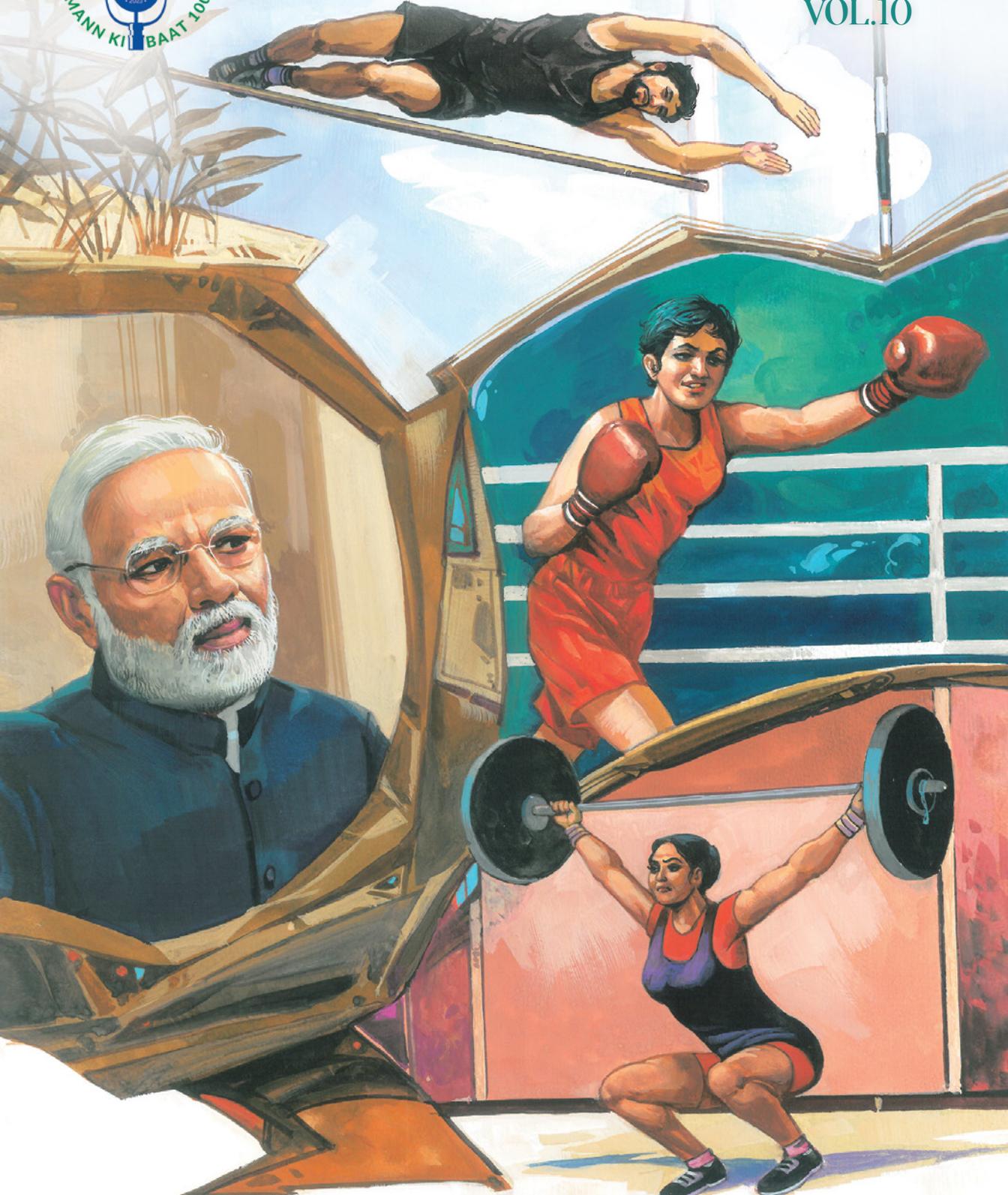




# MANN KI BAAT

VOL.10



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## VOL.10

### **Authors**

Sarda Mohan and Tanushree Banerji

### **Illustrations and Cover Art**

Dilip Kadam

### **Assistant Artist**

Ravindra Mokate

### **Production**

Amar Chitra Katha

### **Colourists**

Prakash Sivan, Prajeesh V. P., Vineesh S. and Periasamy Samikannu

### **Layout Artist**

Akshay Khadilkar

### **Published by**

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd

Edition I

ISBN – 978-81-967729-3-2

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd, February 2024

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My dear children,

**I**t is a sad fact that all over the world, people are judged on the basis of race, colour, gender, and ability. In our country too, girls and handicapped children, whether male or female, were thought of as a burden to their parents. But I am happy to tell you that this attitude is now changing. People like Sunil Jaglan, the sarpanch of a village in Haryana, and Pranav Desai, the founder of an NGO called Voice of Specially Abled People (VoSAP), are doing all they can to change the way society views the girl child and the differently abled.

The minute a child is considered equal to others in the eyes of society, there is no limit to what they can achieve. We now have girls like Akshata Kamati who became a weightlifter, Rajni Kashyap, who is an international gold medallist in boxing and Capt. Shiva Chouhan who became the first ever woman army officer to be deployed in the harsh conditions of the Siachen glacier. We even have Tushar Urade, a very young boy who cannot hear or speak, who managed to convince his entire village to use toilets instead of defecating in the open.

When we consider someone equal, we enable and empower them. This is what I would like you all to do – help and empower others instead of discriminating against them.

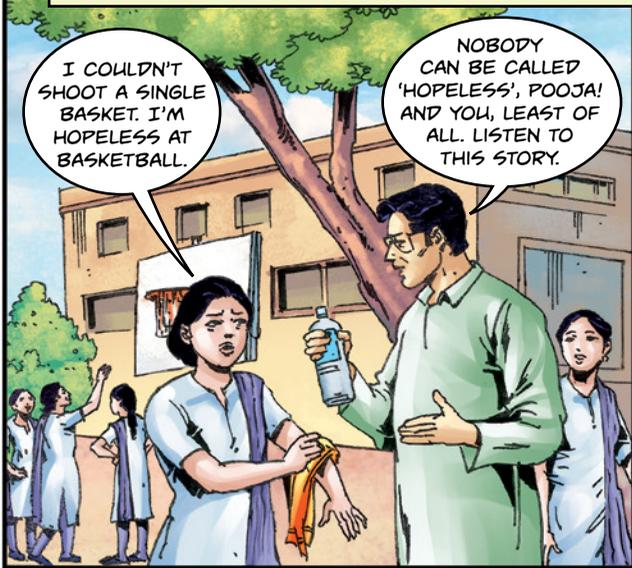




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# AKSHATA BASVANI KAMATI



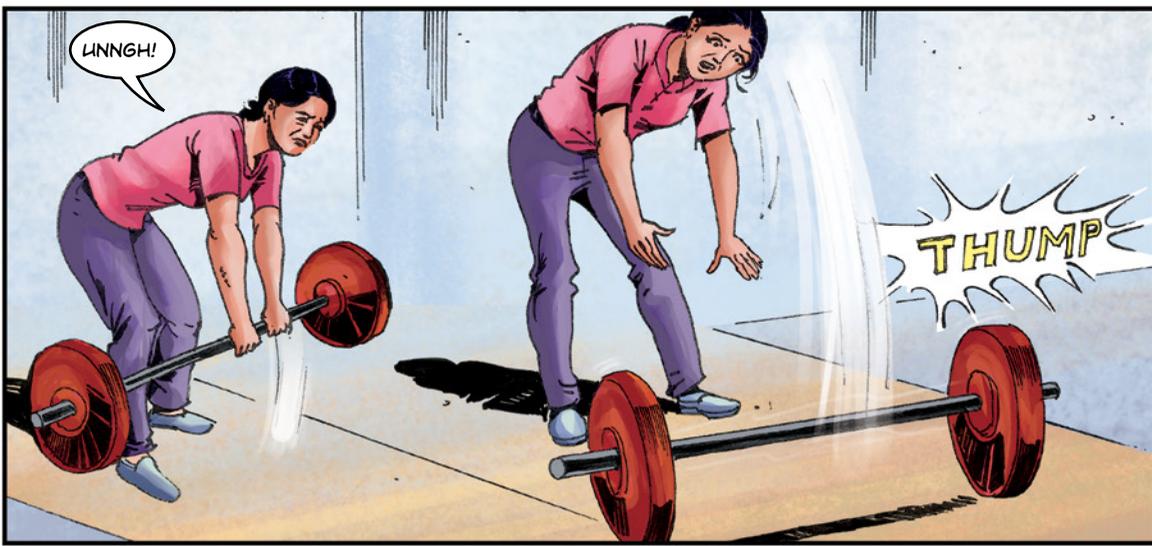
I COULDN'T SHOOT A SINGLE BASKET. I'M HOPELESS AT BASKETBALL.

NOBODY CAN BE CALLED 'HOPELESS', POOJA! AND YOU, LEAST OF ALL. LISTEN TO THIS STORY.

AKSHATA WAS IN THE EIGHTH STANDARD WHEN A VISIT TO THE GYM CHANGED HER LIFE.



LOOK AT THAT GIRL LIFTING THOSE HEAVY WEIGHTS. I WANT TO TRY LIFTING THEM TOO.



UNNGH!

THUMP

AKSHATA WAS NOT ONE TO BE DISCOURAGED. THAT DAY —



FATHER, I WANT TO TRAIN IN WEIGHTLIFTING.

GO AHEAD, MY CHILD. I'LL SUPPORT YOU.

AKSHATA'S FATHER WAS A FARMER. HE WANTED TO SEE HIS DAUGHTER DO WELL IN LIFE.

THE FIRST CONTEST AKSHATA ENTERED WAS AT KHELO INDIA. BUT —

...AND THE GOLD GOES TO LAVANYA RAI!

I AM NOWHERE NEAR LAVANYA OR ROSHNI. I HAVE TO WORK MUCH HARDER.

LAVANYA HAD GOT 79 POINTS, ROSHNI HAD 77 AND AKSHATA HAD MANAGED ONLY 73.

THE NEXT EVENT WAS THE 100 KG CLEAN AND JERK. FILLED WITH DETERMINATION, AKSHATA HOISTED 103 KG.

KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

LAVANYA COULD LIFT 95 KG.

IT WAS IN 2014 THAT AKSHATA HAD MET HER COACH, VIRPAL KALUR.

SHE HAS A SPECIAL TECHNIQUE. I MUST IMPROVE ON THAT. THIS GIRL IS MADE FOR WEIGHTLIFTING.

WEIGHTLIFTING IS NOT JUST ABOUT PHYSICAL STRENGTH. WE HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO A LOT OF THINGS LIKE FOOD AND NUTRITION, LEARNING NEW SCIENCE-BASED TECHNIQUES, AND MOST OF ALL, DEVELOPING GREAT MENTAL STRENGTH.

YES, MA'AM.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT BUT MY DREAM IS TO BRING HOME THE GOLD FOR INDIA.

KHELO INDIA

WITH HER DETERMINATION AND CAPACITY FOR HARD WORK, AKSHATA IS SURE TO ACHIEVE HER DREAM.

# CAPTAIN SHIVA CHOUHAN

ONE DAY AT SCHOOL —

SIR, I WANT TO STUDY ENGINEERING AND I ALSO WANT TO BE IN THE ARMY.

HA HA! YOU CAN'T DO BOTH, SILLY!

SHE CAN, SHREYAS. SHE CAN JOIN THE SAPPERS, WHICH IS AN ENGINEERING UNIT THAT ALSO FIGHTS. YOU CAN BE LIKE CAPTAIN SHIVA CHOUHAN.

YAY!

LITTLE SHIVA LIVED IN UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN, WITH HER PARENTS AND ELDER SISTER, SHUBHAM.

PAPA, I WISH TO JOIN THE ARMY WHEN I GROW UP.

I'M SURE YOU WILL, MY CHILD! WE WILL BE SO PROUD OF YOU.

UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR FATHER PASSED AWAY SHORTLY AFTER. THEIR MOTHER ANJALI, A HOMEMAKER, FOUND IT HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

MY BRAVE CHILDREN, I KNOW THINGS ARE DIFFICULT RIGHT NOW, BUT I PROMISE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

EVEN AS CHILDREN, SHIVA AND SHUBHAM WERE DEEPLY FASCINATED BY THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES\*.

SHE WAS DETERMINED TO GIVE HER DAUGHTERS A GOOD EDUCATION.

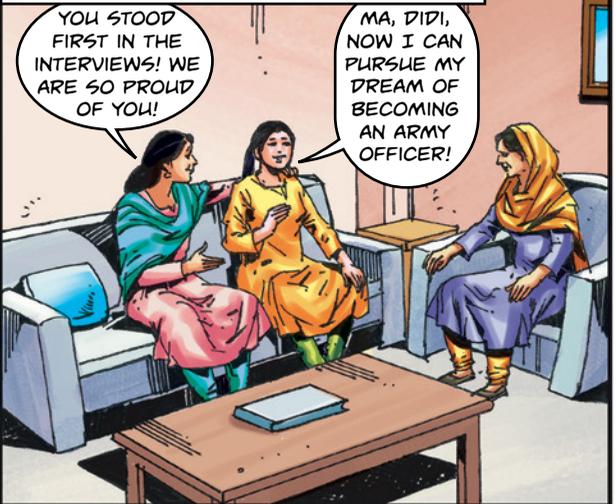
\*INDIAN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE

EVEN AS A CHILD, SHIVA VALUED HER MOTHER'S SACRIFICES, AND WORKED HARD.

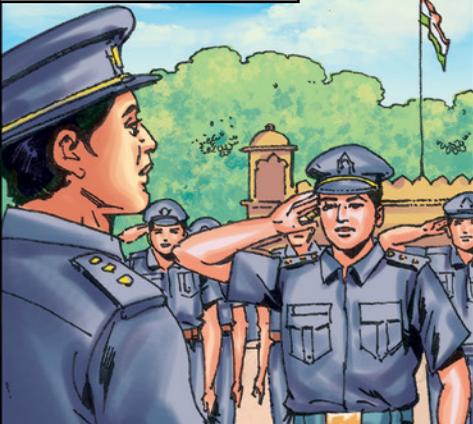


SHIVA EVENTUALLY FINISHED HER B.TECH IN CIVIL ENGINEERING FROM NJR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, UDAIPIUR, WITH FLYING COLOURS.

WHEN SHIVA WAS RECOMMENDED FOR THE SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION\* IN THE INDIAN ARMY, SHUBHAM, WHO WAS AN NCC<sup>^</sup> CADET, HELPED HER PREPARE. IN MARCH 2020 —



THE FOLLOWING YEAR, SHIVA GRADUATED FROM THE OFFICERS TRAINING ACADEMY, CHENNAI, AS A LIEUTENANT...



...AND WAS COMMISSIONED IN THE ENGINEERING REGIMENT OF THE ARMY.

SHIVA THEN BECAME A SAPPER WITH THE FIRE AND FURY CORPS, A MILITARY UNIT THAT GUARDS THE SIACHEN GLACIER AND HANDLES MILITARY DEPLOYMENT ALONG KARGIL-LEH. IN THE COURSE —



SHE KNEW THAT A POSTING AT AN ALTITUDE OF 18,875 FEET WOULD BE RISKY, BUT SHIVA DECIDED TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE.

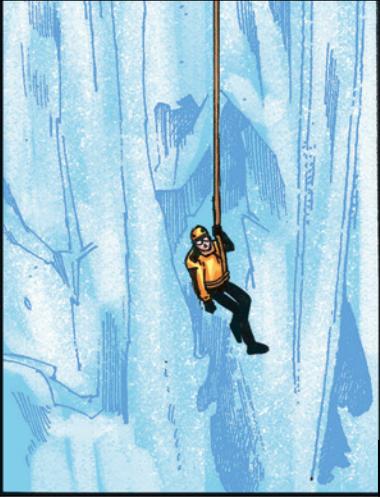
TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO THE HIGH-RISK TERRAIN, SHIVA UNDERWENT STRENGTH AND COMBAT TRAINING AT THE SIACHEN BATTLE SCHOOL.



\*A SERVICE OFFERED BY THE ARMED FORCES WHERE OFFICERS ARE COMMISSIONED FOR SHORT DURATIONS  
<sup>^</sup>NATIONAL CADET CORPS, THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WING OF THE ARMED FORCES



AVALANCHE AND CREVASSE\* RESCUES, ENDURANCE TRAINING, ICE WALL CLIMBING, AND SURVIVAL DRILLS HELPED HER BUILD PHYSICAL AND MENTAL STRENGTH.



AFTER COMPLETING THE TRAINING SUCCESSFULLY, SHIVA BECAME THE FIRST EVER WOMAN OFFICER TO BE DEPLOYED AT THE SIACHEN GLACIER.

THE ASCENT ON FOOT TO SIACHEN WAS DIFFICULT.



TEAM, WE KNOW THAT THE ROAD AHEAD IS RISKY. BUT BY LOOKING OUT FOR EACH OTHER, WE WILL REACH OUR DESTINATION SAFELY.

SHIVA LED THE TEAM WITH A 'NEVER SAY DIE' ATTITUDE. IT TOOK THEM FOUR DAYS.

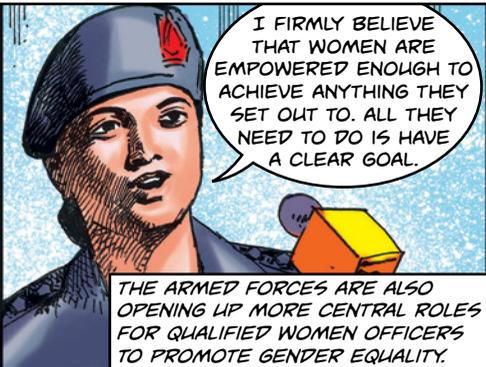
THEY REACHED KUMAR POST, THE BATTALION HEADQUARTERS, ON 2 JANUARY, 2023.



I AM FINALLY HERE! I WILL MAKE SURE THAT I STAY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY TEAM AND MY COUNTRY, NO MATTER WHAT.

THEIR TEAM WAS DEPLOYED AT SIACHEN FOR THREE MONTHS.

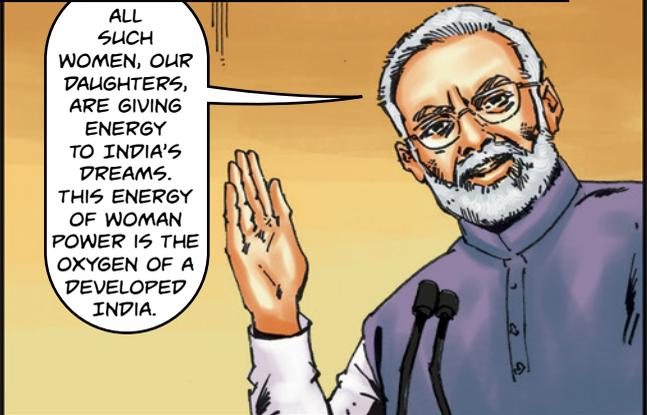
AS A WOMAN FRONTLINE LEADER, THE EXAMPLE SHIVA SETS HAS INSPIRED MANY OTHER WOMEN TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES.



I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT WOMEN ARE EMPOWERED ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING THEY SET OUT TO. ALL THEY NEED TO DO IS HAVE A CLEAR GOAL.

THE ARMED FORCES ARE ALSO OPENING UP MORE CENTRAL ROLES FOR QUALIFIED WOMEN OFFICERS TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY.

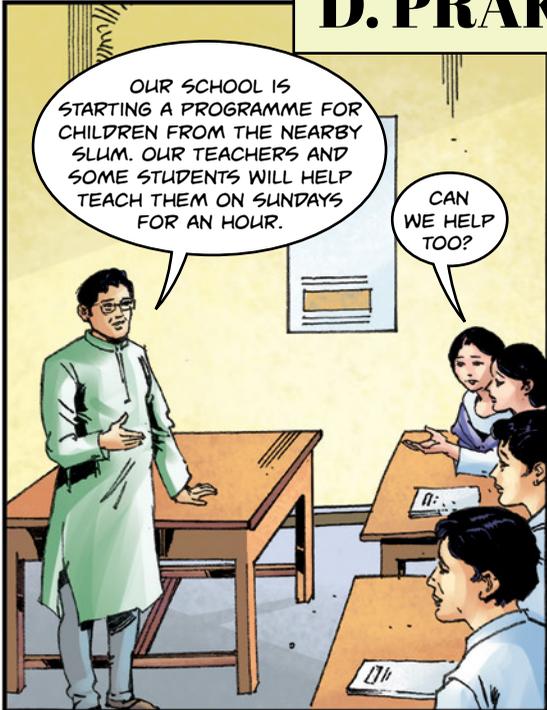
PM MODI HAS LAUDED SHIVA'S EXEMPLARY COURAGE.



ALL SUCH WOMEN, OUR DAUGHTERS, ARE GIVING ENERGY TO INDIA'S DREAMS. THIS ENERGY OF WOMAN POWER IS THE OXYGEN OF A DEVELOPED INDIA.

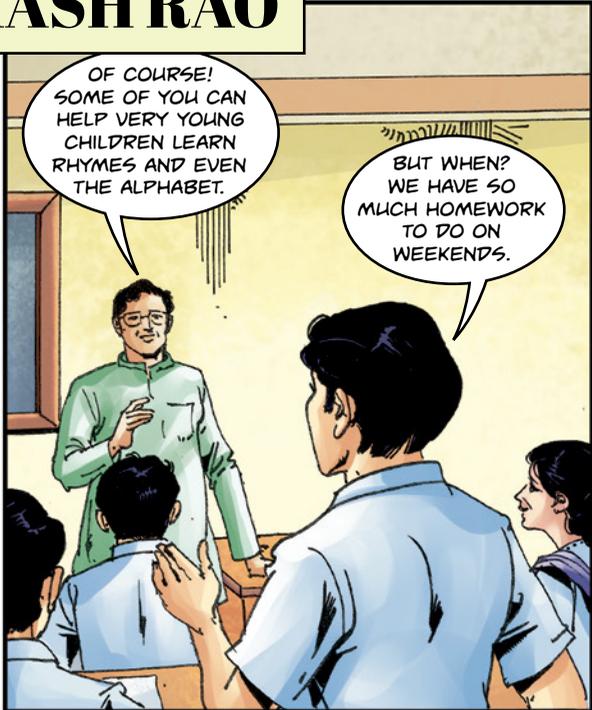
\*A DEEP AND OPEN CRACK THAT FORMS IN A GLACIER

# D. PRAKASH RAO



OUR SCHOOL IS STARTING A PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN FROM THE NEARBY SLUM. OUR TEACHERS AND SOME STUDENTS WILL HELP TEACH THEM ON SUNDAYS FOR AN HOUR.

CAN WE HELP TOO?



OF COURSE! SOME OF YOU CAN HELP VERY YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN RHYMES AND EVEN THE ALPHABET.

BUT WHEN? WE HAVE SO MUCH HOMEWORK TO DO ON WEEKENDS.



WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY. LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF D. PRAKASH RAO, A TEA SELLER WHO STARTED A SCHOOL FOR THE POOR, ENABLED BLOOD DONATIONS FOR THOSE IN NEED AND HELPED MANY OTHERS IN EVERY WAY HE COULD.

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD PRAKASH HELPED HIS FATHER RUN A SMALL TEA SHOP IN BUXI BAZAR IN CUTTACK\*.



GIVE THE TEA TO THOSE TWO MEN.

OKAY BABA. I'M RUNNING OFF TO SCHOOL AFTER THAT.

YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP SCHOOL SOON AND HELP ME RUN THIS SHOP.

WHEN PRAKASH GREW UP, HE TOOK OVER THE SHOP. UNFORTUNATELY, HE STARTED FALLING ILL OFTEN. ONE DAY, IN 1978, FRIENDS CAME TO VISIT HIM.



WHAT'S WRONG?

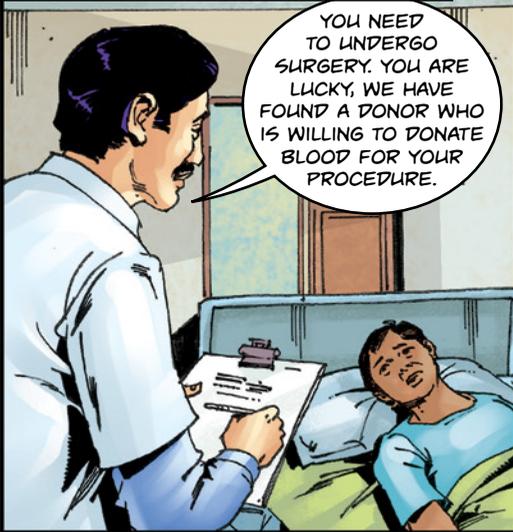
MY LEGS ARE TOO WEAK, I HAVE NO STRENGTH TO WALK.

LET'S TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL.

20-YEAR-OLD PRAKASH COULD HARDLY GET UP FROM HIS BED.

\*CITY IN ODISHA

PRAKASH WAS ADMITTED TO THE S.C.B. MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL AND OVER TIME, DIAGNOSED WITH A TUMOUR IN HIS SPINAL CORD. A FEW MONTHS LATER —



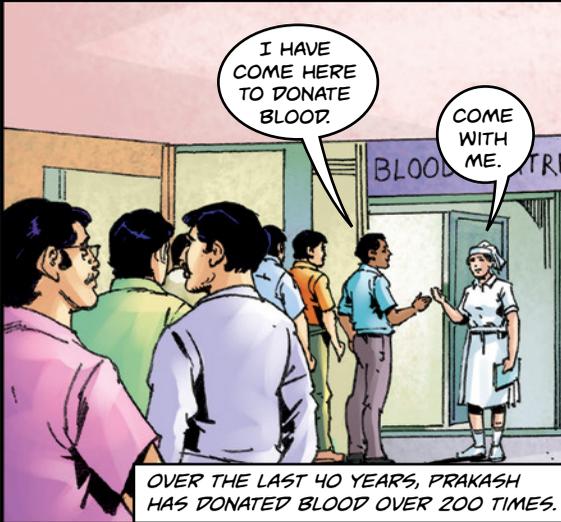
YOU NEED TO UNDERGO SURGERY. YOU ARE LUCKY, WE HAVE FOUND A DONOR WHO IS WILLING TO DONATE BLOOD FOR YOUR PROCEDURE.

TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SURGERY, PRAKASH COULD WALK AGAIN AND WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL.



I OWE MY LIFE TO THE GENEROUS MAN AND THE HOSPITAL WHICH FED ME AND TOOK CARE OF ME FOR SO MANY MONTHS. I HAVE TO GIVE BACK TO THEM.

HE SOON BEGAN TO VISIT THE HOSPITAL REGULARLY.

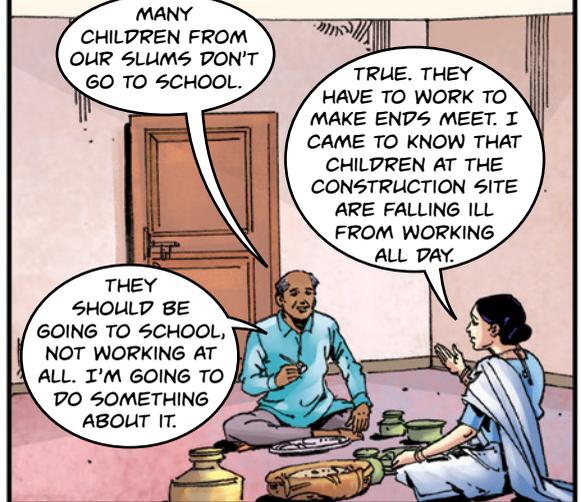


I HAVE COME HERE TO DONATE BLOOD.

COME WITH ME.

OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS, PRAKASH HAS DONATED BLOOD OVER 200 TIMES.

PRAKASH'S ATTENTION THEN TURNED TOWARDS THE CHILDREN IN HIS SLUM AREA.



MANY CHILDREN FROM OUR SLUMS DON'T GO TO SCHOOL.

TRUE. THEY HAVE TO WORK TO MAKE ENDS MEET. I CAME TO KNOW THAT CHILDREN AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE ARE FALLING ILL FROM WORKING ALL DAY.

THEY SHOULD BE GOING TO SCHOOL, NOT WORKING AT ALL. I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

IN 2000, PRAKASH STARTED A SCHOOL CALLED ASHA O ASHWASANA\* AND HIRED A TEACHER, WHOSE SALARY CAME FROM HIS OWN EARNINGS.



NO CHILD WILL MISS OUT ON SCHOOL DUE TO POVERTY. STUDY WELL.



AS THE YEARS PASSED, PRAKASH ENCOUNTERED ANOTHER PROBLEM.

MOST OF THE CHILDREN COME TO SCHOOL HUNGRY AND HAVE NOTHING TO EAT TILL THEY GO HOME AFTER LUNCH TIME.

HOW CAN THEY STUDY ON AN EMPTY STOMACH? FROM TOMORROW, WE WILL GIVE A GLASS OF MILK TO THEM EVERY MORNING AND ALSO ARRANGE FOR LUNCH.



AFTER THAT, PRAKASH DISTRIBUTED MILK TO HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN IN HIS AREA EVERY MORNING.



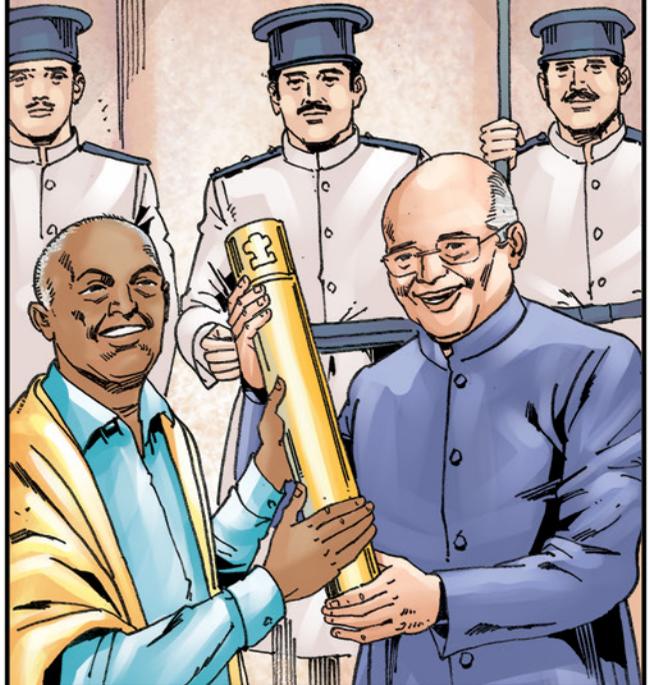
OVER THE YEARS, MORE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN HIS SCHOOL AND TODAY OVER 80 STUDENTS STUDY THERE.

PRAKASH SPENT HALF OF HIS EARNINGS FROM THE TEA STALL FOR THE SCHOOL AND THE CHILDREN, AND OVER THE YEARS, WORD ABOUT HIS GOOD WORK SPREAD THROUGH THE DISTRICT.

NOW, MANY YOUNGSTERS ARE HELPING ME OUT. THEY DONATE BLOOD AT THE HOSPITAL AND EVEN HELP ME GIVE FOOD TO THE PATIENTS.



FOR HIS NUMEROUS INITIATIVES, PRAKASH RECEIVED MANY AWARDS, INCLUDING THE HIGHLY COVETED PADMA SHRI IN 2019.



PRAKASH PASSED AWAY IN 2021 AT THE AGE OF 63. HIS WORK IS CARRIED ON BY HIS DAUGHTER, WHO HAS VOWED TO CONTINUE IN HER FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.



# KUMBHI KAGAZ

THE STUDENTS HAD A FEW FREE MINUTES AFTER THEIR MATHS CLASS.

LOOK, I CAN THROW FARTHER THAN YOU.

NO WAY, MY PAPER BALL WILL GO EVEN FURTHER.

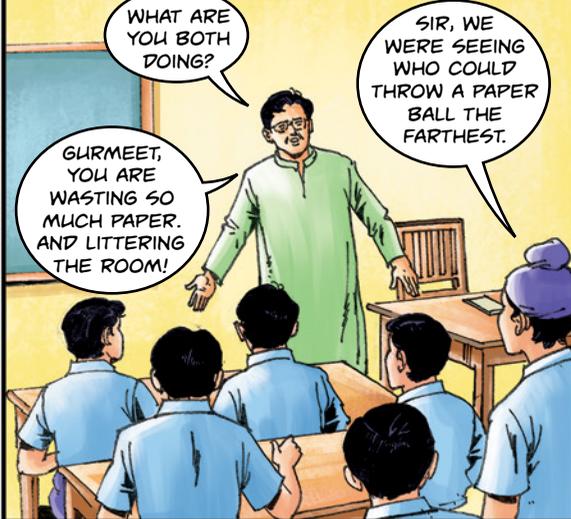


JUST THEN —

WHAT ARE YOU BOTH DOING?

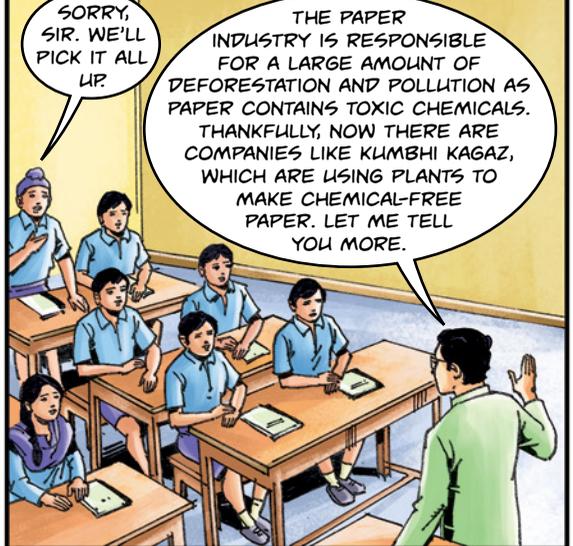
SIR, WE WERE SEEING WHO COULD THROW A PAPER BALL THE FARTHEST.

GURMEET, YOU ARE WASTING SO MUCH PAPER. AND LITTERING THE ROOM!



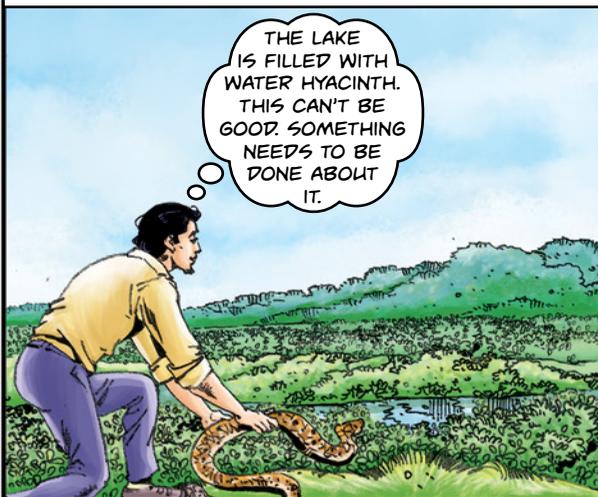
SORRY, SIR. WE'LL PICK IT ALL UP.

THE PAPER INDUSTRY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A LARGE AMOUNT OF DEFORESTATION AND POLLUTION AS PAPER CONTAINS TOXIC CHEMICALS. THANKFULLY, NOW THERE ARE COMPANIES LIKE KUMBHI KAGAZ, WHICH ARE USING PLANTS TO MAKE CHEMICAL-FREE PAPER. LET ME TELL YOU MORE.



RUPANKAR BHATTACHARJEE WAS AN INSTALLATION ARTIST LIVING IN GUWAHATI\*, WHO ALSO SPENT MUCH OF HIS TIME RESCUING SNAKES. IN 2018, WHEN HE WENT TO RELEASE A BURMESE PYTHON SNAKE AT DIPOR BIL<sup>^</sup> —

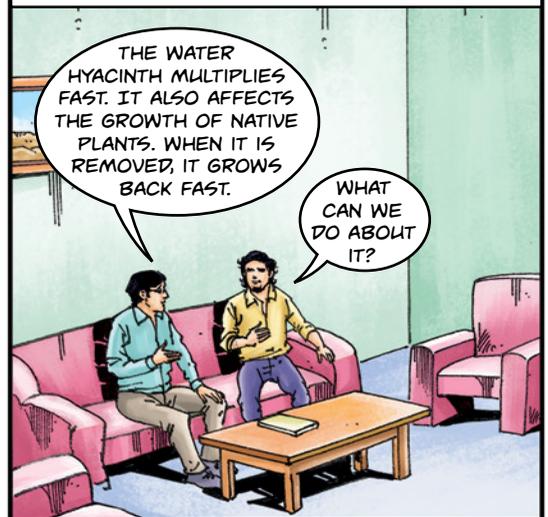
THE LAKE IS FILLED WITH WATER HYACINTH. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD. SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.



RUPANKAR SOON VISITED HIS MENTOR, DR JAYADITYA PURKAYASTHA, A HERPETOLOGIST\*\*, TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM.

THE WATER HYACINTH MULTIPLIES FAST. IT ALSO AFFECTS THE GROWTH OF NATIVE PLANTS. WHEN IT IS REMOVED, IT GROWS BACK FAST.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?



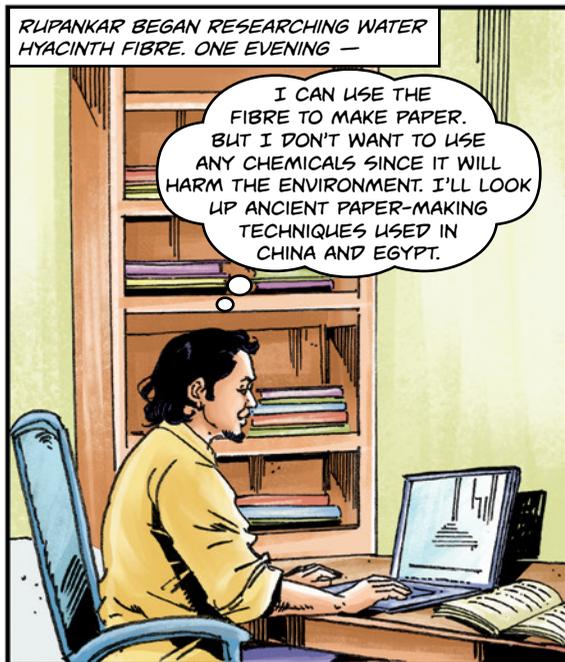
\*CITY IN ASSAM  
<sup>^</sup>AN IMPORTANT WETLAND IN ASSAM

\*\*A PERSON WHO STUDIES REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS



THE WATER HYACINTH NEEDS TO BE PUT TO USE. SOME ARTISANS MAKE HANDICRAFT ITEMS AFTER DRYING IT. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO WITH THE FIBRE?

LET ME THINK ABOUT IT.



RUPANKAR BEGAN RESEARCHING WATER HYACINTH FIBRE. ONE EVENING —

I CAN USE THE FIBRE TO MAKE PAPER. BUT I DON'T WANT TO USE ANY CHEMICALS SINCE IT WILL HARM THE ENVIRONMENT. I'LL LOOK UP ANCIENT PAPER-MAKING TECHNIQUES USED IN CHINA AND EGYPT.

HE COLLECTED DRIED WATER HYACINTH AND BEGAN EXPERIMENTING WITH ITS PULP. A FEW MONTHS LATER —

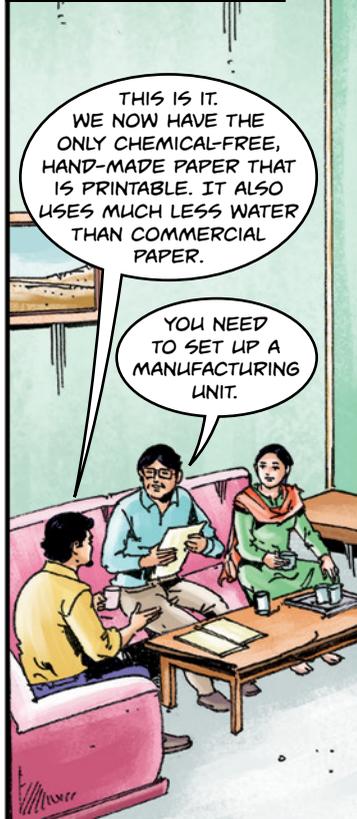


I DID IT! LOOK, HERE'S THE PAPER MADE FROM WATER HYACINTH PULP. IT'S COMPLETELY HAND-MADE.

IT'S BRILLIANT.

I HAVE TO WORK ON MAKING IT BETTER, NOW.

WHEN COVID-19 STRUCK, RUPANKAR SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME FIGURING OUT HOW TO PERFECT THE PAPER. IN 2020 —



THIS IS IT. WE NOW HAVE THE ONLY CHEMICAL-FREE, HAND-MADE PAPER THAT IS PRINTABLE. IT ALSO USES MUCH LESS WATER THAN COMMERCIAL PAPER.

YOU NEED TO SET UP A MANUFACTURING UNIT.

RUPANKAR DECIDED TO COLLABORATE WITH HIS FRIEND, ANIKET DHAR, AND DR JAYADITYA'S WIFE, DR MADHURIMA DAS\*, FOR THE PROJECT.



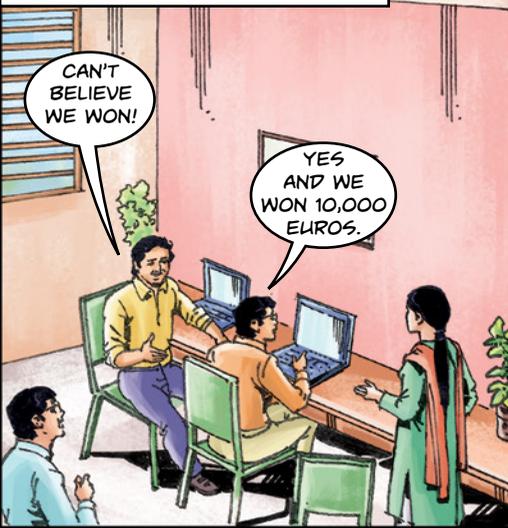
WE CAN CONTACT THE FISHERMEN AROUND DIPOR BIL TO COLLECT THE WATER HYACINTH. I CAN GUIDE THEM ON WHERE TO COLLECT IT FROM.

I CAN HELP DOCUMENT THE PAPER-MAKING PROCESS TO GET INVESTORS.

THE THREE OF THEM POOLED SOME MONEY TO GET STARTED.

\*AN EXPERT IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND ZOOLOGY

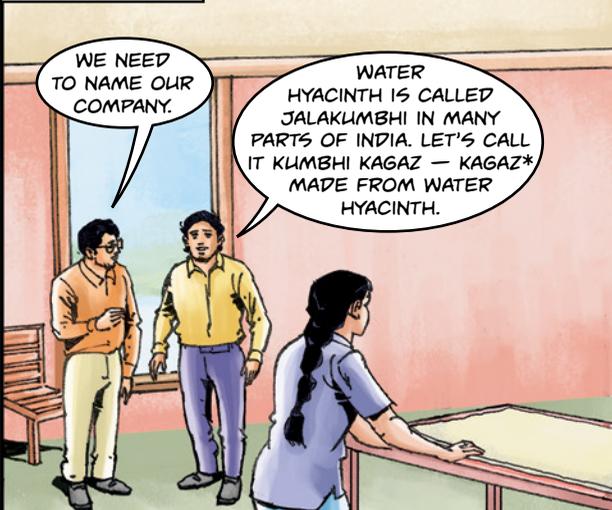
TO GET MORE FUNDS, IN 2021, THEY PARTICIPATED IN A ZERO-WASTE CITIES CHALLENGE ORGANISED BY UK-BASED WASTE4ID



CAN'T BELIEVE WE WON!

YES AND WE WON 10,000 EUROS.

THEY SOON SET UP A UNIT WITH A SEMI-AUTOMATIC MACHINE TO SEPARATE THE WATER HYACINTH FIBRES AND MAKE THE PAPER.

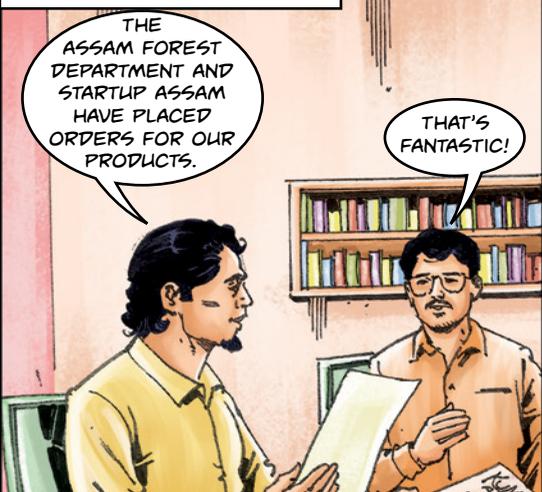


WE NEED TO NAME OUR COMPANY.

WATER HYACINTH IS CALLED JALAKUMBHI IN MANY PARTS OF INDIA. LET'S CALL IT KUMBHI KAGAZ — KAGAZ\* MADE FROM WATER HYACINTH.

THE COMPANY WAS REGISTERED IN MAY 2022...

...AND THEY ROLLED OUT THEIR PRODUCTS IN JANUARY, 2023.



THE ASSAM FOREST DEPARTMENT AND STARTUP ASSAM HAVE PLACED ORDERS FOR OUR PRODUCTS.

THAT'S FANTASTIC!

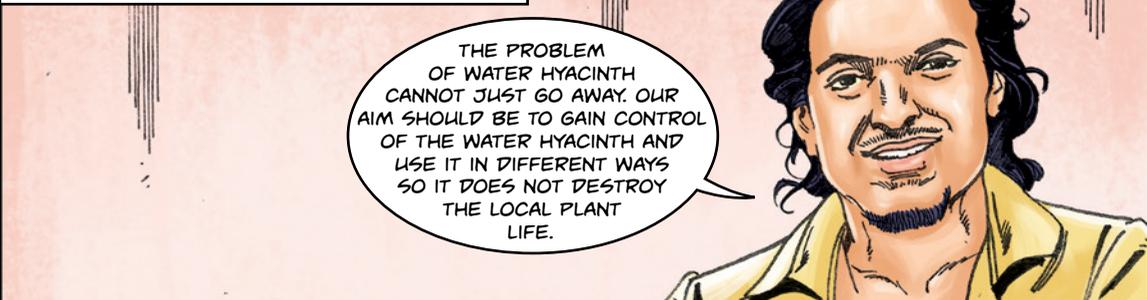
THEY SOON BEGAN TO SELL NOTEBOOKS, NOTEPADS AND CALENDARS THROUGH THEIR WEBSITE.



OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, KUMBHI KAGAZ HAS WON MANY MORE GRANTS AND COMPETITIONS.

TODAY, OUR UNIT PRODUCES 150-200 SHEETS PER DAY. BUT IT HAS A CAPACITY OF UP TO 1,500 SHEETS PER DAY. OUR MAIN AIM NOW IS TO SCALE UP PRODUCTION.

RUPANKAR BELIEVES MORE PEOPLE SHOULD USE WATER HYACINTH TO MAKE DIFFERENT PRODUCTS.

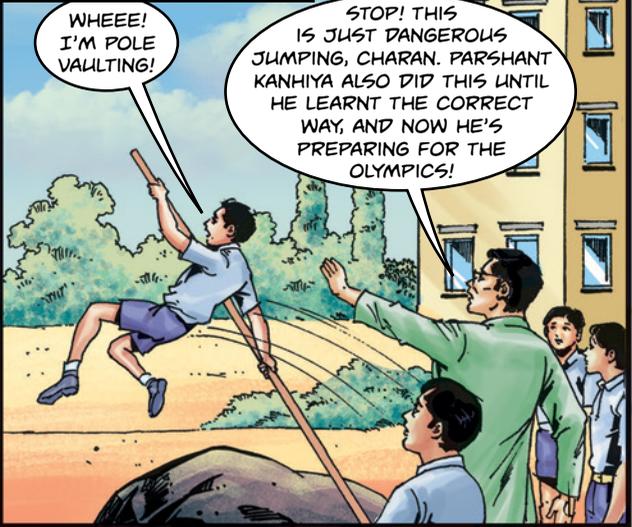


THE PROBLEM OF WATER HYACINTH CANNOT JUST GO AWAY. OUR AIM SHOULD BE TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE WATER HYACINTH AND USE IT IN DIFFERENT WAYS SO IT DOES NOT DESTROY THE LOCAL PLANT LIFE.

\*PAPER

# PARSHANT SINGH KANHIYA

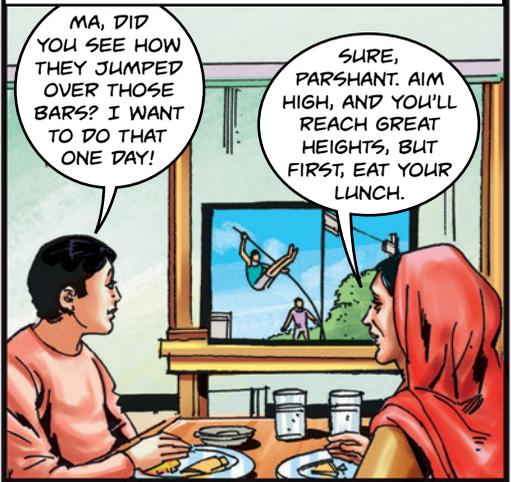
ONE DAY DURING RECESS —



WHEEE!  
I'M POLE VAULTING!

STOP! THIS IS JUST DANGEROUS JUMPING, CHARAN. PARSHANT KANHIYA ALSO DID THIS UNTIL HE LEARNT THE CORRECT WAY, AND NOW HE'S PREPARING FOR THE OLYMPICS!

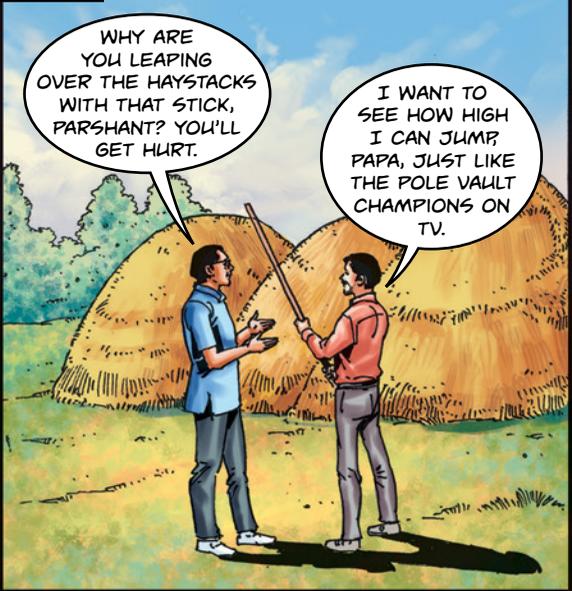
IN MAHABIR VALLEY, BHIWANI\*, 15-YEAR-OLD PARSHANT WAS WATCHING THE POLE VAULTERS AT THE 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES ON TELEVISION.



MA, DID YOU SEE HOW THEY JUMPED OVER THOSE BARS? I WANT TO DO THAT ONE DAY!

SURE, PARSHANT. AIM HIGH, AND YOU'LL REACH GREAT HEIGHTS, BUT FIRST, EAT YOUR LUNCH.

SOON —



WHY ARE YOU LEAPING OVER THE HAYSTACKS WITH THAT STICK, PARSHANT? YOU'LL GET HURT.

I WANT TO SEE HOW HIGH I CAN JUMP, PAPA, JUST LIKE THE POLE VAULT CHAMPIONS ON TV.

PARSHANT'S DETERMINATION LED HIS FATHER TO INQUIRE ABOUT A COACH FOR POLE VAULT, AND THAT'S HOW THEY MET DEVENDRA SINGH.



CAN YOU PLEASE TEACH MY SON PARSHANT HOW TO POLE VAULT? YOU WILL SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF REARRANGING THE HAYSTACKS AT HOME.

IF HE'S READY TO PUT IN THE EFFORT, YES.

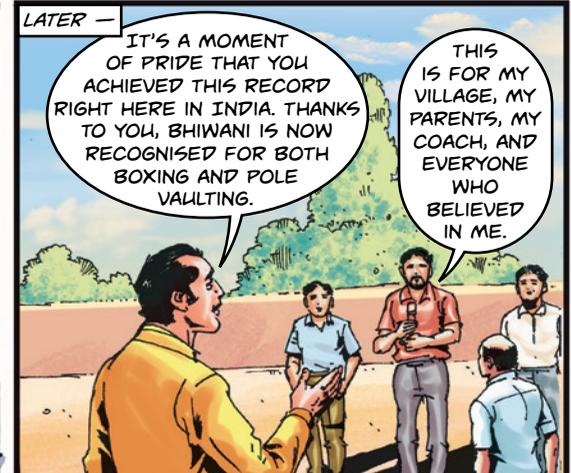
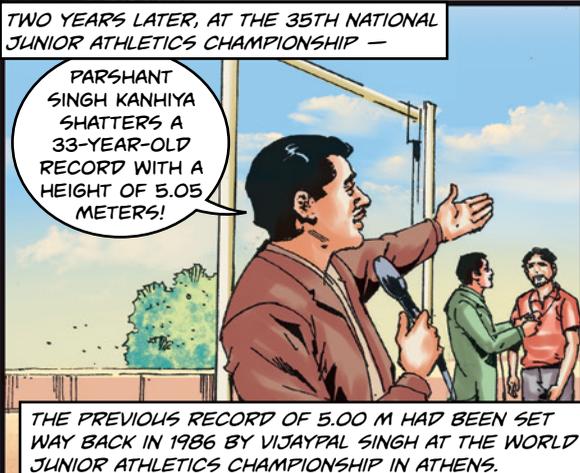
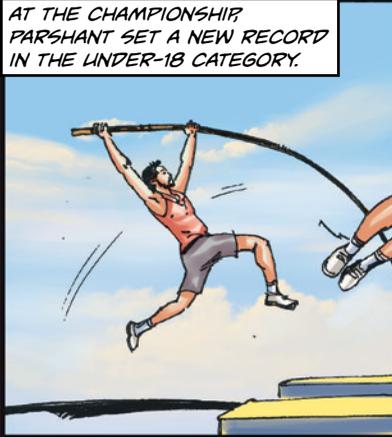
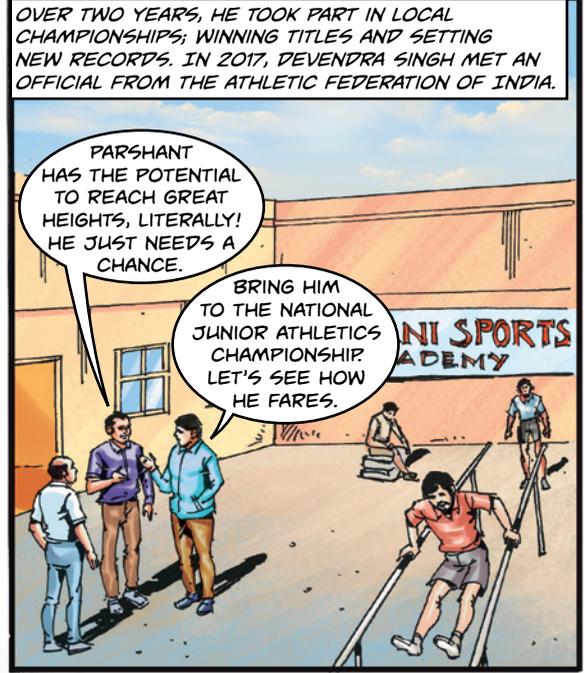
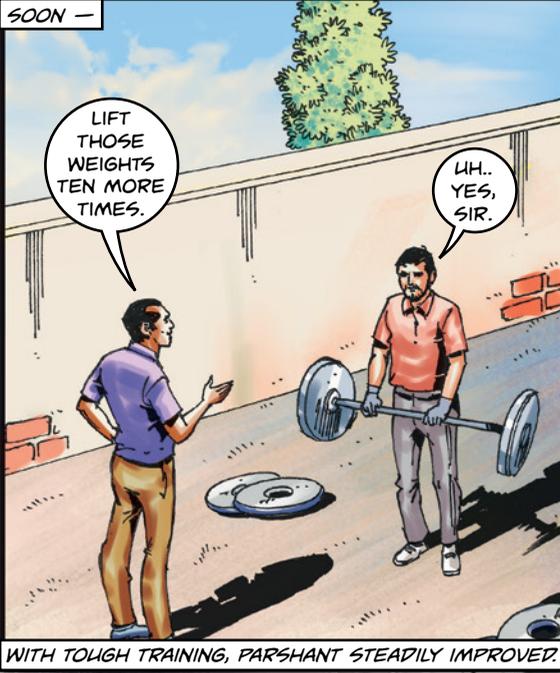
AS PARSHANT ENTERED THE PRACTICE FIELD —



YOU WILL HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR STICK ASIDE. FIRST GET READY PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.

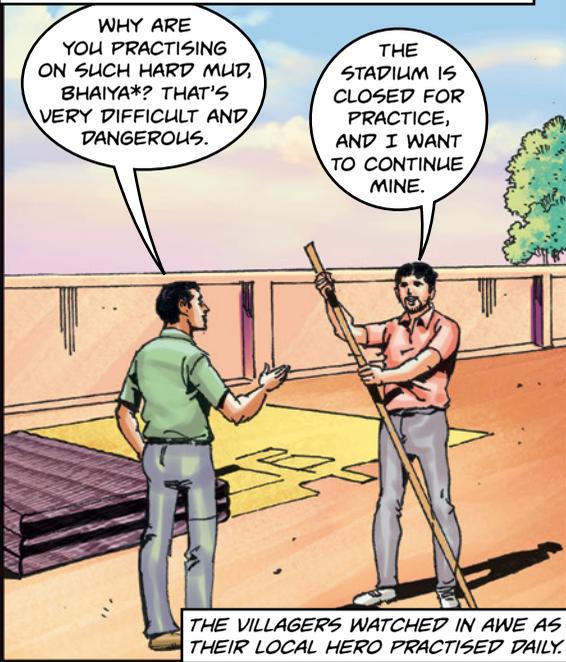
I AM READY TO DO IT, SIR.

\*DISTRICT IN HARYANA





HOWEVER, SOON AFTER THAT, THE COUNTRY WENT INTO LOCKDOWN DUE TO THE COVID OUTBREAK.



WHY ARE YOU PRACTISING ON SUCH HARD MUD, BHAIIYA\*? THAT'S VERY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS.

THE STADIUM IS CLOSED FOR PRACTICE, AND I WANT TO CONTINUE MINE.

THE VILLAGERS WATCHED IN AWE AS THEIR LOCAL HERO PRACTISED DAILY.

IN 2021, AFTER THINGS GOT BETTER, PARSHANT KEPT WINNING IN STATE AND NATIONAL POLE VAULT COMPETITIONS. HE MADE HISTORY BY BECOMING THE FIRST POLE VAULTER FROM OUR COUNTRY TO QUALIFY FOR THE WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIP.



SOON —



I WANT TO REPRESENT OUR COUNTRY IN THE OLYMPICS, COACH.

WE NEED BETTER FACILITIES TO TRAIN YOU FOR THAT. LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

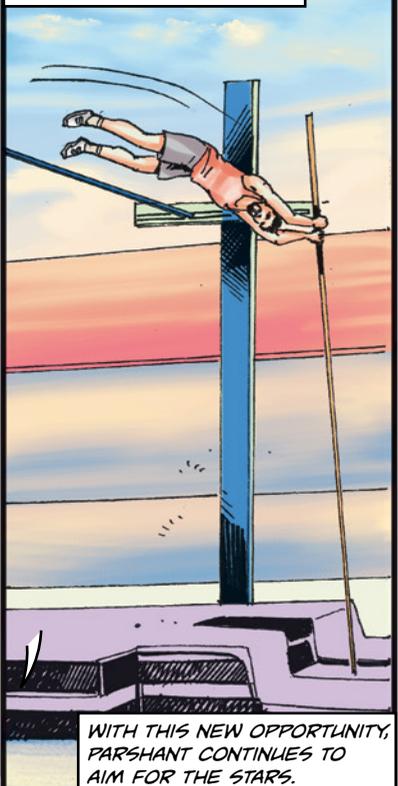
DEVENDRA SINGH APPROACHED THE SPORTS COMMITTEE TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR PARSHANT'S OLYMPIC TRAINING.



HOW DO YOU SEE PARSHANT'S CHANCES IN THE OLYMPICS?

EVEN DURING THE LOCKDOWN, HE STAYED COMMITTED, PRACTISING ON CLAY. HE HAS DEDICATION AS WELL AS POTENTIAL.

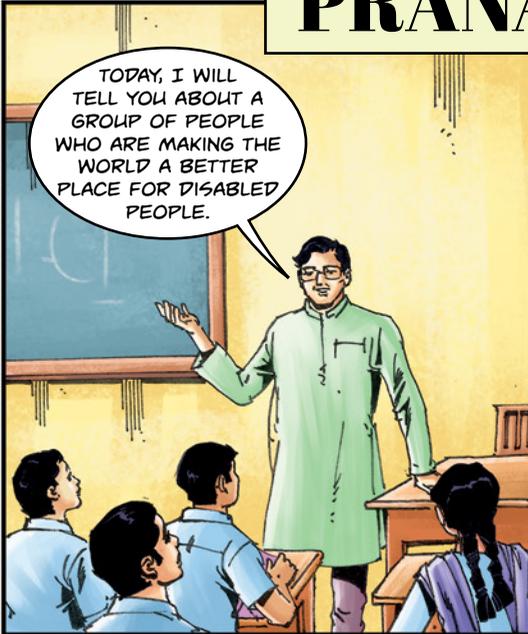
PARSHANT WAS OFFERED THE CHANCE TO TRAIN WITH HIS COACH AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM IN DELHI.



WITH THIS NEW OPPORTUNITY, PARSHANT CONTINUES TO AIM FOR THE STARS.

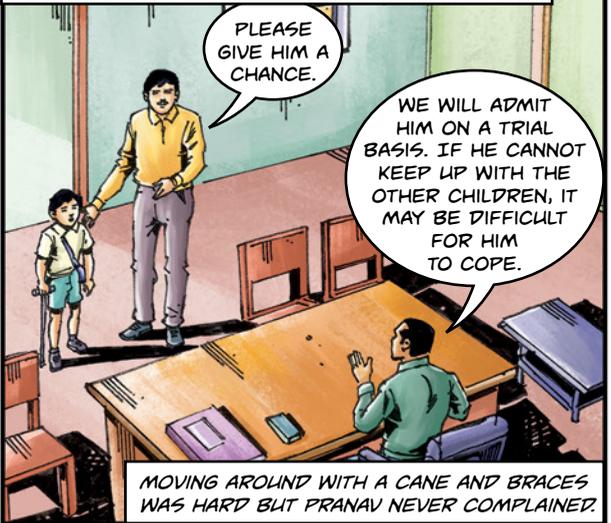
\*BROTHER

# PRANAV DESAI



TODAY, I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.

IN 1973, IN AHMEDABAD, FOUR-YEAR-OLD PRANAV DESAI, AFFECTED BY POLIO, HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL.

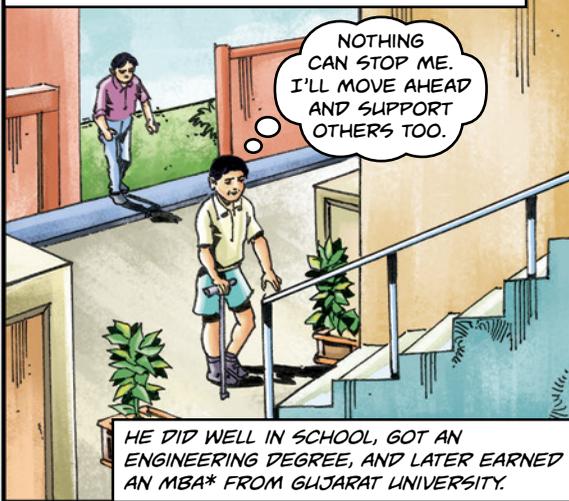


PLEASE GIVE HIM A CHANCE.

WE WILL ADMIT HIM ON A TRIAL BASIS. IF HE CANNOT KEEP UP WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN, IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO COPE.

MOVING AROUND WITH A CANE AND BRACES WAS HARD BUT PRANAV NEVER COMPLAINED.

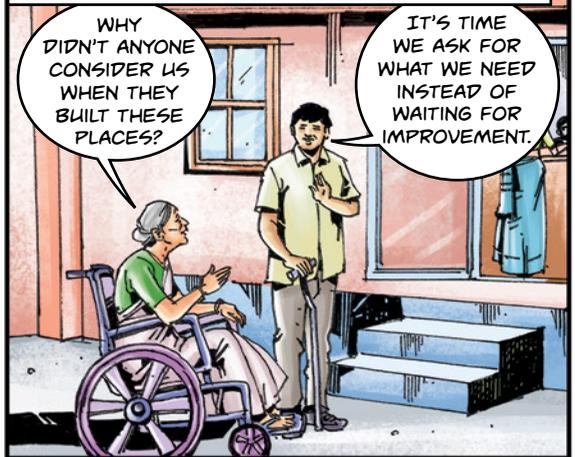
ALONE AND FACING DIFFICULTIES, HE STAYED DETERMINED THROUGH DAY-TO-DAY CHALLENGES.



NOTHING CAN STOP ME. I'LL MOVE AHEAD AND SUPPORT OTHERS TOO.

HE DID WELL IN SCHOOL, GOT AN ENGINEERING DEGREE, AND LATER EARNED AN MBA\* FROM GUJARAT UNIVERSITY.

PRANAV OBSERVED THAT DESPITE ADVANCEMENTS ELSEWHERE, THERE WERE CONSISTENTLY NO PROVISIONS OR FACILITIES FOR THE SPECIALLY ABLED, WHEREVER HE WENT. ONE DAY —



WHY DIDN'T ANYONE CONSIDER US WHEN THEY BUILT THESE PLACES?

IT'S TIME WE ASK FOR WHAT WE NEED INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR IMPROVEMENT.

WITH A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS, PRANAV BEGAN APPROACHING AUTHORITIES TO IMPROVE FACILITIES FOR SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE. SOON —



FINALLY, A RAMP! NOW, EVERYONE CAN ACCESS THE BANK EASILY.

PRANAV'S EFFORTS MADE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND POLICIES FOR THE SPECIALLY ABLED IN GUJARAT.

\*MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



CAREER-WISE, HIS EFFORTS LED TO HIM BECOMING THE VICE PRESIDENT AT NTT DATA IN THE U.S.A.\*. IN 2014 —

MY LIFE AS A SPECIALLY ABLED PERSON IN INDIA AND IN AMERICA IS VASTLY DIFFERENT. I NEED TO WORK FOR THOSE IN INDIA, SO THAT THEY CAN LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.



THIS LED TO HIM FOUNDING THE NGO<sup>†</sup>, VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE (VOSAP).

HIS 'VISION 2020', WITH 12 GOALS TO MAKE INDIA INCLUSIVE FOR SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE BY 2020, AND THE 'ACCESSIBLE INDIA' CAMPAIGN, WAS APPROVED AND LAUNCHED BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

THEY'RE NOT DISABLED; THEY'RE SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE, CAPABLE OF LEADING EMPOWERED AND INDEPENDENT LIVES WITH THE RIGHT TO EQUALITY AND DIGNITY.



SINCE 2015, PRANAV HAS ALSO SERVED AS AN ADVISOR TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PRANAV LAUNCHED AN ONLINE PLATFORM, THE VOSAP APP FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMUNITY TO SPREAD AWARENESS AND PROVIDE SOLUTIONS TO MAKE SPACES MORE INCLUSIVE FOR SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE.

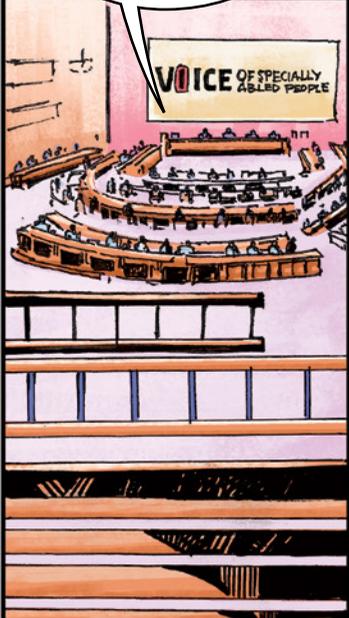
VOLUNTEERS USE THE VOSAP APP TO PHOTOGRAPH BUILDINGS. WITH GPS, IT GUIDES PEOPLE IN WHEELCHAIRS TO ACCESSIBLE PLACES, DISPLAYING RATINGS AND COMMENTS.



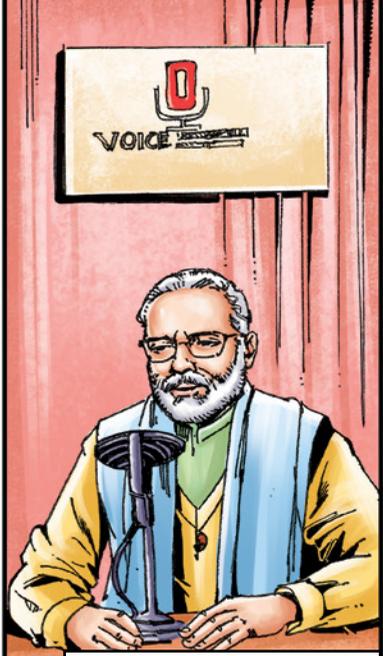
THE APP ATTRACTED OVER 11,000 VOLUNTEERS IN A SHORT SPAN OF TIME.

THIS ALSO LED TO VOSAP BECOMING A SPECIAL CONSULTANT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS.

VOSAP'S VISION IS TO USE TECHNOLOGY TO EMPOWER PEOPLE'S LIVES AND USE THE EXTRAORDINARY SKILLS OF THE SPECIALLY ABLED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WORLD.



TO PROMOTE ASPIRING DIVYANG\*\* ARTISTS, IN 2022, THE 3D VOSAP VIRTUAL ART GALLERY WAS LAUNCHED WITH 250 ARTWORKS CREATING THE WORLD'S FIRST COLLECTION OF ITS KIND.



PRAISING VOSAP PM MODI URGED SUPPORT FOR SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE. HE CALLED UPON THE COMMUNITY TO EXTEND SUPPORT THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY.

\*UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
†NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

\*\*SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE IN HINDI



# RAJNI KASHYAP

IT WAS THE SPORTS PERIOD —



KABADDI, KABADDI, KABADDI....

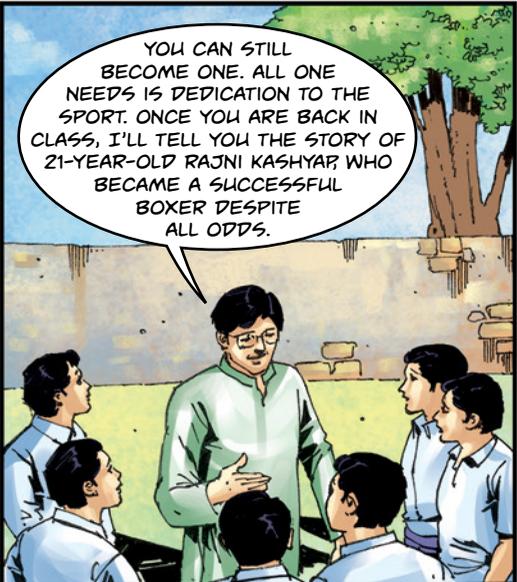
CATCH HIM!

BUT CHARAN MADE IT SAFELY BACK TO HIS SIDE OF THE COURT.

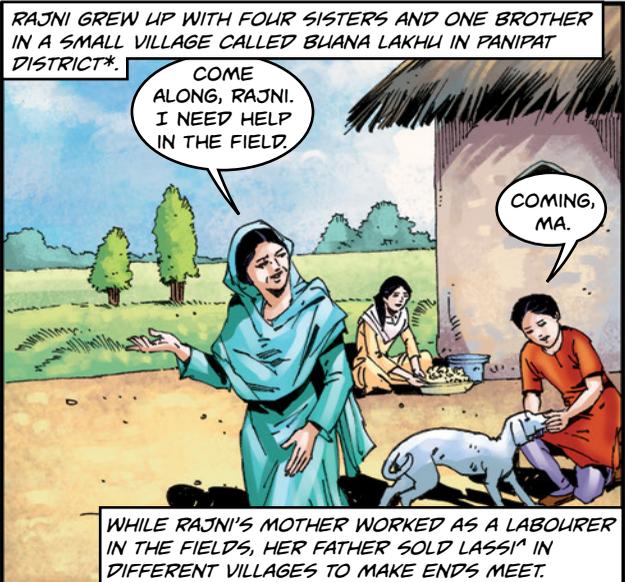


YOU PLAY SO WELL, CHARAN. YOU NEVER GET OUT.

I LOVE THE GAME. IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO STUDY, I WOULD PLAY ALL DAY AND BECOME A KABADDI CHAMPION.



YOU CAN STILL BECOME ONE. ALL ONE NEEDS IS DEDICATION TO THE SPORT. ONCE YOU ARE BACK IN CLASS, I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY OF 21-YEAR-OLD RAJNI KASHYAP, WHO BECAME A SUCCESSFUL BOXER DESPITE ALL ODDS.



RAJNI GREW UP WITH FOUR SISTERS AND ONE BROTHER IN A SMALL VILLAGE CALLED BUANA LAKHU IN PANIPAT DISTRICT\*.

COME ALONG, RAJNI. I NEED HELP IN THE FIELD.

COMING, MA.

WHILE RAJNI'S MOTHER WORKED AS A LABOURER IN THE FIELDS, HER FATHER SOLD LASSI<sup>†</sup> IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES TO MAKE ENDS MEET.

ONE DAY, 10-YEAR-OLD RAJNI WAS WANDERING AROUND AFTER SCHOOL, WHEN —

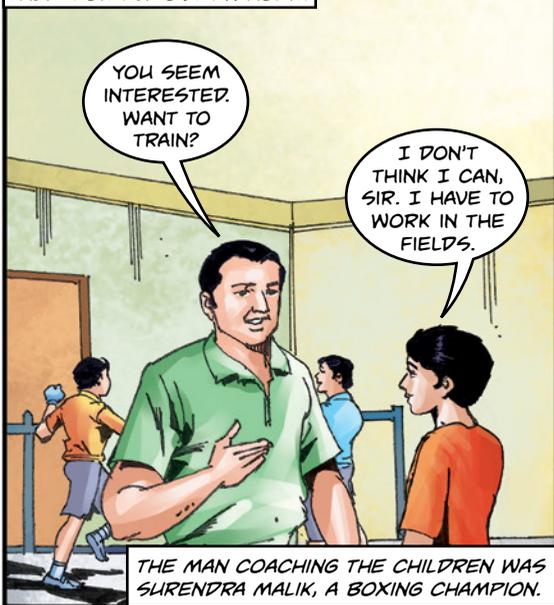


WOW! SO MUCH POWER. I WISH I COULD JOIN THEM.

\*IN HARYANA  
†A DRINK MADE WITH CURD



RAJNI CONTINUED WATCHING THEM FOR ALMOST AN HOUR.



YOU SEEM INTERESTED. WANT TO TRAIN?

I DON'T THINK I CAN, SIR. I HAVE TO WORK IN THE FIELDS.

THE MAN COACHING THE CHILDREN WAS SURENDRA MALIK, A BOXING CHAMPION.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, COME TO MY ACADEMY TOMORROW AND WE CAN TEST YOU OUT.

THE NEXT DAY —



COME IN. WEAR THOSE GLOVES AND PUNCH ME AS HARD AS YOU CAN.



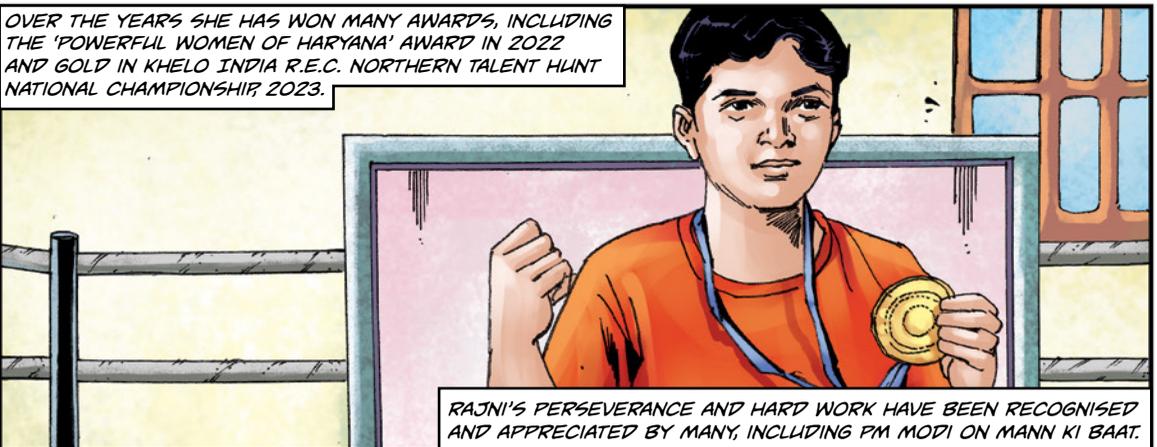
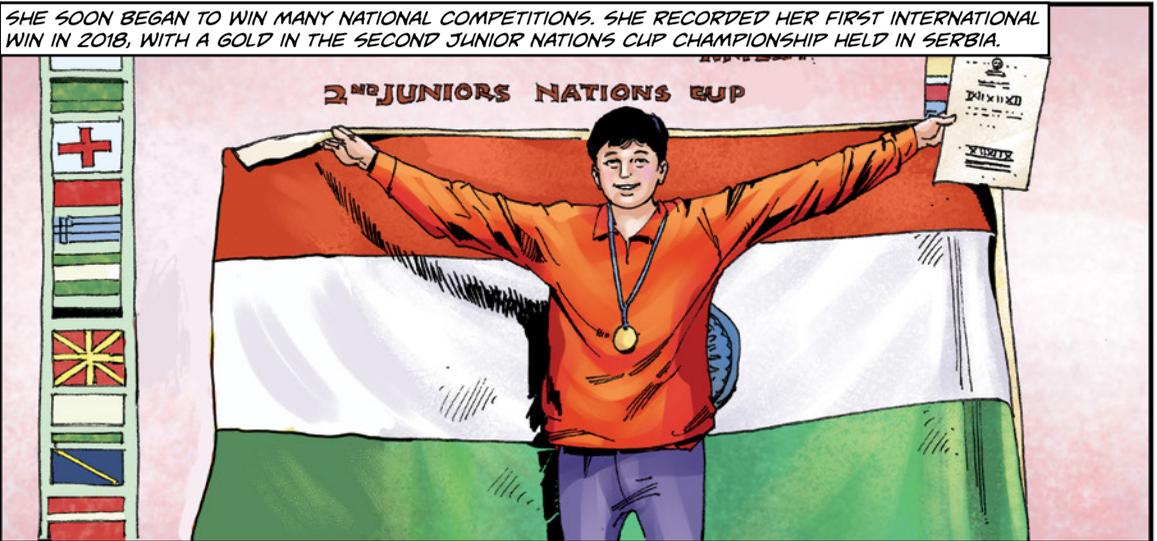
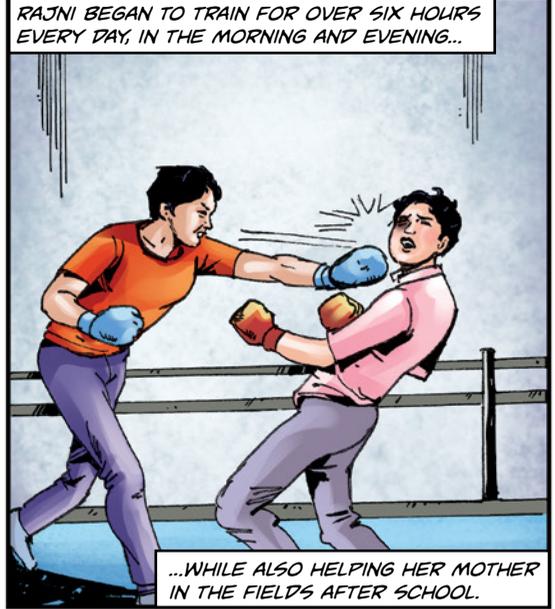
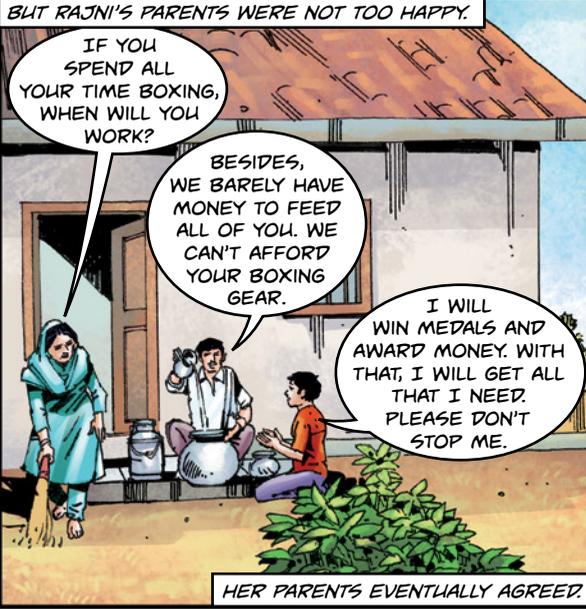
SHE HAS STRENGTH IN THOSE ARMS. WITH A LITTLE TRAINING, SHE WILL GO A LONG WAY.

UNDER SURENDRA'S GUIDANCE, RAJNI SOON PARTICIPATED IN A BOXING MATCH AND SHE WON.

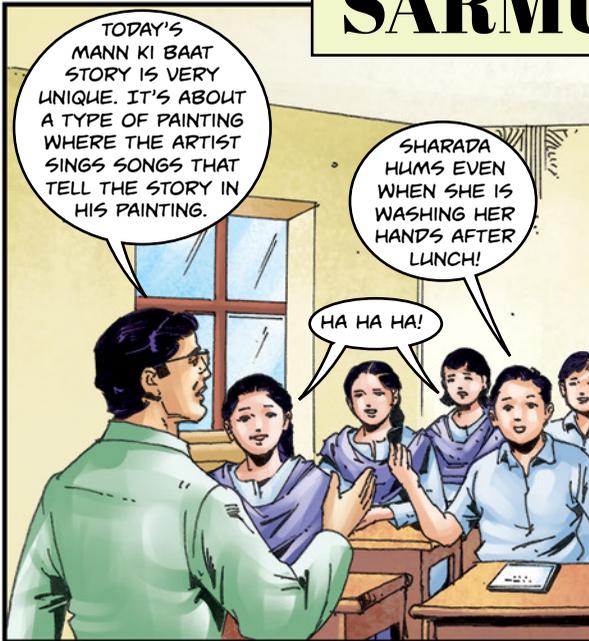


I WON, I WON! THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE.

TRAIN HARD AND THERE ARE MANY MORE MEDALS COMING YOUR WAY.



# SARMUDDIN



TODAY'S MANN KI BAAT STORY IS VERY UNIQUE. IT'S ABOUT A TYPE OF PAINTING WHERE THE ARTIST SINGS SONGS THAT TELL THE STORY IN HIS PAINTING.

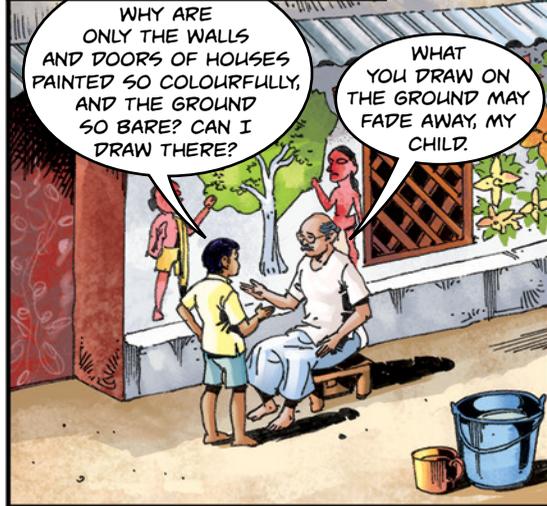
SHARADA HUMS EVEN WHEN SHE IS WASHING HER HANDS AFTER LUNCH!

HA HA HA!

IN THE MID-1990S, IN NAYA PINGLA VILLAGE IN WEST BENGAL, LITTLE SARMUDDIN HAD A QUESTION.

WHY ARE ONLY THE WALLS AND DOORS OF HOUSES PAINTED SO COLOURFULLY, AND THE GROUND SO BARE? CAN I DRAW THERE?

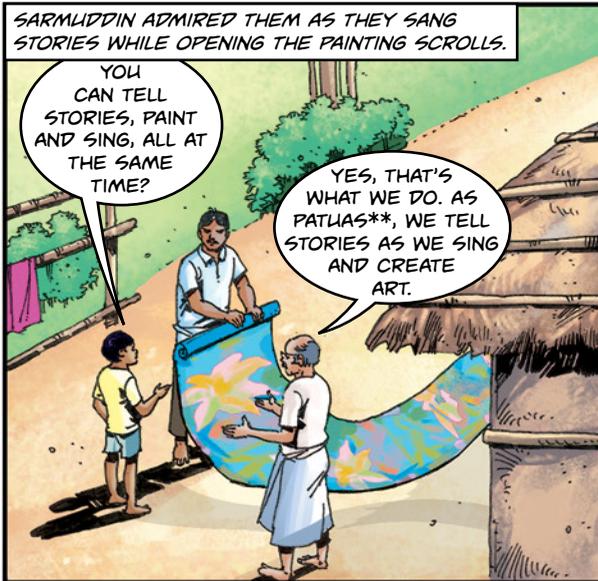
WHAT YOU DRAW ON THE GROUND MAY FADE AWAY, MY CHILD.



HIS FATHER, HOWEVER, HAD A SOLUTION.

INSTEAD, YOU CAN LEARN TO DRAW ON SCROLLS LIKE NANU\* AND I DO.

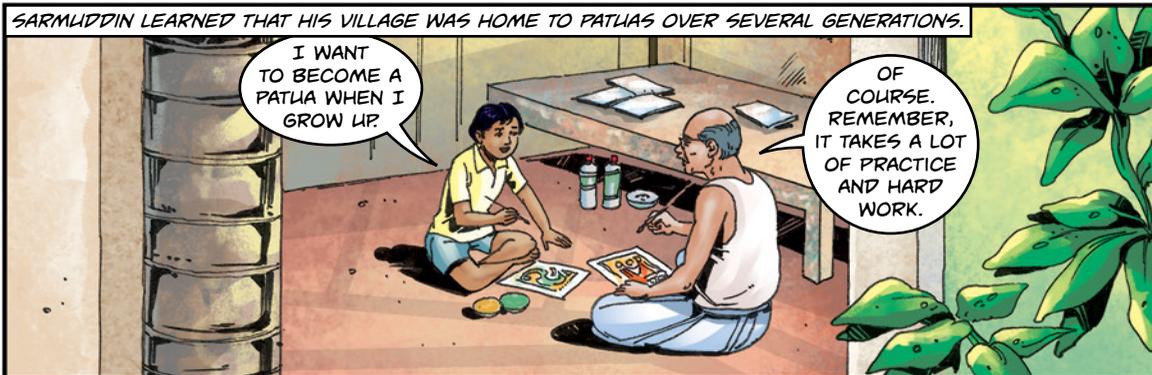
WE CREATE THESE PATACHITRAS\* — FULL OF STORIES AND COLOUR.



SARMUDDIN ADMIRED THEM AS THEY SANG STORIES WHILE OPENING THE PAINTING SCROLLS.

YOU CAN TELL STORIES, PAINT AND SING, ALL AT THE SAME TIME?

YES, THAT'S WHAT WE DO. AS PATUAS\*\*, WE TELL STORIES AS WE SING AND CREATE ART.



SARMUDDIN LEARNED THAT HIS VILLAGE WAS HOME TO PATUAS OVER SEVERAL GENERATIONS.

I WANT TO BECOME A PATUA WHEN I GROW UP.

OF COURSE. REMEMBER, IT TAKES A LOT OF PRACTICE AND HARD WORK.

\*MATERNAL GRANDFATHER  
\*SCROLL PAINTINGS

\*\*SINGING SCROLL PAINTERS

SARMUDDIN'S GRANDFATHER AND FATHER WERE RENOWNED PATUAS, SO HE BEGAN TRAINING UNDER THEM.

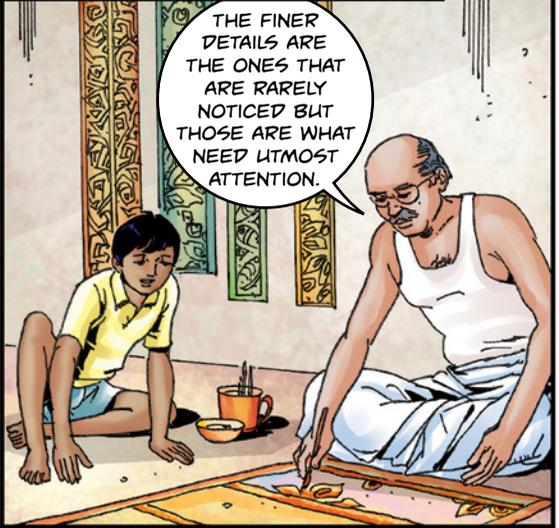
NO BLOBS OF COLOR HERE AND THERE! WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING, DO IT RIGHT.

HE'S JUST SIX YEARS OLD. GO EASY ON HIM.



UNDER HIS GRANDFATHER'S GUIDANCE —

THE FINER DETAILS ARE THE ONES THAT ARE RARELY NOTICED BUT THOSE ARE WHAT NEED UTMOST ATTENTION.



AS THE DAYS PASSED —

AREN'T YOU COMING TO SCHOOL?

NO. I CAN LEARN EVERYTHING HERE. YOU GO TO SCHOOL AND STUDY WELL.

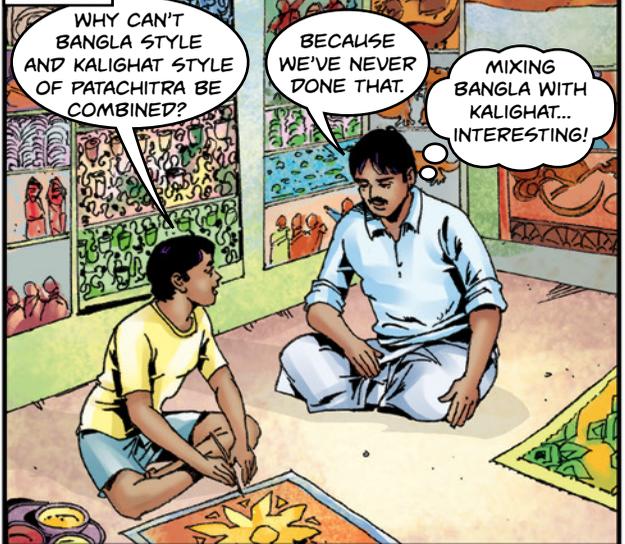


WHILE SARMUDDIN LEARNED TO FINISH HIS FATHER'S PAINTINGS, HE ADDED NEW IDEAS TO EVERYTHING HE LEARNED.

WHY CAN'T BANGLA STYLE AND KALIGHAT STYLE OF PATACHITRA BE COMBINED??

BECAUSE WE'VE NEVER DONE THAT.

MIXING BANGLA WITH KALIGHAT... INTERESTING!



AFTER HIS GRANDFATHER'S PASSING, YEARS OF RIGOROUS TRAINING UNDER HIS PERFECTIONIST FATHER PREPARED SARMUDDIN FOR HIS JOURNEY AS A PATUA.

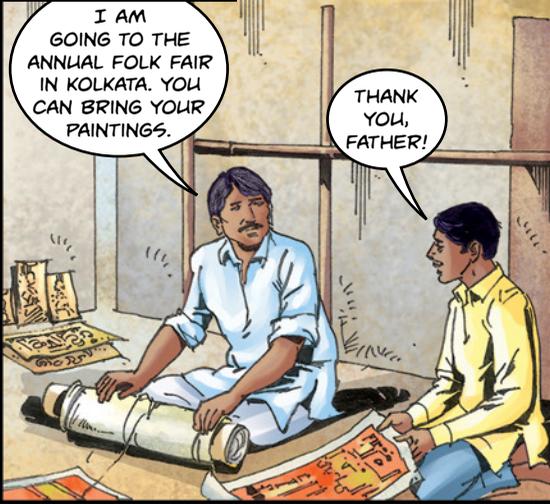
CAN I MAKE MY OWN PATACHITRA? I WANT TO ADD ANIMAL BORDERS IN PLACE OF THE FLOWERS AND CHANGE THE COLOURS.

LET'S SEE HOW IT TURNS OUT.





SARMUDDIN WORKED HARD TO WIN HIS FATHER'S APPROVAL. FINALLY —



I AM GOING TO THE ANNUAL FOLK FAIR IN KOLKATA. YOU CAN BRING YOUR PAINTINGS.

THANK YOU, FATHER!

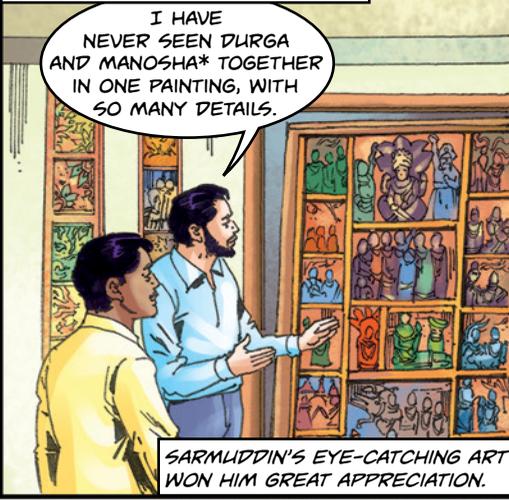
AT THE FAIR —



YOUR CHOICE OF COLOURS IS TRULY EXCEPTIONAL!

YOUR PAINTINGS ARE TRADITIONAL, YET NEW.

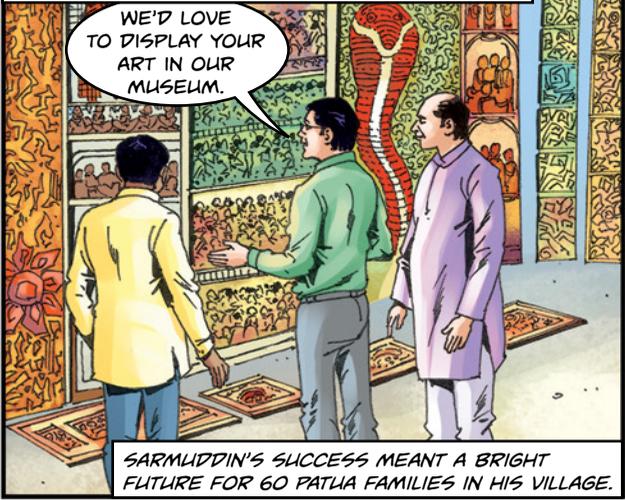
LATER, INSPIRED BY HIS BROTHER SAHAJAN'S WORKS, SARMUDDIN STARTED PAINTING LONG SCROLLS.



I HAVE NEVER SEEN DURGA AND MANOSHA\* TOGETHER IN ONE PAINTING, WITH SO MANY DETAILS.

SARMUDDIN'S EYE-CATCHING ART WON HIM GREAT APPRECIATION.

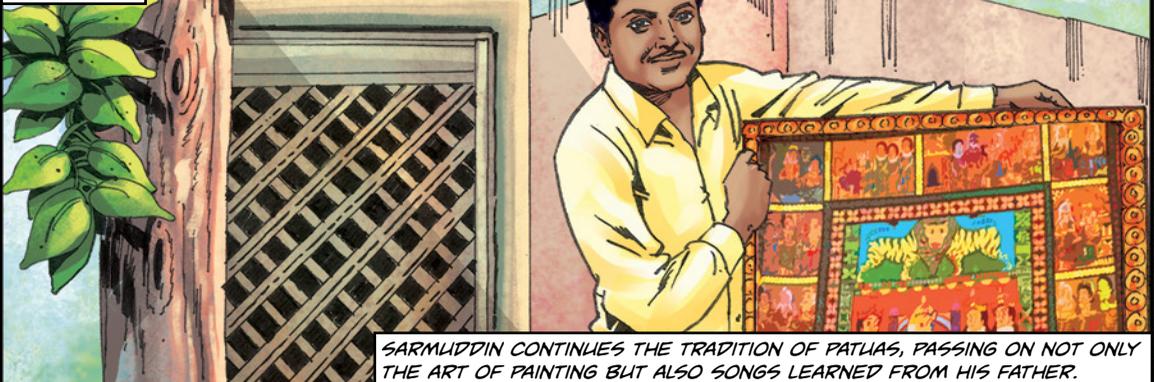
IN 2021, HIS PAINTING OF 'THE RAMAYANA' SOLD FOR TWO LAKH RUPEES, THE HIGHEST ANY ARTIST FROM NAYA PINGLA VILLAGE HAD RECEIVED.



WE'D LOVE TO DISPLAY YOUR ART IN OUR MUSEUM.

SARMUDDIN'S SUCCESS MEANT A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR 60 PATUA FAMILIES IN HIS VILLAGE.

PM MODI SPOKE ABOUT SARMUDDIN'S ART IN MANN KI BAAT, SHOWCASING THE RICH ARTISTIC HERITAGE OF HIS VILLAGE.



SARMUDDIN CONTINUES THE TRADITION OF PATUAS, PASSING ON NOT ONLY THE ART OF PAINTING BUT ALSO SONGS LEARNED FROM HIS FATHER.

\*A SNAKE GODDESS

# SUBHASH CHANDRAN

THE CLASS WAS VISITING AN EXHIBITION ON OCEANOGRAPHY.

100 MILLION MARINE ANIMALS DIE FROM PLASTIC WASTE IN THE OCEAN EVERY YEAR!

AND THESE ARE ONLY THE ONES THAT ARE FOUND. THERE MUST BE SO MANY MORE.

ON THE BUS GOING BACK —

TIME TO HEAR A STORY ABOUT A MAN AND HIS TEAM WHO HAVE BEEN CLEANING THE SEA FOR MANY YEARS NOW.

IT WAS A LOVELY MORNING IN 2019, WHEN SUBHASH CHANDRAN, A PROFESSIONAL SCUBA DIVING\* INSTRUCTOR, DECIDED TO GO FOR A LEISURELY SWIM WITH A DIVER FRIEND.

LET'S SEE WHAT THE BEAUTIFUL WATERS OF RUSHIKONDA<sup>1</sup> HAVE IN STORE FOR US!

SUBHASH WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS SWIM, WHEN —

OH NO! MY LEGS ARE GETTING ENTANGLED IN PLASTIC WASTE!

THE TWO OF THEM PUT ON THEIR DIVING GEAR, AND THEN DROVE BACK INTO THE WATER.

WHAT THEY SAW WAS APPALLING. THE OCEAN WAS FULL OF GHOST NETS\*\*, PLASTIC TRASH AND WASTE CLOTH.

GOOD GRIEF! THERE MUST BE THOUSANDS OF KILOS OF GARBAGE IN HERE! I MIMAGINE HOW GRAVELY MARINE LIFE IS GETTING AFFECTED. WE NEED TO CLEAN THIS UP IMMEDIATELY.

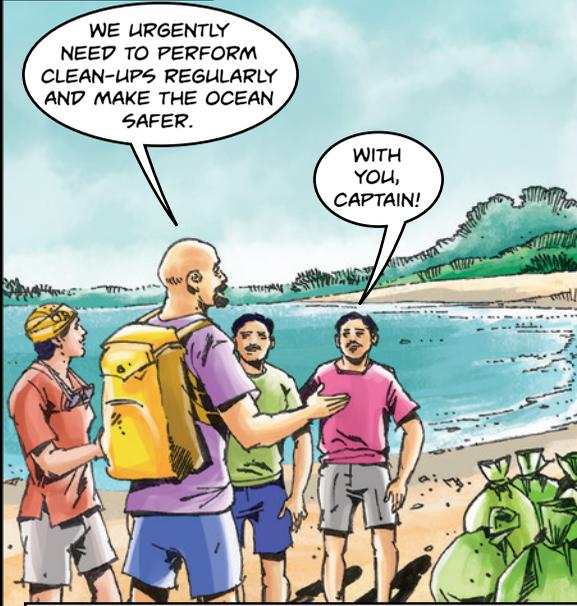
IN TWO HOURS, THEY HAD PULLED OUT CLOSE TO 500 KGS OF GHOST NETS, PLASTIC AND CLOTH FROM THE OCEAN. YET, MUCH WAS LEFT TO BE DONE.

\*A WATER SPORT WHERE DIVERS BREATHE FROM A PORTABLE BREATHING DEVICE CONTAINING COMPRESSED AIR

<sup>1</sup>A BEACH IN ANDHRA PRADESH  
<sup>\*\*</sup>DISCARDED UNDERWATER FISHING NETS



SUBHASH, HIS WIFE, AND HIS TEAM OF DIVERS AT 'PLATYPUS ESCAPES'\* DECIDED TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF COMBATING MARINE POLLUTION.



WE URGENTLY NEED TO PERFORM CLEAN-UPS REGULARLY AND MAKE THE OCEAN SAFER.

WITH YOU, CAPTAIN!

OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THEY CLEANED UP OVER 7,000 KGS OF UNDERWATER WASTE FROM THE OCEAN, BY WAY OF FREEDIVING\* AND SCUBA DIVING.

IN JUST 13 DAYS, PM MODI APPRECIATED THEIR EFFORTS, WHICH GAVE THEM NATIONWIDE RECOGNITION. MANY MORE VOLUNTEERS JOINED, AND BY EARLY MARCH 2020 —



WE HAVE ALREADY CLEANED UP ABOUT 17,000 KGS OF WASTE.

BRILLIANT! LET'S KEEP GOING.

SADLY, THE PANDEMIC STRUCK, AND THE TEAM HAD TO PUT THEIR BEACH CLEAN-UPS ON HOLD.

BUT IN 2022, ENCOURAGED BY THE SUPPORT OF THEIR VOLUNTEERS, SUBHASH AND HIS TEAM RESUMED THE UNDERWATER OCEAN CLEANING.



BY MID-2023, THEY HAD REMOVED A WHOPPING 64,200 KGS OF GARBAGE, INCLUDING ABOUT 1,500 KGS OF POST-COVID GLOVES, N95 MASKS, SYRINGES, HAZMAT SLITS AND MEDICINE PACKETS.

SUBHASH'S SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THE SEA IS UNSHAKEABLE.



MY DIVING GURU, YANNIS ZOURIDIS, ALWAYS TOLD ME, "EACH PIECE OF PLASTIC THAT YOU PICK FROM THE SEA, IS A TAX YOU PAY TO THE SEA."

HIS TEAM OF SCUBA DIVERS CONTINUES TO TRAIN ASPIRING DIVERS, INCLUDING ENTHUSIASTS WITH DISABILITIES.

DESPITE THE GROWING NUMBER OF CLEAN-UPS, SUBHASH EMPHASISES THAT A LOT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.

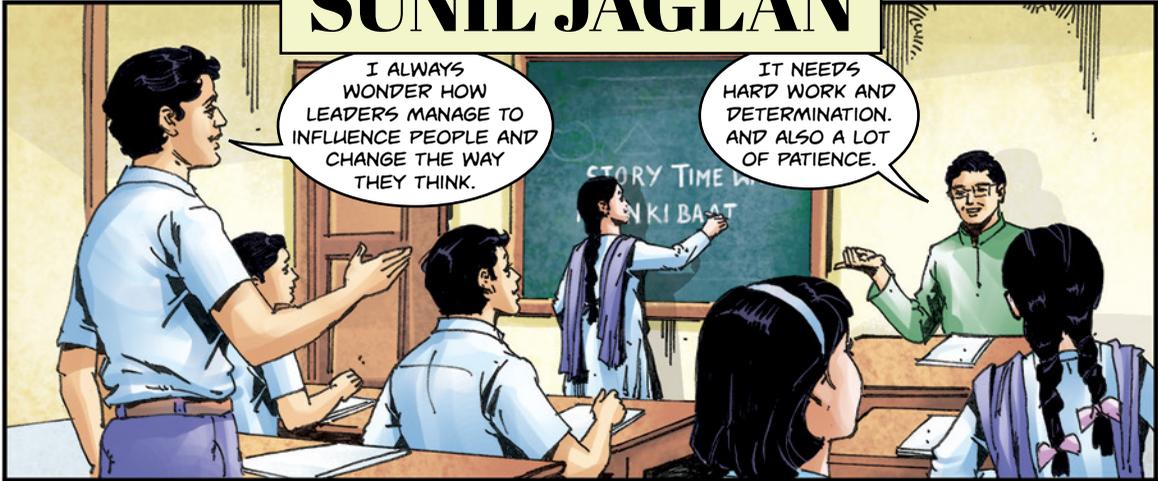


THE GOVERNING BODIES NEED TO THINK BEYOND MERE CLEANING AND STOP GARBAGE DUMPING. THAT WAY, WE WILL NIP MARINE POLLUTION IN THE BUD.

\*A SCUBA-DIVING INSTITUTE FOUNDED BY SUBHASH

\*AN UNDERWATER DIVING TECHNIQUE WHERE ONE HOLDS ONE'S BREATH UNDERWATER INSTEAD OF USING BREATHING APPARATUS

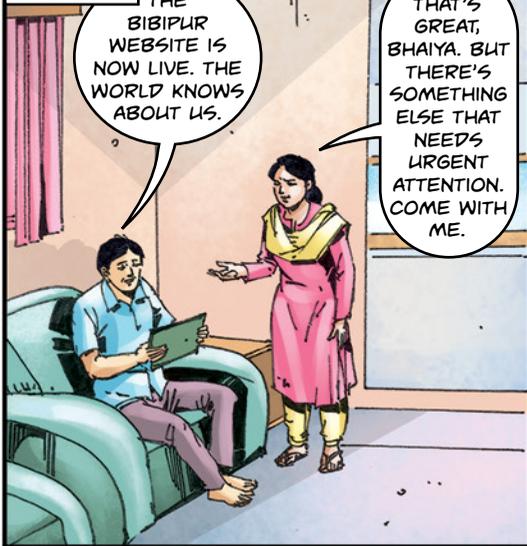
# SUNIL JAGLAN



I ALWAYS WONDER HOW LEADERS MANAGE TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE AND CHANGE THE WAY THEY THINK.

IT NEEDS HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION. AND ALSO A LOT OF PATIENCE.

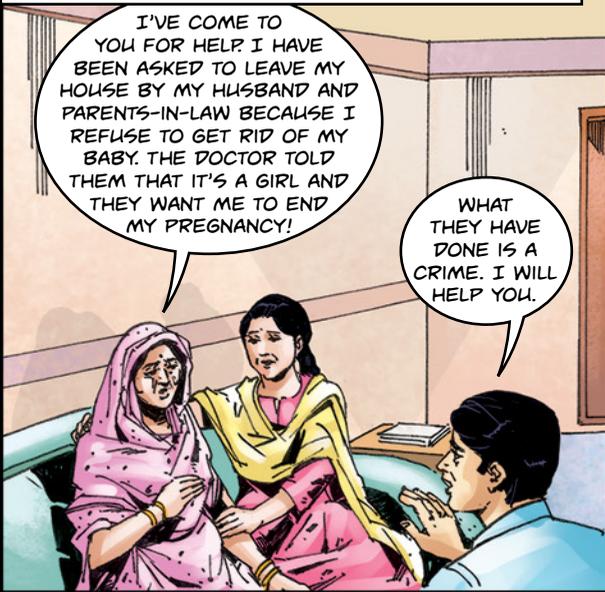
IN 2010, WHEN A TEACHER NAMED SUNIL JAGLAN BECAME THE SARPANCH\* OF BIBIPLUR VILLAGE, HARYANA —



THE BIBIPLUR WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE. THE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT US.

THAT'S GREAT, BHAIYA. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT NEEDS URGENT ATTENTION. COME WITH ME.

A PREGNANT WOMAN WAS WAITING IN HIS LIVING ROOM.



I'VE COME TO YOU FOR HELP. I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE MY HOUSE BY MY HUSBAND AND PARENTS-IN-LAW BECAUSE I REFUSE TO GET RID OF MY BABY. THE DOCTOR TOLD THEM THAT IT'S A GIRL AND THEY WANT ME TO END MY PREGNANCY!

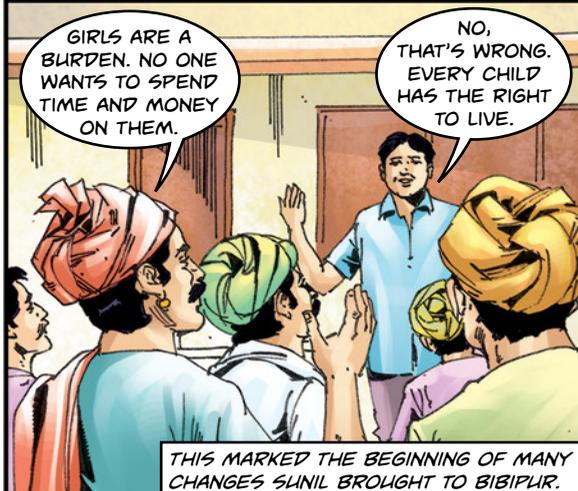
WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IS A CRIME. I WILL HELP YOU.

THAT EVENING, SUNIL GATHERED THE VILLAGERS.



IF ANYONE TRIES TO STOP A BABY GIRL FROM BEING BORN, WE WON'T ALLOW IT. WE MUST RESPECT AND PROTECT OUR DAUGHTERS.

ARE YOU TRYING TO CHANGE OUR CUSTOMS?



GIRLS ARE A BURDEN. NO ONE WANTS TO SPEND TIME AND MONEY ON THEM.

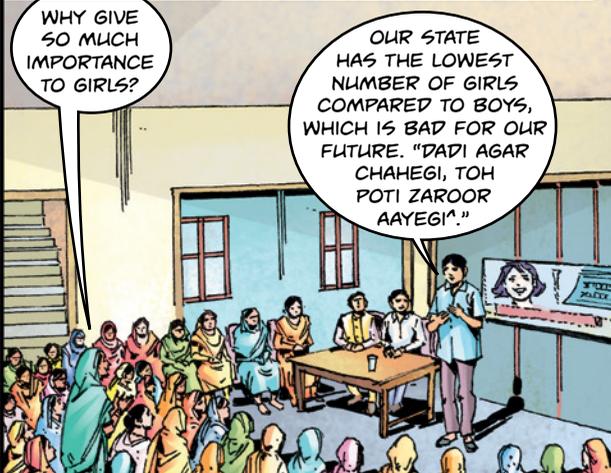
NO, THAT'S WRONG. EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO LIVE.

THIS MARKED THE BEGINNING OF MANY CHANGES SUNIL BROUGHT TO BIBIPLUR.

\*VILLAGE HEAD



HE ORGANISED AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ON FEMALE FOETICIDE\* AND HEALTHCARE FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS.

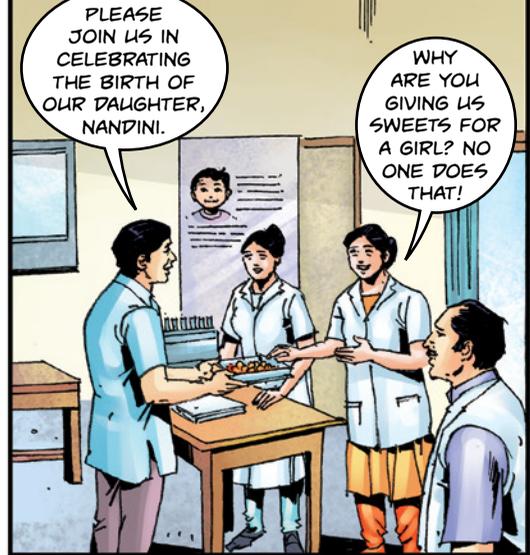


WHY GIVE SO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO GIRLS?

OUR STATE HAS THE LOWEST NUMBER OF GIRLS COMPARED TO BOYS, WHICH IS BAD FOR OUR FUTURE. "DADI AGAR CHAHEGI, TOH POTI ZAROOR AAYEGI".

OVER TIME, ATTITUDES IMPROVED TOWARDS GIRLS AND BOOSTED THE GENDER RATIO IN THE REGION.

IN JANUARY 2012 —



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR DAUGHTER, NANDINI.

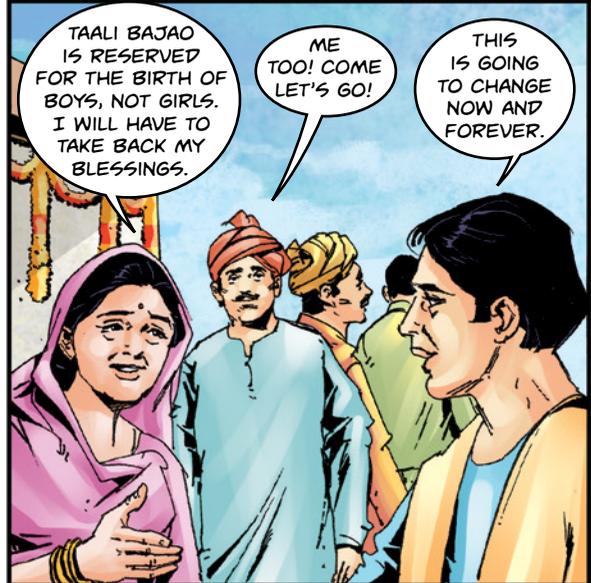
WHY ARE YOU GIVING US SWEETS FOR A GIRL? NO ONE DOES THAT!

THE NEXT DAY, WHEN HE ORGANISED THE TAALI BAJAO\*\* CEREMONY AT HIS HOME —



CONGRATULATIONS! MY BLESSINGS TO YOUR BABY BOY.

NO, IT'S A GIRL.



TAALI BAJAO IS RESERVED FOR THE BIRTH OF BOYS, NOT GIRLS. I WILL HAVE TO TAKE BACK MY BLESSINGS.

ME TOO! COME LET'S GO!

THIS IS GOING TO CHANGE NOW AND FOREVER.

BUT EVEN AFTER TWO YEARS AS THE SARPANCH, SUNIL NOTICED LITTLE CHANGE IN THE VILLAGERS' ATTITUDES.



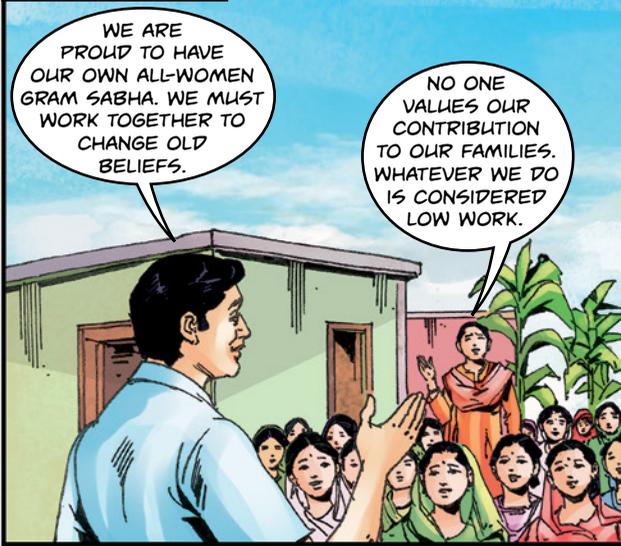
IT'S SAD. GIRLS FACE STRUGGLES FROM THEIR BIRTH, AND IT GETS WORSE AS THEY GROW. THIS NEEDS TO STOP.

INVOLVE WOMEN IN SOLVING THESE ISSUES. OTHERWISE, NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

\*KILLING AN UNBORN CHILD  
\*\*CLAP AND APPLAUD, A CEREMONY HELD TO BLESS A NEW BORN BOY

\*\*CLAP AND APPLAUD, A CEREMONY HELD TO BLESS A NEW BORN BOY

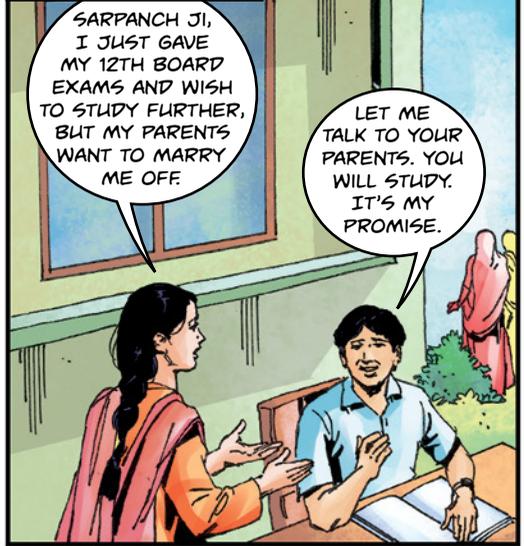
LATER THAT YEAR —



WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE OUR OWN ALL-WOMEN GRAM SABHA. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO CHANGE OLD BELIEFS.

NO ONE VALUES OUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FAMILIES. WHATEVER WE DO IS CONSIDERED LOW WORK.

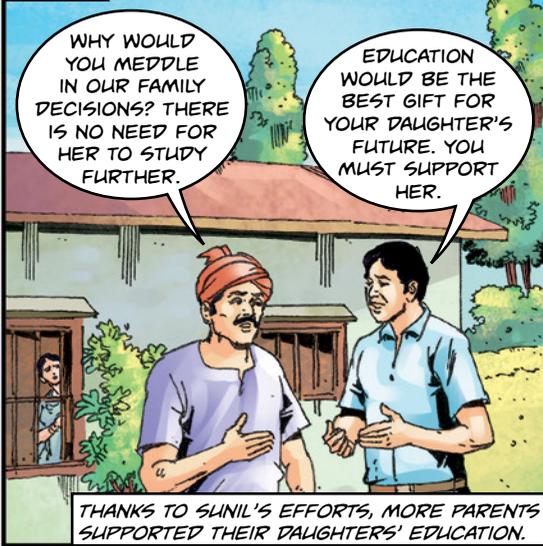
AFTER THE MEETING —



SARPANCH JI, I JUST GAVE MY 12TH BOARD EXAMS AND WISH TO STUDY FURTHER, BUT MY PARENTS WANT TO MARRY ME OFF.

LET ME TALK TO YOUR PARENTS. YOU WILL STUDY. IT'S MY PROMISE.

LATER —

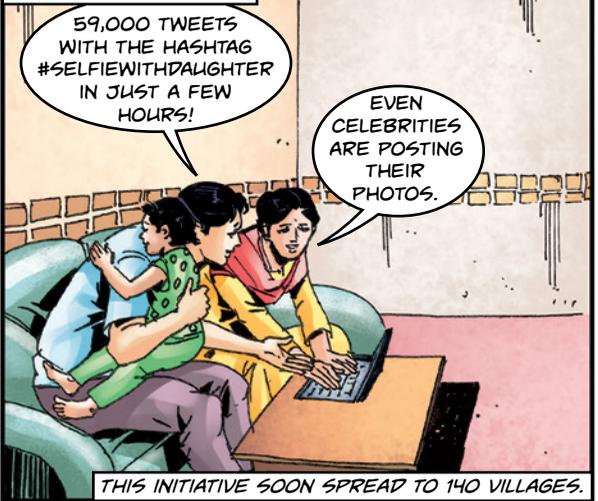


WHY WOULD YOU MEDDLE IN OUR FAMILY DECISIONS? THERE IS NO NEED FOR HER TO STUDY FURTHER.

EDUCATION WOULD BE THE BEST GIFT FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S FUTURE. YOU MUST SUPPORT HER.

THANKS TO SUNIL'S EFFORTS, MORE PARENTS SUPPORTED THEIR DAUGHTERS' EDUCATION.

IN 2015, SUNIL INITIATED 'SELFIE WITH DAUGHTER', INSPIRED BY PM MODI'S 'BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO' CAMPAIGN, IN HARYANA.

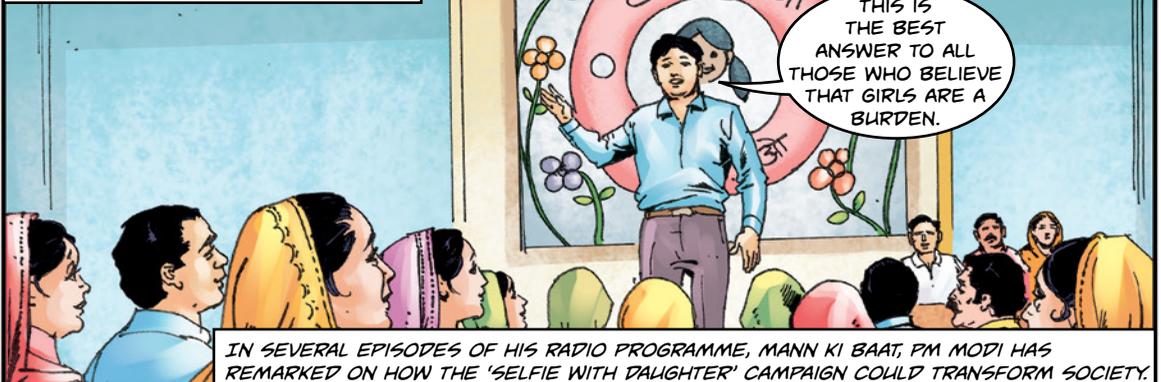


59,000 TWEETS WITH THE HASHTAG #SELFIEWITHDAUGHTER IN JUST A FEW HOURS!

EVEN CELEBRITIES ARE POSTING THEIR PHOTOS.

THIS INITIATIVE SOON SPREAD TO 140 VILLAGES.

SUNIL JAGLAN HAS LAUNCHED OVER 100 CAMPAIGNS EMPOWERING WOMEN.



THIS IS THE BEST ANSWER TO ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT GIRLS ARE A BURDEN.

IN SEVERAL EPISODES OF HIS RADIO PROGRAMME, MANN KI BAAT, PM MODI HAS REMARKED ON HOW THE 'SELFIE WITH DAUGHTER' CAMPAIGN COULD TRANSFORM SOCIETY.

# TUSHAR URADE



SIR, SHREYAS IS NOT COMING TO SCHOOL TODAY. A SEWER LINE IN HIS AREA HAS BURST. THE WHOLE PLACE IS A MESS.

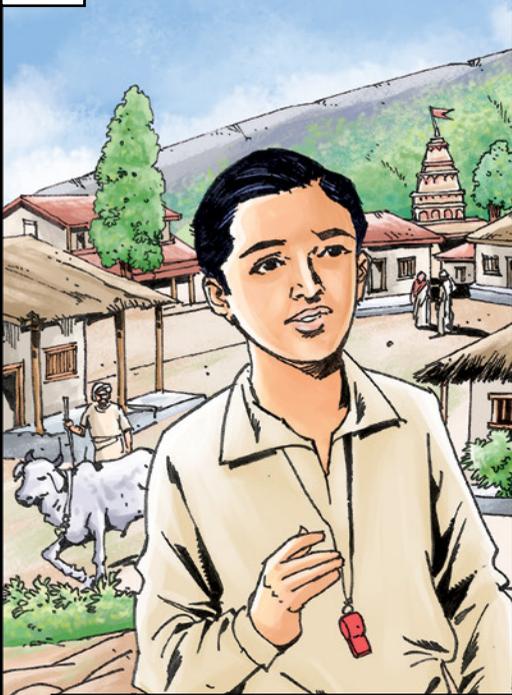


SIR, THE CITY HAS BECOME SO DIRTY. IN SOME PLACES, I'VE SEEN PEOPLE RELIEVE THEMSELVES IN THE OPEN.

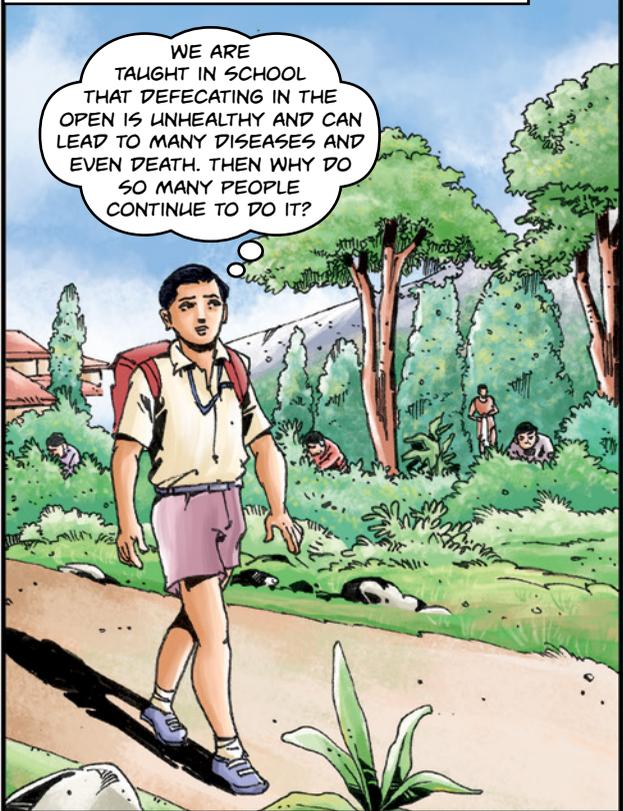
IT IS A GRAVE ISSUE, CHARAN. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT TUSHAR URADE.

TUSHAR URADE, A YOUNG RESIDENT OF KUMHARI VILLAGE IN BALAGHAT\*, HAS HELPED MAKE HIS VILLAGE AN OPEN DEFECTION-FREE ZONE\*.

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD TUSHAR WOULD OFTEN SEE HIS FELLOW VILLAGERS DEFECATING IN THE OPEN.



WHAT IS EVEN MORE NOTEWORTHY, IS THAT TUSHAR HAS BEEN DEAF AND MUTE SINCE BIRTH. THIS IS THE STORY OF HIS UNIQUE CAMPAIGN TO STOP OPEN DEFECTION.

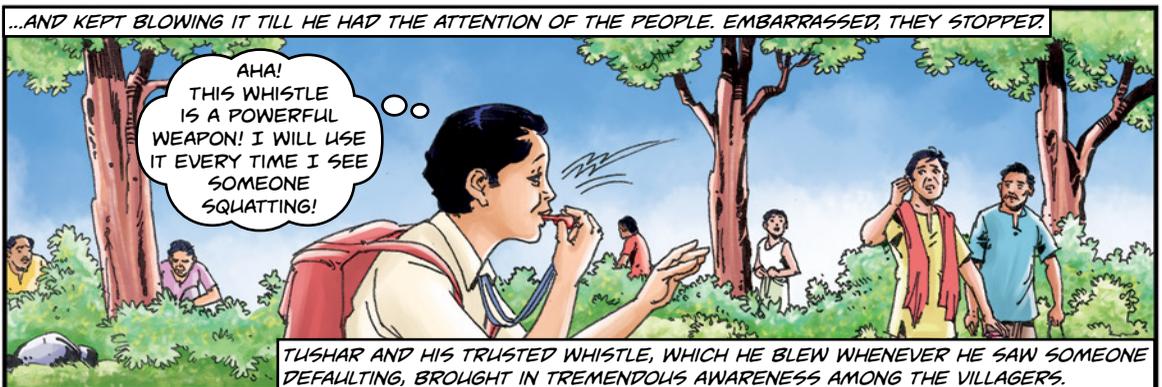
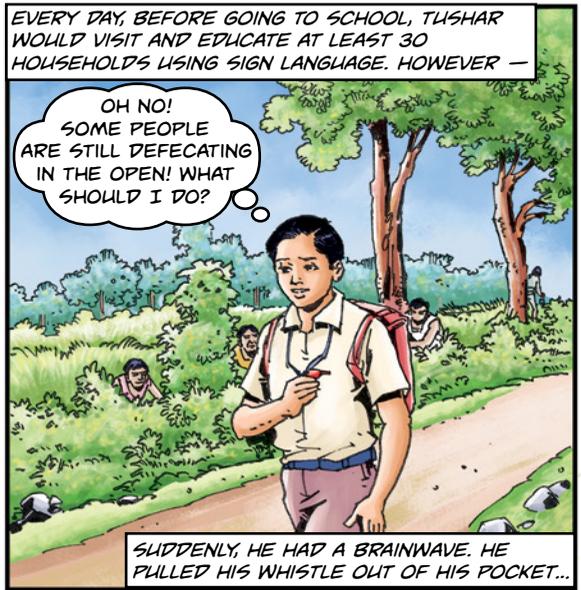
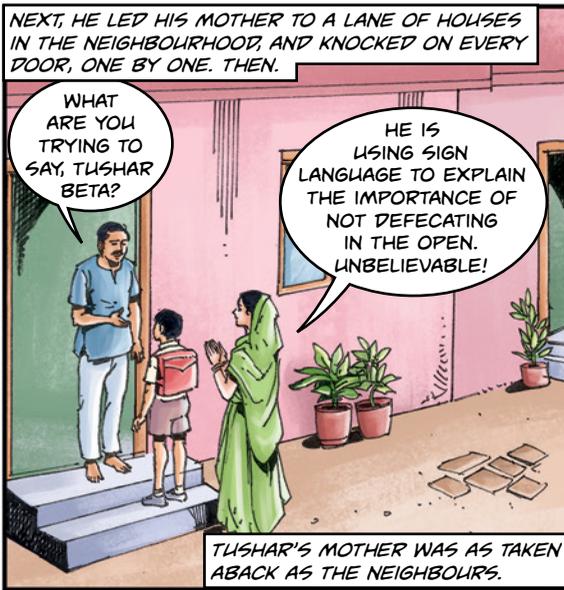
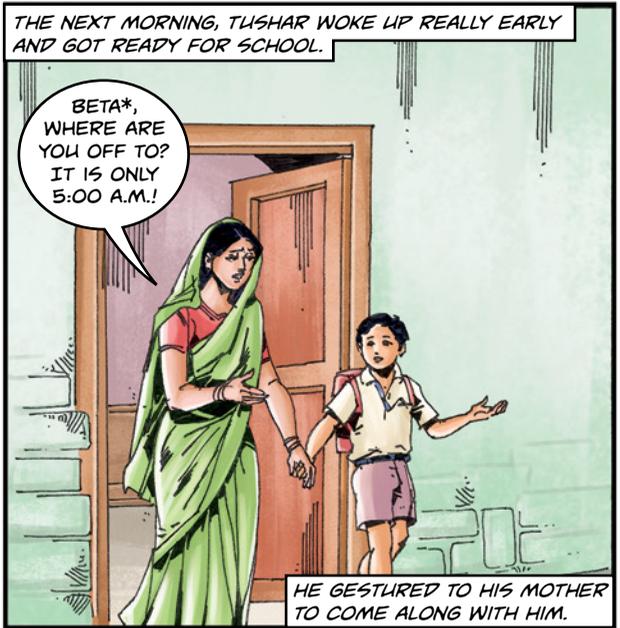
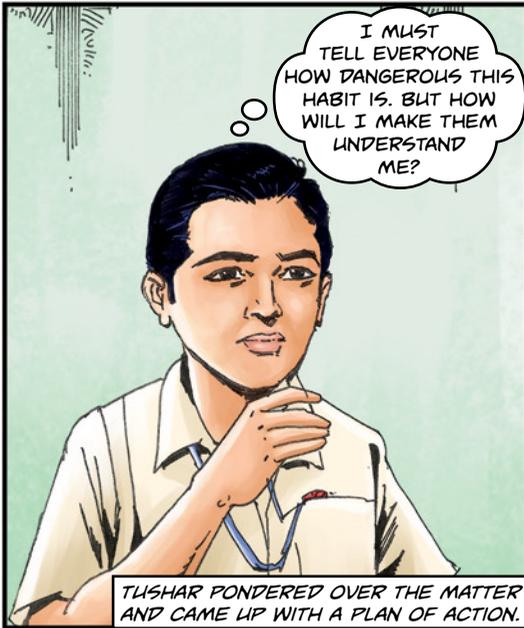


WE ARE TAUGHT IN SCHOOL THAT DEFECATING IN THE OPEN IS UNHEALTHY AND CAN LEAD TO MANY DISEASES AND EVEN DEATH. THEN WHY DO SO MANY PEOPLE CONTINUE TO DO IT?

HE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE THE SITUATION.

\*A DISTRICT IN MADHYA PRADESH

\*A VILLAGE OR TOWN WHERE ALL THE PEOPLE USE TOILETS AND DO NOT RELIEVE THEMSELVES OUT IN THE OPEN





HIS UNIQUE CAMPAIGN ALSO CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE LOCALLY APPOINTED SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN\* PRERAKS<sup>1</sup>.

DESPITE BEING DEAF AND MUTE, THAT LITTLE BOY IS INSPIRING CHANGE IN A VERY IMPRESSIVE WAY!

YES. HE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP US IMPLEMENT OUR MISSION, LET'S MEET HIM!

SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

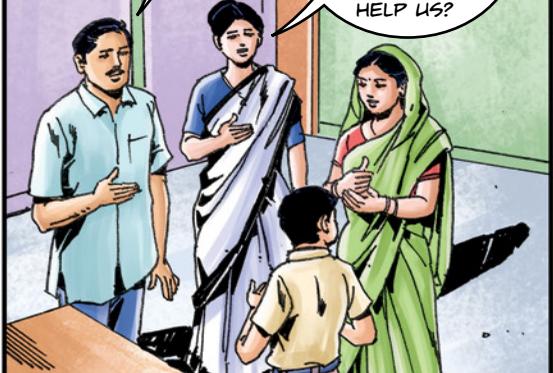


IN LINE WITH THE SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN'S OBJECTIVES, THE PRERAKS WANTED TO IMPROVE SANITATION FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS.

THE PRERAKS MET TUSHAR AND EXPLAINED THEIR OBJECTIVES TO HIM WITH THE HELP OF HIS MOTHER.

BETA, YOU ARE DOING WONDERFUL WORK! WE ALSO WANT TO ERADICATE OPEN DEFECTION BY INCREASING SANITATION FACILITIES IN RURAL BALAGHAT.

THERE ARE VERY FEW TOILETS HERE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO BUILD MANY MORE. WILL YOU HELP US?



TUSHAR HAPPILY AGREED, AND TOGETHER, THEY BEGAN TO EDUCATE THE VILLAGERS.

WITH TUSHAR'S EFFORTS AND THE SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, TOILETS WERE BUILT FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS...

SOON, OTHER GRAM PANCHAYATS WITHIN BALAGHAT BEGAN TO FOLLOW SUIT AND BECOME ODF ZONES.

TUSHAR'S PRESENCE OF MIND AND PERSISTENCE HAVE BEEN LAUDED BY MANY, INCLUDING THE THEN DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND MAGISTRATE, BHARAT YADAV.



...AND ON 26 JANUARY, 2017, KUMHARI BECAME THE FIRST VILLAGE IN BALAGHAT TO BE GIVEN ODF\*\* STATUS.



YOUR DETERMINATION AND INNOVATIVE CAMPAIGN MADE IT EASIER FOR US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF INCREASED SANITATION COVERAGE! WELL DONE, BETA!



THIS IS HOW A SPEECH AND HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILD HAS TAUGHT THE WORLD THAT OUR LIMITATIONS ARE ONLY IN THE MIND, AND THAT A STRONG WILL ALWAYS FINDS A WAY!

\*CLEAN INDIA MISSION  
<sup>1</sup>EFFECTORS/VOLUNTEERS

\*\*OPEN DEFECTION FREE





# MANN KI BAAT

VOL. 10

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Every citizen has many problems to talk about, but very few do something to fix these issues.

The tenth volume of Mann ki Baat tells you the stories of people who decided to be a voice for themselves and their community and do good, instead of waiting to be helped.

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ISBN 978-81-967729-3-2



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