAR-OLD WHO RAN A SHOP NEAR THE TEA STALL.

JAGDISH, IT'S JUST THE CURSE OF THE RAIN GODS. WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING.

THESE YOUNGSTERS! ALWAYS THINKING THEY CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.



JAGDISH DECIDED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

THE CHIPKO MOVEMENT^ HAD ORDINARY PEOPLE SAVING LAND AND TREES. WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO FILL OUR GADHERAS ONCE AGAIN WITH WATER.

*RAINWATER MOUNTAIN STREAM

^AN ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT IN THE 1970s WHEN PEOPLE HUGGED TREES TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING CUT



A WEEK LATER —

IF WE ALL PLANT TREES, THE GADHERA CAN COME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN.

IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.

JAGDISH DECIDED TO DO IT ALONE, WITHOUT SUPPORT.

SOON —

WHY IS HE PLANTING SAPPLINGS?

HE'S A FOOL TRYING TO REVIVE THE GADHERA.

UNFORTUNATELY, WITH NO RAINS, THE SAPPLINGS COULD NOT SURVIVE.

WHY ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR MONEY ON THESE SAPPLINGS THAT MAY NEVER GROW? SAVE IT FOR YOUR FUTURE.

CHACHA*, THE GADHERA WILL NOT ONLY BENEFIT OUR VILLAGE BUT ALSO NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES.

HOW CAN THESE TINY SAPPLINGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
THEY WILL. I WILL PLANT MORE OF THEM DURING THE RAINS.

OVER A DECADE, JAGDISH PLANTED SAPPLINGS ACROSS THE VILLAGE.

IN THE YEAR 2000 —

MA, GOATS HAVE EATEN THE SMALL TREES, AND THE PLANTS HAVE BEEN TRAMPLED AND BROKEN.

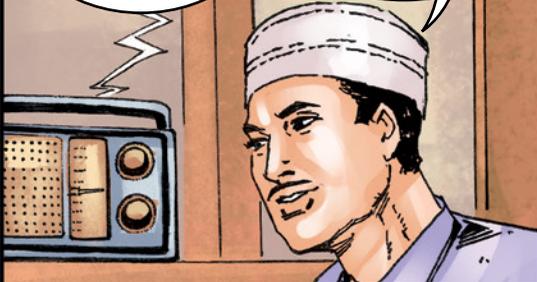
HOW WILL THE PLANTS SURVIVE IF NO ONE CARES FOR THEM?

*LINCLE IN HINDI

THE SAME YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT INITIATED A PLAN TO ESTABLISH TEA GARDENS IN HILLY REGIONS.

THE UTTARAKHAND STATE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES TEA CULTIVATION UNDER THE HILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

I AM GOING TO DO IT. IF I PLANT TEA AND HAVE A GUARD, THE PLANTS AND TREES WILL BE CARED FOR.

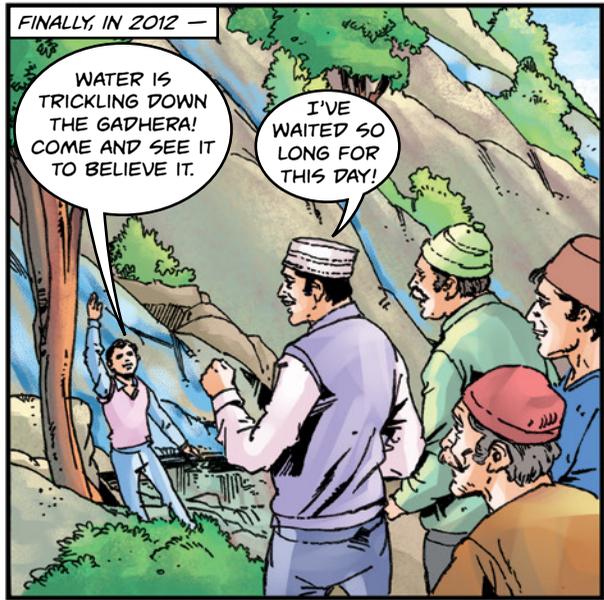


JAGDISH CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS AND THE FOREST COVER INCREASED.

FINALLY, IN 2012 —

WATER IS TRICKLING DOWN THE GADHERA! COME AND SEE IT TO BELIEVE IT.

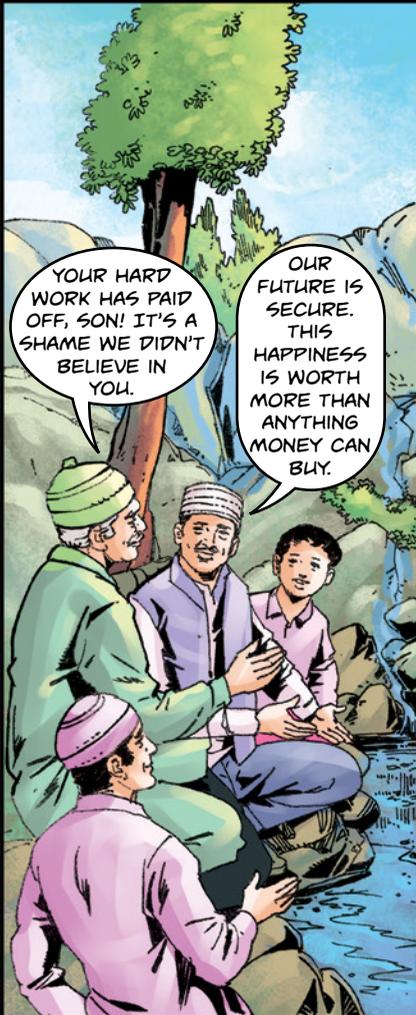
I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS DAY!



THE ENTIRE VILLAGE OF SIRKOT REJOICED IN JAGDISH'S SUCCESS.

YOUR HARD WORK HAS PAID OFF, SON! IT'S A SHAME WE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN YOU.

OUR FUTURE IS SECURE. THIS HAPPINESS IS WORTH MORE THAN ANYTHING MONEY CAN BUY.



MORE THAN 150 FAMILIES IN THE VILLAGE RELY ON THIS GADHERA FOR WATER, AND YOU'VE CHANGED THEIR LIVES. THANK YOU FOR NOT GIVING UP.

NOW, TO KEEP THE GADHERA FILLED, WE MUST PLANT MORE TREES.



IN OVER 30 YEARS, JAGDISH PLANTED 15,000 TREES IN HIS VILLAGE. EVENTUALLY —

WE ARE FROM THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE, AND WE ALSO WANT TO BRING OUR WATER SOURCES BACK TO LIFE. HOW DO WE START?

START WITH THE SAPLINGS AND REMEMBER TO PLANT FIVE TREES FOR EVERY TREE THAT IS CUT.



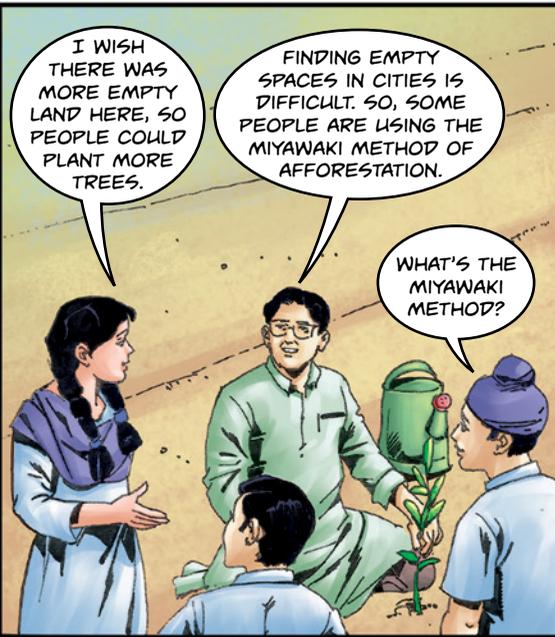
RAFI RAMANATH

NAIR SIR AND THE STUDENTS WERE PARTICIPATING IN A TREE PLANTATION DRIVE.



SO MANY VOLUNTEERS HAVE COME TO PLANT TREES!

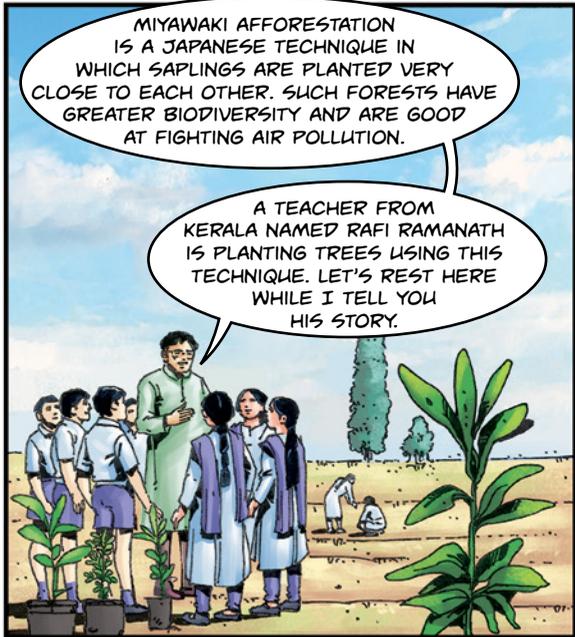
YES. IT'S NICE TO SEE YOUNGSTERS CARING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.



I WISH THERE WAS MORE EMPTY LAND HERE, SO PEOPLE COULD PLANT MORE TREES.

FINDING EMPTY SPACES IN CITIES IS DIFFICULT. SO, SOME PEOPLE ARE USING THE MIYAWAKI METHOD OF AFFORESTATION.

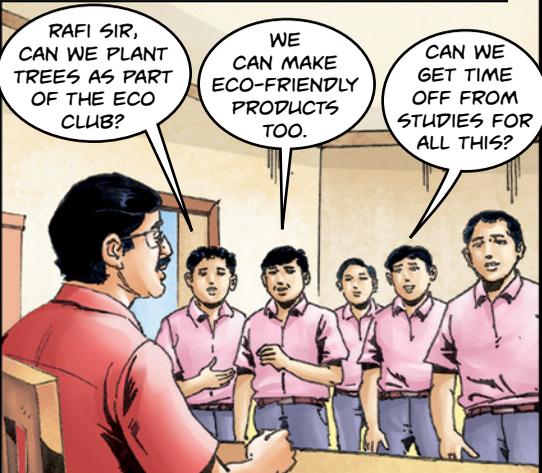
WHAT'S THE MIYAWAKI METHOD?



MIYAWAKI AFFORESTATION IS A JAPANESE TECHNIQUE IN WHICH SAPLINGS ARE PLANTED VERY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER. SUCH FORESTS HAVE GREATER BIODIVERSITY AND ARE GOOD AT FIGHTING AIR POLLUTION.

A TEACHER FROM KERALA NAMED RAFI RAMANATH IS PLANTING TREES USING THIS TECHNIQUE. LET'S REST HERE WHILE I TELL YOU HIS STORY.

THERE WAS MUCH EXCITEMENT AMONG THE STUDENTS OF THE VIGNJANA VILASINI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL (VVHSS), THAMARAKULAM*.



RAFI SIR, CAN WE PLANT TREES AS PART OF THE ECO CLUB?

WE CAN MAKE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS TOO.

CAN WE GET TIME OFF FROM STUDIES FOR ALL THIS?

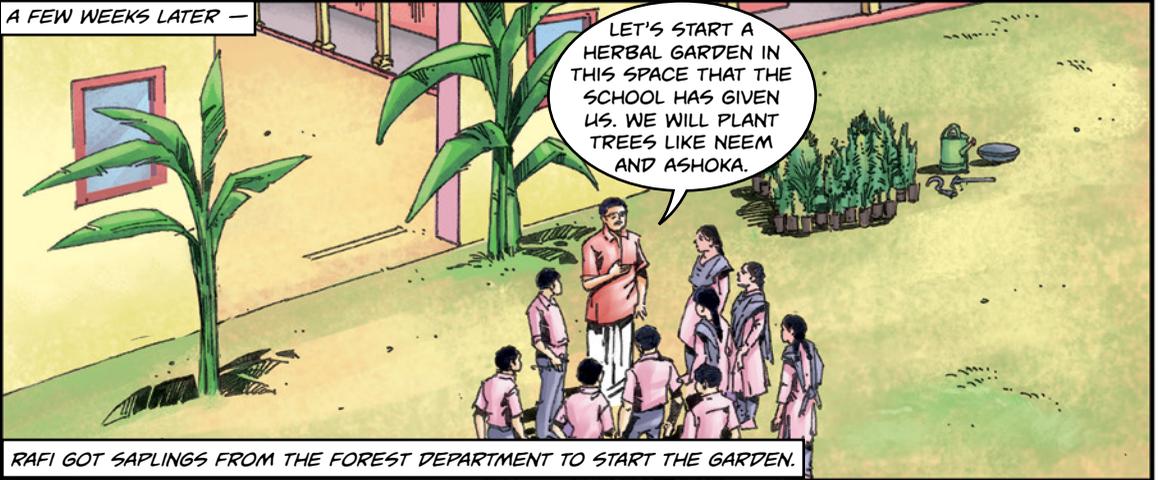
RAFI RAMANATH, THEIR BIOLOGY TEACHER, WAS THE COORDINATOR OF THE ECO CLUB.



WE WILL PLANT TREES AND DO A LOT MORE. BUT FIRST, WE WILL LEARN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOW TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

*IN ALAPPUZHA, KERALA

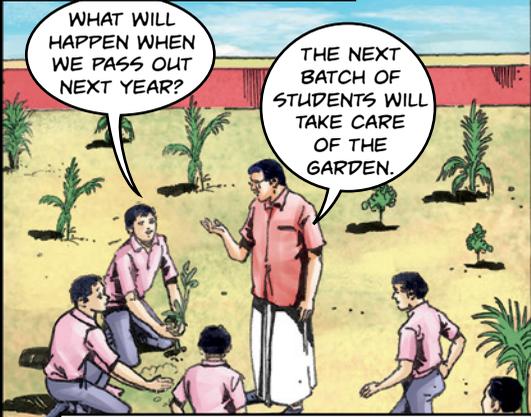
A FEW WEEKS LATER —



LET'S START A HERBAL GARDEN IN THIS SPACE THAT THE SCHOOL HAS GIVEN US. WE WILL PLANT TREES LIKE NEEM AND ASHOKA.

RAFI GOT SAPLINGS FROM THE FOREST DEPARTMENT TO START THE GARDEN.

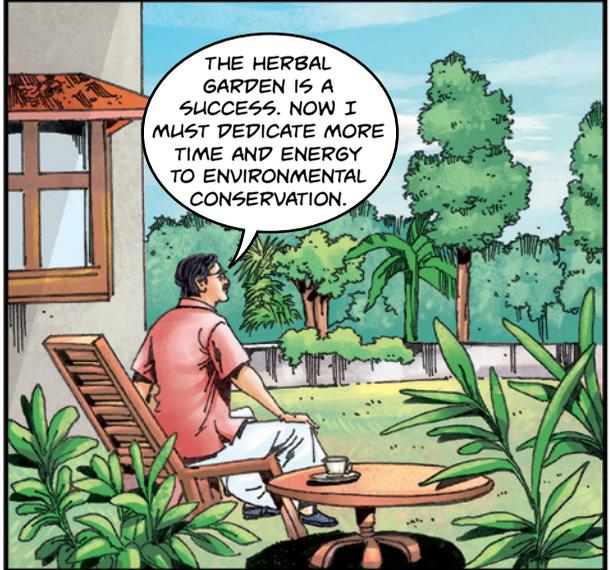
OVER THE YEARS, RAFI AND HIS STUDENTS PLANTED MANY VARIETIES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE PASS OUT NEXT YEAR?

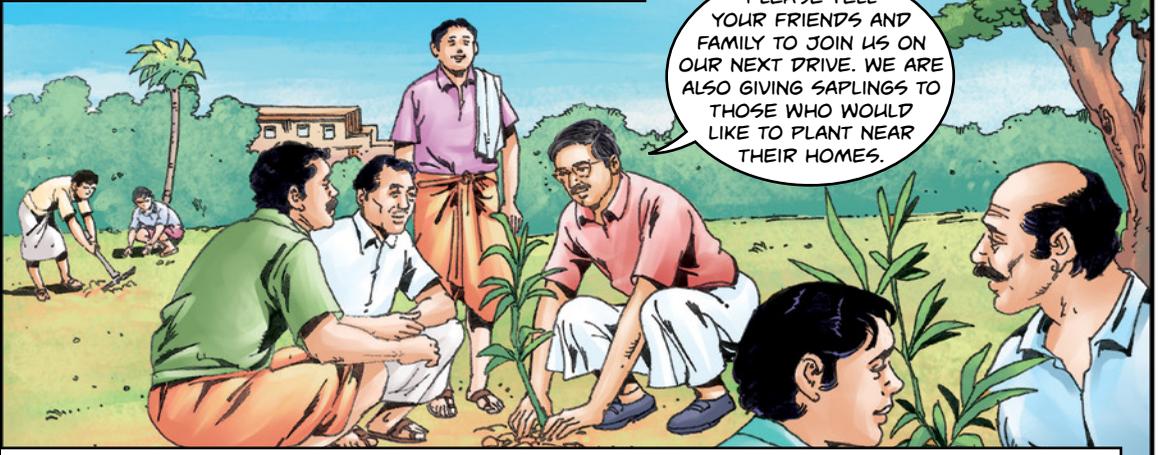
THE NEXT BATCH OF STUDENTS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE GARDEN.

THE HERBAL GARDEN HAS OVER 150 VARIETIES OF PLANTS, WHICH THE STUDENTS HAVE CARED FOR OVER 13 YEARS.



THE HERBAL GARDEN IS A SUCCESS. NOW I MUST DEDICATE MORE TIME AND ENERGY TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.

RAFI SOON COLLABORATED WITH AN NGO AND STARTED CONDUCTING PLANTATION DRIVES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.



PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO JOIN US ON OUR NEXT DRIVE. WE ARE ALSO GIVING SAPLINGS TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO PLANT NEAR THEIR HOMES.

OVER THE YEARS, RAFI HAS PLANTED OVER ONE LAKH TREES AND DISTRIBUTED OVER TWO LAKH SAPLINGS.

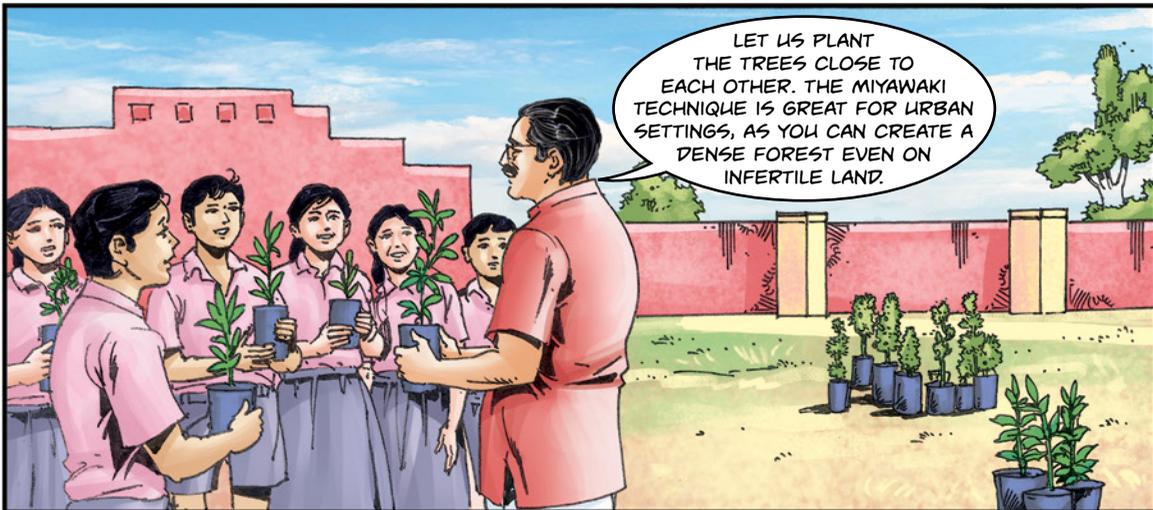


RAFI ALSO SET UP MANY HERBAL, FRUIT AND BUTTERFLY GARDENS AROUND SCHOOLS, OFFICES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP. IN 2021 —



MADAM, I HAVE READ ABOUT THE MIYAWAKI TECHNIQUE OF AFFORESTATION WHICH IS BENEFICIAL TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE. CAN I TRY IT?

I HAVE FULL FAITH IN YOU, RAFI. TRY IT OUT ON FIVE CENTS* OF LAND ON THE CAMPUS.



LET US PLANT THE TREES CLOSE TO EACH OTHER. THE MIYAWAKI TECHNIQUE IS GREAT FOR URBAN SETTINGS, AS YOU CAN CREATE A DENSE FOREST EVEN ON INFERTILE LAND.

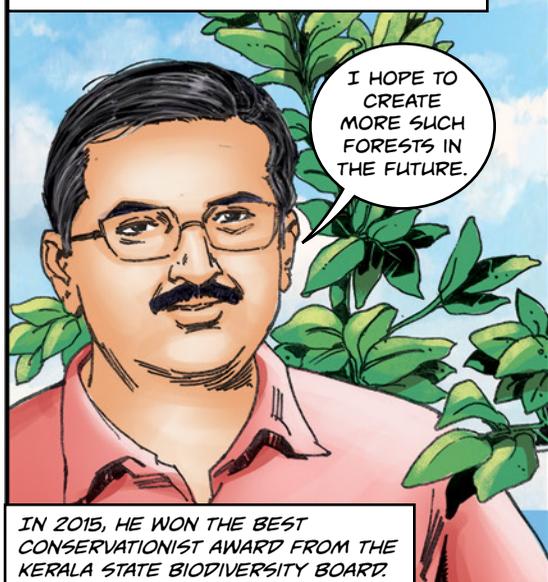
OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, THE SAPLINGS GREW INTO A MINI-FOREST OF FRUIT AND HERBAL TREES, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SCHOOL CAMPUS.



WE WILL CALL THIS MINI-FOREST VIDYAVANAM*.

TODAY, VIDYAVANAM HAS OVER 450 TREES OF 115 VARIETIES.

FOR OVER A DECADE, RAFI'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS INCREASING THE GREEN COVER OF HIS STATE.

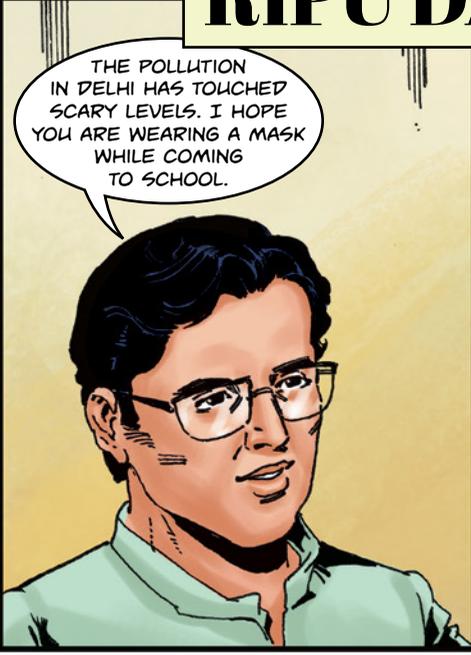


I HOPE TO CREATE MORE SUCH FORESTS IN THE FUTURE.

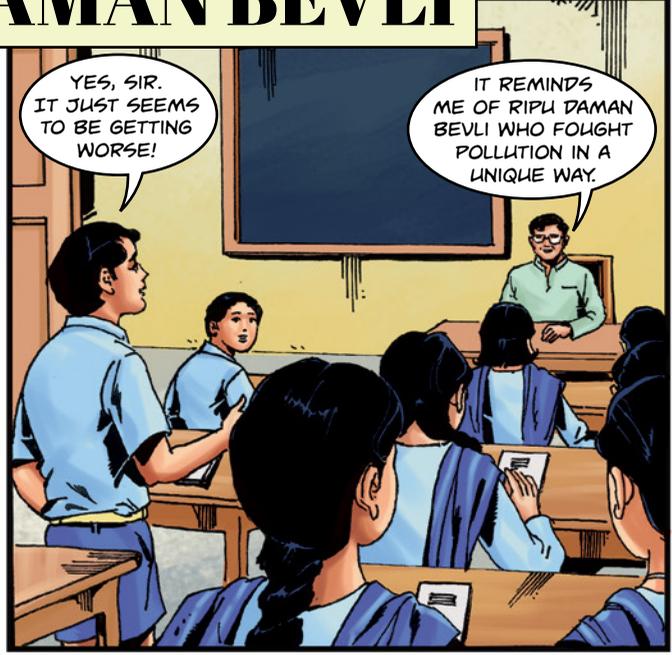
IN 2015, HE WON THE BEST CONSERVATIONIST AWARD FROM THE KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD.



RIPU DAMAN BEVLI



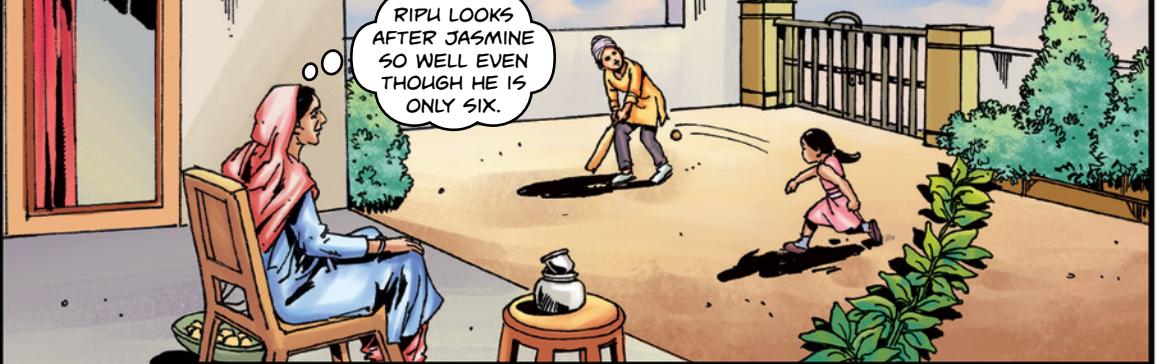
THE POLLUTION IN DELHI HAS TOUCHED SCARY LEVELS. I HOPE YOU ARE WEARING A MASK WHILE COMING TO SCHOOL.



YES, SIR. IT JUST SEEMS TO BE GETTING WORSE!

IT REMINDS ME OF RIPU DAMAN BEVLI WHO FOUGHT POLLUTION IN A UNIQUE WAY.

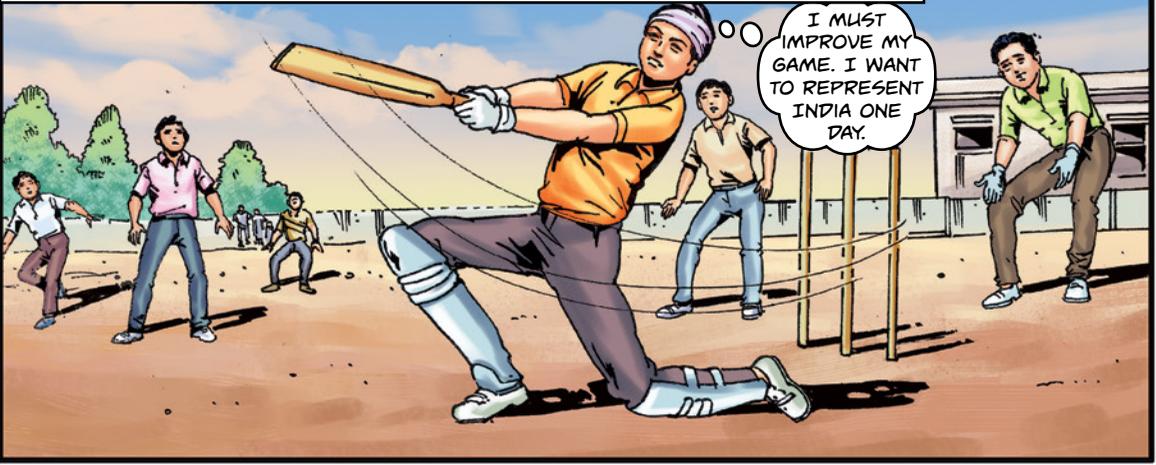
RIPU DAMAN BEVLI GREW UP IN DELHI WITH HIS MOTHER, RANBIR KAUR, AND HIS YOUNGER SISTER, JASMINE.



RIPU LOOKS AFTER JASMINE SO WELL EVEN THOUGH HE IS ONLY SIX.

RANBIR ALSO NOTICED THAT HE SHOWED A KEEN INTEREST IN SPORTS, ESPECIALLY CRICKET.

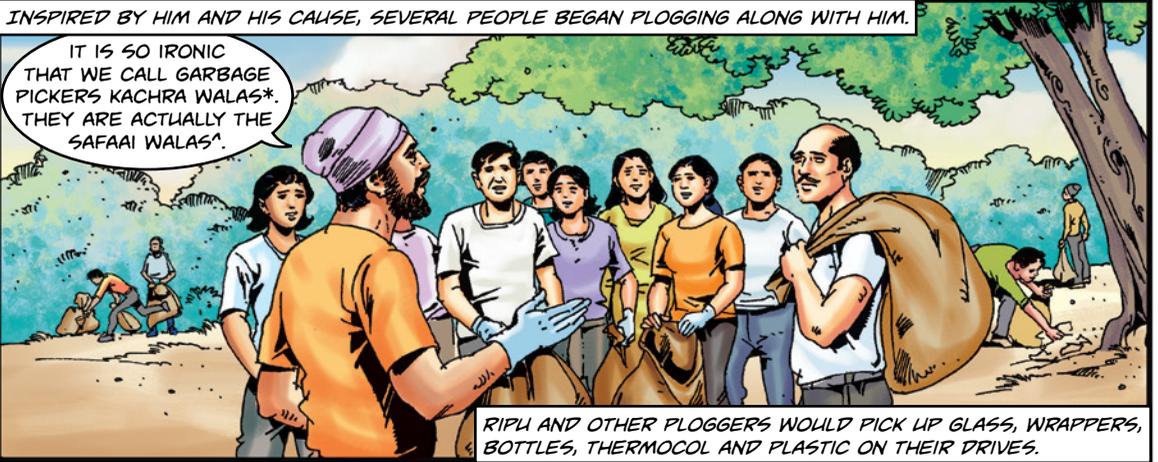
OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, RIPU WOULD GO ON TO PLAY CRICKET AT THE STATE LEVEL.



I MUST IMPROVE MY GAME. I WANT TO REPRESENT INDIA ONE DAY.

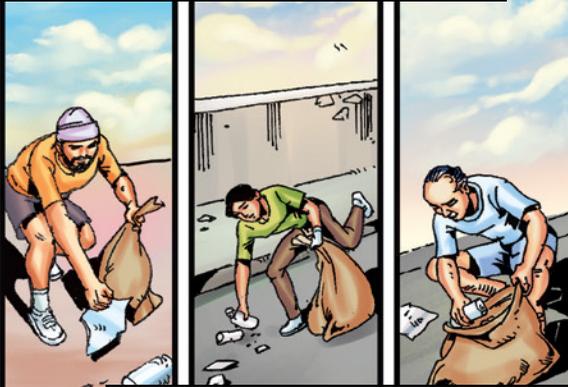
INSPIRED BY HIM AND HIS CAUSE, SEVERAL PEOPLE BEGAN PLOGGING ALONG WITH HIM.

IT IS SO IRONIC THAT WE CALL GARBAGE PICKERS KACHRA WALAS*. THEY ARE ACTUALLY THE SAFAAI WALAS*.



RIPLU AND OTHER PLOGGERS WOULD PICK UP GLASS, WRAPPERS, BOTTLES, THERMOCOL AND PLASTIC ON THEIR DRIVES.

RIPLU'S INNOVATIVE 'TRASH WORKOUT', INVOLVED SQUATTING, FORWARD-BENDING AND LUNGING, WHILE CARRYING BAGS FILLED WITH TRASH.



HE ENCOURAGED CHILDREN TO WORK OUT AT HOME THROUGH HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES LIKE SWEEPING AND MOPPING.

SLOWLY, RIPLU BEGAN TO ACHIEVE NATIONWIDE RECOGNITION. IN 2019, HE WAS MADE AMBASSADOR OF THE 'FIT INDIA' MOVEMENT.

INDIA PRODUCES 26,000 TONNES OF SOLID WASTE EVERY DAY AND ALMOST 50% NEVER GETS COLLECTED. BY PLOGGING, YOU ARE NOT JUST WORKING ON YOUR OWN HEALTH, BUT ALSO THAT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.



RIPLU HAS ALREADY PLOGGED MORE THAN 6,000 KMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND SENSITISED OVER ONE CRORE PEOPLE TO THE HAZARDS OF LITTERING.

IN AUGUST 2023, HE ANNOUNCED THE PLASTIC UPVAAS** YATRA™, A CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION.



JOIN ME AS I WALK FROM DELHI TO MUMBAI, TO ADVOCATE DECREASING PLASTIC USAGE.

TODAY, RIPLU IS ALSO CALLED THE 'PLOGMAN OF INDIA', AND RECOGNISED AS THE PLOGGING AMBASSADOR OF THE COUNTRY.

WHILE RIPLU HAS MANY MILES TO PLOG, HE LEAVES HIS FELLOW INDIANS WITH ONE SIMPLE MESSAGE —

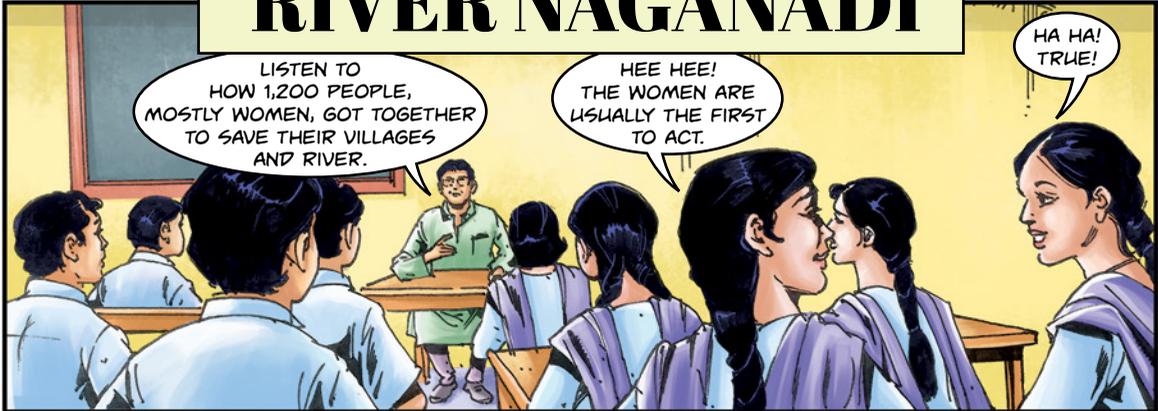


WE MUST PLEDGE TO STOP LITTERING. THAT WILL BE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO INDIA AND TO MOTHER EARTH.

AND, EVEN THOUGH IT HAPPENED DIFFERENTLY, HIS DREAM OF REPRESENTING THE COUNTRY DID COME TRUE!

*PEOPLE WHO LITTER
*PEOPLE WHO CLEAN UP

RIVER NAGANADI

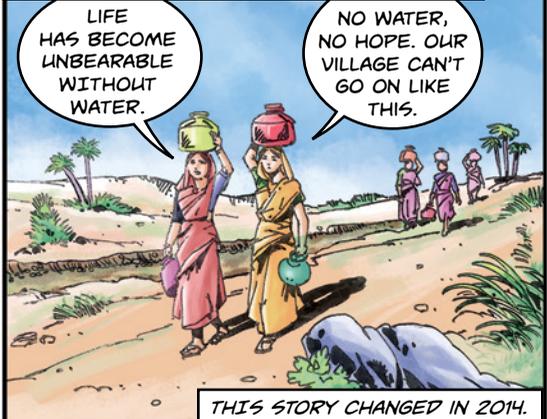


LISTEN TO HOW 1,200 PEOPLE, MOSTLY WOMEN, GOT TOGETHER TO SAVE THEIR VILLAGES AND RIVER.

HEE HEE! THE WOMEN ARE USUALLY THE FIRST TO ACT.

HA HA! TRUE!

THE NAGANADI, A RIVER FLOWING THROUGH VELLORE, TAMIL NADU, ONCE FULL OF WATER, HAD BEEN DRY FOR OVER 20 YEARS. ONE MORNING IN SALAMANATHAM* —

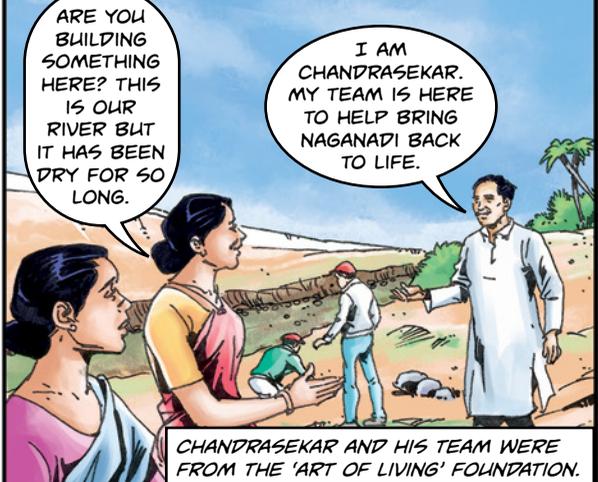


LIFE HAS BECOME UNBEARABLE WITHOUT WATER.

NO WATER, NO HOPE. OUR VILLAGE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.

THIS STORY CHANGED IN 2014.

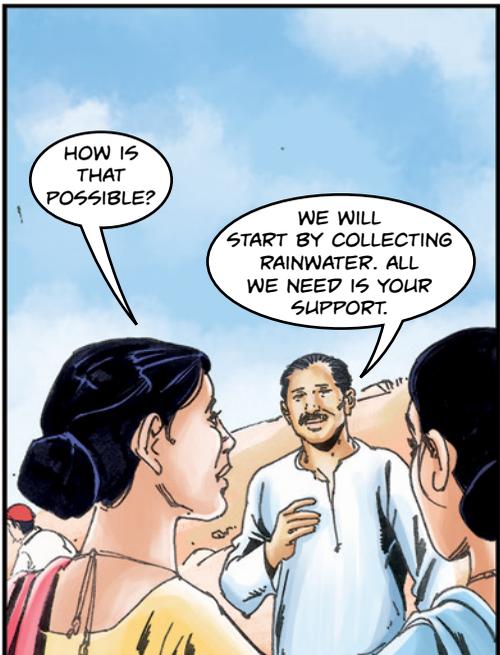
ONE DAY —



ARE YOU BUILDING SOMETHING HERE? THIS IS OUR RIVER BUT IT HAS BEEN DRY FOR SO LONG.

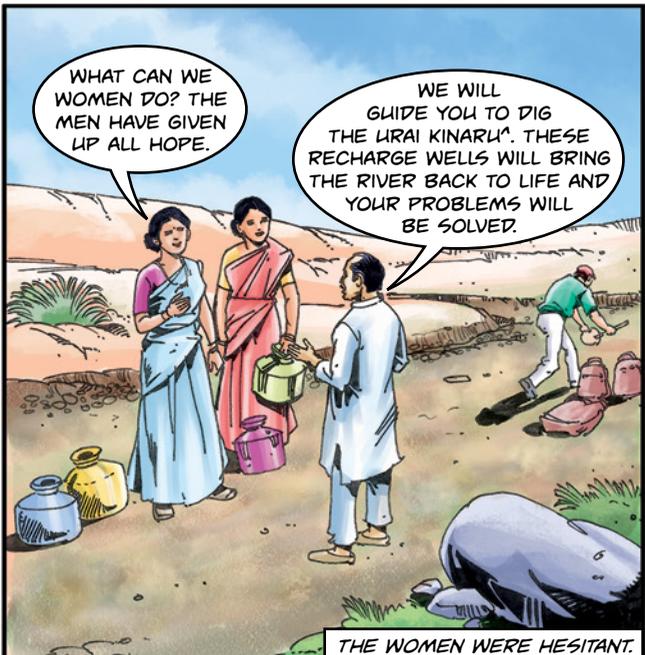
I AM CHANDRASEKAR. MY TEAM IS HERE TO HELP BRING NAGANADI BACK TO LIFE.

CHANDRASEKAR AND HIS TEAM WERE FROM THE 'ART OF LIVING' FOUNDATION.



HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

WE WILL START BY COLLECTING RAINWATER. ALL WE NEED IS YOUR SUPPORT.



WHAT CAN WE WOMEN DO? THE MEN HAVE GIVEN UP ALL HOPE.

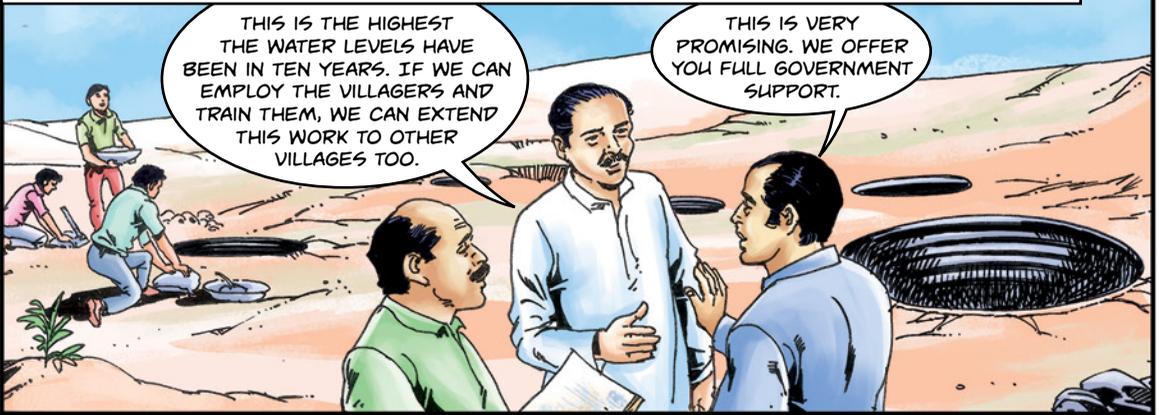
WE WILL GUIDE YOU TO DIG THE URAI KINARU*. THESE RECHARGE WELLS WILL BRING THE RIVER BACK TO LIFE AND YOUR PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED.

THE WOMEN WERE HESITANT.

*A VILLAGE IN VELLORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

*TRADITIONAL RECHARGE WELLS

WHEN NO VILLAGERS CAME FORWARD, THE FOUNDATION BROUGHT VOLUNTEERS FROM CHENNAI TO DIG THE FIRST FIVE RECHARGE WELLS. TWO MONTHS LATER, THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR VISITED THE AREA.



THIS IS THE HIGHEST THE WATER LEVELS HAVE BEEN IN TEN YEARS. IF WE CAN EMPLOY THE VILLAGERS AND TRAIN THEM, WE CAN EXTEND THIS WORK TO OTHER VILLAGES TOO.

THIS IS VERY PROMISING. WE OFFER YOU FULL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

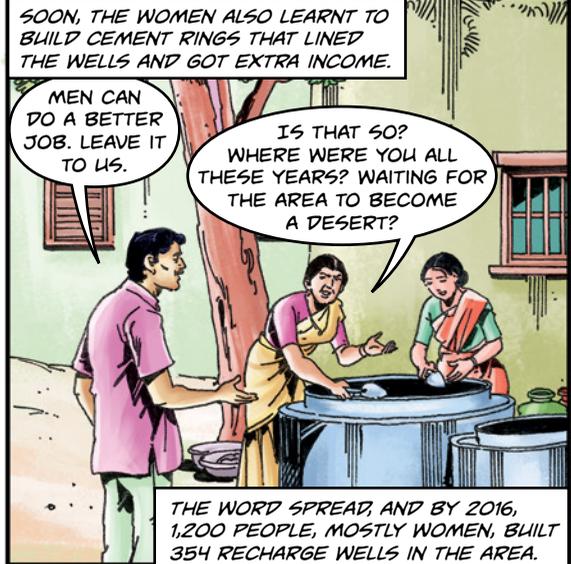
SOON —



AKKA*, WE'RE READY TO SAVE THE RIVER.

GREAT! WE GUARANTEE 100 DAYS OF WORK FOR ONE FAMILY MEMBER. WE'LL ALSO PROVIDE A 15-DAY TRAINING ON BUILDING RECHARGE WELLS.

20 WOMEN STARTED DIGGING THE RECHARGE WELLS AND RAINWATER STARTED FLOWING INTO THEM.



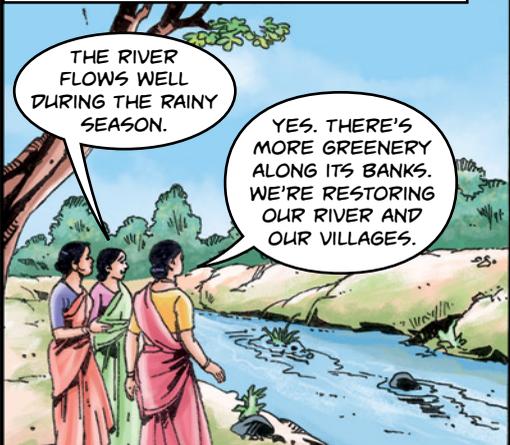
SOON, THE WOMEN ALSO LEARNT TO BUILD CEMENT RINGS THAT LINED THE WELLS AND GOT EXTRA INCOME.

MEN CAN DO A BETTER JOB. LEAVE IT TO US.

IS THAT SO? WHERE WERE YOU ALL THESE YEARS? WAITING FOR THE AREA TO BECOME A DESERT?

THE WORD SPREAD, AND BY 2016, 1,200 PEOPLE, MOSTLY WOMEN, BUILT 354 RECHARGE WELLS IN THE AREA.

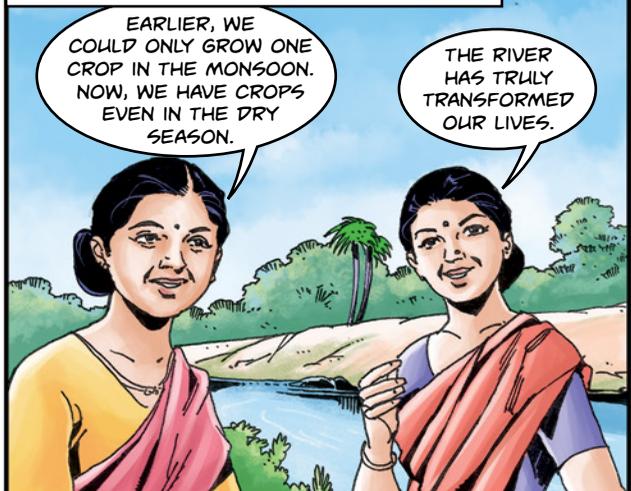
IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS, OVER 20,000 WOMEN WORKED TOGETHER TO BUILD 3,700 RECHARGE WELLS AND BOULDER CHECK DAMS ACROSS VELLORE DISTRICT.



THE RIVER FLOWS WELL DURING THE RAINY SEASON.

YES. THERE'S MORE GREENERY ALONG ITS BANKS. WE'RE RESTORING OUR RIVER AND OUR VILLAGES.

THE PROJECT BROUGHT WATER TO OVER 400 VILLAGES ALONG THE NAGANADI. BY 2019 —

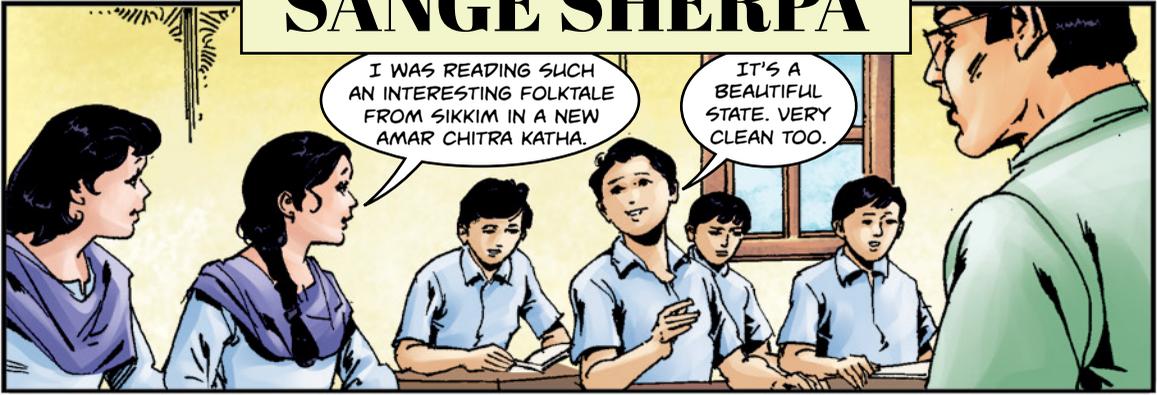


EARLIER, WE COULD ONLY GROW ONE CROP IN THE MONSOON. NOW, WE HAVE CROPS EVEN IN THE DRY SEASON.

THE RIVER HAS TRULY TRANSFORMED OUR LIVES.

*SISTER IN TAMIL.

SANGE SHERPA

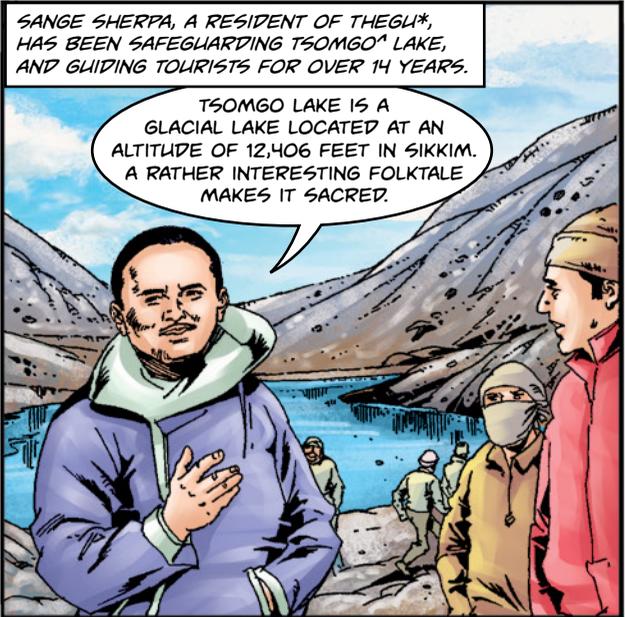


I WAS READING SUCH AN INTERESTING FOLKTALE FROM SIKKIM IN A NEW AMAR CHITRA KATHA.

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL STATE. VERY CLEAN TOO.

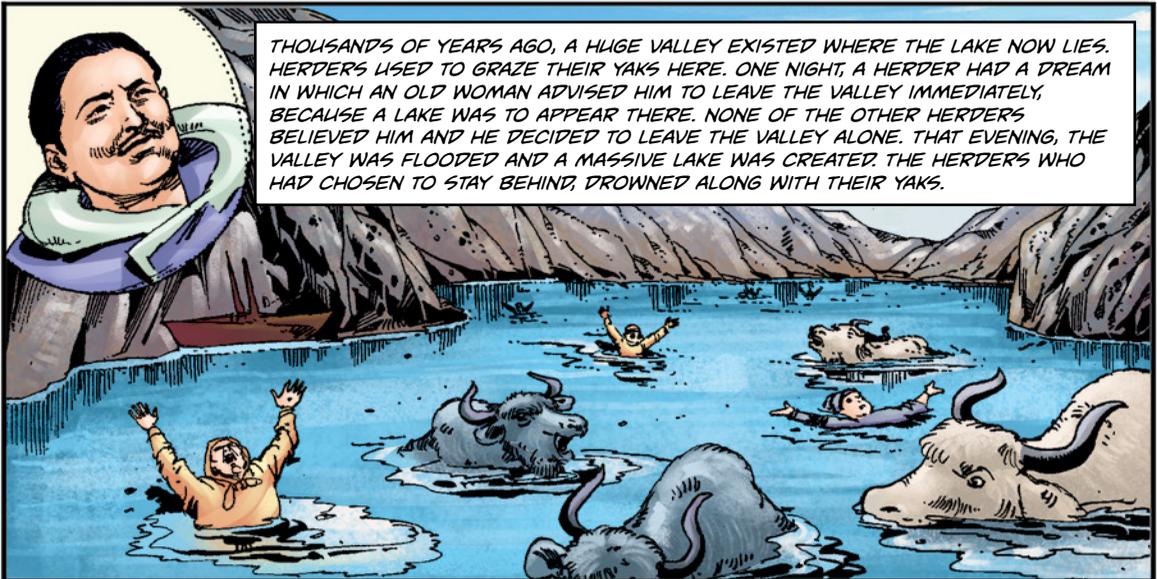


THAT'S BECAUSE THE PEOPLE TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF THEIR STATE. LIKE SANGE SHERPA, WHOSE STORY WAS ON MANN KI BAAT.



SANGE SHERPA, A RESIDENT OF THEGU*, HAS BEEN SAFEGUARDING TSO MGO** LAKE, AND GUIDING TOURISTS FOR OVER 14 YEARS.

TSO MGO LAKE IS A GLACIAL LAKE LOCATED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 12,406 FEET IN SIKKIM. A RATHER INTERESTING FOLKTALE MAKES IT SACRED.



THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, A HUGE VALLEY EXISTED WHERE THE LAKE NOW LIES. HERDERS USED TO GRAZE THEIR YAKS HERE. ONE NIGHT, A HERDER HAD A DREAM IN WHICH AN OLD WOMAN ADVISED HIM TO LEAVE THE VALLEY IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE A LAKE WAS TO APPEAR THERE. NONE OF THE OTHER HERDERS BELIEVED HIM AND HE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE VALLEY ALONE. THAT EVENING, THE VALLEY WAS FLOODED AND A MASSIVE LAKE WAS CREATED. THE HERDERS WHO HAD CHOSEN TO STAY BEHIND, DROWNED ALONG WITH THEIR YAKS.

*A VILLAGE IN SIKKIM

**TSO MEANS 'LAKE', MGO MEANS 'HEAD'

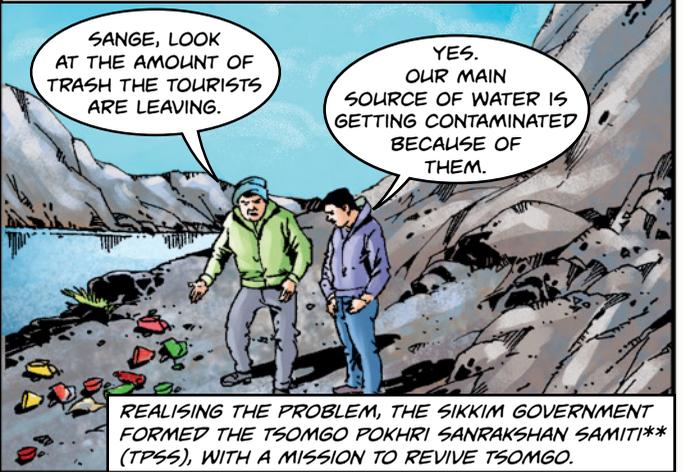
TOURISTS WHO VISIT TSOMGO SEEK SANGE OUT TO LISTEN TO HIS STORIES ABOUT THE LAKE.



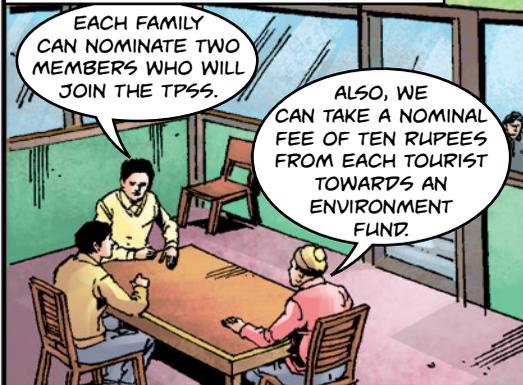
LIKE EVERY CHILD IN THEGHU, SANGE GREW UP HEARING FROM THE VILLAGE ELDERS THAT KEEPING TSOMGO CLEAN WAS THEIR DUTY.



LAKE TSOMGO IS LOCATED BETWEEN GANGTOK* AND NATHU LA PASS*. IT IS VISITED BY THOUSANDS OF TOURISTS EVERY YEAR. BUT WHEN SANGE WAS ABOUT 21 YEARS OLD -



THE TPSS, SUPPORTED BY THE LOCALS, BEGAN TO DESIGN THE GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME.



THEY WERE SUPPORTED BY THE WARD PANCHAYATS, WWF** INDIA, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM.

AT THAT TIME, SANGE WAS WORKING PART-TIME FOR A BANK. ONE DAY, THE PANCHAYAT MEMBERS CAME TO HIM.



*THE CAPITAL OF SIKKIM
 *A MOUNTAIN PASS BETWEEN SIKKIM AND TIBET

**TSOMGO LAKE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
 **WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE



HE BECAME A LINK BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LOCALS, AND BEGAN TO DRIVE CHANGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES FOR TPSS.

THE FAST FOOD OUTLETS ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION. THEY ARE NEAR THE WETLAND. WE CAN SHIFT THEM FARTHER AWAY.

WE COULD ALSO HAND OUT CLOTH BAGS TO TOURISTS INSTEAD OF PLASTIC BAGS.



THE COMPLEX WAS SHIFTED TO A PLACE 100M BELOW TSOMGO, WHICH PUT AN END TO SEWAGE DISPOSAL INTO THE LAKE.

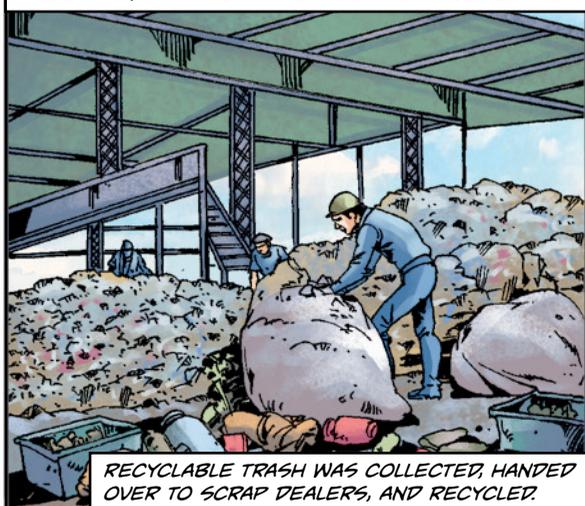
THROUGH TPSS, SANGE AND HIS FRIENDS ALSO MADE MANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.

CUP NOODLE BOXES ARE THE HIGHEST LITTERED PRODUCT HERE. LET US STOP THEIR SALE AT ONCE.

AND WE ALSO NEED MANY MORE TRASH BINS AROUND THE LAKE.



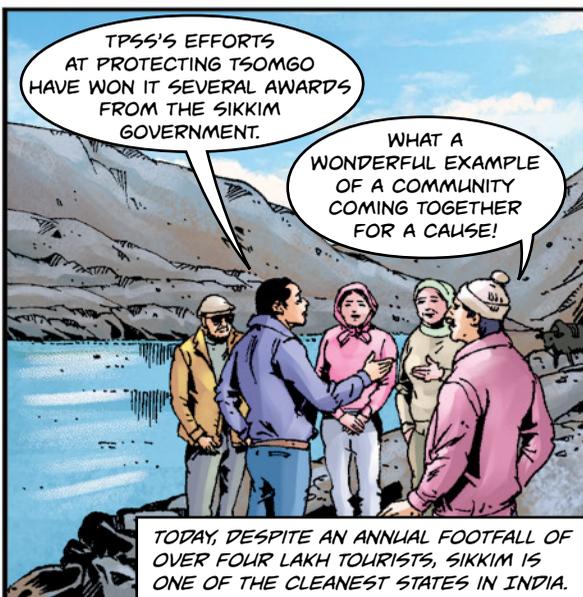
THE AREA AROUND THE LAKE BEGAN TO BE CLEANED TWICE DAILY, AND THE WASTE TAKEN FOR SEGREGATION.



RECYCLABLE TRASH WAS COLLECTED, HANDED OVER TO SCRAP DEALERS, AND RECYCLED.

TPSS'S EFFORTS AT PROTECTING TSOMGO HAVE WON IT SEVERAL AWARDS FROM THE SIKKIM GOVERNMENT.

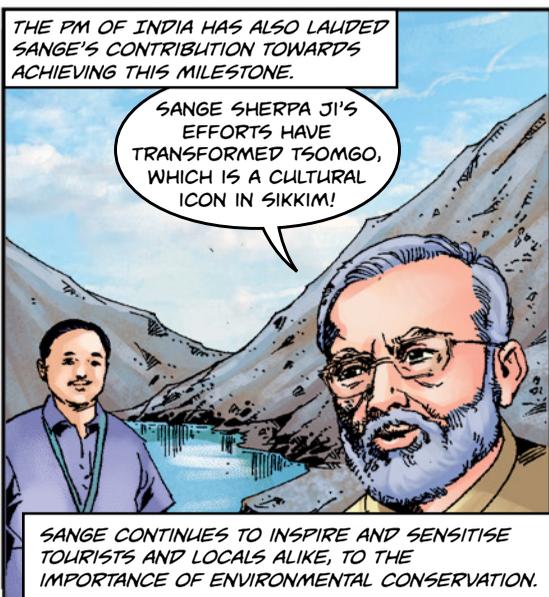
WHAT A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF A COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER FOR A CAUSE!



TODAY, DESPITE AN ANNUAL FOOTFALL OF OVER FOUR LAKH TOURISTS, SIKKIM IS ONE OF THE CLEANEST STATES IN INDIA.

THE PM OF INDIA HAS ALSO LAUDED SANGE'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ACHIEVING THIS MILESTONE.

SANGE SHERPA JI'S EFFORTS HAVE TRANSFORMED TSOMGO, WHICH IS A CULTURAL ICON IN SIKKIM!

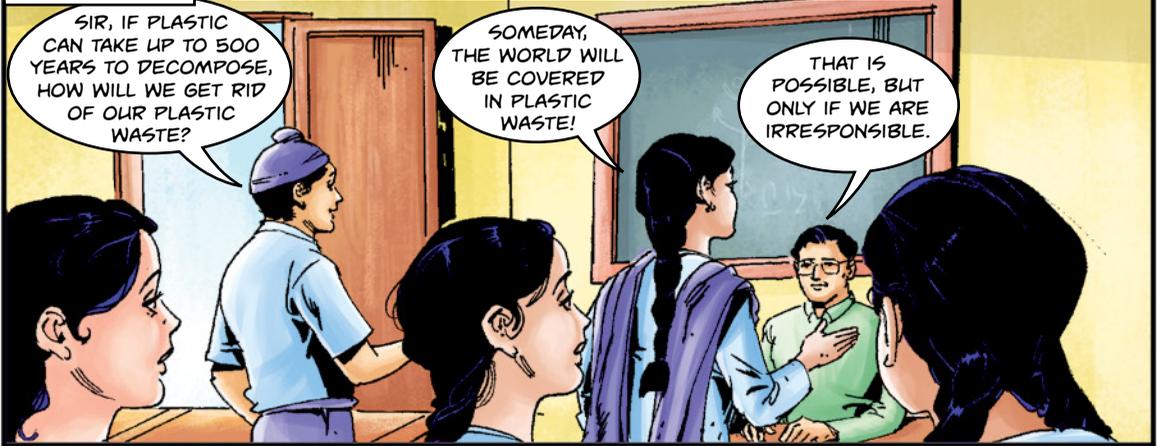


SANGE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND SENSITISE TOURISTS AND LOCALS ALIKE, TO THE IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION.



SAVE CHITE LUI

DURING SCIENCE CLASS —



SIR, IF PLASTIC CAN TAKE UP TO 500 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE, HOW WILL WE GET RID OF OUR PLASTIC WASTE?

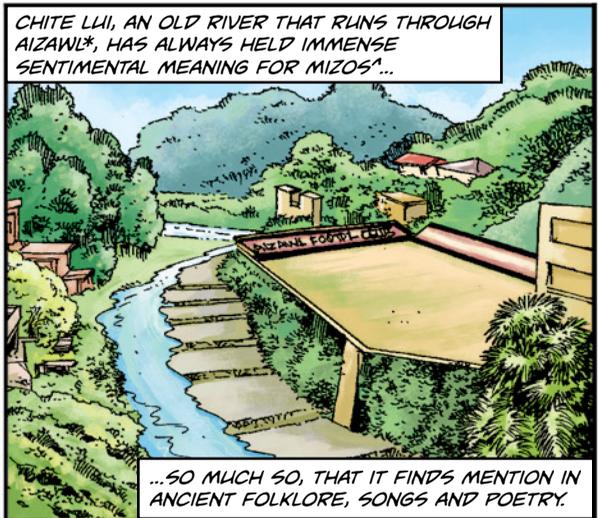
SOMEDAY, THE WORLD WILL BE COVERED IN PLASTIC WASTE!

THAT IS POSSIBLE, BUT ONLY IF WE ARE IRRESPONSIBLE.



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO REUSE AND RECYCLE PLASTIC WASTE. THE PEOPLE OF MIZORAM CLEANED THEIR RIVER, CHITE LUI, AND USED THE PLASTIC WASTE TO BUILD A ROAD.

A ROAD WITH PLASTIC? WOW.



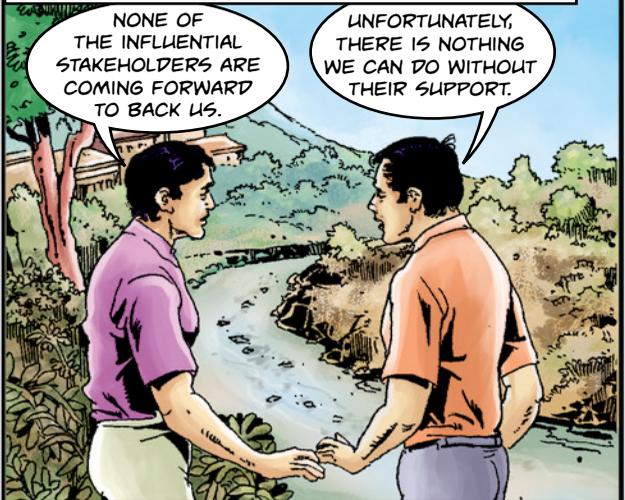
CHITE LUI, AN OLD RIVER THAT RUNS THROUGH AIZAWL*, HAS ALWAYS HELD IMMENSE SENTIMENTAL MEANING FOR MIZOS*...

...SO MUCH SO, THAT IT FINDS MENTION IN ANCIENT FOLKLORE, SONGS AND POETRY.

HOWEVER, WITH GROWING URBANISATION, UNAUTHORISED ENCROACHMENT AND THE CONSTANT DUMPING OF GARBAGE, THE ONCE-THRIVING RIVER IS NOW A STREAM WITH ANKLE-HIGH WATER.



IN 2007, ZORAM RESEARCH FOUNDATION, A LOCAL GRASSROOTS ORGANISATION, FIRST ATTEMPTED TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT SAVING CHITE LUI. BUT —



NONE OF THE INFLUENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS ARE COMING FORWARD TO BACK US.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT.

*THE CAPITAL OF MIZORAM

*PEOPLE BELONGING TO MIZORAM

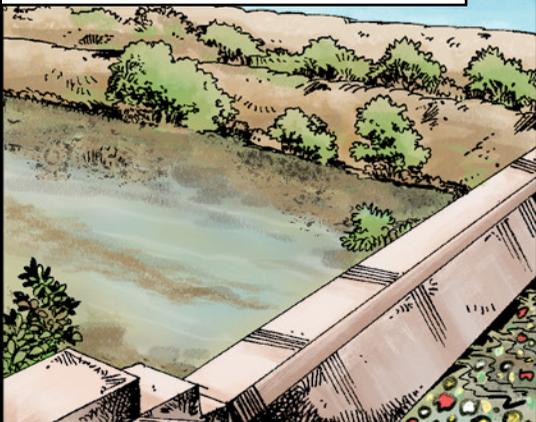


A DECADE LATER, THE THEN-DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, PU KANNAN GOPINATHAN, DECIDED TO REVIVE THE CAMPAIGN AND STARTED WITH A SURVEY.

THE SURVEY WILL REVEAL SPOTS WHERE WASTE IS DUMPED, AND GIVE US MEASUREMENTS OF THE AREAS THAT THE RIVER PASSES THROUGH.

ON THE BASIS OF THE FINDINGS, THE GOVERNMENT CREATED THE SAVE CHITE LUI COORDINATION COMMITTEE (SCLCC) TO EDUCATE AND MOBILISE LOCALS THROUGH THE SAVE CHITE LUI ACTION PLAN (SCLAP).

THE COMMITTEE THEN DECIDED ON MEASURES TO PREVENT THE WASTE FROM ENTERING THE RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES...



...ONE AMONG WHICH WAS BUILDING CHECK DAMS*.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, THE NSS^A AND THE LOCAL CHURCH WERE ROPED IN TO CLEAN THE WATER BODIES AND INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT SCLAP.



FRIENDS, AFTER YOU COLLECT THE PLASTIC, POLYTHENE AND EMPTY PACKETS, WE WILL TAKE THEM TO THE DUMPING GROUND.

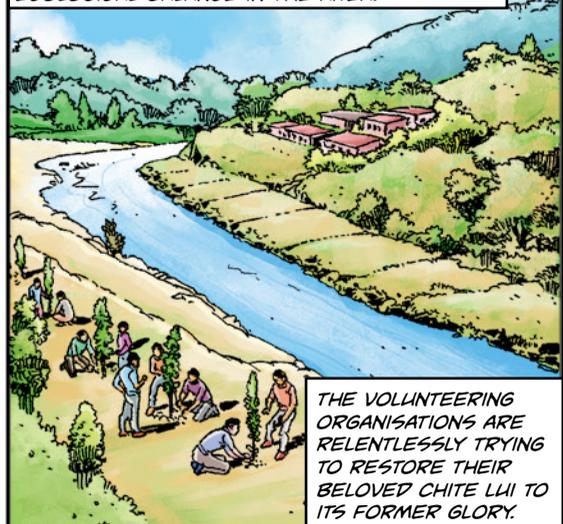
IN 2018, THE CHITE LUI (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WATER POLLUTION) ACT WAS PASSED, WHICH DECLARED GARBAGE DUMPING A NON-BAILABLE OFFENCE.

THE PLASTIC COLLECTED FROM THE RIVER HAS BEEN USED, BY MIXING WITH ASPHALT, TO CREATE ROADS AT REIEK VILLAGE, BY THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.



THIS INNOVATIVE GREEN ROAD IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN MIZORAM, AND THERE ARE PLANS FOR MORE.

PLENTY OF SEEDLINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN SOWN ALONG THE RIVER, TO FURTHER MAINTAIN THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE IN THE AREA.



THE VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATIONS ARE RELENTLESSLY TRYING TO RESTORE THEIR BELOVED CHITE LUI TO ITS FORMER GLORY.

*SMALL DAMS THAT ARE BUILT TO TRAP AND OBSTRUCT SEDIMENT FROM ENTERING A WATER BODY

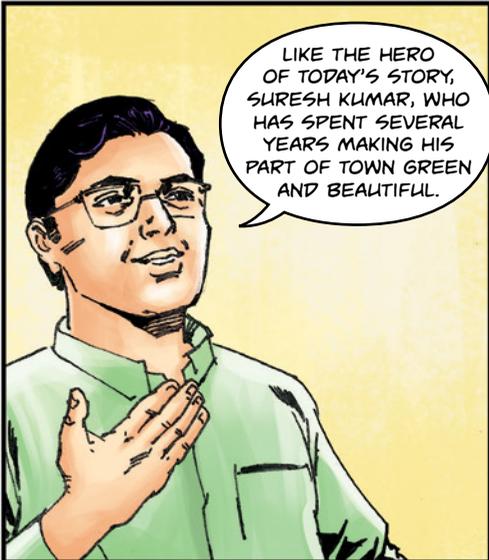
^ANATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

SURESH KUMAR



SIR, WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT MAKING A CHANGE, BUT WHAT DO WE DO? THERE ARE SO MANY CAUSES TO WORK FOR.

START WITH ONE CAUSE CLOSEST TO YOUR HEART AND PATIENTLY WORK ON IT, CHARAN.

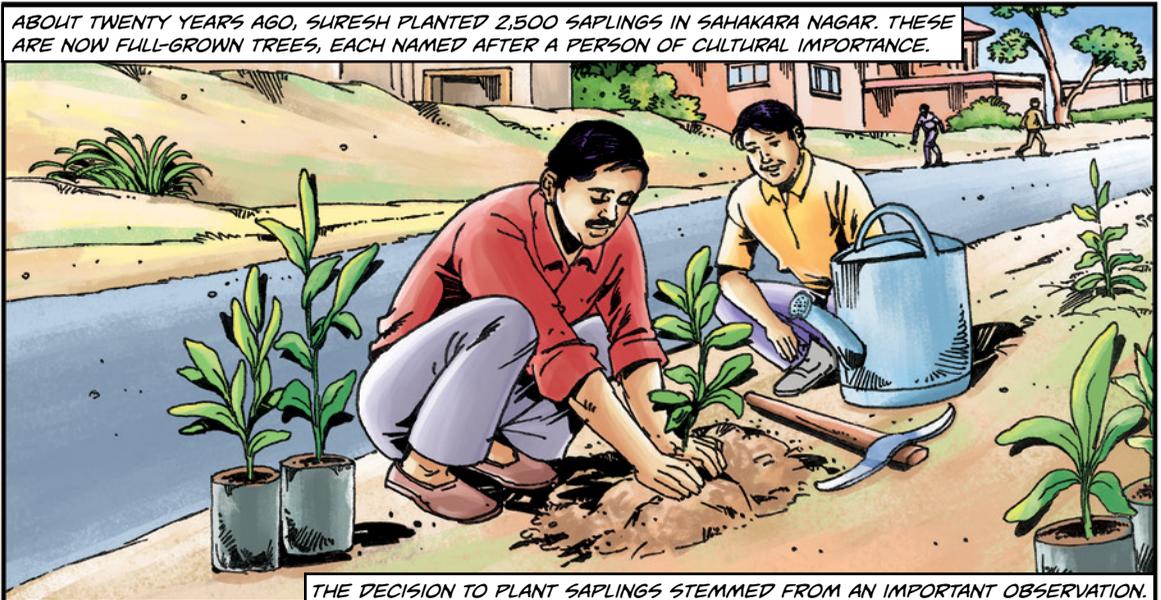


LIKE THE HERO OF TODAY'S STORY, SURESH KUMAR, WHO HAS SPENT SEVERAL YEARS MAKING HIS PART OF TOWN GREEN AND BEAUTIFUL.

SURESH KUMAR, A RESIDENT OF SAHAKARA NAGAR, BENGALURU, HAS BEEN EMBODYING THE PRINCIPLE OF 'BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD', FOR MANY YEARS.



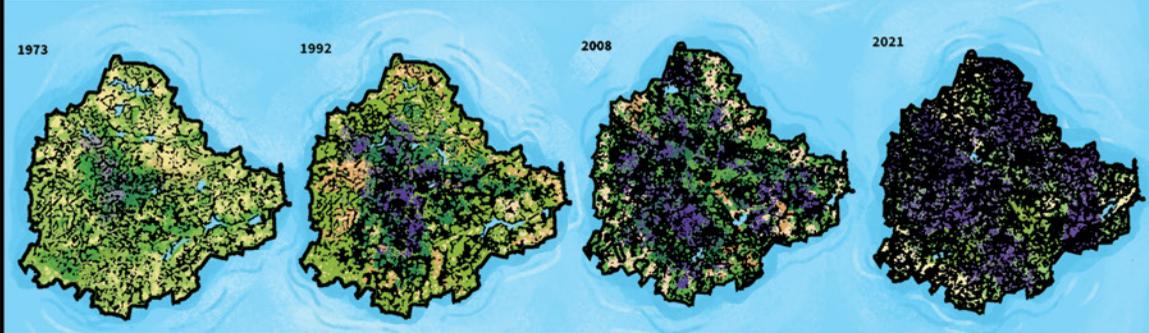
ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO, SURESH PLANTED 2,500 SAPLINGS IN SAHAKARA NAGAR. THESE ARE NOW FULL-GROWN TREES, EACH NAMED AFTER A PERSON OF CULTURAL IMPORTANCE.



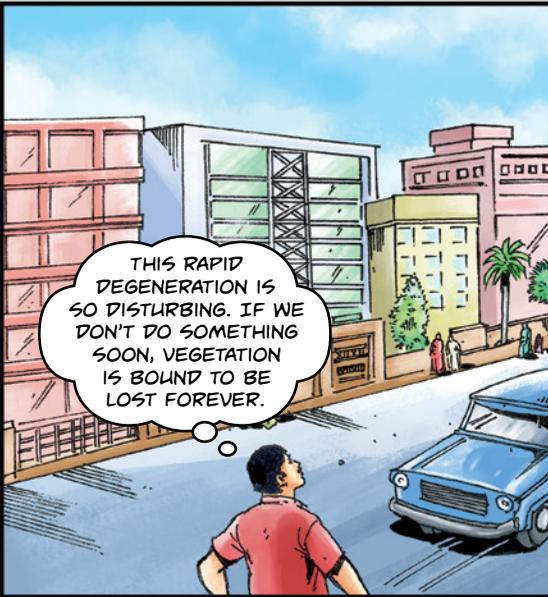
THE DECISION TO PLANT SAPLINGS STEMMED FROM AN IMPORTANT OBSERVATION.



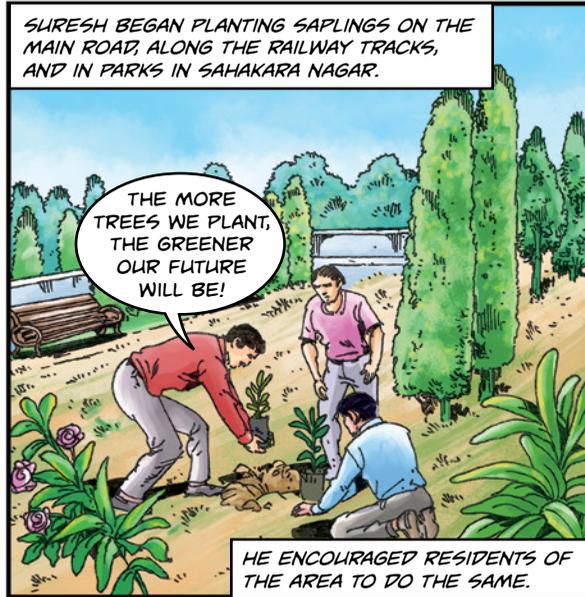
LABELLED THE 'GARDEN CITY OF INDIA', BENGALURU WAS ONCE WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS VEGETATION COVER, SPRAWLING GARDENS AND LAKES.



SADLY, IN THE LAST 50 YEARS, THE CITY HAS LOST 88% OF ITS GREEN COVER AND 79% OF ITS WATER COVER TO AGGRESSIVE URBANISATION.



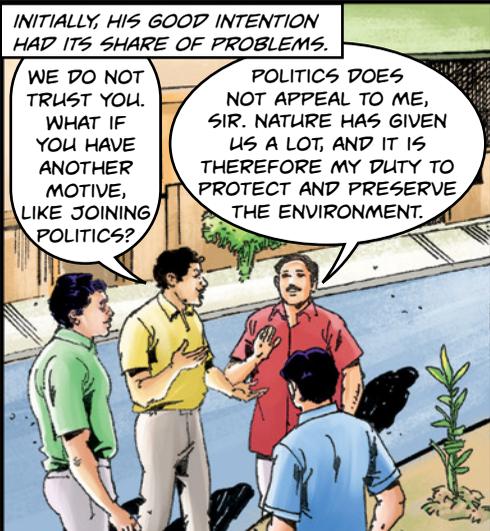
THIS RAPID DEGENERATION IS SO DISTURBING. IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING SOON, VEGETATION IS BOUND TO BE LOST FOREVER.



SURESH BEGAN PLANTING SAPLINGS ON THE MAIN ROAD, ALONG THE RAILWAY TRACKS, AND IN PARKS IN SAHAKARA NAGAR.

THE MORE TREES WE PLANT, THE GREENER OUR FUTURE WILL BE!

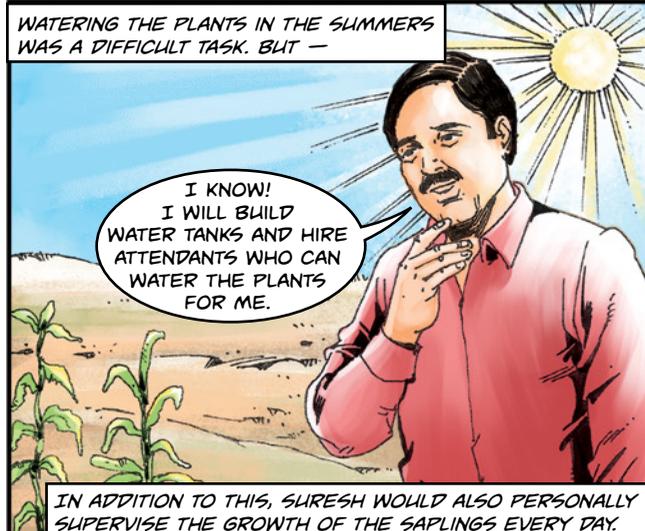
HE ENCOURAGED RESIDENTS OF THE AREA TO DO THE SAME.



INITIALLY, HIS GOOD INTENTION HAD ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS.

WE DO NOT TRUST YOU. WHAT IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER MOTIVE, LIKE JOINING POLITICS?

POLITICS DOES NOT APPEAL TO ME, SIR. NATURE HAS GIVEN US A LOT, AND IT IS THEREFORE MY DUTY TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT.



WATERING THE PLANTS IN THE SUMMERS WAS A DIFFICULT TASK. BUT —

I KNOW! I WILL BUILD WATER TANKS AND HIRE ATTENDANTS WHO CAN WATER THE PLANTS FOR ME.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, SURESH WOULD ALSO PERSONALLY SUPERVISE THE GROWTH OF THE SAPLINGS EVERY DAY.

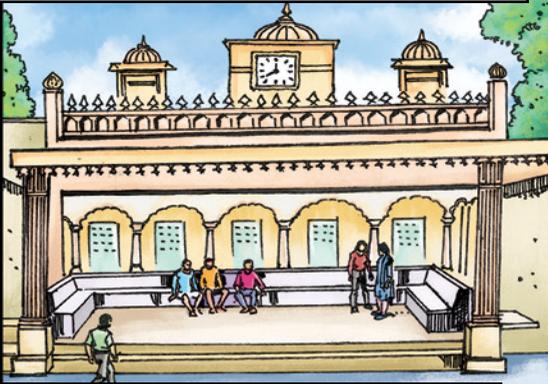
OWING TO SURESH'S EFFORTS, THERE IS A WEALTH OF TREES, SUCH AS MAHOGANY, NEEM, TREE JASMINE AND JACARANDA, AMONG MANY OTHERS IN THE AREA TODAY.



THE AIR IS ALSO CLEANER AND FRESHER, MAKING THE AREA ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER RESIDENTIAL LOCATIONS IN THE CITY.

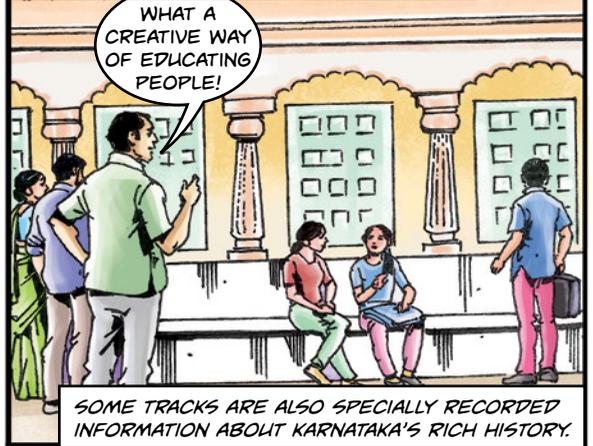


SURESH HAS ALSO WORKED TO PROMOTE THE LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND CULTURE OF KARNATAKA.



FOR THIS HE HAS BUILT A 500 SQ. FT BUS SHELTER WHICH HAS PICTURES OF POETS AND OTHER FAMOUS PEOPLE FROM THE STATE.

THE BUS STAND ALSO PLAYS KANNADA SONGS OF ALL KINDS — FROM DEVOTIONAL AND FOLK TO FILM AND CLASSICAL.



SOME TRACKS ARE ALSO SPECIALLY RECORDED INFORMATION ABOUT KARNATAKA'S RICH HISTORY.

DESPITE ALL THE PRAISE, SURESH REMAINS A SIMPLE MAN WITH A SIMPLE PHILOSOPHY.

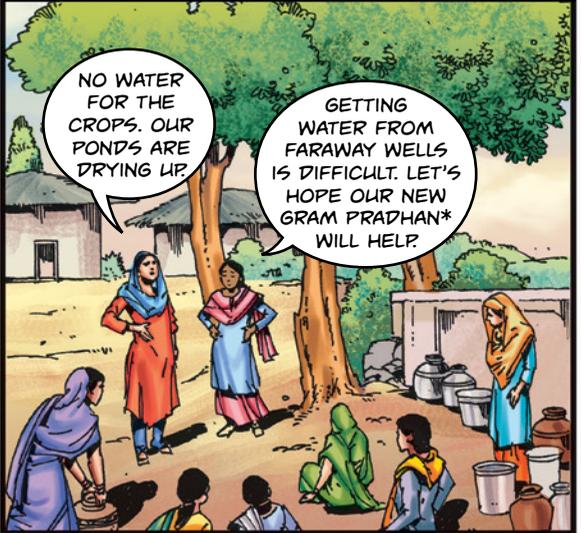


TULSI RAM YADAV

TODAY'S STORY IS ABOUT THE POWER OF LEADERSHIP ABOUT TULSI RAM YADAV, A VILLAGE CHIEF, UNDER WHOSE GUIDANCE THE VILLAGE WAS ABLE TO SOLVE A WATER CRISIS.



UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO, LUKHTARA VILLAGE IN BANDA, UTTAR PRADESH, FACED A SEVERE WATER CRISIS.



NO WATER FOR THE CROPS. OUR PONDS ARE DRYING UP.

GETTING WATER FROM FARAWAY WELLS IS DIFFICULT. LET'S HOPE OUR NEW GRAM PRADHAN* WILL HELP.

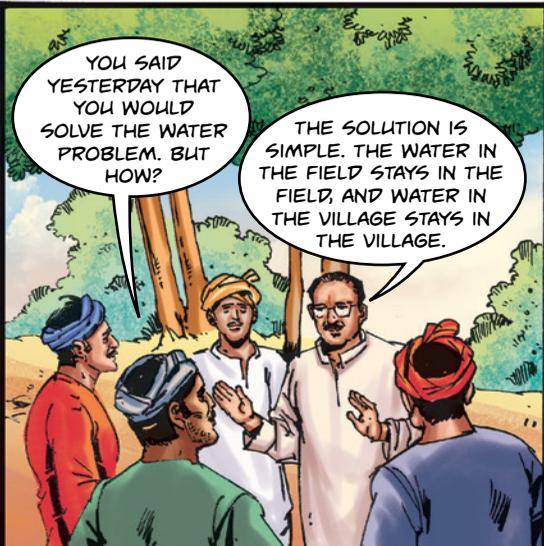
THE VILLAGERS WERE FORTUNATE AS THE NEW GRAM PRADHAN, TULSI RAM YADAV, TOOK IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE.



DON'T WORRY, I'M HERE TO SOLVE THE WATER PROBLEM. WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER.

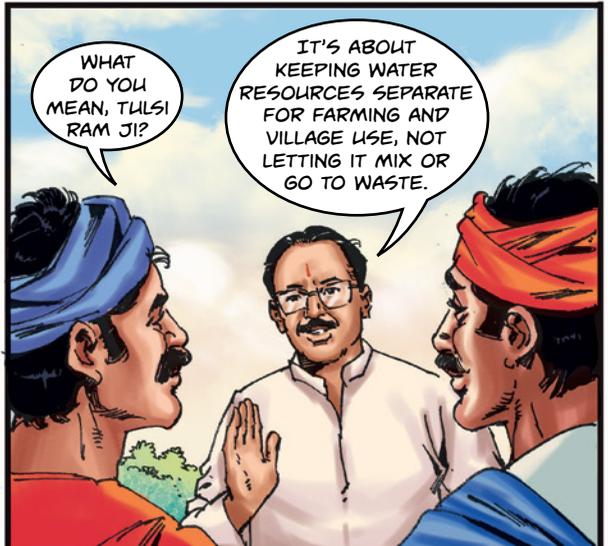
YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT YOU WOULD SOLVE THE WATER PROBLEM. BUT HOW?

THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE. THE WATER IN THE FIELD STAYS IN THE FIELD, AND WATER IN THE VILLAGE STAYS IN THE VILLAGE.



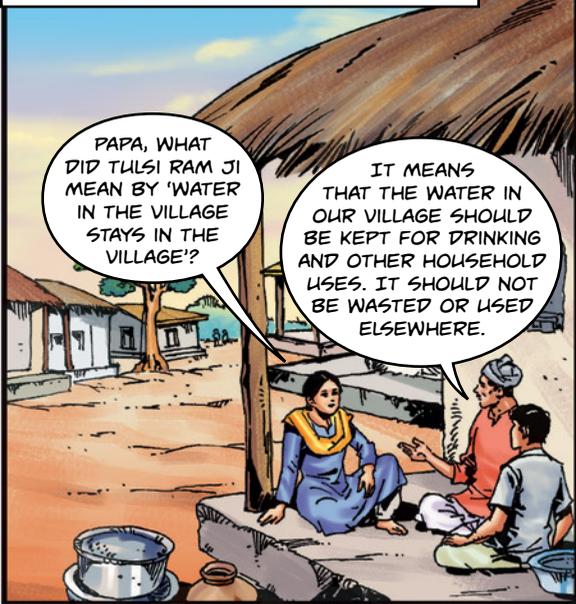
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TULSI RAM JI?

IT'S ABOUT KEEPING WATER RESOURCES SEPARATE FOR FARMING AND VILLAGE USE, NOT LETTING IT MIX OR GO TO WASTE.



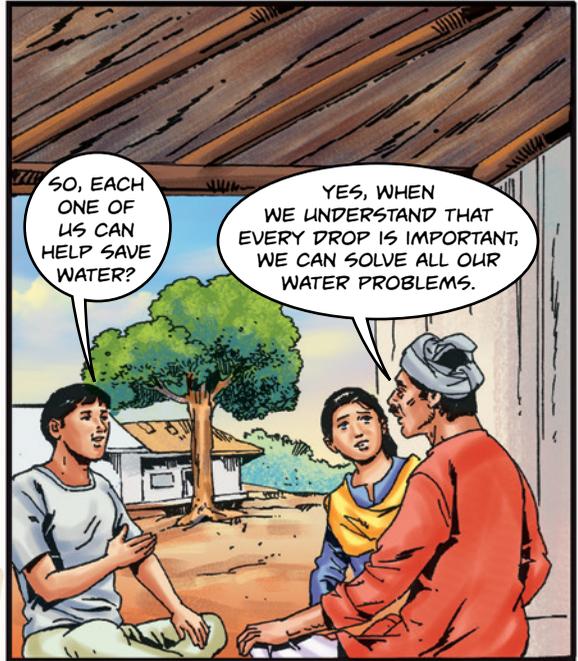
*VILLAGE CHIEF

THE VILLAGERS WERE CURIOUS ABOUT TULSI RAM'S IDEA BUT UNSURE HOW TO PROCEED.



PAPA, WHAT DID TULSI RAM JI MEAN BY 'WATER IN THE VILLAGE STAYS IN THE VILLAGE'?

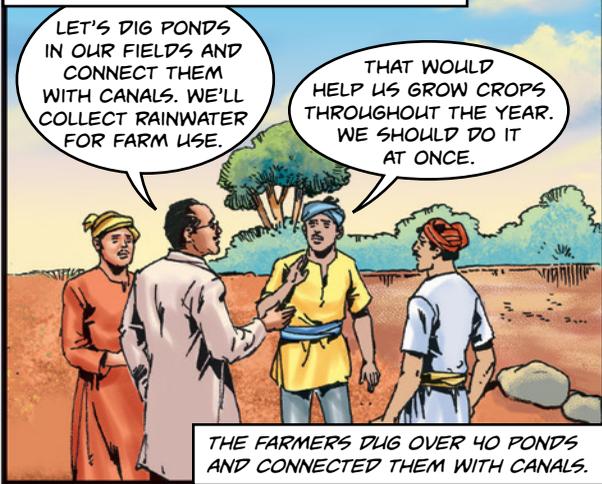
IT MEANS THAT THE WATER IN OUR VILLAGE SHOULD BE KEPT FOR DRINKING AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD USES. IT SHOULD NOT BE WASTED OR USED ELSEWHERE.



SO, EACH ONE OF US CAN HELP SAVE WATER?

YES, WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY DROP IS IMPORTANT, WE CAN SOLVE ALL OUR WATER PROBLEMS.

TULSI RAM ADVISED THE FARMERS TO START BY SAVING RAINWATER FOR FARMING.

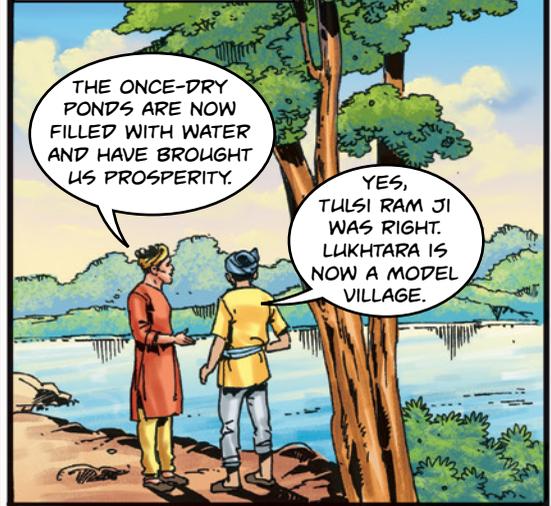


LET'S DIG PONDS IN OUR FIELDS AND CONNECT THEM WITH CANALS. WE'LL COLLECT RAINWATER FOR FARM USE.

THAT WOULD HELP US GROW CROPS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. WE SHOULD DO IT AT ONCE.

THE FARMERS DUG OVER 40 PONDS AND CONNECTED THEM WITH CANALS.

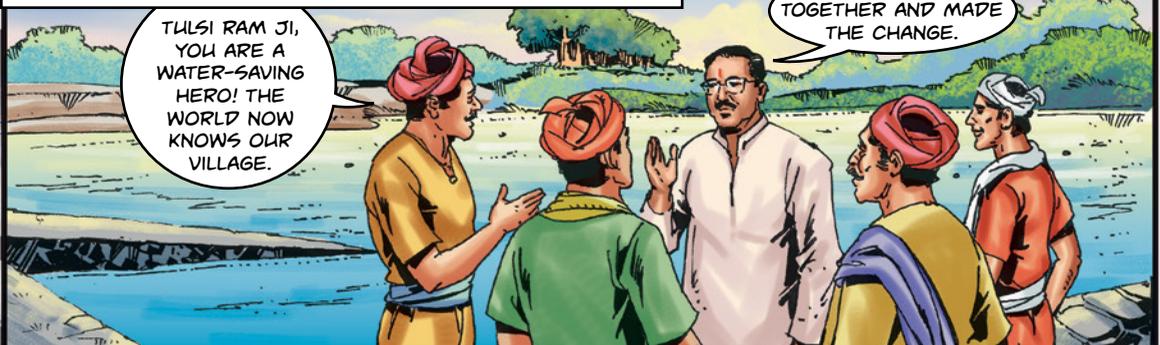
AS THE YEARS PASSED —



THE ONCE-DRY PONDS ARE NOW FILLED WITH WATER AND HAVE BROUGHT US PROSPERITY.

YES, TULSI RAM JI WAS RIGHT. LUKHTARA IS NOW A MODEL VILLAGE.

AFTER PM MODI PRAISED TULSI RAM YADAV'S EFFORTS TO CONSERVE WATER ON HIS RADIO PROGRAMME MANN KI BAAT —



TULSI RAM JI, YOU ARE A WATER-SAVING HERO! THE WORLD NOW KNOWS OUR VILLAGE.

WE WORKED TOGETHER AND MADE THE CHANGE.





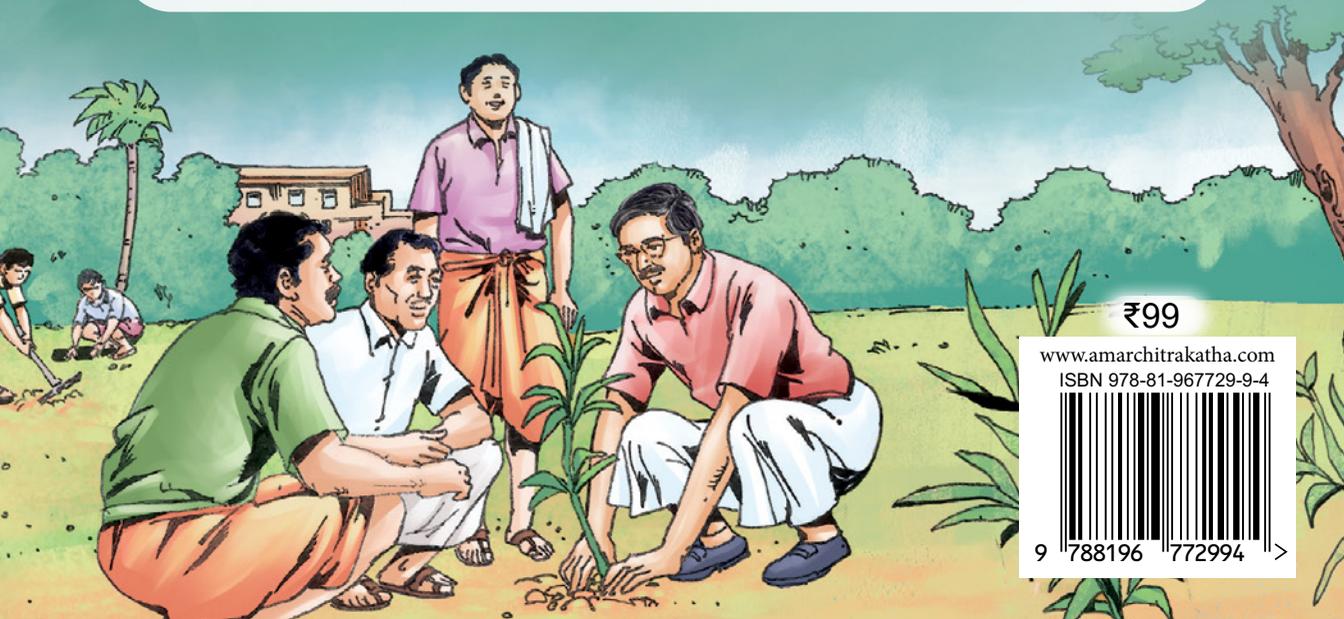
MANN KI BAAT

VOL.8

“The world has enough for man’s need but not enough for man’s greed.” These words spoken by the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, are often forgotten in this fast-paced world. With businesses and industries booming, tons of waste is produced and irreparable damage is done to the environment in the process. However, all it takes to prevent this, are a few responsible citizens standing up and taking charge.

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