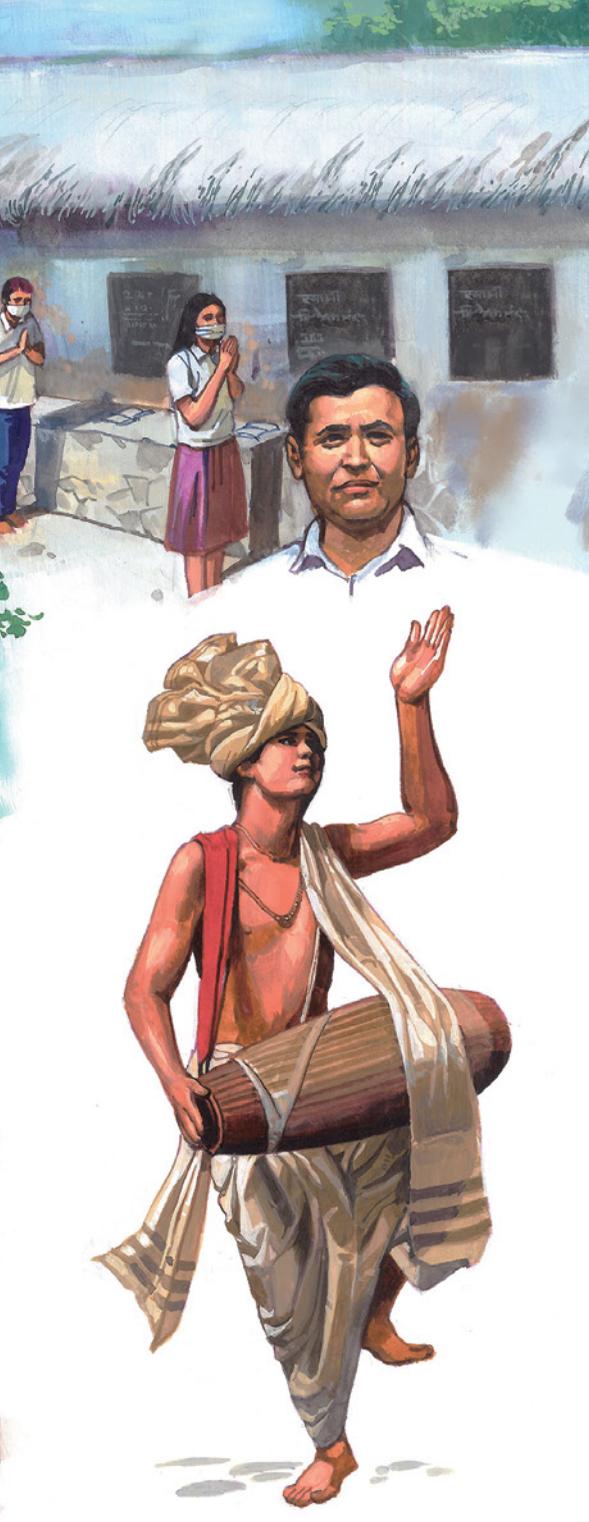
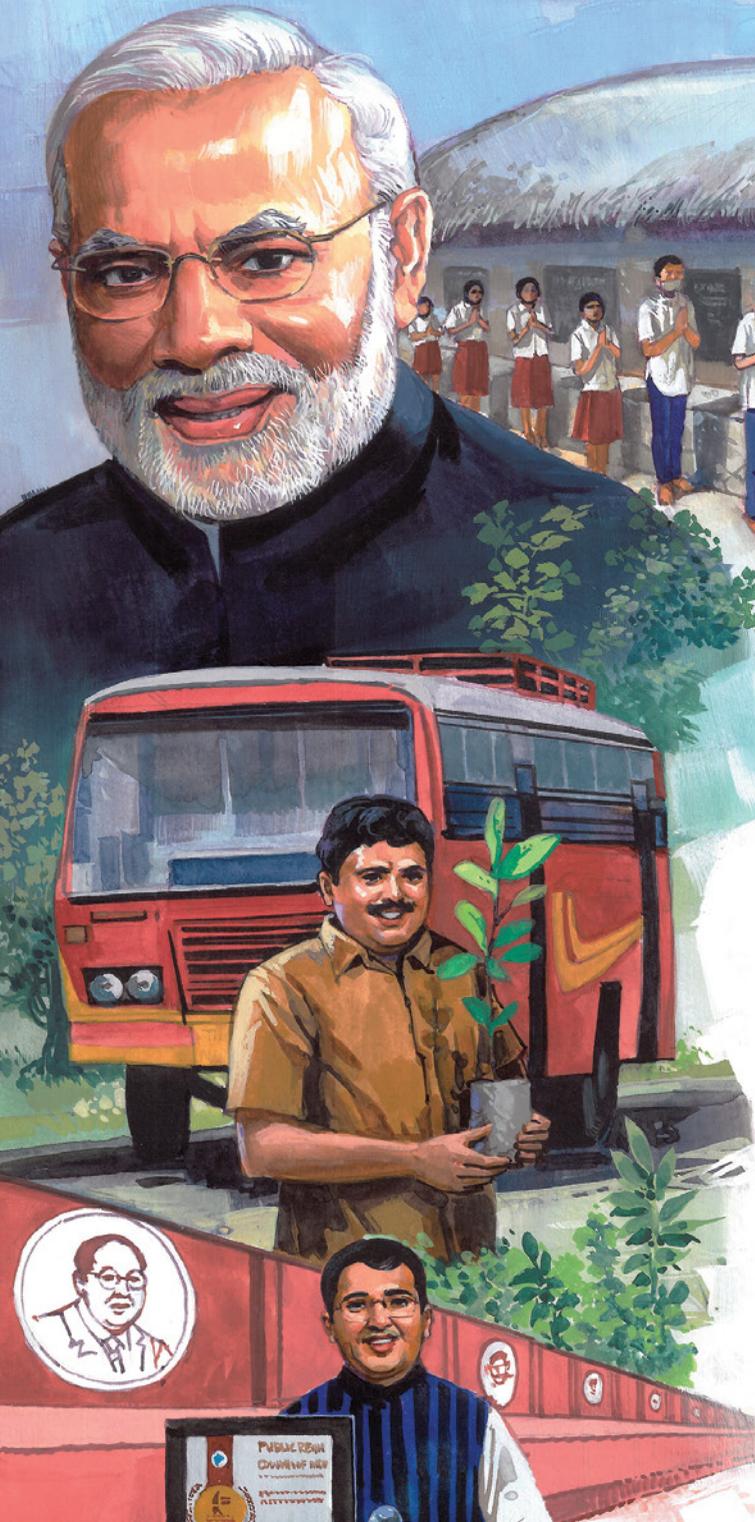




# MANN KI BAAT

VOL.12



# MANN KI BAAT

## VOL.12

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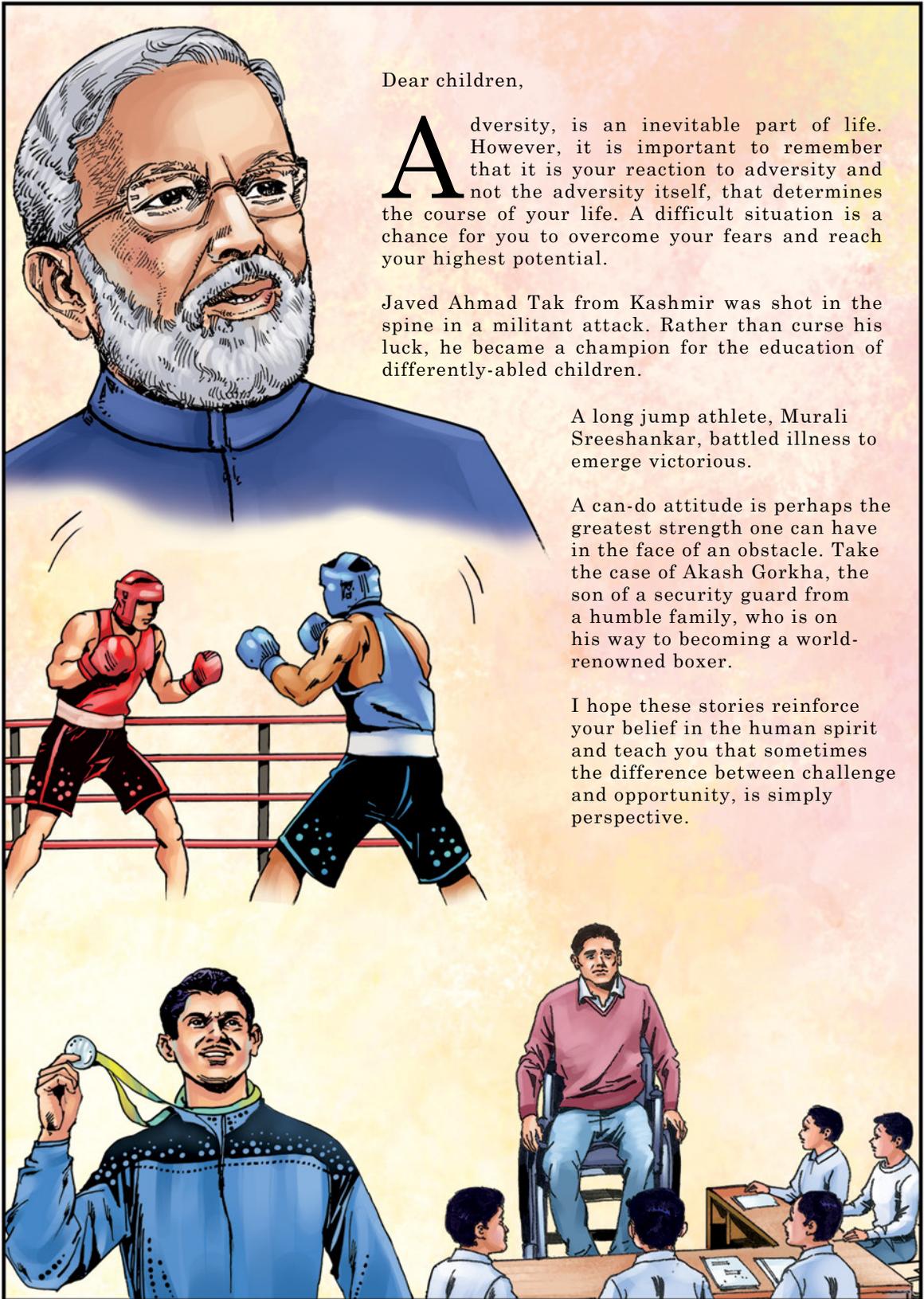
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Dear children,

**A**dvorsity, is an inevitable part of life. However, it is important to remember that it is your reaction to adversity and not the adversity itself, that determines the course of your life. A difficult situation is a chance for you to overcome your fears and reach your highest potential.

Javed Ahmad Tak from Kashmir was shot in the spine in a militant attack. Rather than curse his luck, he became a champion for the education of differently-abled children.

A long jump athlete, Murali Sreeshankar, battled illness to emerge victorious.

A can-do attitude is perhaps the greatest strength one can have in the face of an obstacle. Take the case of Akash Gorkha, the son of a security guard from a humble family, who is on his way to becoming a world-renowned boxer.

I hope these stories reinforce your belief in the human spirit and teach you that sometimes the difference between challenge and opportunity, is simply perspective.

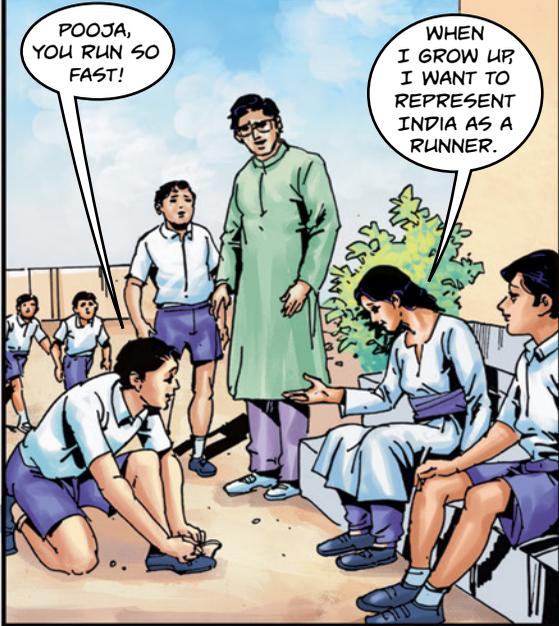


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# AKASH RAMESH GORKHA

IT WAS SPORTS PERIOD IN SCHOOL.



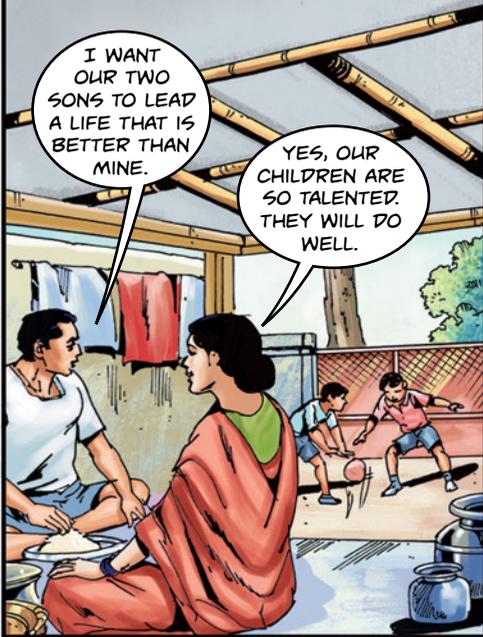
POOJA, YOU RUN SO FAST!

WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO REPRESENT INDIA AS A RUNNER.



THAT'S A GREAT GOAL, POOJA! LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT AKASH GORKHA, A SPORTSMAN WHO HAS MADE INDIA PROUD.

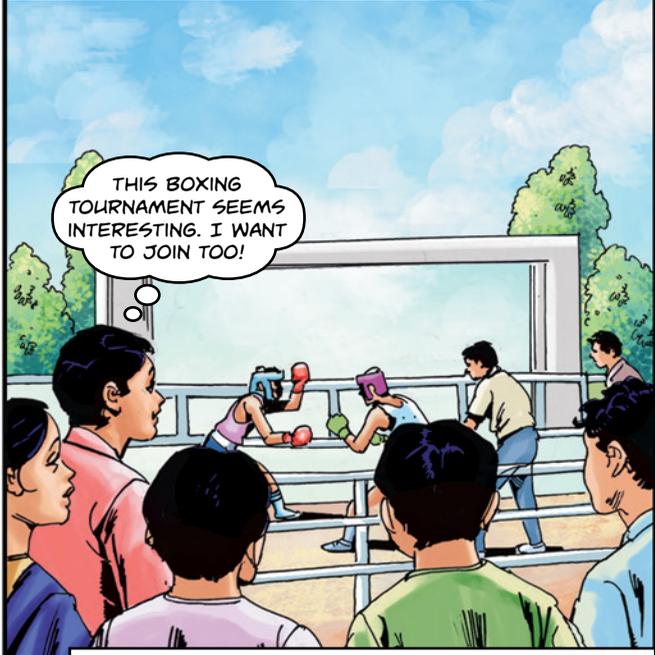
AKASH'S FATHER, RAMESH GORKHA, WORKED AS A SECURITY GUARD IN PUNE. HE HAD MOVED TO INDIA FROM NEPAL 21 YEARS AGO AND WAS FINDING IT HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET.



I WANT OUR TWO SONS TO LEAD A LIFE THAT IS BETTER THAN MINE.

YES, OUR CHILDREN ARE SO TALENTED. THEY WILL DO WELL.

THE FAMILY OF FOUR LIVED IN A SMALL PARKING SHED. AKASH SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD PLAYING IN PARKS NEARBY. ONE DAY —



THIS BOXING TOURNAMENT SEEMS INTERESTING. I WANT TO JOIN TOO!

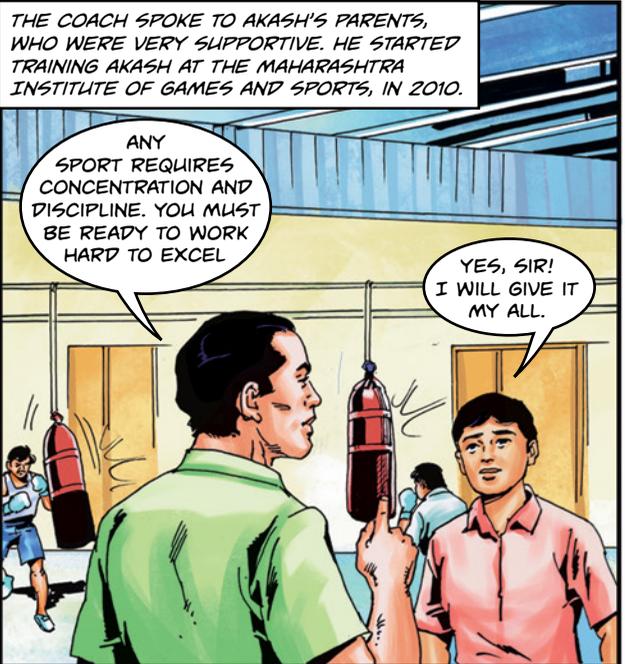
AKASH SPOKE TO THE TOURNAMENT ORGANISER'S AND THAT IS WHEN HIS JOURNEY INTO THE SPORT STARTED.

AROUND THAT TIME, A BOXING COACH, LHMESH JAGDALE, OBSERVED AKASH PRACTISING WITH HIS FRIENDS.



THIS BOY HAS GOOD REFLEXES. HE HAS A NATURAL TALENT.

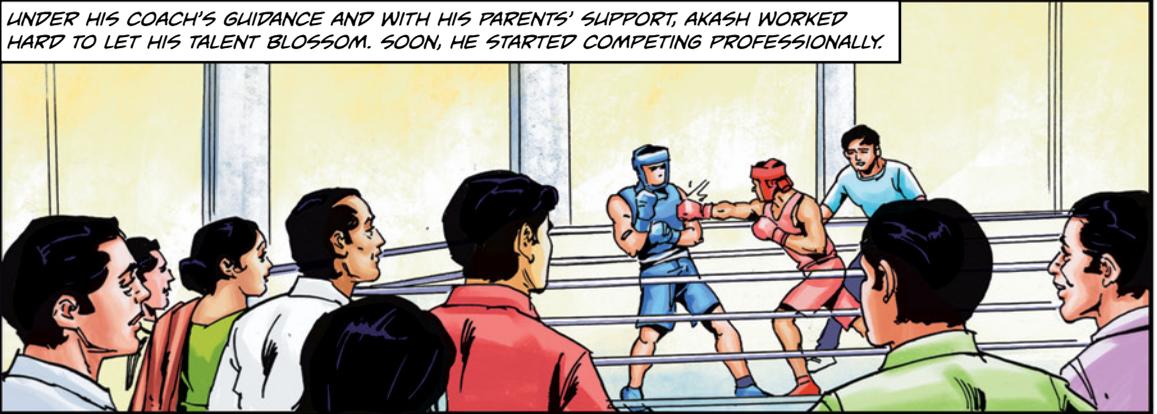
THE COACH SPOKE TO AKASH'S PARENTS, WHO WERE VERY SUPPORTIVE. HE STARTED TRAINING AKASH AT THE MAHARASHTRA INSTITUTE OF GAMES AND SPORTS, IN 2010.



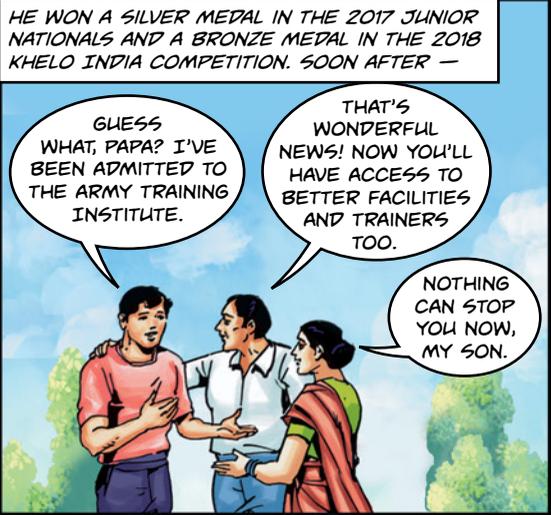
ANY SPORT REQUIRES CONCENTRATION AND DISCIPLINE. YOU MUST BE READY TO WORK HARD TO EXCEL

YES, SIR! I WILL GIVE IT MY ALL.

UNDER HIS COACH'S GUIDANCE AND WITH HIS PARENTS' SUPPORT, AKASH WORKED HARD TO LET HIS TALENT BLOSSOM. SOON, HE STARTED COMPETING PROFESSIONALLY.



HE WON A SILVER MEDAL IN THE 2017 JUNIOR NATIONALS AND A BRONZE MEDAL IN THE 2018 KHELO INDIA COMPETITION. SOON AFTER —



GUESS WHAT, PAPA? I'VE BEEN ADMITTED TO THE ARMY TRAINING INSTITUTE.

THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS! NOW YOU'LL HAVE ACCESS TO BETTER FACILITIES AND TRAINERS TOO.

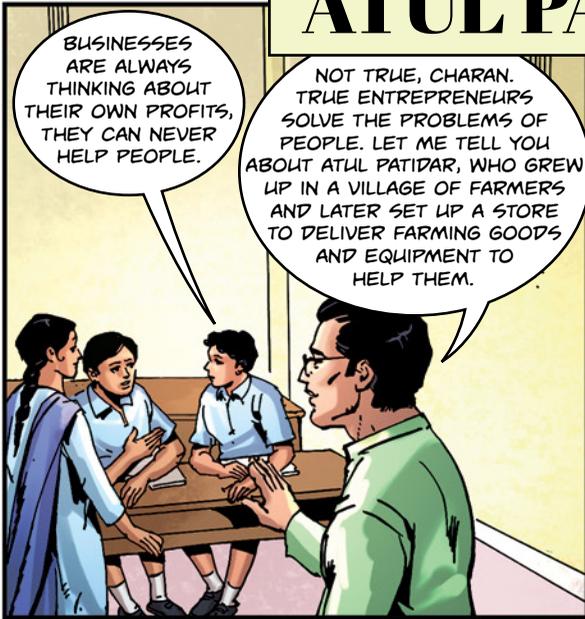
NOTHING CAN STOP YOU NOW, MY SON.

SINCE THEN, AKASH HAS WON MANY ACCOLADES IN BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS, MAKING INDIA PROUD, AND TRAINING FOR MORE VICTORIES.



PM MODI TOO, LAIDED AKASH'S DETERMINATION AND SUCCESS ON HIS RADIO SHOW, MANN KI BAAT.

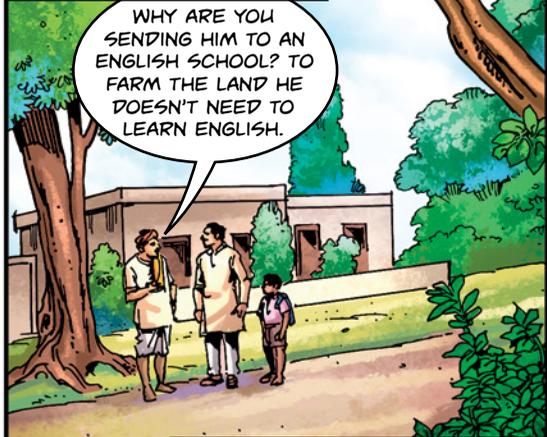
# ATUL PATIDAR



BUSINESSES ARE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THEIR OWN PROFITS, THEY CAN NEVER HELP PEOPLE.

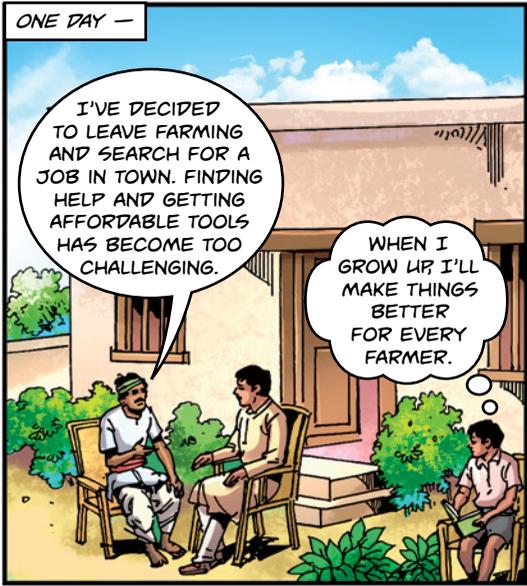
NOT TRUE, CHARAN. TRUE ENTREPRENEURS SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ATUL PATIDAR, WHO GREW UP IN A VILLAGE OF FARMERS AND LATER SET UP A STORE TO DELIVER FARMING GOODS AND EQUIPMENT TO HELP THEM.

ATUL PATIDAR GREW UP IN BARWANI, MADHYA PRADESH.



WHY ARE YOU SENDING HIM TO AN ENGLISH SCHOOL? TO FARM THE LAND HE DOESN'T NEED TO LEARN ENGLISH.

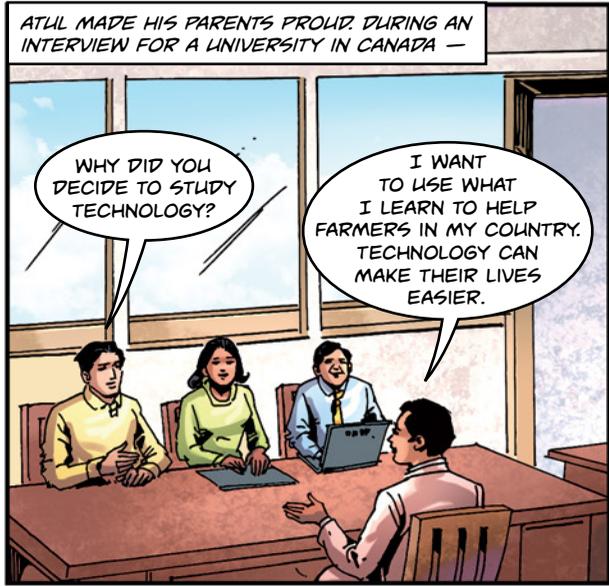
BUT ATUL'S PARENTS WANTED HIM TO DO MORE THAN THEY HAD.



ONE DAY —

I'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE FARMING AND SEARCH FOR A JOB IN TOWN. FINDING HELP AND GETTING AFFORDABLE TOOLS HAS BECOME TOO CHALLENGING.

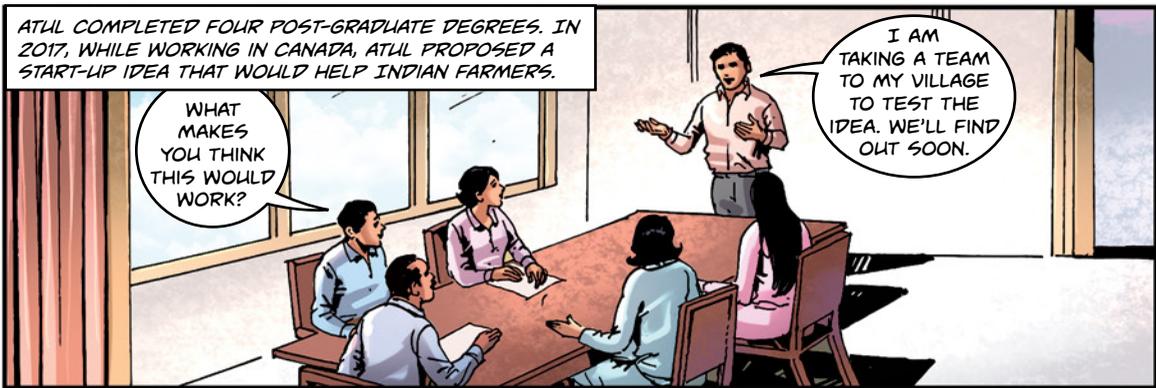
WHEN I GROW UP I'LL MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR EVERY FARMER.



ATUL MADE HIS PARENTS PROUD DURING AN INTERVIEW FOR A UNIVERSITY IN CANADA —

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO STUDY TECHNOLOGY?

I WANT TO USE WHAT I LEARN TO HELP FARMERS IN MY COUNTRY. TECHNOLOGY CAN MAKE THEIR LIVES EASIER.

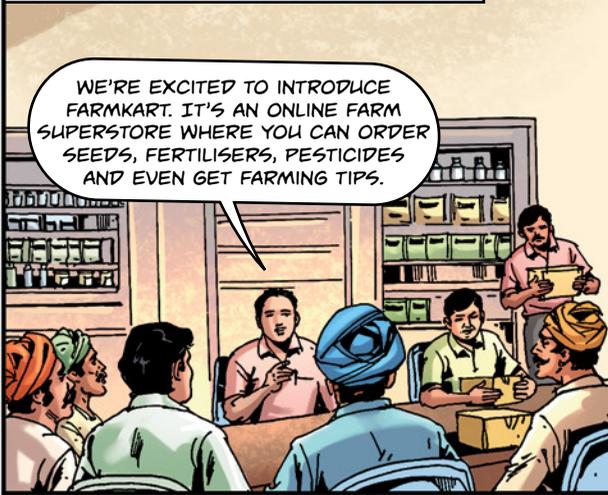


ATUL COMPLETED FOUR POST-GRADUATE DEGREES. IN 2017, WHILE WORKING IN CANADA, ATUL PROPOSED A START-UP IDEA THAT WOULD HELP INDIAN FARMERS.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THIS WOULD WORK?

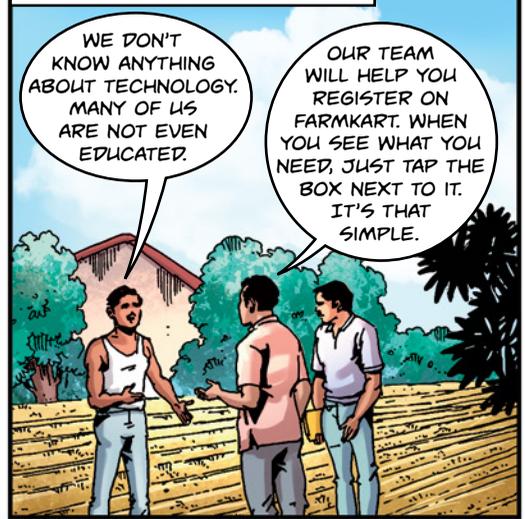
I AM TAKING A TEAM TO MY VILLAGE TO TEST THE IDEA. WE'LL FIND OUT SOON.

ATUL AND HIS TEAM SPENT TIME WITH 6,000 FARMERS IN BARWANI TO UNDERSTAND THEIR CHALLENGES. FOLLOWING THIS —



WE'RE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE FARMKART. IT'S AN ONLINE FARM SUPERSTORE WHERE YOU CAN ORDER SEEDS, FERTILISERS, PESTICIDES AND EVEN GET FARMING TIPS.

ATUL'S ANNOUNCEMENT HAD A MIXED RESPONSE IN HIS VILLAGE.



WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TECHNOLOGY. MANY OF US ARE NOT EVEN EDUCATED.

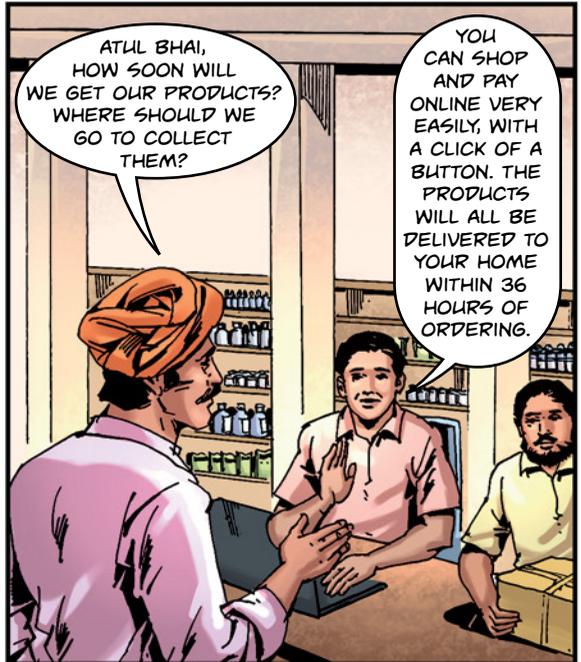
OUR TEAM WILL HELP YOU REGISTER ON FARMKART. WHEN YOU SEE WHAT YOU NEED, JUST TAP THE BOX NEXT TO IT. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

DURING THE REGISTRATION —



HOW DO WE KNOW THAT YOU WILL NOT MISUSE OUR INFORMATION?

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION CODE WHICH ONLY YOU CAN USE. ALL YOUR INFORMATION WILL BE STORED THERE.



ATUL BHAJ, HOW SOON WILL WE GET OUR PRODUCTS? WHERE SHOULD WE GO TO COLLECT THEM?

YOU CAN SHOP AND PAY ONLINE VERY EASILY, WITH A CLICK OF A BUTTON. THE PRODUCTS WILL ALL BE DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME WITHIN 36 HOURS OF ORDERING.



I DON'T HAVE TO SPEND A WHOLE DAY AT THE MARKET GETTING EVERYTHING FOR MY FIELD. NOR DO I HAVE TO CARRY LOADS OF CASH.

YES, YOU CAN SHOP EASILY AND WITHOUT RISK AT PRICES LOWER THAN MARKET RATES.

THE FIRST FARMKART DIGITAL STORE OPENED IN BARWANI TO MEET HIGH DEMAND, SERVING NEARBY AREAS.



FARMKART ALSO INTRODUCED A DELIVERY MODEL THAT HELPED SAVE TRANSPORT COSTS AND CREATE LOCAL JOBS.

IS IT TRUE THAT ANYONE FROM THE COMMUNITY CAN DELIVER FARMKART PRODUCTS?

YES, JUST REGISTER ON FARMKART AND SHOW YOUR ID TO COLLECT AND DELIVER.



FARMKART ALSO OFFERED A CONSULTANCY SERVICE, AGRI-NIDAN, TO HELP FARMERS IMPROVE CROP QUALITY AND INCREASE PROFITS.

THOUSANDS OF FARMERS STARTED BENEFITING FROM THEIR SERVICES, AND FARMKART WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE TOP 50 GLOBAL INNOVATIVE STARTUPS IN 2018.

FARMKART COMBINES SHOPPING, DELIVERY, AND CONSULTING ALL IN ONE! WE ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO USE THE INTERNET AND THINK LIKE BUSINESS OWNERS.



DURING COVID-19, 1,000 PRODUCTS WERE ALREADY LISTED ON THE FARMKART SHOPPING PLATFORM. DURING THE LOCKDOWN —

WE MUST EXPAND OUR SERVICES TO REACH FARMERS EVEN IN REMOTE AREAS. LOCKDOWNS SHOULDN'T DISRUPT THEIR FARMING.

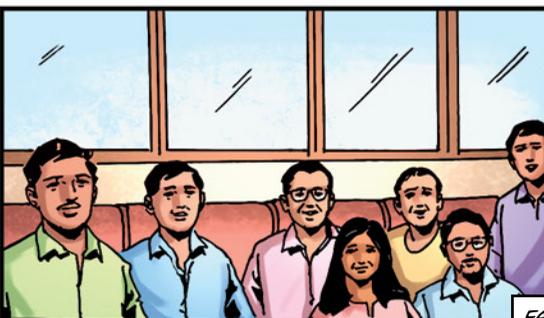
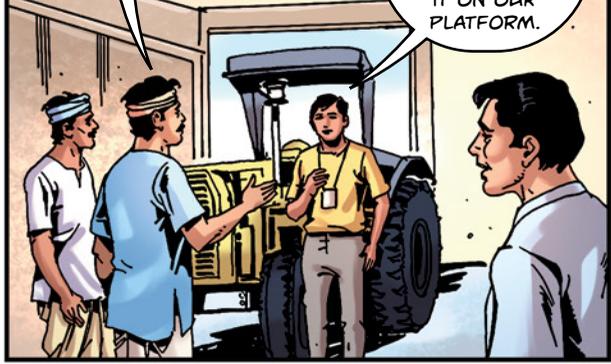


IN OCTOBER 2020, THIS EARNE D PRAISE FROM PM MODI ON HIS RADIO SHOW, MANN KI BAAT.

IN 2021 —

BHAIYA, THANKS TO FARMKART, WE ARE GETTING OUR PRODUCTS ON TIME BUT IT'S TOUGH TO GET FARMING EQUIPMENT. IT'S REALLY EXPENSIVE, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD IT.

WHY NOT TRY OUR RENT4FARM SERVICES? YOU CAN RENT FARMING EQUIPMENT. AND THOSE WITH SPARE EQUIPMENT CAN EARN BY LISTING IT ON OUR PLATFORM.



FARMKART HAS A TEAM OF 102 PEOPLE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING THE FARMERS OF INDIA GROW CONTINUOUSLY.

FARMKART HAS AROUND 2,000 LOCATIONS ACROSS MADHYA PRADESH AND CATERERS TO MORE THAN 1,00,000 FARMERS.

# DR SAPAN KUMAR PATRALEKH

SIR, HOW DID CHILDREN WITHOUT PHONES OR INTERNET STUDY DURING COVID?

WHERE THERE IS INNOVATION, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT A HEADMASTER IN JHARKHAND AND HOW HE TURNED HIS ENTIRE VILLAGE INTO A SOCIALLY-DISTANCED CLASSROOM.

IN THE REMOTE TRIBAL VILLAGE OF DUMARTHAR, JHARKHAND, DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IN 2020, SCHOOL HEADMASTER DR SAPAN KUMAR PATRALEKH WAS WORRIED.

I HAVE WORKED HARD TO BRING EVERY CHILD TO SCHOOL. IF THE LOCKDOWN CONTINUES, MANY MIGHT DROP OUT, GO TO WORK, OR EVEN GET MARRIED.

STUCK AT HOME WITH NO PHONES OR INTERNET IN THE VILLAGE, THE CHILDREN RISK FORGETTING WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED.

ALL THE HARD WORK WE PUT INTO EDUCATING THE VILLAGE MIGHT BE IN VAIN. WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING.

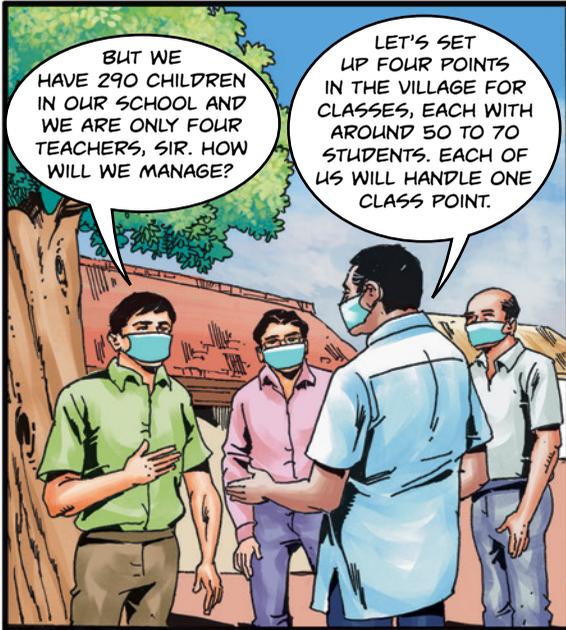
THE DAYS PASSED WITHOUT ANY CHANGE, TILL —

GOOD MORNING! WHY ARE YOU SITTING OUTSIDE YOUR HOMES IN SCHOOL UNIFORMS?

WE HAVE MADE THIS PLACE OUR OWN SCHOOL, SIR. WE MEET HERE EVERY DAY TO READ OUR BOOKS TOGETHER.

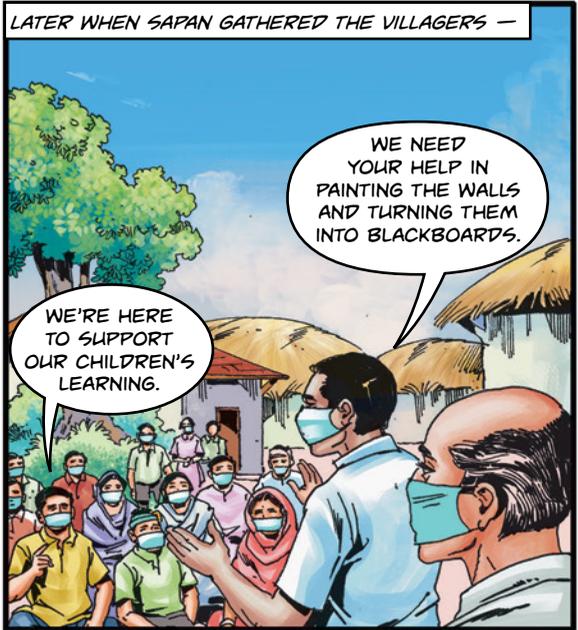
SAPAN REALISED HE COULD DO THE SAME. SHORTLY AFTER —

IF THE CHILDREN CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL, WE'LL BRING THE SCHOOL TO THEM. LET'S TURN OUR ENTIRE VILLAGE INTO A CLASSROOM. WE'LL PAINT THE WALLS OF EVERY HOME AND MAKE THEM OUR BLACKBOARDS!



BUT WE HAVE 290 CHILDREN IN OUR SCHOOL AND WE ARE ONLY FOUR TEACHERS, SIR. HOW WILL WE MANAGE?

LET'S SET UP FOUR POINTS IN THE VILLAGE FOR CLASSES, EACH WITH AROUND 50 TO 70 STUDENTS. EACH OF US WILL HANDLE ONE CLASS POINT.



LATER WHEN SAPAN GATHERED THE VILLAGERS -

WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN'S LEARNING.

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN PAINTING THE WALLS AND TURNING THEM INTO BLACKBOARDS.

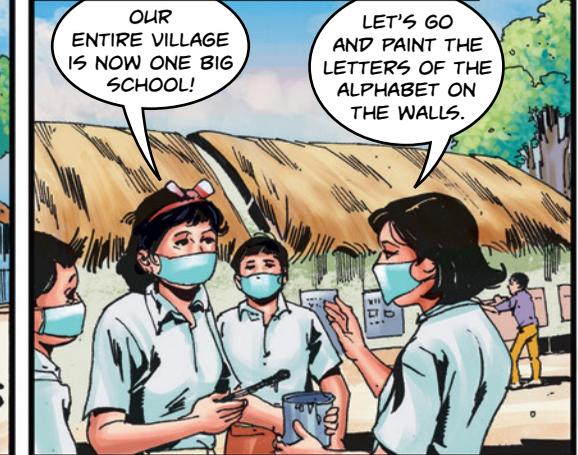
THE BLACKBOARDS WERE MADE USING MUD, COW DUNG, ASH, AND RICE STARCH WATER. SOON -



DON'T WE NEED CHALK AND A DUSTER?

LET'S MAKE OUR OWN. YOU'LL ALSO NEED MATS TO SIT ON; THE FLOOR IS TOO ROUGH.

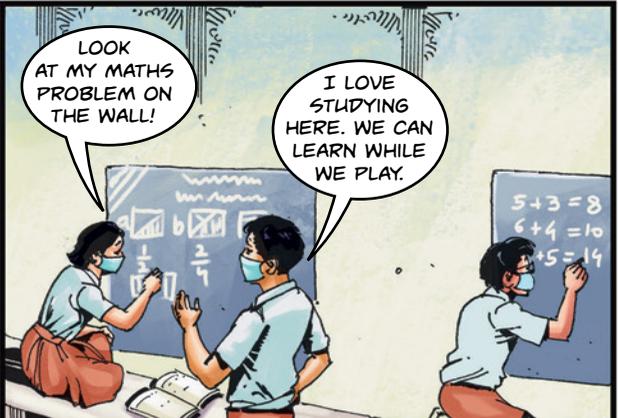
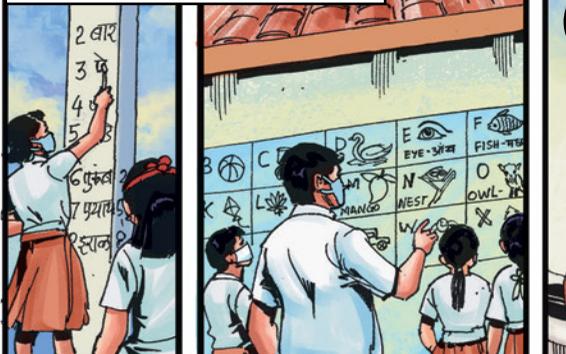
THE WALLS AND LIGHT POLES WERE BEING PAINTED WITH LETTERS AND WORDS IN HINDI, ENGLISH AND SANTHALI.



OUR ENTIRE VILLAGE IS NOW ONE BIG SCHOOL!

LET'S GO AND PAINT THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET ON THE WALLS.

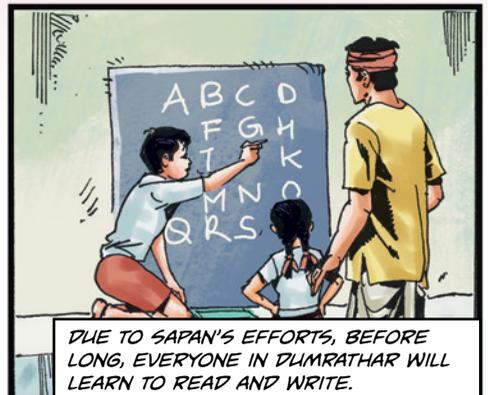
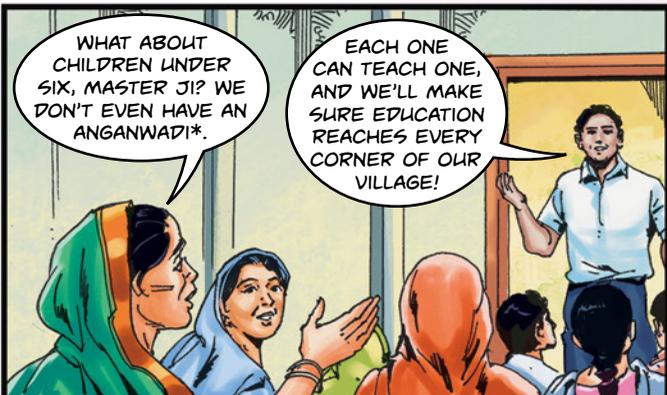
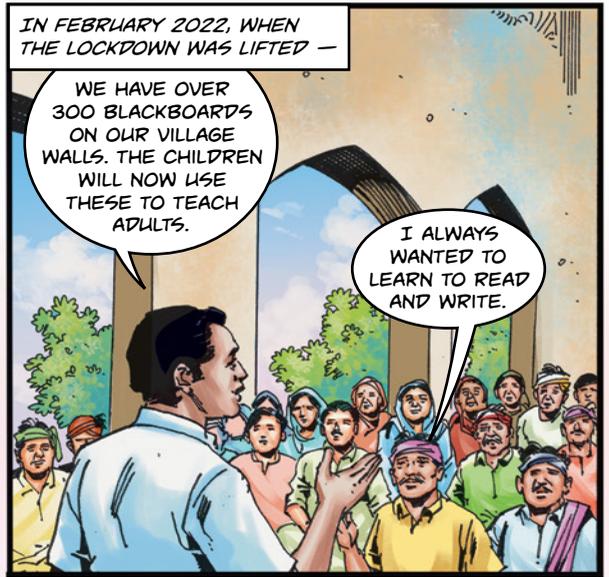
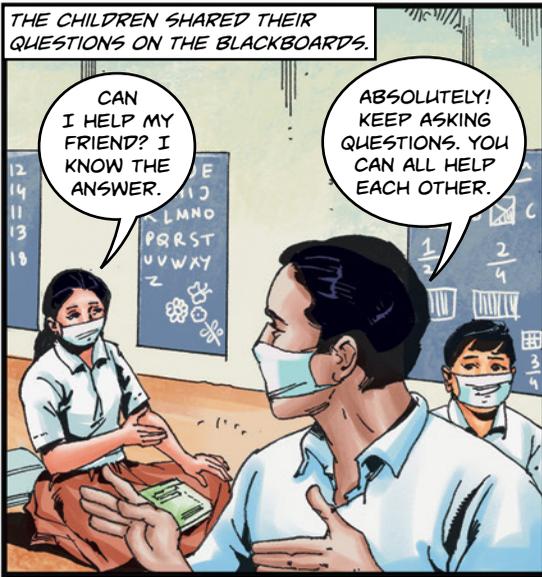
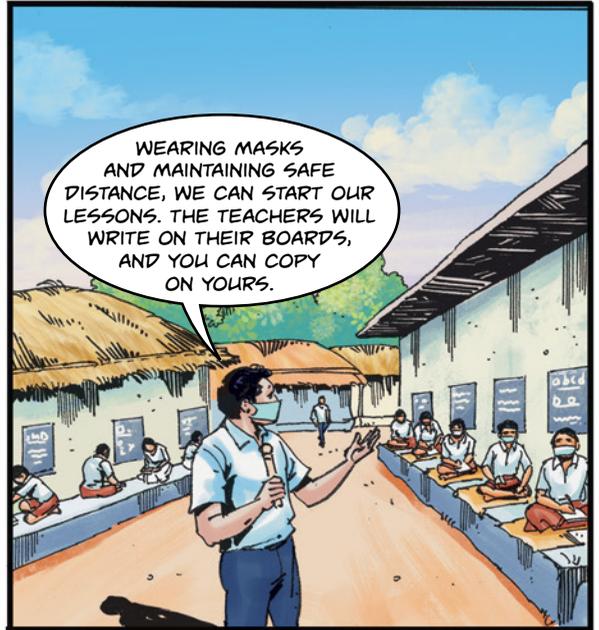
THE CHILDREN STARTED STUDYING FROM THE PAINTED WALLS.



LOOK AT MY MATHS PROBLEM ON THE WALL!

I LOVE STUDYING HERE. WE CAN LEARN WHILE WE PLAY.

5 + 3 = 8  
6 + 4 = 10  
7 + 5 = 14



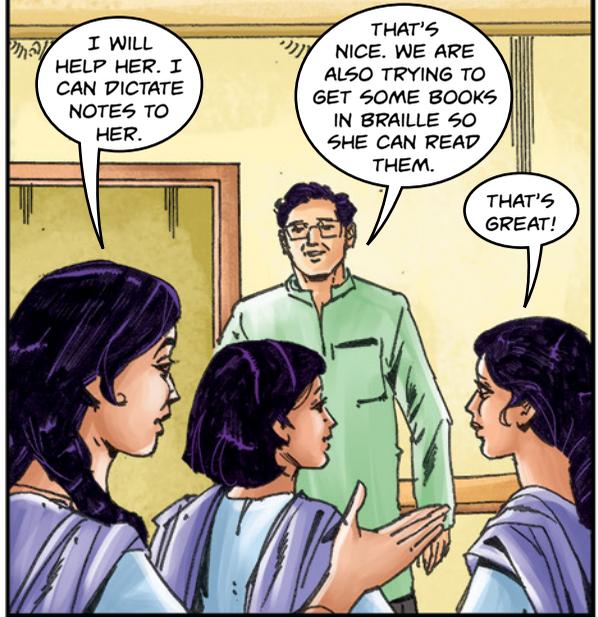
\*RURAL CHILDCARE CENTRE

# JAVED AHMAD TAK



I JUST HEARD THAT A NEW GIRL CALLED PRACHI IS JOINING OUR CLASS AND SHE CANNOT SEE.

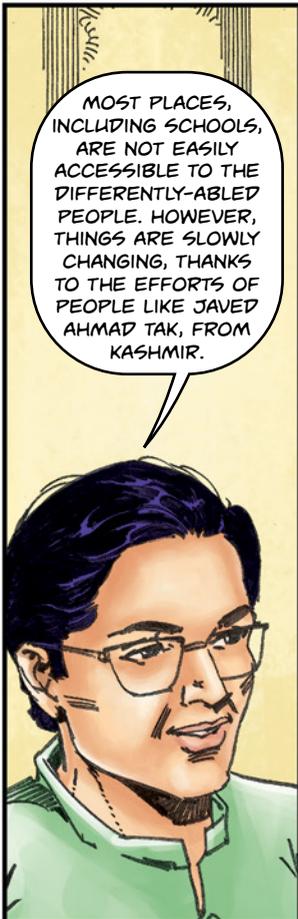
HOW WILL SHE MOVE AROUND? OR TAKE NOTES?



I WILL HELP HER. I CAN DICTATE NOTES TO HER.

THAT'S NICE. WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO GET SOME BOOKS IN BRAILLE SO SHE CAN READ THEM.

THAT'S GREAT!



MOST PLACES, INCLUDING SCHOOLS, ARE NOT EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED PEOPLE. HOWEVER, THINGS ARE SLOWLY CHANGING, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLE LIKE JAVED AHMAD TAK, FROM KASHMIR.



JAVED AHMAD WAS IN HIS FINAL YEAR OF BSC\* WHEN HE DECIDED TO STAY WITH HIS UNCLE AND COUSINS IN ANANTNAG\*. AROUND MIDNIGHT ON 21 MARCH, 1997 —

**BANG BANG**

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I CAN HEAR GUNSHOTS. OUR HOUSE IS UNDER ATTACK.

THE MILITANT ATTACK WAS AIMED AT JAVED'S COUSIN, WHO SERVED AS THE BLOCK PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE PARTY.



AAAAHH...

**BANG**

RUN!

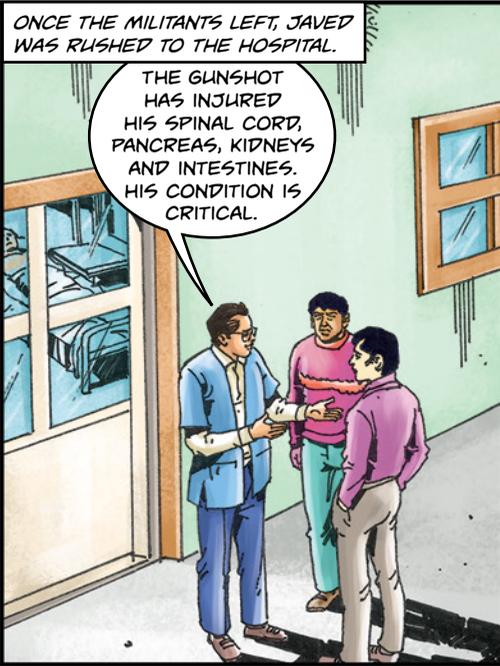
JAVED WAS SHOT IN THE SPINE.

\*BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

\*CITY IN KASHMIR

ONCE THE MILITANTS LEFT, JAVED WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL.

THE GUNSHOT HAS INJURED HIS SPINAL CORD, PANCREAS, KIDNEYS AND INTESTINES. HIS CONDITION IS CRITICAL.



JAVED SPENT ALMOST A YEAR IN THE HOSPITAL BUT COULD NOT WALK ANYMORE.

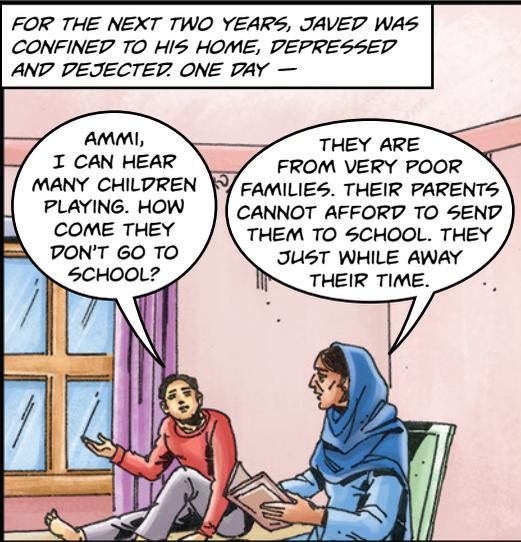
SO, THIS IS HOW I WILL MOVE FROM NOW ON.



FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, JAVED WAS CONFINED TO HIS HOME, DEPRESSED AND DEJECTED. ONE DAY —

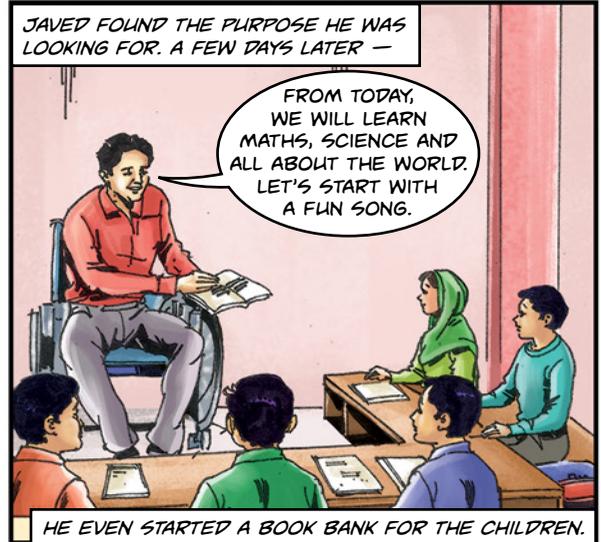
AMMI, I CAN HEAR MANY CHILDREN PLAYING. HOW COME THEY DON'T GO TO SCHOOL?

THEY ARE FROM VERY POOR FAMILIES. THEIR PARENTS CANNOT AFFORD TO SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. THEY JUST WHILE AWAY THEIR TIME.



JAVED FOUND THE PURPOSE HE WAS LOOKING FOR. A FEW DAYS LATER —

FROM TODAY, WE WILL LEARN MATHS, SCIENCE AND ALL ABOUT THE WORLD. LET'S START WITH A FUN SONG.

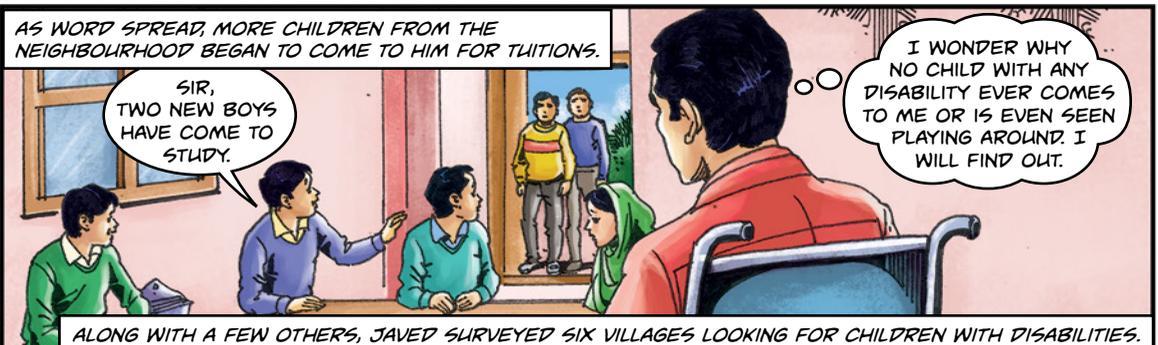


HE EVEN STARTED A BOOK BANK FOR THE CHILDREN.

AS WORD SPREAD, MORE CHILDREN FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BEGAN TO COME TO HIM FOR TUTORIALS.

SIR, TWO NEW BOYS HAVE COME TO STUDY.

I WONDER WHY NO CHILD WITH ANY DISABILITY EVER COMES TO ME OR IS EVEN SEEN PLAYING AROUND. I WILL FIND OUT.

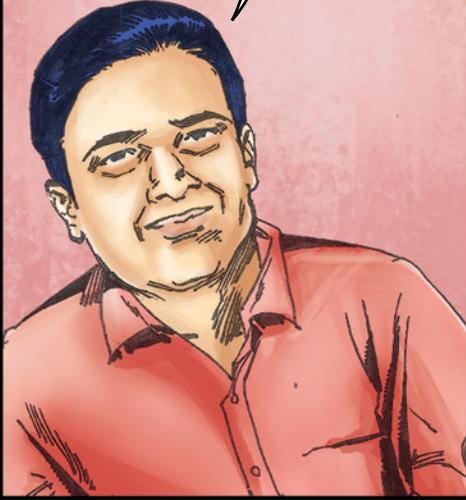


ALONG WITH A FEW OTHERS, JAVED SURVEYED SIX VILLAGES LOOKING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.



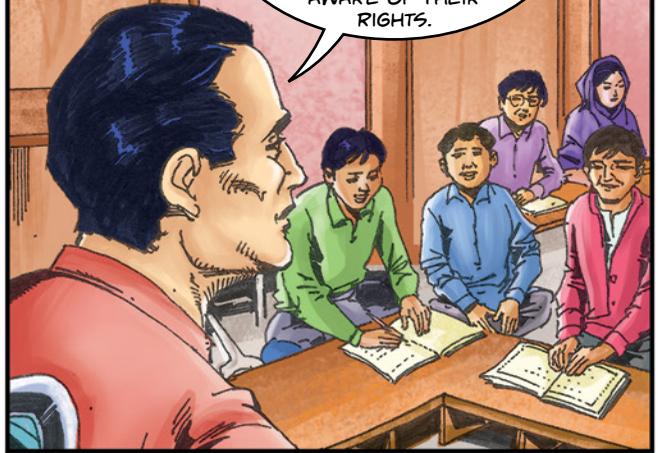
HE REALISED THAT CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES WERE EITHER ISOLATED OR COMPLETELY NEGLECTED.

FROM TODAY, I WILL FOCUS ALL MY ATTENTION TOWARDS THESE CHILDREN.



OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, HE CONVINCED MANY PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND BEGAN TO TEACH THEM.

JUST EDUCATION IS NOT ENOUGH. SO MANY CHILDREN DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY DEVICES LIKE HEARING AIDS OR WHEELCHAIRS TO LIVE NORMAL LIVES. WE HAVE TO DO MORE FOR THEM AND MAKE THEM AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS.



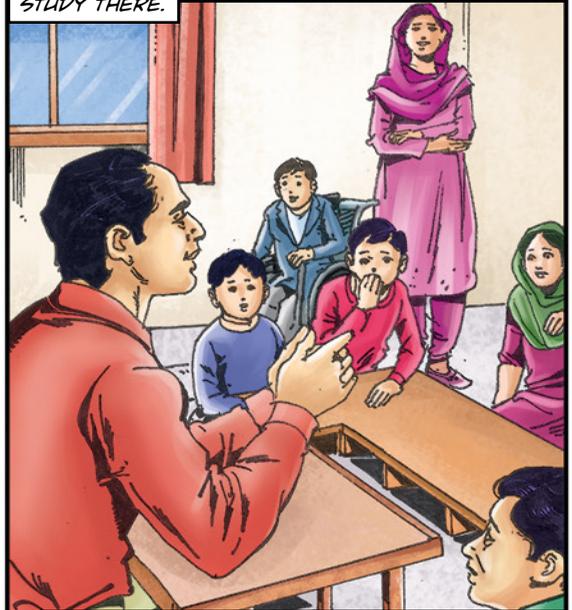
TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS OF THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED, JAVED STARTED AN NGO\* CALLED THE HUMANITY WELFARE ORGANISATION HELPLINE IN 2003.

OUR ORGANISATION WILL PROVIDE FINANCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL HELP TO THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED AND HELP THEM WITH SUPPORTIVE DEVICES. WE WILL FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND CONDUCT PROGRAMMES TO MAKE PEOPLE MORE AWARE.



THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS, THE ORGANISATION HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING RAMPS INSTALLED IN KASHMIR UNIVERSITY AND MAKING THE RAJ BHAVAN IN SRINAGAR DISABILITY-FRIENDLY.

THE ORGANISATION ALSO SET UP A SCHOOL CALLED THE ZAIBA AAPA INSTITUTE OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN 2008. OVER A DECADE LATER, MORE THAN 100 CHILDREN WITH DIFFERENT DISABILITIES STUDY THERE.



JAVED'S WORK HAS RECEIVED PRAISE AND RECOGNITION FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD. IN 2020, HE WAS AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS PADMA SHRI FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.

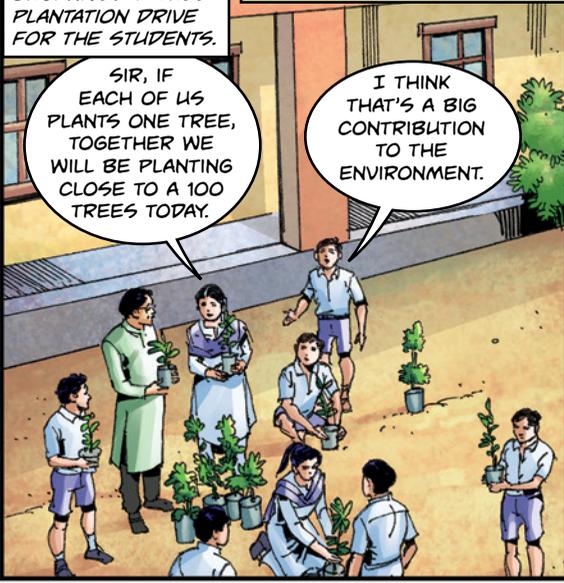
\*NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

# M. YOGANATHAN

NAIR SIR HAD ORGANISED A TREE PLANTATION DRIVE FOR THE STUDENTS.

SIR, IF EACH OF US PLANTS ONE TREE, TOGETHER WE WILL BE PLANTING CLOSE TO A 100 TREES TODAY.

I THINK THAT'S A BIG CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT.



I DON'T THINK SO. EACH OF US SHOULD PLANT 100 TREES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

OR EVEN MORE?

THAT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE, SIR.



NOT AT ALL. LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF A BUS CONDUCTOR FROM TAMIL NADU NAMED MARIMUTHU YOGANATHAN, WHO HAS PLANTED OVER 1,28,000 TREES IN THE LAST THREE DECADES.

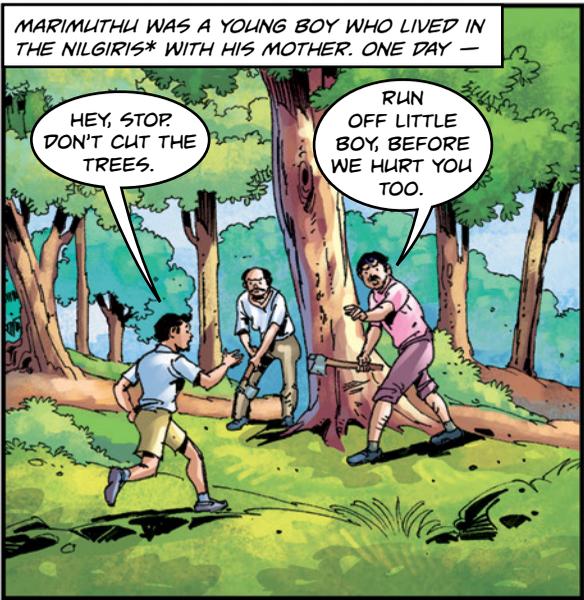
WOW! HOW DID HE DO THAT?



MARIMUTHU WAS A YOUNG BOY WHO LIVED IN THE NILGIRIS\* WITH HIS MOTHER. ONE DAY -

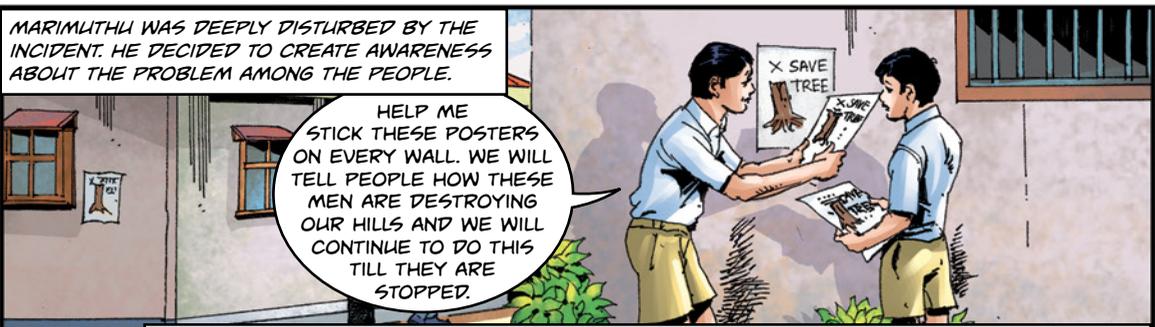
HEY, STOP DON'T CUT THE TREES.

RUN OFF LITTLE BOY, BEFORE WE HURT YOU TOO.



MARIMUTHU WAS DEEPLY DISTURBED BY THE INCIDENT. HE DECIDED TO CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT THE PROBLEM AMONG THE PEOPLE.

HELP ME STICK THESE POSTERS ON EVERY WALL. WE WILL TELL PEOPLE HOW THESE MEN ARE DESTROYING OUR HILLS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO THIS TILL THEY ARE STOPPED.



MARIMUTHU EVEN INFORMED THE POLICE AND FOREST DEPARTMENT ABOUT THE TIMBER MAFIA.

\*DISTRICT IN TAMIL NADU LOCATED WITHIN THE NILGIRI MOUNTAINS RANGE



WHEN MARIMUTHU WAS 13 YEARS OLD —

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M PLANTING A TREE. I'M GOING TO HELP OUR HILLS STAY GREEN FOREVER.

THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF HIS LIFELONG JOURNEY DEDICATED TO AFFORESTATION.

MARIMUTHU GREW UP AND TOOK UP A JOB AS A BUS CONDUCTOR WITH THE TAMIL NADU STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION IN COIMBATORE.

HERE, THIS SAPLING IS A GIFT. PLEASE PLANT IT AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.

MOST OF HIS PASSENGERS RECEIVED THE GIFT OF SAPPLINGS FROM HIM.

AS THE YEARS PASSED, MARIMUTHU BEGAN TO FEEL THAT DISTRIBUTING AND PLANTING SAPPLINGS ALONE WAS NOT ENOUGH.

I WANT YOUNGSTERS TO PLANT TREES AND CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT. LET ME START BY ORGANISING DRIVES IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. I CAN DO THAT ON EVERY MONDAY, WHEN I HAVE MY WEEKLY OFF.

SOON —

EACH OF YOU CAN PLANT A SAPLING AND WE WILL NAME IT AFTER YOU. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU WATER IT REGULARLY AND TAKE CARE OF IT AS YOUR OWN SIBLING.

WOW! A TREE WITH MY NAME. THAT'S SO EXCITING.

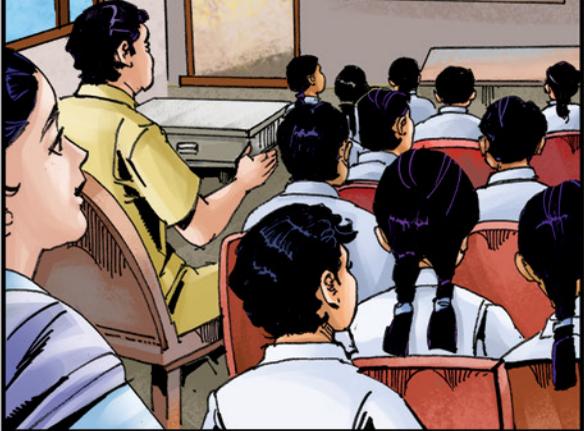
MARIMUTHU STARTED SPENDING CLOSE TO 40 PERCENT OF HIS INCOME ON SAPLINGS AND AWARENESS DRIVES.

I'M GOING TO SEND THESE LETTERS TO SCHOOLS ASKING THEM TO STOP USING NON ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS AND START PLANTING SAPPLINGS ON THE CAMPUS. PLANTING TREES SHOULD BE PART OF THE CURRICULUM.

THANKS TO HIS LETTERS, ABOUT 2,000 SCHOOLS HAVE PLANTED SAPPLINGS AND IN 3,000 OTHERS, STUDENTS HAVE PROMISED TO REFRAIN FROM USING NON ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS.

MARIMUTHU ALSO BOUGHT AN LCD PROJECTOR TO CONDUCT AWARENESS DRIVES IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

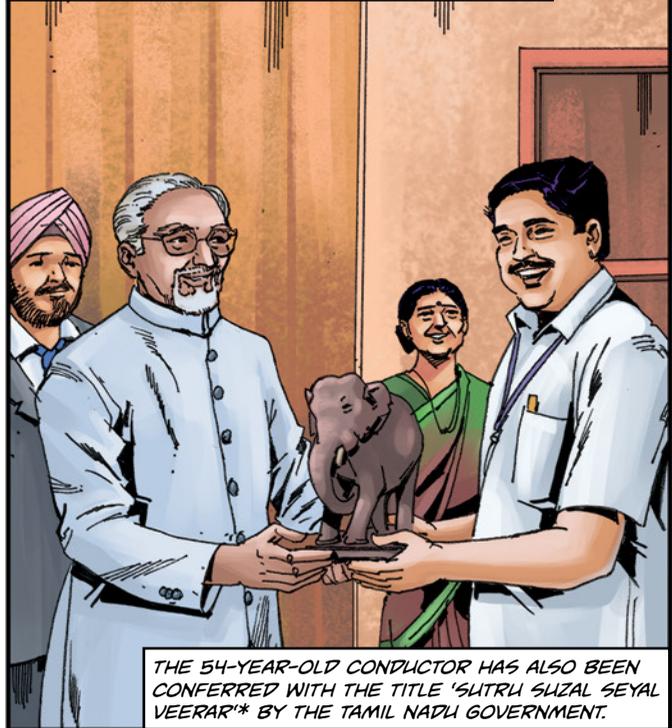
AND THAT IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO START COMPOSTING YOUR WASTE AND SAYING NO TO PLASTIC.



MARIMUTHU HAS SO FAR PLANTED OVER THREE LAKH SAPPLINGS AND HAS VISITED OVER 3,000 SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES THROUGHOUT TAMIL NADU TO CREATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.



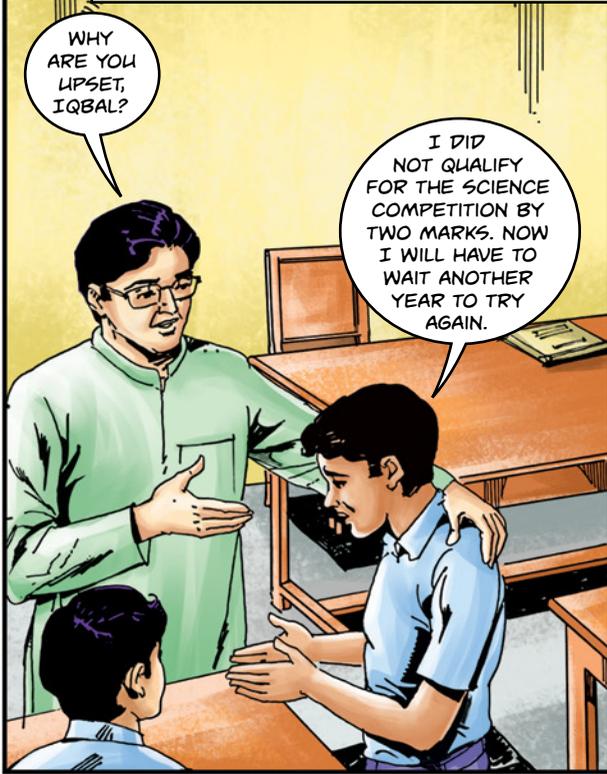
IN RECOGNITION OF HIS COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT, THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT GAVE HIM THE PRESTIGIOUS ECO WARRIOR AWARD IN 2008.



THE 54-YEAR-OLD CONDUCTOR HAS ALSO BEEN CONFERRED WITH THE TITLE 'SHTRU SUZAL SEYAL VEERAR'\* BY THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT.

\*ECO-WARRIOR IN TAMIL

# MURALI SREESHANKAR



WHY ARE YOU UPSET, IQBAL?

I DID NOT QUALIFY FOR THE SCIENCE COMPETITION BY TWO MARKS. NOW I WILL HAVE TO WAIT ANOTHER YEAR TO TRY AGAIN.



DO NOT LOOK AT IT AS WASTED TIME, IQBAL. YOU WILL ONLY BE MORE PREPARED IN A YEAR. LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF SREESHANKAR, AN ATHLETE WHO MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY DUE TO ILLNESS AND HOW HE BOUNCED BACK FROM IT.

MURALI SREESHANKAR WAS BORN ON 27 MARCH, 1999, IN PALAKKAD, KERALA TO S. MURALI AND K.S. BIJIMOL, WHO WERE BOTH INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES.



LOOK AT THOSE LEGS — HE SEEMS TO HAVE THE MAKINGS OF AN ATHLETE ALREADY!

THANKS TO THEM, SREESHANKAR DEVELOPED A KEEN INTEREST IN ATHLETICS. WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG —



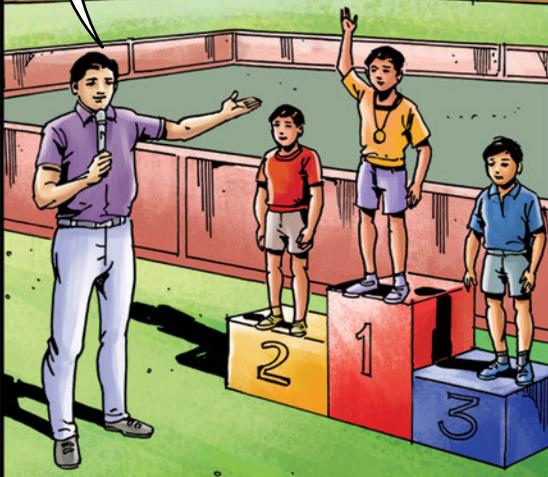
LOOK AT HIM SPRINTING! OUR SON HAS TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL.

YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU MUST START COACHING HIM EARLY.

UNDER HIS FATHER'S COACHING, SREESHANKAR BEGAN POLISHING HIS ATHLETIC SKILLS.

SOON, SREESHANKAR BECAME A STATE-LEVEL CHAMPION IN THE UNDER-10 CATEGORY.

AND IN THE FIRST POSITION, YET AGAIN, WE HAVE SREESHANKAR!

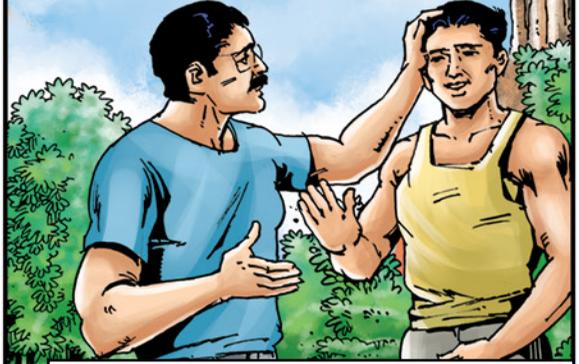


AT THE AGE OF 13, SREESHANKAR TRANSITIONED FROM SPRINTING TO LONG JUMP.

HIS FATHER, A FORMER INTERNATIONAL TRIPLE JUMPER HIMSELF, WAS A STRICT COACH AND A HARD TASKMASTER.

REMEMBER, MY SON, I MAY SOMETIMES BE TOUGH SINCE I AM ALSO YOUR COACH BUT YOU MUST TRUST THAT I WILL ALWAYS HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART.

I KNOW, ACHA\*.



HIS FATHER'S CARE AND COMMITMENT WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING SREESHANKAR EXCEL.

IN MARCH 2018, SREESHANKAR WAS ALL SET TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES. HOWEVER, HE FELL ILL, AND —

YOU HAVE APPENDICITIS AND WILL NEED SURGERY RIGHT AWAY.

OH NO. THAT MEANS I CANNOT COMPETE.



AFTER HIS SURGERY, SREESHANKAR HAD TO BE ON A LIQUID DIET, WHICH LED TO WEIGHT LOSS AND WEAKNESS.

HOWEVER, HE PARTICIPATED IN THE 2018 ASIAN JUNIOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS TWO MONTHS LATER —

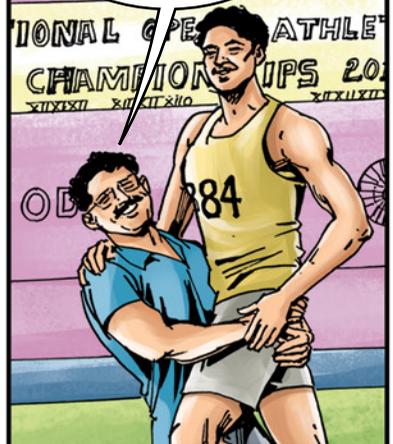
AND MURALI SREESHANKAR FROM INDIA WINS A BRONZE MEDAL FOR HIS JUMP OF 7.47 METRES.



IN AUGUST 2018, HE ALSO FINISHED SIXTH AT THE 2018 ASIAN GAMES IN JAKARTA.

IN SEPTEMBER 2018, SREESHANKAR SHATTERED THE NATIONAL RECORD WITH A JUMP OF 8.20M AT THE NATIONAL OPEN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BHUBANESWAR.

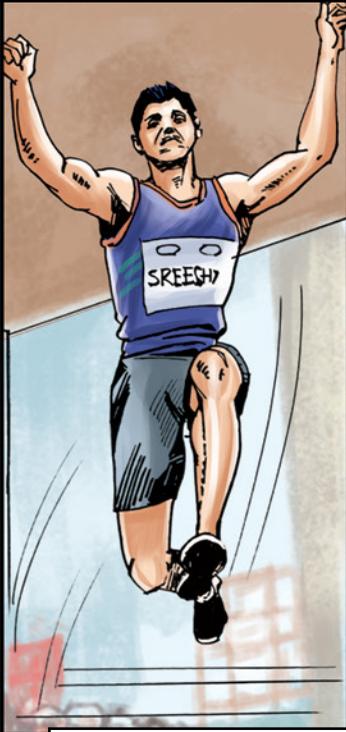
CONGRATULATIONS! THIS MAKES YOU THE FIRST INDIAN ATHLETE TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2019 WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS!



SREESHANKAR DID NOT ADVANCE TO THE FINALS OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP, BUT HE REMAINED UNDETERRED.

\*FATHER IN MALAYALAM

IN MARCH 2021, SREESHANKAR BROKE HIS OWN RECORD AT THE FEDERATION CUP IN PATIALA WITH A JUMP OF 8.26 METRES...



...AND QUALIFIED FOR THE TOKYO SUMMER OLYMPICS!

DURING THE EVENT, HE BUCKLED UNDER PRESSURE AND FAILED TO MAKE IT TO THE FINAL ROUND.



HOWEVER, NO SETBACK COULD PULL HIM DOWN. WITH HIS FAMILY'S SUPPORT AND HIS OWN DETERMINATION, SREESHANKAR MOVED TOWARDS HIS NEXT GOAL.

AT THE WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2022, HE REACHED THE FINAL ROUND...



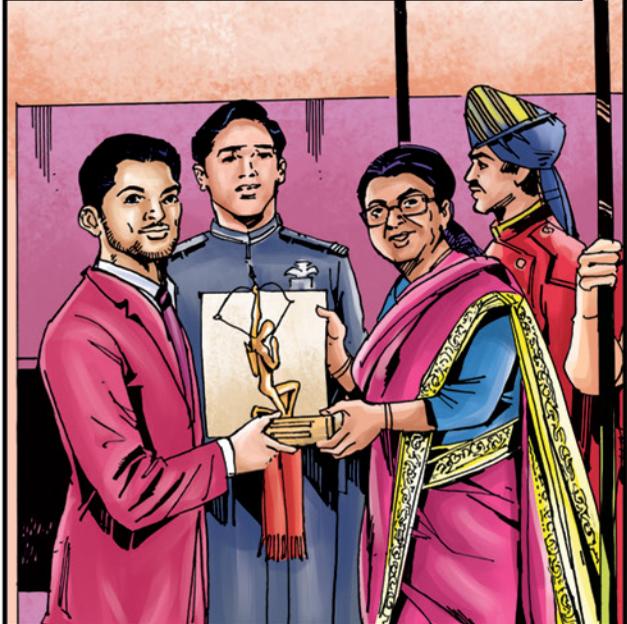
...AND FINISHED SEVENTH WITH A JUMP OF 7.96 METRES.

THE SAME YEAR, SREESHANKAR BECAME INDIA'S FIRST MALE LONG JUMPER TO WIN A SILVER MEDAL AT THE 22ND COMMONWEALTH GAMES.



HE WAS ONE OF THE THREE INDIAN ATHLETES EVER TO REACH THE TOP THREE RANKS IN THE ZURICH DIAMOND LEAGUE\* MEET.

REGARDLESS OF SICKNESS OR DEFEAT, SREESHANKAR HAS KEPT ADDING FEATHERS TO HIS CAP, THE MOST RECENT ONE BEING THE ARJUNA AWARD.



\*AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT CONSISTS OF FIFTEEN TOP PREMIER INVITATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS

# PUNYAM POONKAVANAM

IT WAS WEDDING SEASON IN DELHI.



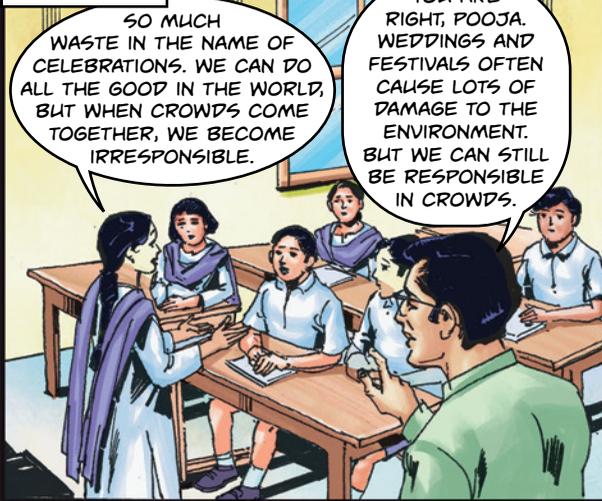
THIS IS SO LOUD EVEN FROM HERE! HOW ARE PEOPLE STANDING SO CLOSE?

THE NEXT MORNING —



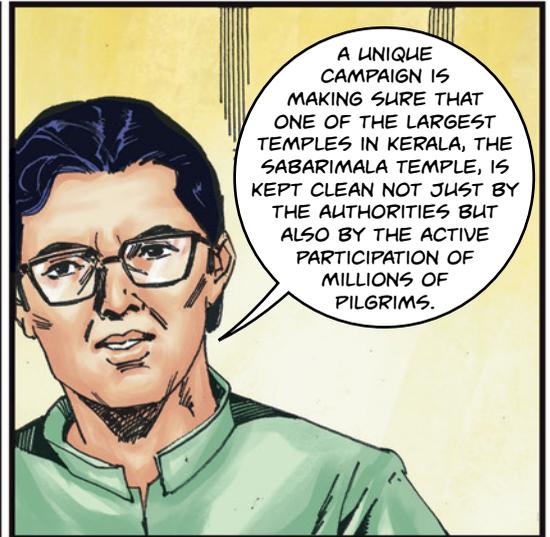
SO MUCH SMOKE FROM THE EXHAUSTS! THE AIR IN DELHI IS ALREADY SO BAD.

AT SCHOOL —



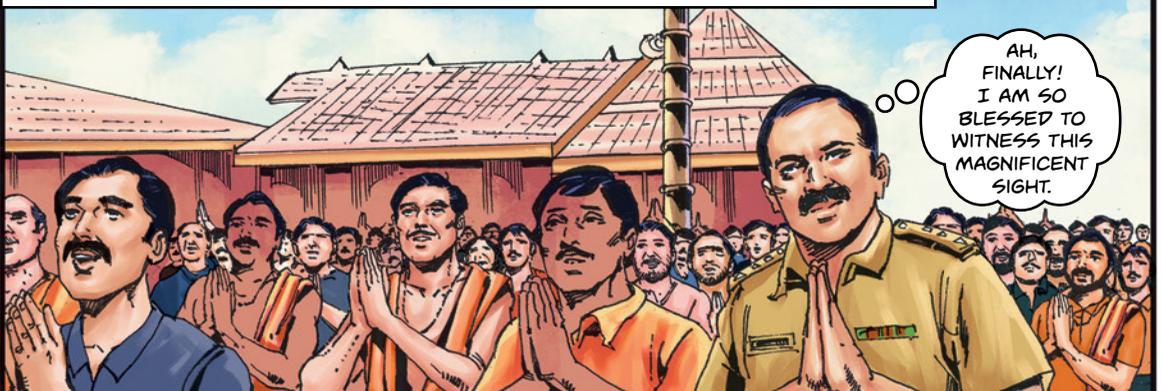
SO MUCH WASTE IN THE NAME OF CELEBRATIONS. WE CAN DO ALL THE GOOD IN THE WORLD, BUT WHEN CROWDS COME TOGETHER, WE BECOME IRRESPONSIBLE.

YOU ARE RIGHT, POOJA. WEDDINGS AND FESTIVALS OFTEN CAUSE LOTS OF DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT. BUT WE CAN STILL BE RESPONSIBLE IN CROWDS.



A UNIQUE CAMPAIGN IS MAKING SURE THAT ONE OF THE LARGEST TEMPLES IN KERALA, THE SABARIMALA TEMPLE, IS KEPT CLEAN NOT JUST BY THE AUTHORITIES BUT ALSO BY THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS.

IN 2003, IPS\* OFFICER, P. VIJAYAN, WAS POSTED AS SPECIAL OFFICER AT SABARIMALA.

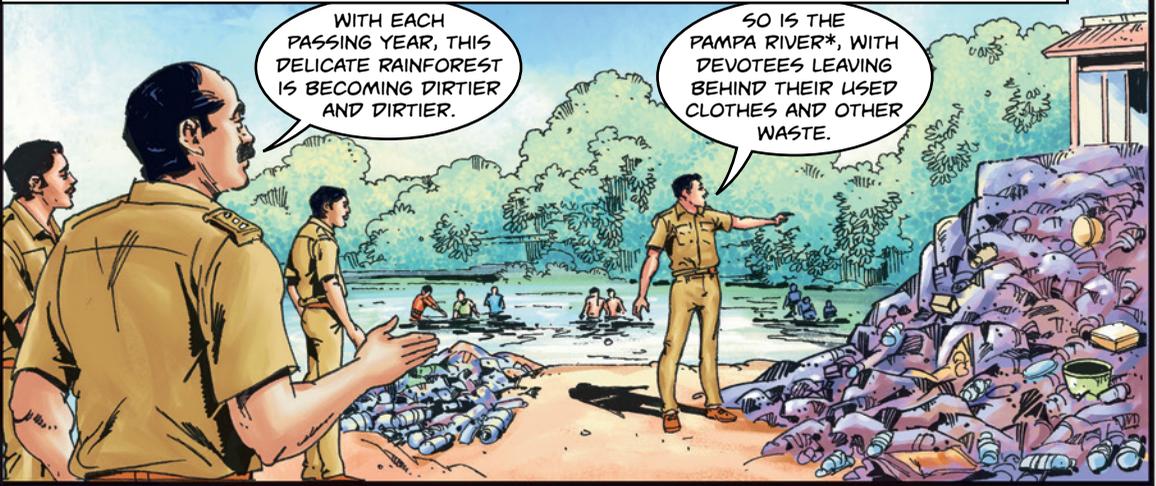


AH, FINALLY! I AM SO BLESSED TO WITNESS THIS MAGNIFICENT SIGHT.

\*INDIAN POLICE SERVICE



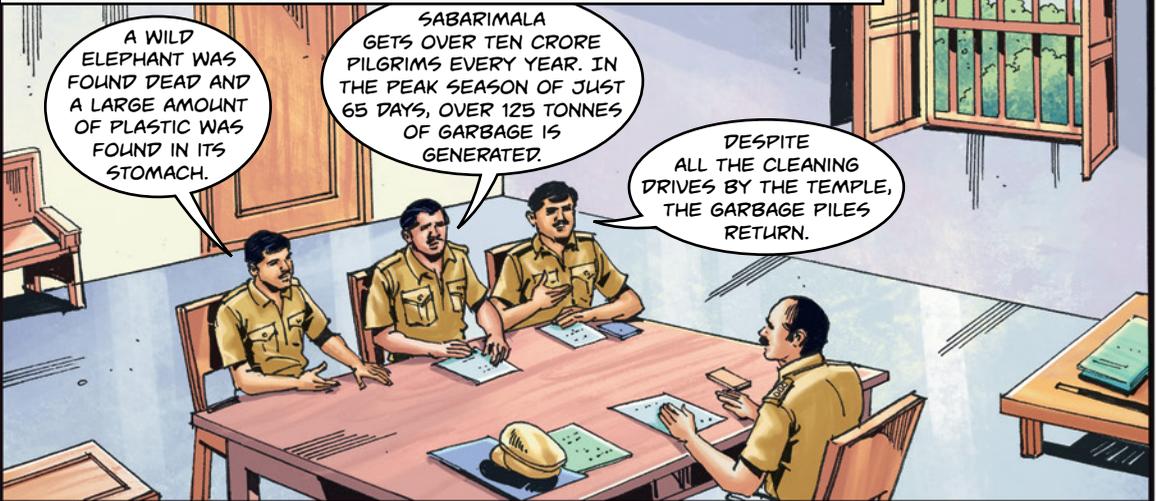
HOWEVER, OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, VIJAYAN NOTICED A HUGE PROBLEM AT THE PILGRIMAGE SITE.



WITH EACH PASSING YEAR, THIS DELICATE RAINFOREST IS BECOMING DIRTIER AND DIRTIER.

SO IS THE PAMPA RIVER\*, WITH DEVOTEES LEAVING BEHIND THEIR USED CLOTHES AND OTHER WASTE.

THE POLICE OFFICERS REALISED THAT EVEN THE WILDLIFE AT THE PILGRIMAGE SITE, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE, WAS GETTING AFFECTED.

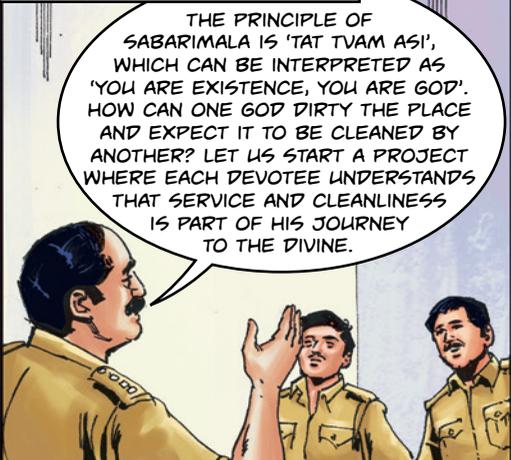


A WILD ELEPHANT WAS FOUND DEAD AND A LARGE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC WAS FOUND IN ITS STOMACH.

SABARIMALA GETS OVER TEN CORE PILGRIMS EVERY YEAR. IN THE PEAK SEASON OF JUST 65 DAYS, OVER 125 TONNES OF GARBAGE IS GENERATED.

DESPITE ALL THE CLEANING DRIVES BY THE TEMPLE, THE GARBAGE PILES RETURN.

VIJAYAN THOUGHT DEEPLY ABOUT THE PROBLEM. ONE DAY -



THE PRINCIPLE OF SABARIMALA IS 'TAT TVAM ASI', WHICH CAN BE INTERPRETED AS 'YOU ARE EXISTENCE, YOU ARE GOD'. HOW CAN ONE GOD DIRTY THE PLACE AND EXPECT IT TO BE CLEANED BY ANOTHER? LET US START A PROJECT WHERE EACH DEVOTEE UNDERSTANDS THAT SERVICE AND CLEANLINESS IS PART OF HIS JOURNEY TO THE DIVINE.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT THEN COLLABORATED WITH THE TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD\*, THE RAPID ACTION FORCE (RAF), HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS...



THROUGH THIS PROJECT, EVERY PILGRIM CAN EMBRACE THE PATH TO RESPONSIBLE AND CONSCIOUS PILGRIMAGE.

...TO START THE PUNYAM POONKAVANAM\*\* PROJECT.

\*SABARIMALA TEMPLE IS LOCATED ON THE BANKS OF RIVER PAMPA  
\*AN AUTONOMOUS BODY MANAGING AROUND 1,252 TEMPLES IN SOUTH INDIA  
\*\*THE DIVINE GROVE OF SABARIMALA LORD AYYAPPA

MANY DISCUSSIONS HAPPENED OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND THE PROJECT WAS LAUNCHED IN 2011 WITH SEVEN SACRED TENETS.

EVERY AYYAPPA\* SHOULD ENSURE THAT HE BRINGS NO OBJECT, ESPECIALLY PLASTIC, THAT WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

DO NOT USE SOAP OR OIL WHILE BATHING IN PAMPA OR LEAVE OLD CLOTHES IN THE RIVER.

TAKE BACK ALL GARBAGE AND WASTE THAT IS GENERATED AT THE END OF THE PILGRIMAGE.

KEEP THE TOILETS CLEAN AND DO NOT RELIEVE YOURSELF IN THE OPEN.

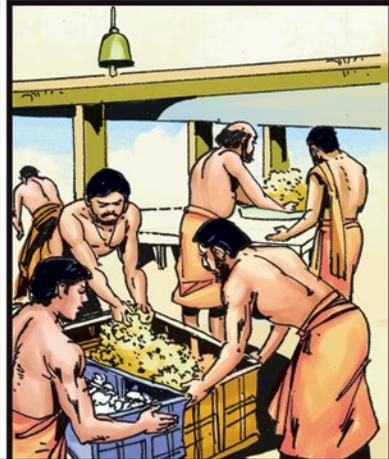
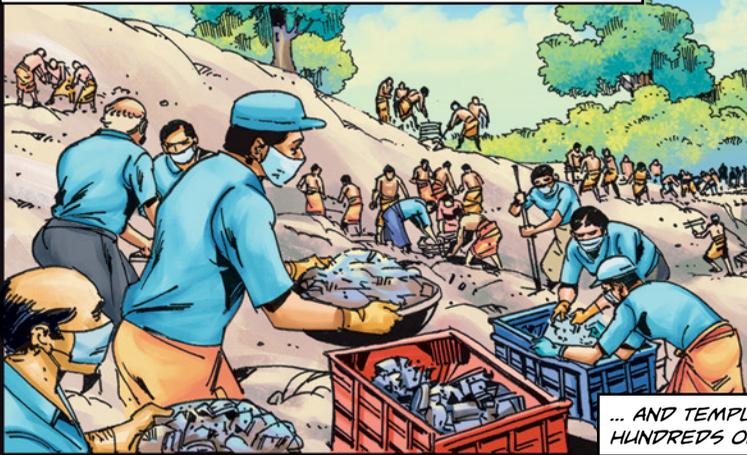
ALL AYYAPPAS VISITING SABARIMALA SHOULD ENGAGE IN AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF CLEANING DRIVE AT PAMPA OR SANNIDHANAM ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

EVERY AYYAPPA HAS EQUAL RIGHT TO REACH THE TEMPLE; KEEP ORDER WHILE QUEUING FOR DARSHAN.

LEAVE SEEDS OF VIRTUE AND NOT YOUR GARBAGE BEHIND ON COMPLETION OF THE PILGRIMAGE.



SINCE THEN, EVERY MORNING BETWEEN 9 A.M. AND 10 A.M., THE PRIEST BEGINS THE CLEANING OF THE TEMPLE...



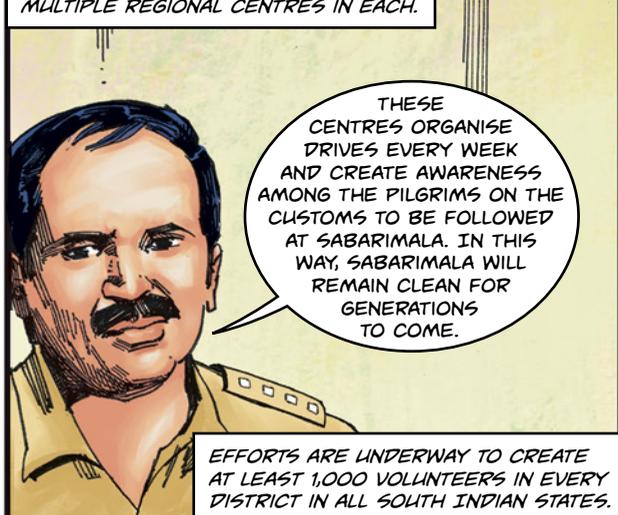
... AND TEMPLE WORKERS, POLICE PERSONNEL AND HUNDREDS OF PILGRIMS JOIN HIM IN THE EFFORT.

VIJAYAN, HOWEVER, FELT THAT THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH.

OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, CENTRES WERE SET UP IN SIX STATES, WITH MULTIPLE REGIONAL CENTRES IN EACH.



PILGRIMS COMING FROM THE DIFFERENT STATES NEED TO BE MADE AWARE ABOUT THE PROJECT.



THESE CENTRES ORGANISE DRIVES EVERY WEEK AND CREATE AWARENESS AMONG THE PILGRIMS ON THE CUSTOMS TO BE FOLLOWED AT SABARIMALA. IN THIS WAY, SABARIMALA WILL REMAIN CLEAN FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO CREATE AT LEAST 1,000 VOLUNTEERS IN EVERY DISTRICT IN ALL SOUTH INDIAN STATES.

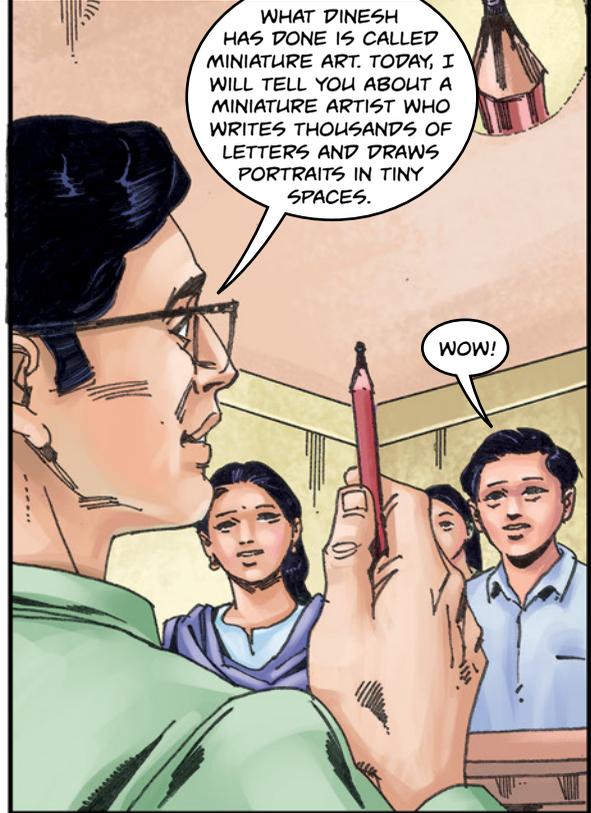
\*THE DEVOTEES ARE ALSO CALLED BY THE DEITY'S NAME.

# RAM KUMAR JOSHI



LOOK, SIR. DINESH HAS CARVED A FACE ON THE TIP OF HIS PENCIL.

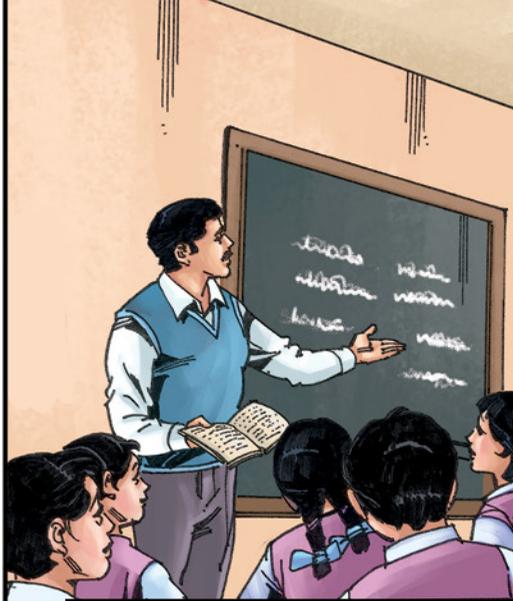
THAT'S INCREDIBLE! WELL DONE.



WHAT DINESH HAS DONE IS CALLED MINIATURE ART. TODAY, I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT A MINIATURE ARTIST WHO WRITES THOUSANDS OF LETTERS AND DRAWS PORTRAITS IN TINY SPACES.

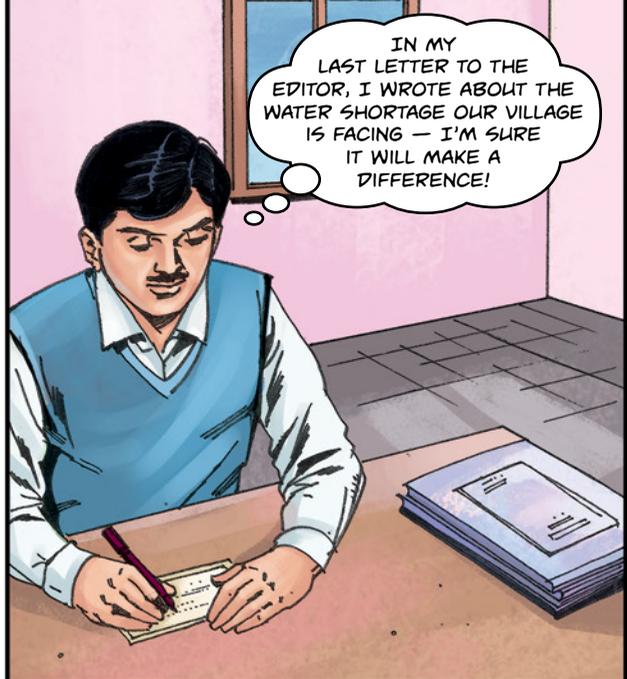
WOW!

RAM KUMAR JOSHI IS A JUNIOR TEACHER AT A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN JAKHERA VILLAGE IN LUNA\* DISTRICT.



HOWEVER, HIS AWE-INSPIRING IDENTITY GOES FAR BEYOND WHAT MEETS THE EYE.

IN THE EARLY 1980S, WHEN EMAIL WAS UNHEARD OF, RAM HAD A PENCHANT FOR WRITING LETTERS.



IN MY LAST LETTER TO THE EDITOR, I WROTE ABOUT THE WATER SHORTAGE OUR VILLAGE IS FACING - I'M SURE IT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

\*IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

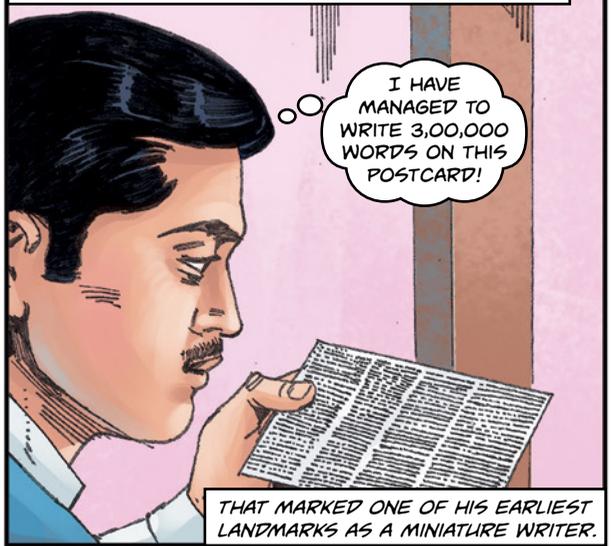
IN 1984, RAM BEGAN DEVELOPING AN INTEREST IN MINIATURE WRITING ON POSTCARDS.



LET ME SEE IF I CAN MINIATURE-WRITE THIS ENTIRE PAGE ON THIS POSTCARD!

RAM FOUND JOY IN THE CHALLENGE OF FITTING WORDS INTO SMALL SPACES.

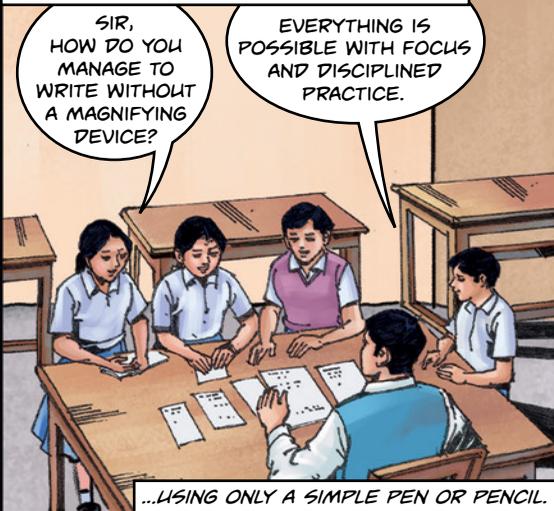
OVER TIME, HE EXPANDED HIS CAPACITY TO FIT MORE WORDS ON EACH POSTCARD, AND ONE DAY —



I HAVE MANAGED TO WRITE 3,00,000 WORDS ON THIS POSTCARD!

THAT MARKED ONE OF HIS EARLIEST LANDMARKS AS A MINIATURE WRITER.

THE MOST COMMENDABLE FEATURE OF HIS WRITING WAS THAT HE DID IT WITH THE NAKED EYE, WITHOUT THE HELP OF A MAGNIFYING LENS OR ANY OTHER DEVICE...



SIR, HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO WRITE WITHOUT A MAGNIFYING DEVICE?

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WITH FOCUS AND DISCIPLINED PRACTICE.

...USING ONLY A SIMPLE PEN OR PENCIL.

ONE DAY, HE MADE MINIATURE SKETCHES OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE AND LAL BHADUR SHASTRI, ON POSTAL STAMPS.



WHAT IS EVEN MORE SPECIAL, IS THAT HE MADE THESE SKETCHES ONLY USING THE WORD 'RAM'.

HE ALSO MANAGED TO ACCOMMODATE BRIEF LIFE HISTORIES OF THE LEADERS ON THESE STAMPS.





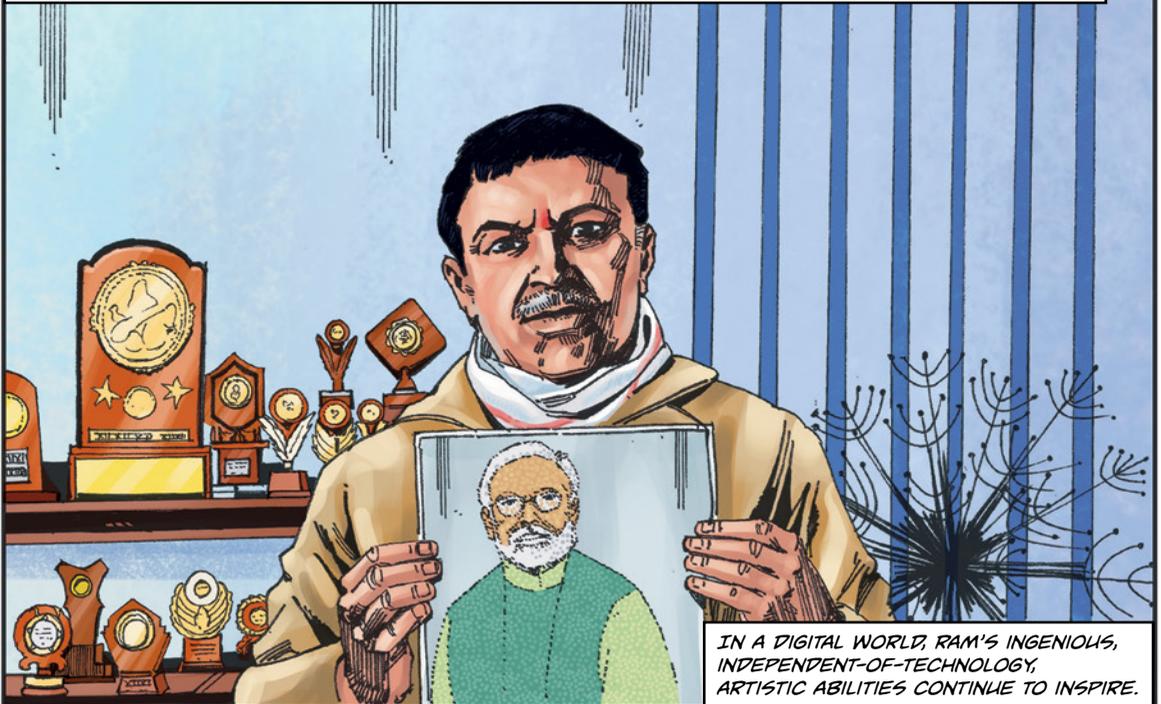
SINCE THEN, RAM HAS MADE MINIATURE SKETCHES OF MANY CELEBRITIES AND DEITIES.



HIS SKETCHES RANGE FROM BEING A FEW MILLIMETRES WIDE TO BEING ABOUT THREE FEET HIGH.



RAM HAS WON MANY AWARDS FOR HIS UNIQUE WORK, AND ALSO RECEIVED A MENTION ON MANN KI BAAT.



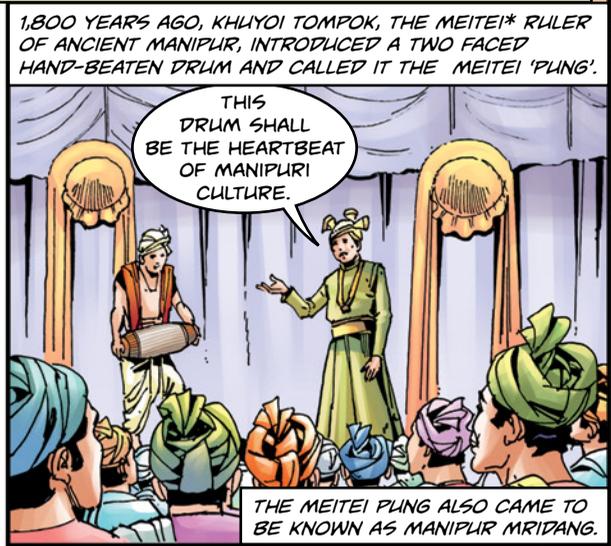
IN A DIGITAL WORLD, RAM'S INGENIOUS, INDEPENDENT-OF-TECHNOLOGY, ARTISTIC ABILITIES CONTINUE TO INSPIRE.



# SAIKHOM SURCHANDRA SINGH

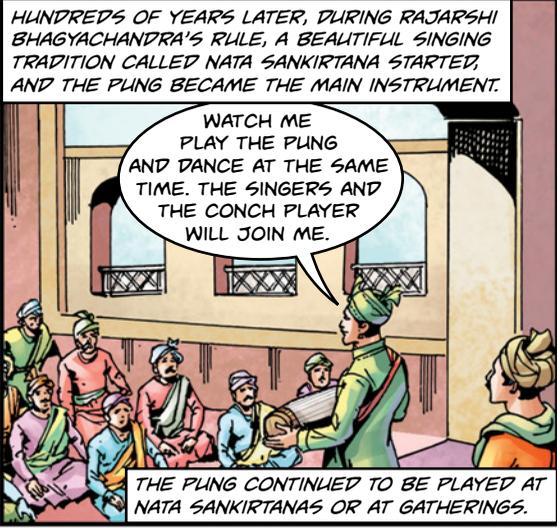


GATHER AROUND, EVERYONE. TODAY, I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT A YOUNG CRAFTSMAN WHO IS KEEPING MANIPURI TRADITIONS ALIVE BY REVIVING THE ART OF MAKING THE PUNG DRUM.



THIS DRUM SHALL BE THE HEARTBEAT OF MANIPURI CULTURE.

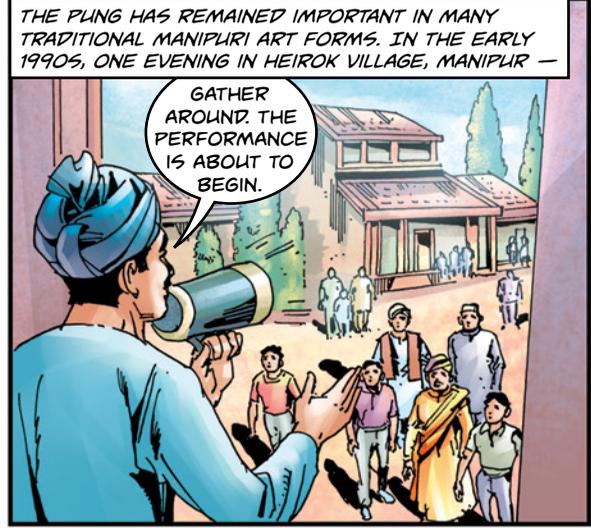
THE MEITEI PUNG ALSO CAME TO BE KNOWN AS MANIPUR MRIDANG.



HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER, DURING RAJARSHI BHAGYACHANDRA'S RULE, A BEAUTIFUL SINGING TRADITION CALLED NATA SANKIRTANA STARTED, AND THE PUNG BECAME THE MAIN INSTRUMENT.

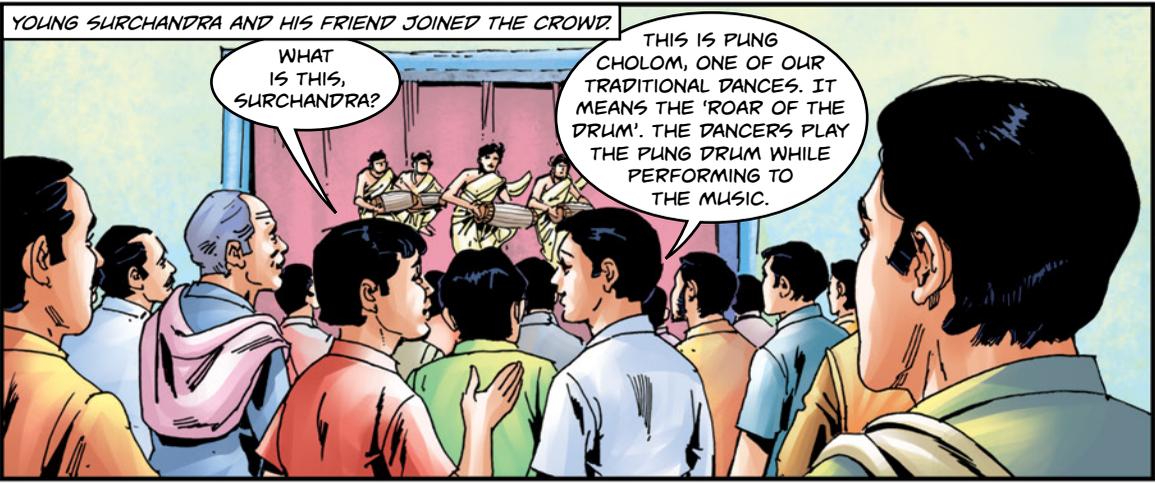
WATCH ME PLAY THE PUNG AND DANCE AT THE SAME TIME. THE SINGERS AND THE CONCH PLAYER WILL JOIN ME.

THE PUNG CONTINUED TO BE PLAYED AT NATA SANKIRTANAS OR AT GATHERINGS.



THE PUNG HAS REMAINED IMPORTANT IN MANY TRADITIONAL MANIPURI ART FORMS. IN THE EARLY 1990S, ONE EVENING IN HEIROK VILLAGE, MANIPUR —

GATHER AROUND. THE PERFORMANCE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

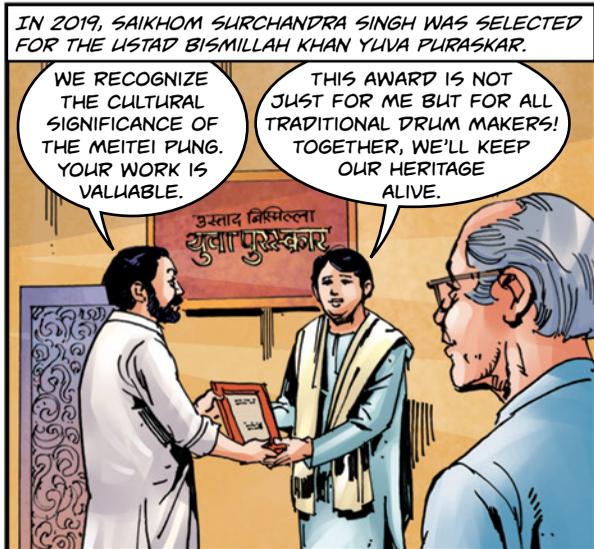
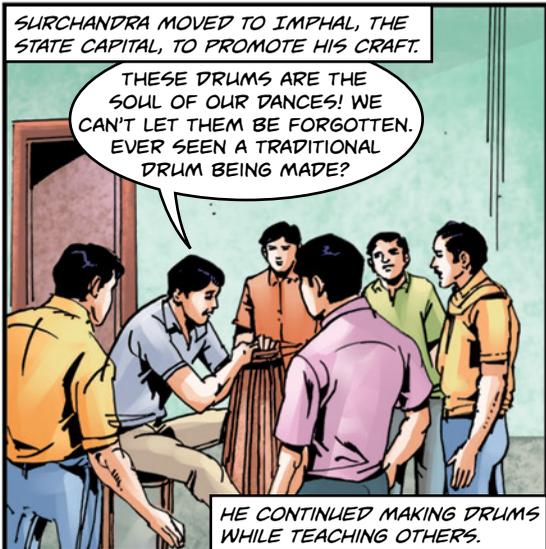
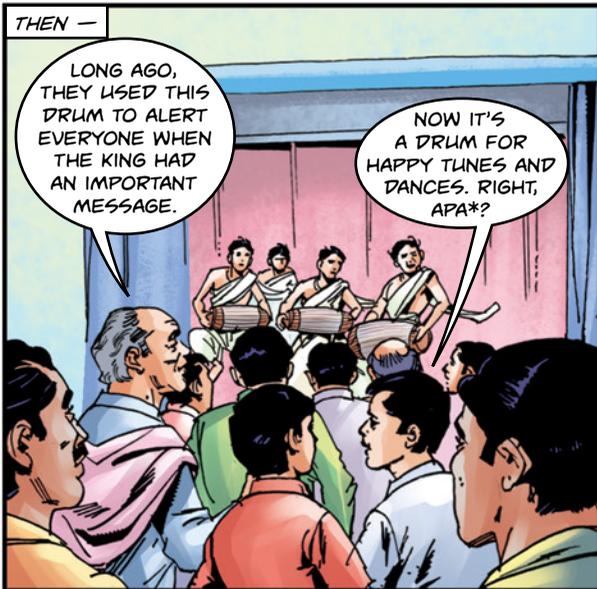


YOUNG SURCHANDRA AND HIS FRIEND JOINED THE CROWD.

WHAT IS THIS, SURCHANDRA?

THIS IS PUNG CHOLOM, ONE OF OUR TRADITIONAL DANCES. IT MEANS THE 'ROAR OF THE DRUM'. THE DANCERS PLAY THE PUNG DRUM WHILE PERFORMING TO THE MUSIC.

\*NATIVE GROUP OF MANIPUR



\*GRANDFATHER

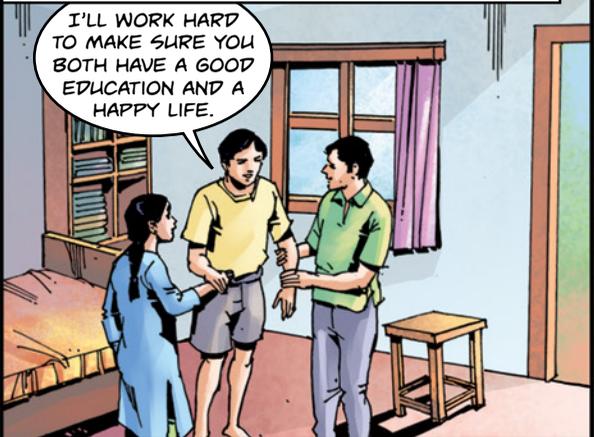
# SANTOSH SINGH NEGI



SIR, IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO DO SIMPLE THINGS AFTER HURTING MY HAND.

DO NOT LET AN INJURY STOP YOU, SHREYAS. LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT SANTOSH SINGH NEGI, A TEACHER WHO HAS HELPED OTHERS AND ACHIEVED A LOT, DESPITE HIS DISABILITY.

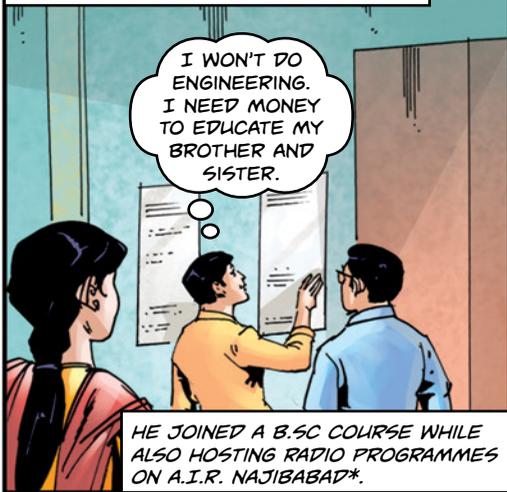
SANTOSH WAS BORN WITH SHORT AND WEAK LIMBS. AFTER LOSING HIS PARENTS WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE LOOKED AFTER HIS YOUNGER SIBLINGS.



I'LL WORK HARD TO MAKE SURE YOU BOTH HAVE A GOOD EDUCATION AND A HAPPY LIFE.

IN GRADE 11, SANTOSH STARTED TUTORING YOUNGER KIDS TO SUPPORT HIS FAMILY.

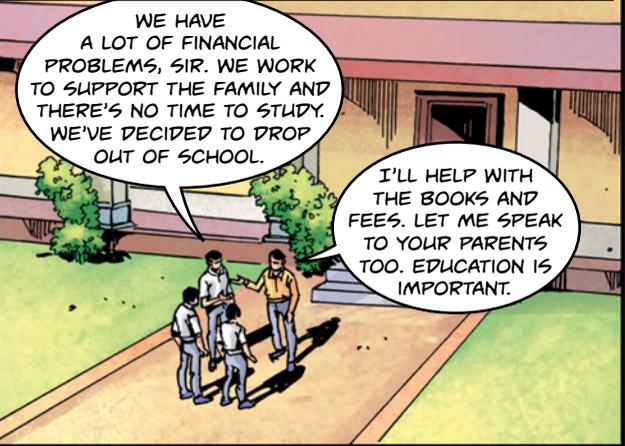
THE FOLLOWING YEAR, HE PASSED THE U.P. STATE ENGINEERING EXAM, BUT —



I WON'T DO ENGINEERING. I NEED MONEY TO EDUCATE MY BROTHER AND SISTER.

HE JOINED A B.SC COURSE WHILE ALSO HOSTING RADIO PROGRAMMES ON A.I.R. NAJIBABAD\*.

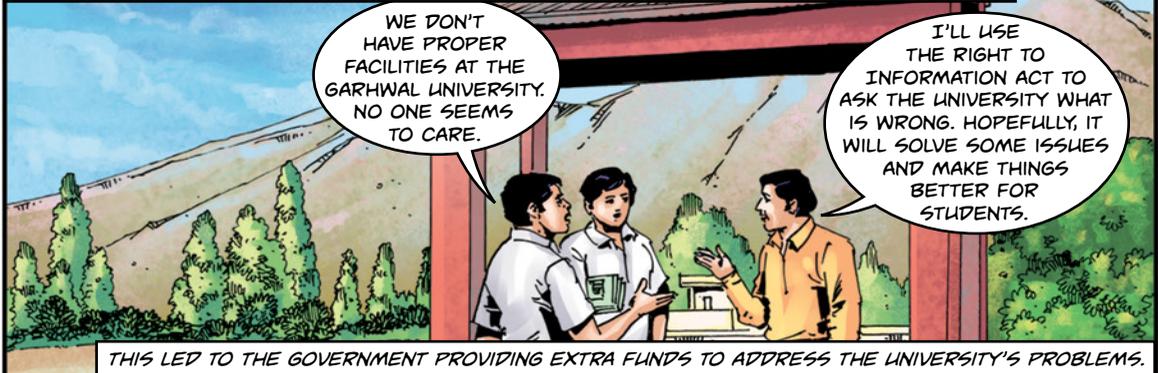
AFTER EARNING HIS POSTGRADUATE DEGREE WITH A SCHOLARSHIP AND COMPLETING A DEGREE IN EDUCATION, IN 2005, HE BECAME A TEACHER AT GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE, KOTDWAR. A FEW YEARS LATER —



WE HAVE A LOT OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, SIR. WE WORK TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY AND THERE'S NO TIME TO STUDY. WE'VE DECIDED TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL.

I'LL HELP WITH THE BOOKS AND FEES. LET ME SPEAK TO YOUR PARENTS TOO. EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT.

HAVING BEEN IN THEIR SHOES, SANTOSH ALWAYS SUPPORTED STRUGGLING STUDENTS. IN 2011 —



WE DON'T HAVE PROPER FACILITIES AT THE GARHWAL UNIVERSITY. NO ONE SEEMS TO CARE.

I'LL USE THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT TO ASK THE UNIVERSITY WHAT IS WRONG. HOPEFULLY, IT WILL SOLVE SOME ISSUES AND MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR STUDENTS.

THIS LED TO THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDING EXTRA FUNDS TO ADDRESS THE UNIVERSITY'S PROBLEMS.

\*A TOWN IN UTTAR PRADESH



IN 2011, SANTOSH WAS HONOURED WITH THE 'MIND OF STEEL BRAVERY' AWARD FROM THE GODFREY PHILLIPS FOUNDATION.

WELL DONE, SANTOSH JI. YOUR CONCERN FOR OTHERS WELLBEING IS APPRECIABLE. YOUR BRAVE ACTION ENSURED THAT THE STUDENTS GOT THE FACILITIES DUE TO THEM.

THANK YOU, SIR. I WANT TO PROVE THAT HURDLES CANNOT STOP A PERSON FROM MOVING FORWARD.

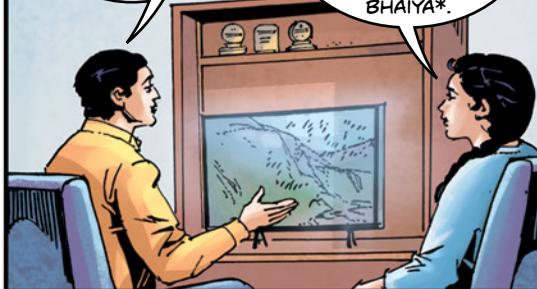


OVER THE YEARS, SANTOSH'S INTEREST IN WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY GREW STRONGER.

IN UTTARAKHAND, THE MONSOONS REGULARLY CAUSED FLOODS AND DAMAGE. IN THE SUMMER, THERE WERE WATER SHORTAGES AND THE GROUNDWATER LEVELS DROPPED. IN 2016 —

REKHA, IMAGINE IF WE COULD CAPTURE ALL THAT WATER FLOWING DOWN OUR HILL SLOPES? NO MORE WATER SHORTAGES!

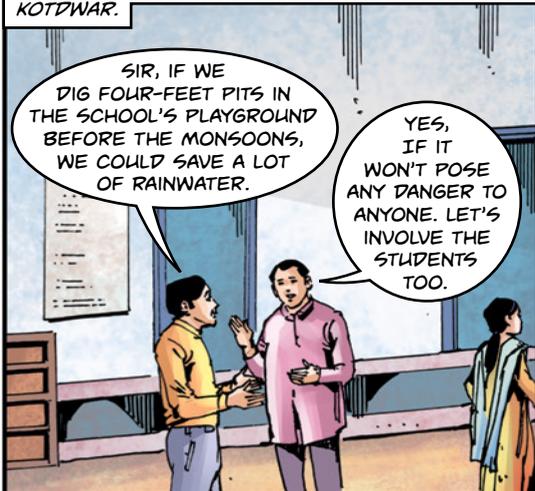
WITH MORE PEOPLE MOVING INTO KOTDWAR CITY FROM VILLAGES, THE DEMAND FOR WATER KEEPS RISING, BHAIYA\*.



SANTOSH APPROACHED JAGMOHAN SINGH RAWAT, THE PRINCIPAL OF GOVERNMENT INTER COLLEGE, KOTDWAR.

SIR, IF WE DIG FOUR-FEET PITS IN THE SCHOOL'S PLAYGROUND BEFORE THE MONSOONS, WE COULD SAVE A LOT OF RAINWATER.

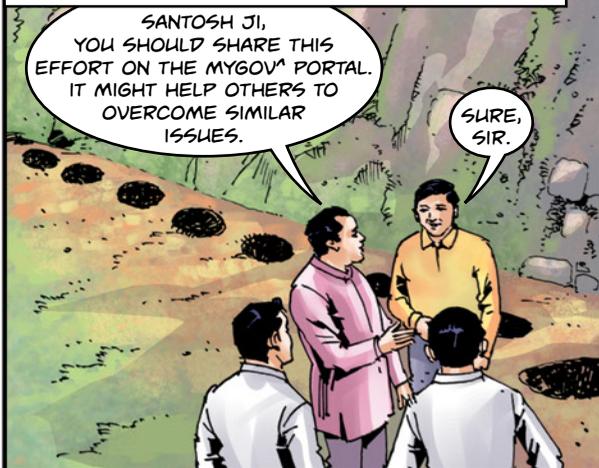
YES, IF IT WON'T POSE ANY DANGER TO ANYONE. LET'S INVOLVE THE STUDENTS TOO.



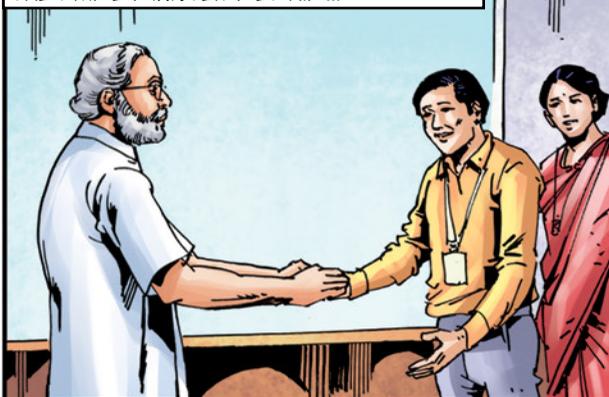
WITH STUDENTS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING, 250 SMALL PITS WERE DUG ALONG THE PLAYGROUND'S SIDE, TO COLLECT RAINWATER AND PREVENT FLOODING.

SANTOSH JI, YOU SHOULD SHARE THIS EFFORT ON THE MYGOV\* PORTAL. IT MIGHT HELP OTHERS TO OVERCOME SIMILAR ISSUES.

SURE, SIR.



SANTOSH'S POST GOT PM MODI'S ATTENTION. THE PRIME MINISTER MET HIM...



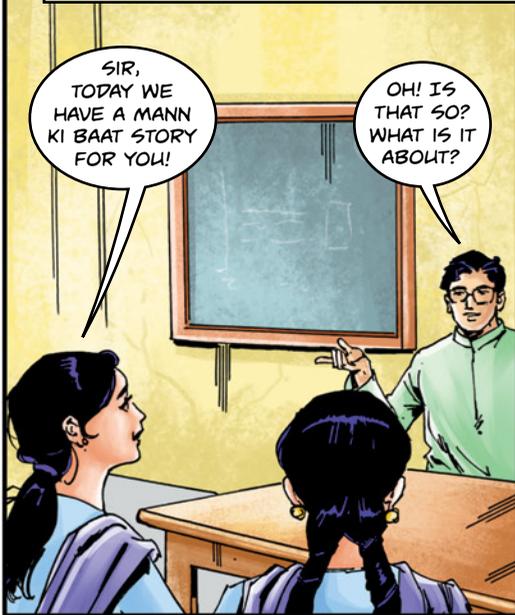
...AND HIGHLIGHTED, ON MANN KI BAAT, HIS STORY AS AN INSPIRED INITIATIVE THAT SAVES WATER IN VILLAGES AND CITIES.



\*BROTHER IN HINDI

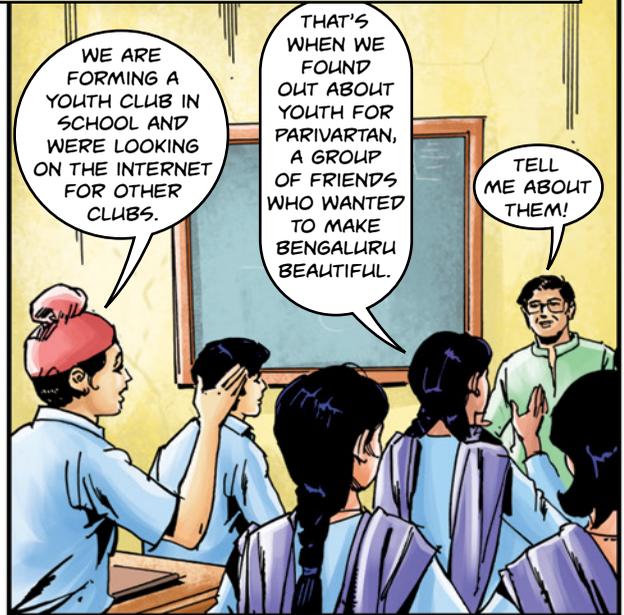
\*GOVERNMENT'S CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

# YOUTH FOR PARIVARTHAN



SIR, TODAY WE HAVE A MANN KI BAAT STORY FOR YOU!

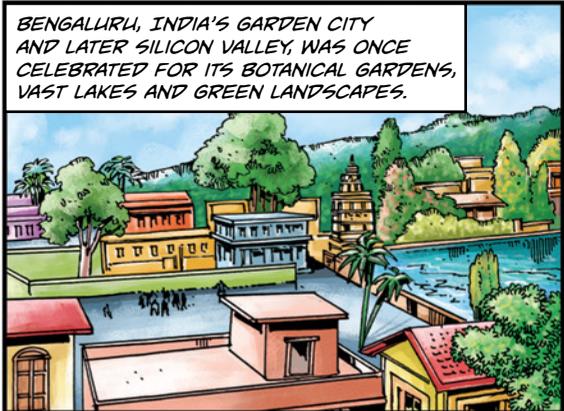
OH! IS THAT SO? WHAT IS IT ABOUT?



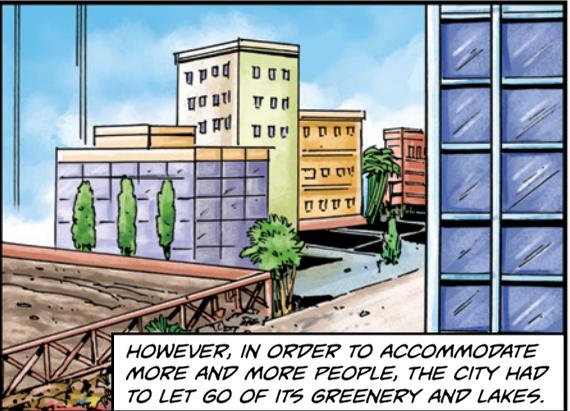
WE ARE FORMING A YOUTH CLUB IN SCHOOL AND WERE LOOKING ON THE INTERNET FOR OTHER CLUBS.

THAT'S WHEN WE FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUTH FOR PARIVARTHAN, A GROUP OF FRIENDS WHO WANTED TO MAKE BENGALURU BEAUTIFUL.

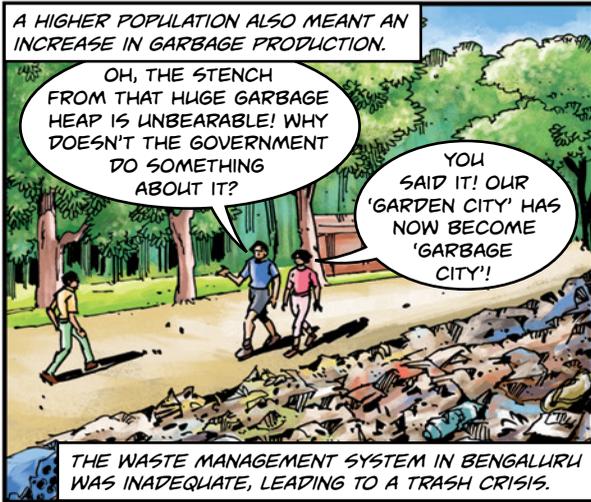
TELL ME ABOUT THEM!



BENGALURU, INDIA'S GARDEN CITY AND LATER SILICON VALLEY, WAS ONCE CELEBRATED FOR ITS BOTANICAL GARDENS, VAST LAKES AND GREEN LANDSCAPES.



HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE, THE CITY HAD TO LET GO OF ITS GREENERY AND LAKES.

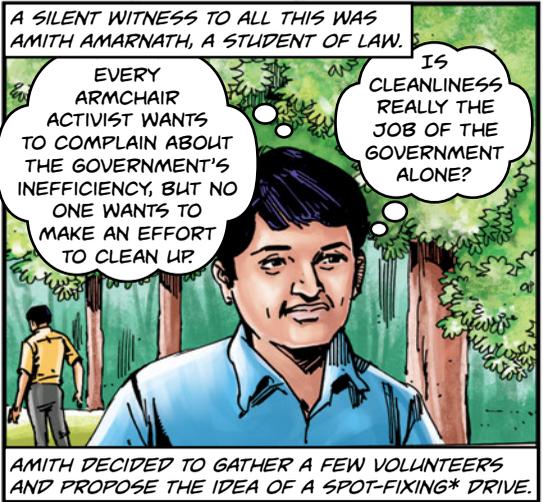


A HIGHER POPULATION ALSO MEANT AN INCREASE IN GARBAGE PRODUCTION.

OH, THE STENCH FROM THAT HUGE GARBAGE HEAP IS UNBEARABLE! WHY DOESN'T THE GOVERNMENT DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

YOU SAID IT! OUR 'GARDEN CITY' HAS NOW BECOME 'GARBAGE CITY'!

THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN BENGALURU WAS INADEQUATE, LEADING TO A TRASH CRISIS.



A SILENT WITNESS TO ALL THIS WAS AMITH AMARNATH, A STUDENT OF LAW.

EVERY ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST WANTS TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S INEFFICIENCY, BUT NO ONE WANTS TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO CLEAN UP!

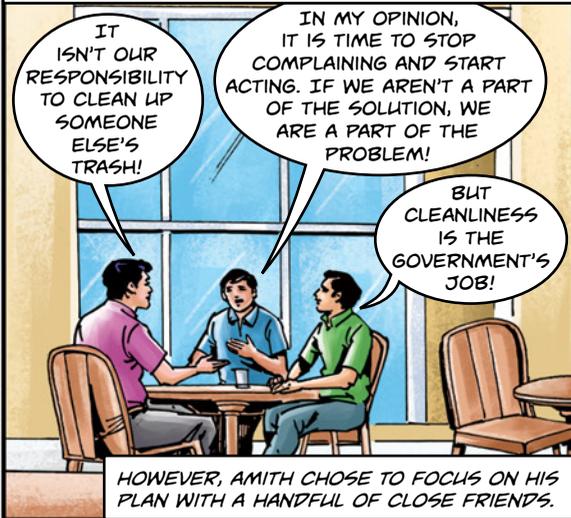
IS CLEANLINESS REALLY THE JOB OF THE GOVERNMENT ALONE?

AMITH DECIDED TO GATHER A FEW VOLUNTEERS AND PROPOSE THE IDEA OF A SPOT-FIXING\* DRIVE.

\*IDENTIFYING UNCLEAN PARTS OF THE CITY, CLEARING THEM UP AND THEN BEAUTIFYING THEM



BUT WHEN HE EXPLAINED HIS IDEA, HE REALISED THAT VOLUNTEERS WERE FEW, AND NAYSAYERS WERE MANY.



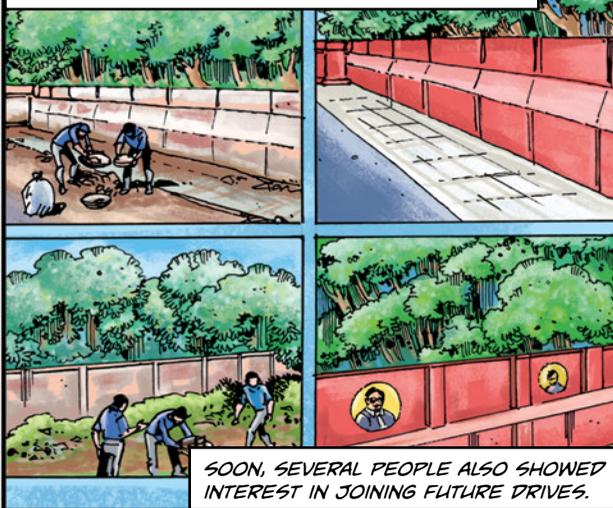
HOWEVER, AMITH CHOSE TO FOCUS ON HIS PLAN WITH A HANDFUL OF CLOSE FRIENDS.

SOON, THEY EXECUTED THEIR FIRST PROJECT — THAT OF CLEANING UP THE GARBAGE DUMP AMITH HAD NOTICED IN THE PARK AT BANASHANKARI\*.



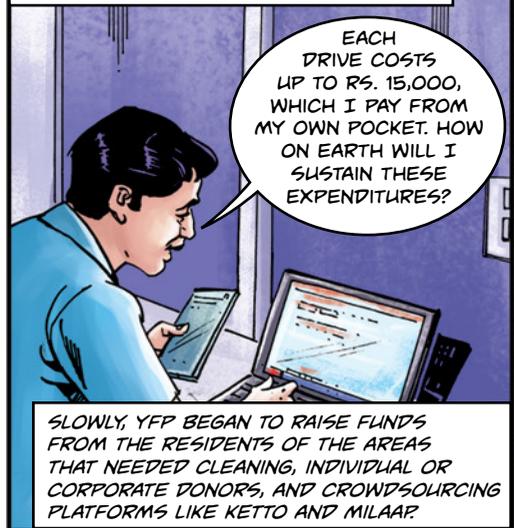
AMITH SHARED BEFORE-AND-AFTER PICTURES ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND RECEIVED A LOT OF APPRECIATION.

AMITH THEN DECIDED TO SET UP AN NGO FOR THE CAUSE, AND "YOUTH FOR PARIVARTHAN" (YFP) WAS BORN, JUST FIVE MONTHS BEFORE THE SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN WAS INTRODUCED.



SOON, SEVERAL PEOPLE ALSO SHOWED INTEREST IN JOINING FUTURE DRIVES.

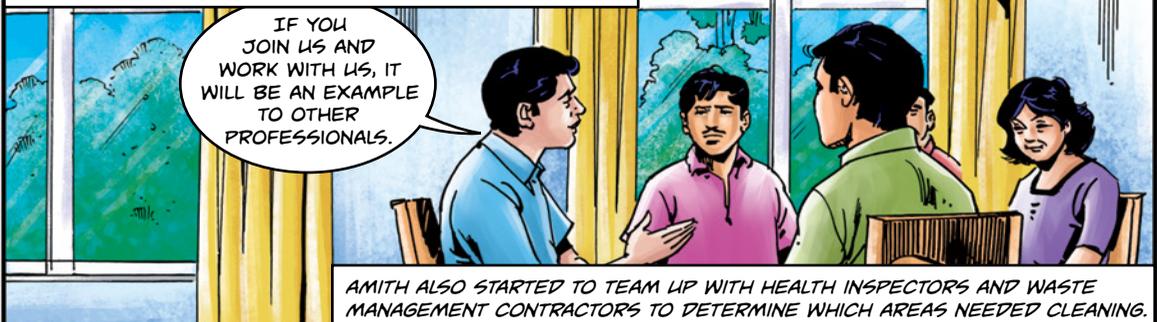
HOWEVER, SPRUCING UP PUBLIC PLACES REQUIRED EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS PAINTS, GLOVES, SHOVELS, BROOMS AND MASKS.



EACH DRIVE COSTS UP TO RS. 15,000, WHICH I PAY FROM MY OWN POCKET. HOW ON EARTH WILL I SUSTAIN THESE EXPENDITURES?

SLOWLY, YFP BEGAN TO RAISE FUNDS FROM THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREAS THAT NEEDED CLEANING, INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE DONORS, AND CROWDSOURCING PLATFORMS LIKE KETTO AND MILAAP.

TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION FROM PROFESSIONALS, YFP BEGAN ORGANISING SPOT-FIXING DRIVES ON SUNDAYS.



IF YOU JOIN US AND WORK WITH US, IT WILL BE AN EXAMPLE TO OTHER PROFESSIONALS.

AMITH ALSO STARTED TO TEAM UP WITH HEALTH INSPECTORS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACTORS TO DETERMINE WHICH AREAS NEEDED CLEANING.

\*AN AREA SPREAD OVER SOUTH AND WEST BENGALURU

\*CHANGE IN HINDI

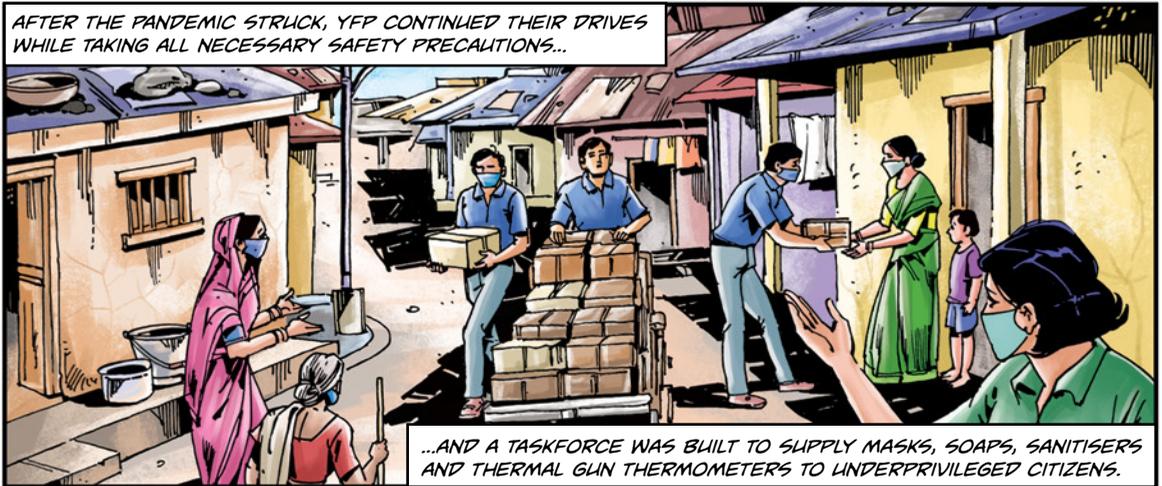
YFP LEVERAGES SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS LIKE FACEBOOK AND WHATSAPP TO SPREAD WORD ABOUT UPCOMING DRIVES.



HEY, LOOK, THE NEXT DRIVE IS HAPPENING IN OUR AREA ON THE 25TH. LET'S ALL GO FOR IT!

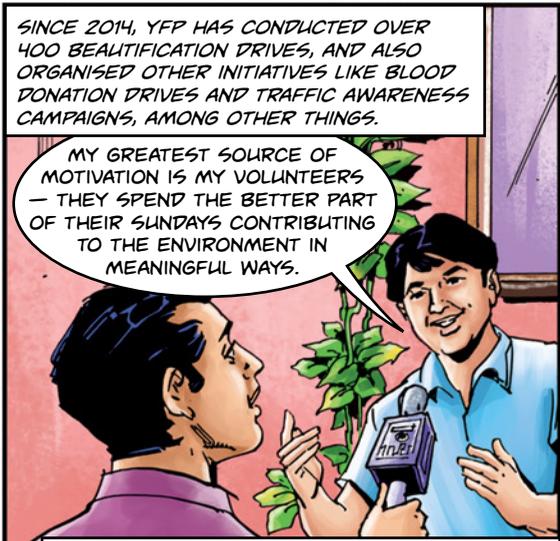
OH YES!

AFTER THE PANDEMIC STRUCK, YFP CONTINUED THEIR DRIVES WHILE TAKING ALL NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS...



...AND A TASKFORCE WAS BUILT TO SUPPLY MASKS, SOAPS, SANITISERS AND THERMAL GUN THERMOMETERS TO UNDERPRIVILEGED CITIZENS.

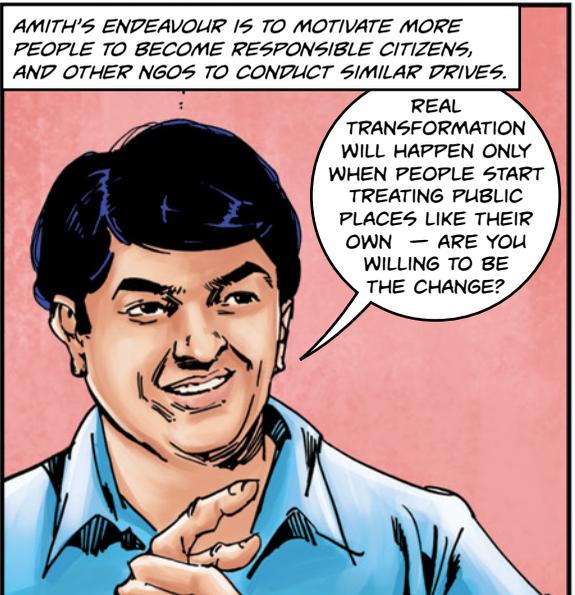
SINCE 2014, YFP HAS CONDUCTED OVER 400 BEAUTIFICATION DRIVES, AND ALSO ORGANISED OTHER INITIATIVES LIKE BLOOD DONATION DRIVES AND TRAFFIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.



MY GREATEST SOURCE OF MOTIVATION IS MY VOLUNTEERS — THEY SPEND THE BETTER PART OF THEIR SUNDAYS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN MEANINGFUL WAYS.

YFP ALSO PROVIDES HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.

AMITH'S ENDEAVOUR IS TO MOTIVATE MORE PEOPLE TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS, AND OTHER NGOS TO CONDUCT SIMILAR DRIVES.



REAL TRANSFORMATION WILL HAPPEN ONLY WHEN PEOPLE START TREATING PUBLIC PLACES LIKE THEIR OWN — ARE YOU WILLING TO BE THE CHANGE?





# MANN KI BAAT

VOL. 12

In these times with unlimited resources for learning, answers to most questions can be found easily. However, most people do not use this information to solve problems around themselves.

The twelfth volume of Mann ki Baat tells stories of people who were determined to convert their knowledge and efforts into results.

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