



MANN KI BAAT

VOL.5



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Dear Children,

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

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

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

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

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

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

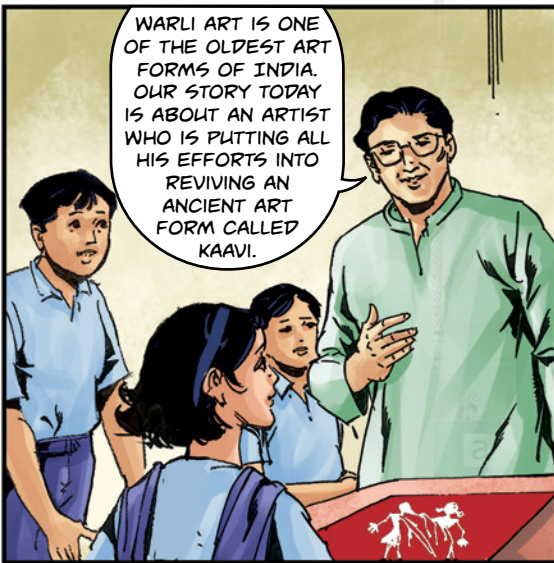
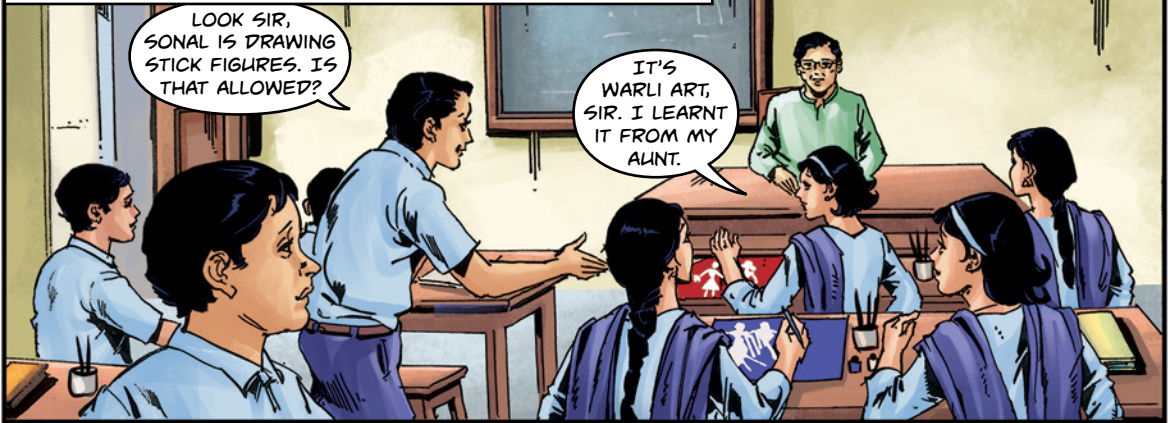


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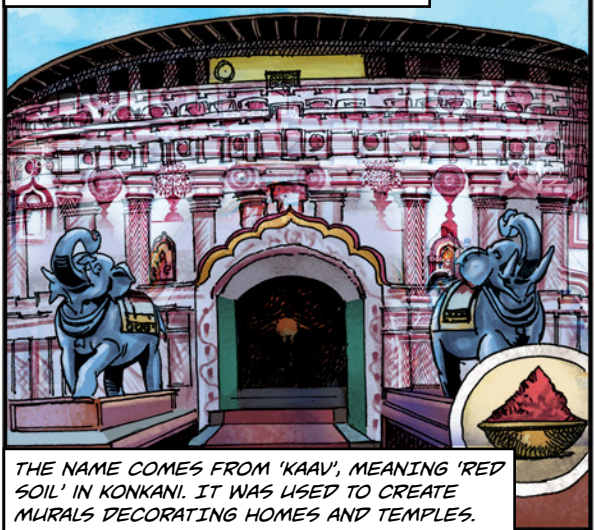
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SAGAR NAIK MULE

IT WAS ART CLASS AND EVERYONE WAS BUSY BEING CREATIVE —



KAAVI IS FROM THE KONKAN* REGION.



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



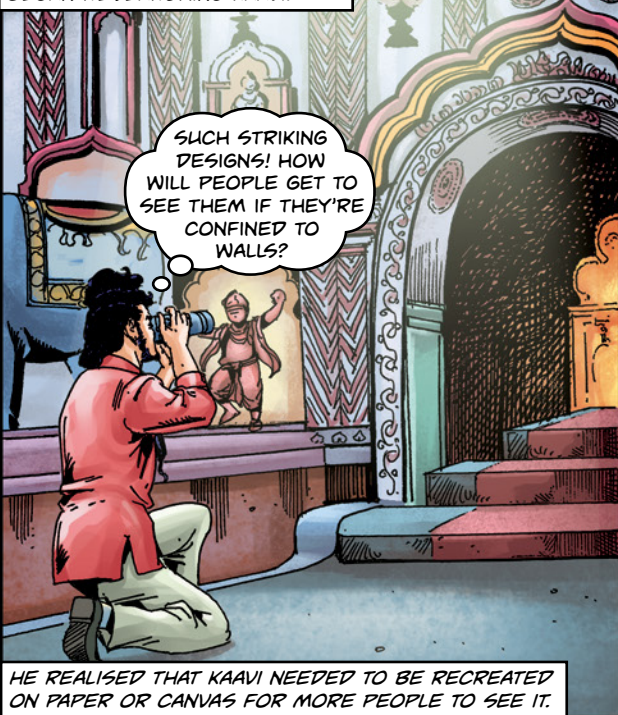
*AREA ALONG THE WESTERN COASTS OF GOA, KARNATAKA AND MAHARASHTRA

WHILE STUDYING FINE ARTS AT A COLLEGE IN HYDERABAD —



MANY ANCIENT ART FORMS IN OUR COUNTRY ARE FAST VANISHING. KAAVI IS AMONG THEM.

AFTER POST GRADUATION, SAGAR BEGAN RESEARCHING KAAVI.



SUCH STRIKING DESIGNS! HOW WILL PEOPLE GET TO SEE THEM IF THEY'RE CONFINED TO WALLS?

HE REALISED THAT KAAVI NEEDED TO BE RECREATED ON PAPER OR CANVAS FOR MORE PEOPLE TO SEE IT.

IN 2020, JUST BEFORE THE FESTIVAL OF NAVARATRI —



THE FESTIVAL HAS COME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN. MAYBE I CAN SPREAD SOME CHEER WITH MY ART.

SAGAR STARTED CREATING KAAVI ART ON PAPER. THE SUBJECT OF IT WAS THE KULADEVIS* OF GOA.



BY USING SOIL TO PAINT THEM, I'M HONOURING NATURE AND GOD.

WHEN HE POSTED HIS ART ON SOCIAL MEDIA, IT RECEIVED MUCH APPRECIATION.

*CLAN GODDESSES

SINCE THEN, SAGAR HAS MADE MANY MORE KAAVI PAINTINGS.

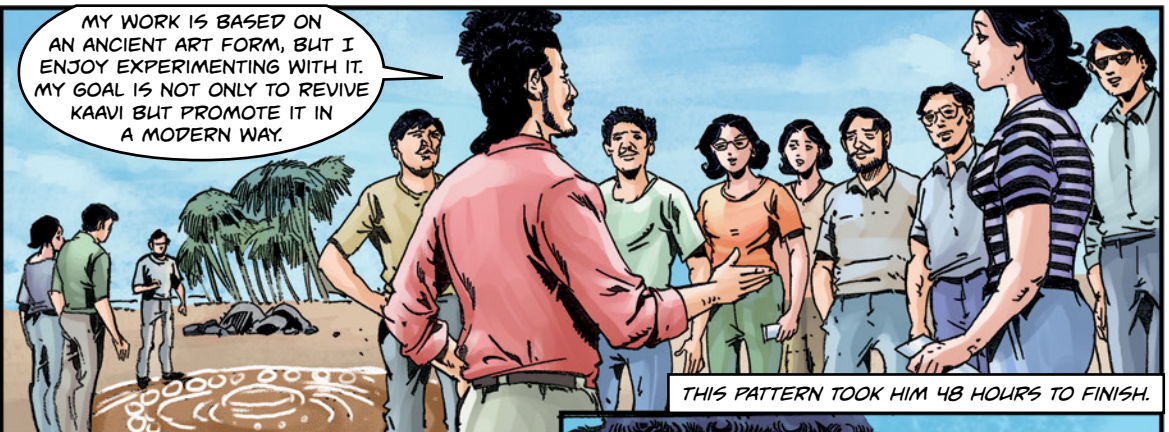


IN 2023, INDIA BECAME THE HOST COUNTRY FOR THE 620 SUMMIT*. IN HONOUR OF THIS, SAGAR CREATED A BEAUTIFUL DISPLAY OF ART AT MIRAMAR BEACH, GOA.



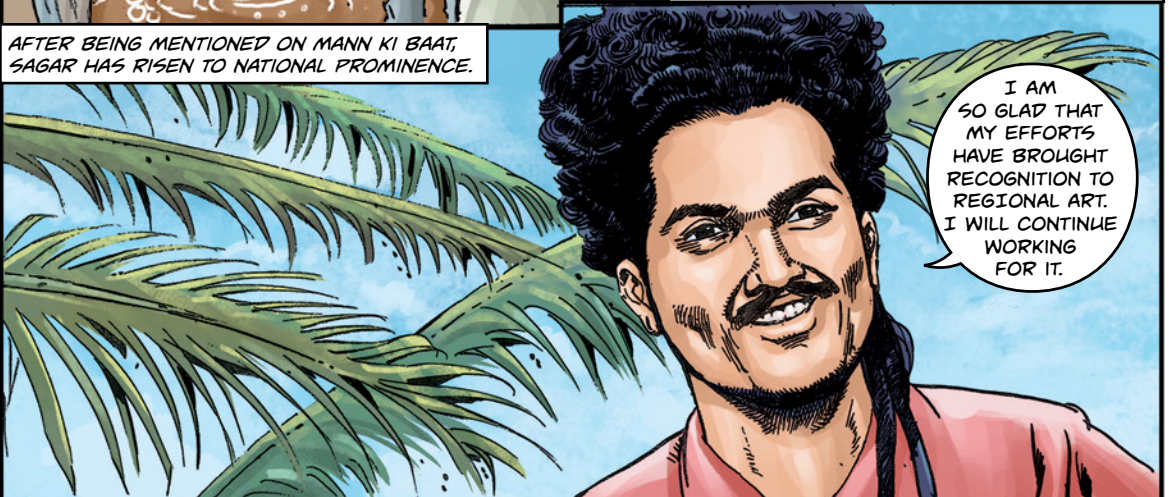
THIS WAS A KAAVI PATTERN CALLED THE 'FLOWER OF LIFE'.

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



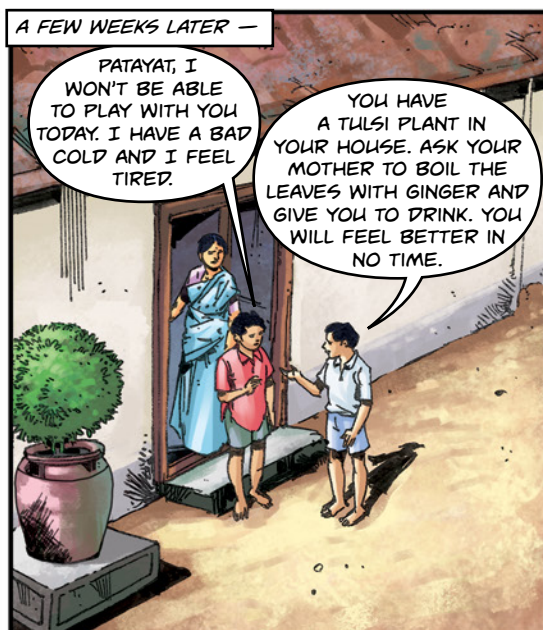
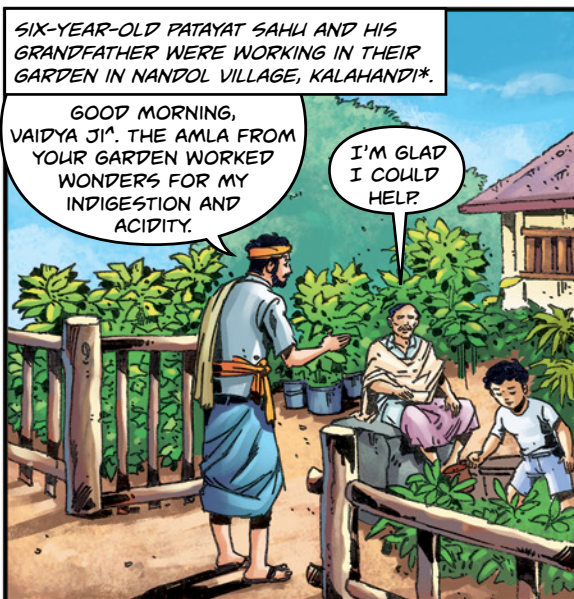
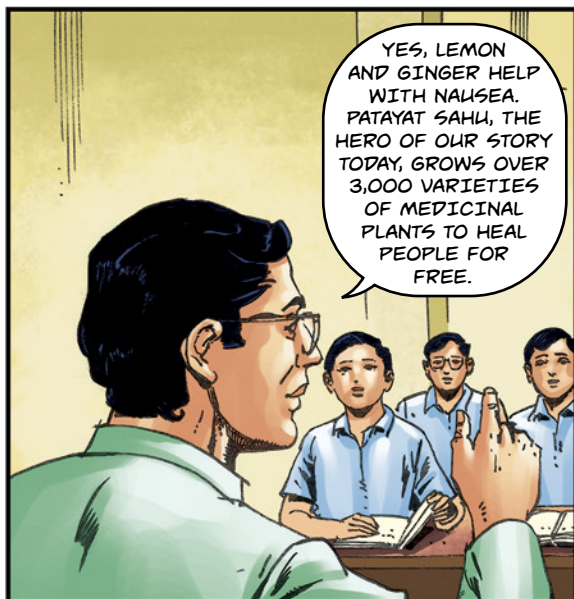
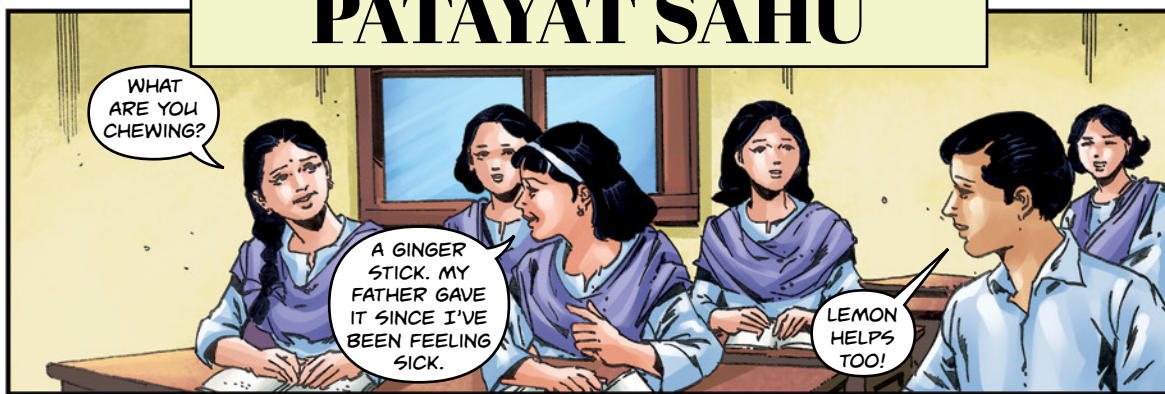
THIS PATTERN TOOK HIM 48 HOURS TO FINISH.

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

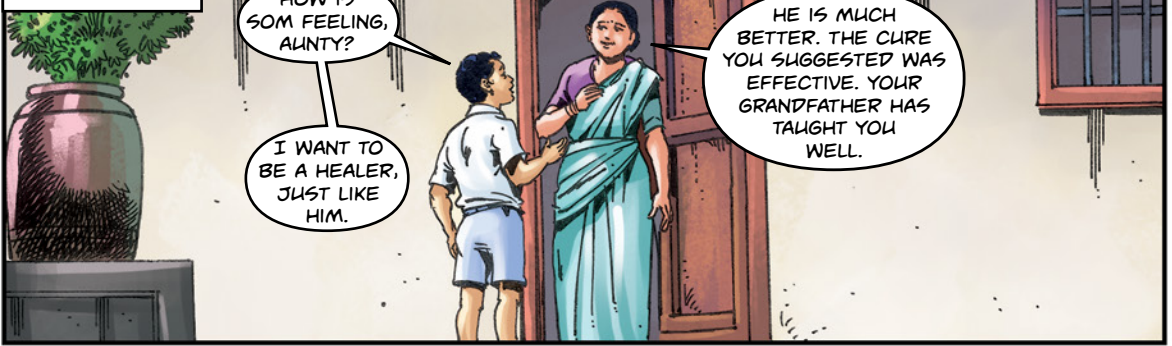


*FORUM FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN MANY COUNTRIES

PATAYAT SAHU



THE NEXT DAY —



HOW IS
SOM FEELING,
AUNT?

I WANT TO
BE A HEALER,
JUST LIKE
HIM.

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

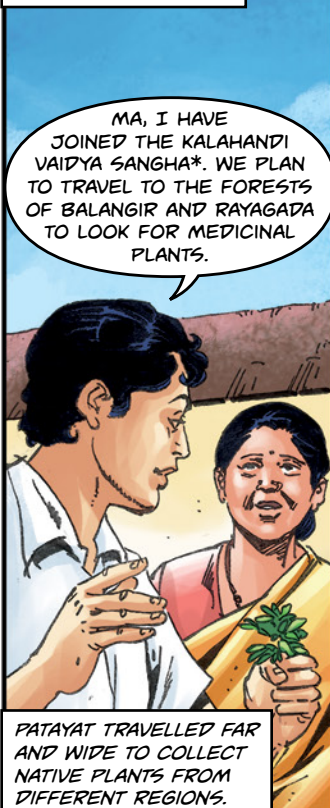
AS HE GREW UP PATAYAT SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME READING BOOKS ON AYURVEDA AND TRADITIONAL HEALING. ONE DAY —



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

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

A FEW DAYS LATER —



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

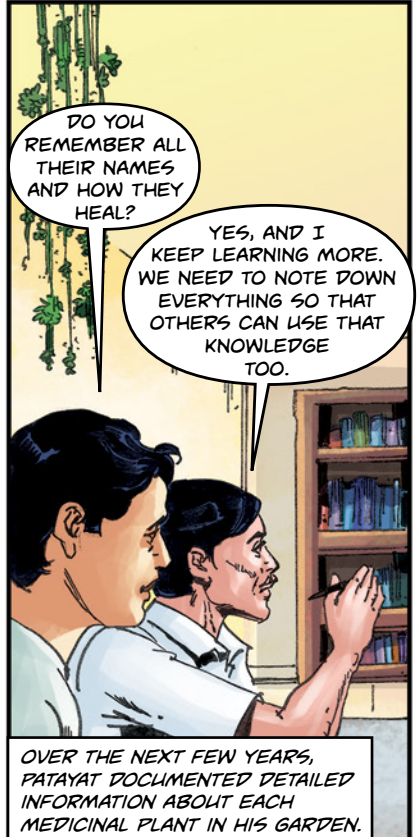
PATAYAT TRAVELLED FAR
AND WIDE TO COLLECT
NATIVE PLANTS FROM
DIFFERENT REGIONS.

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



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

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



DO YOU
REMEMBER ALL
THEIR NAMES
AND HOW THEY
HEAL?

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

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

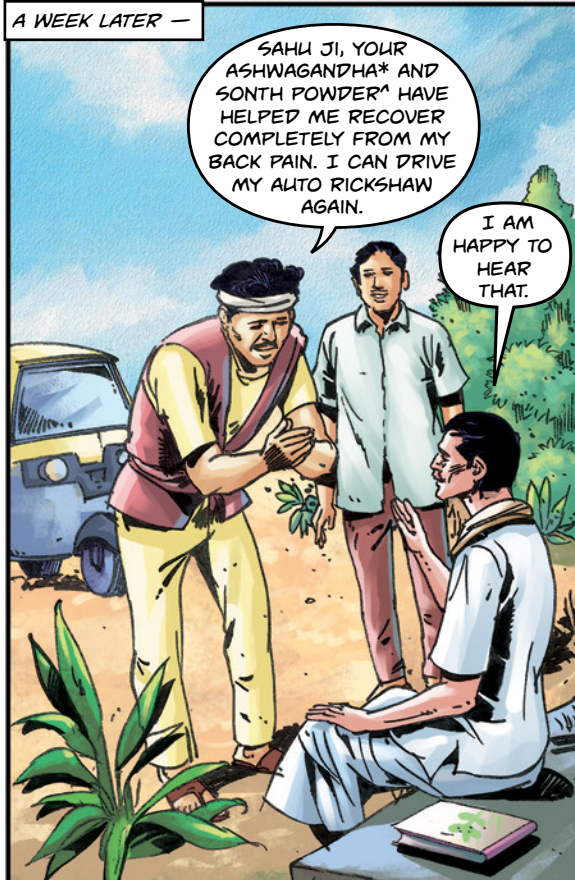
*A COLLECTIVE OF TRADITIONAL HEALERS IN KALAHANDI DISTRICT

*FATHER IN ODIA

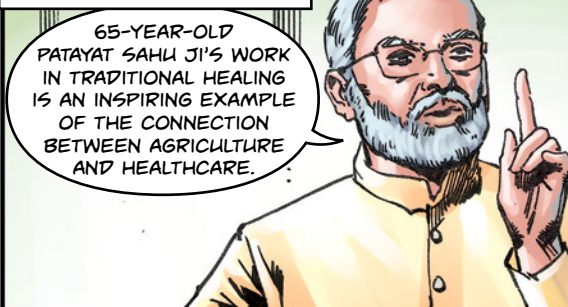
PATAYAT CONTINUED TO WORK AS A FARMER DURING THE DAY AND A VAIDYA AT NIGHT. ONE EVENING —



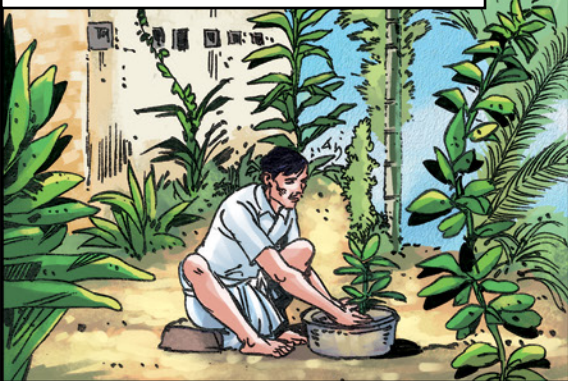
A WEEK LATER —



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



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

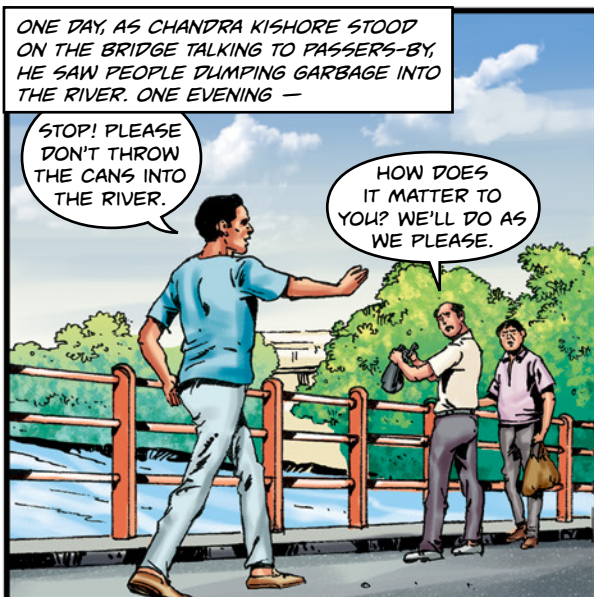
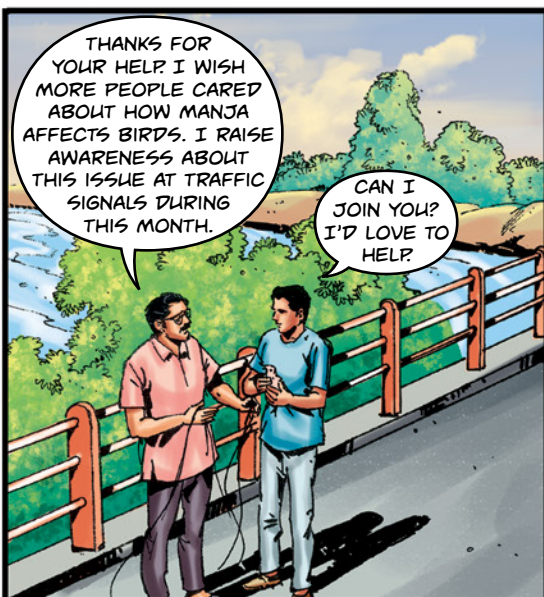
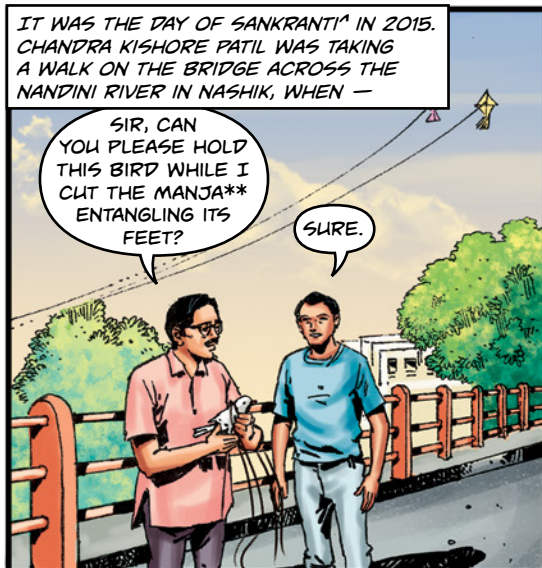
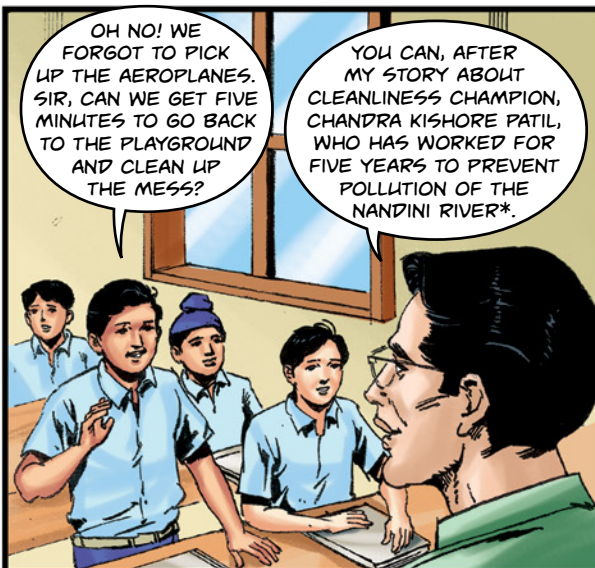


*HEALING HERB

^HERBAL POWDER WITH DRIED GINGER

CHANDRA KISHORE PATIL

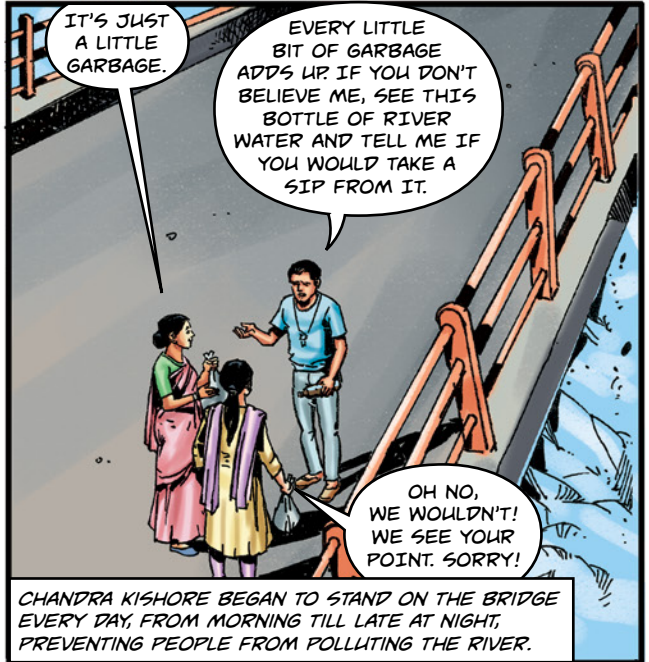
IT WAS RECESS AND THE CHILDREN WERE BUSY PLAYING WITH PAPER PLANES.



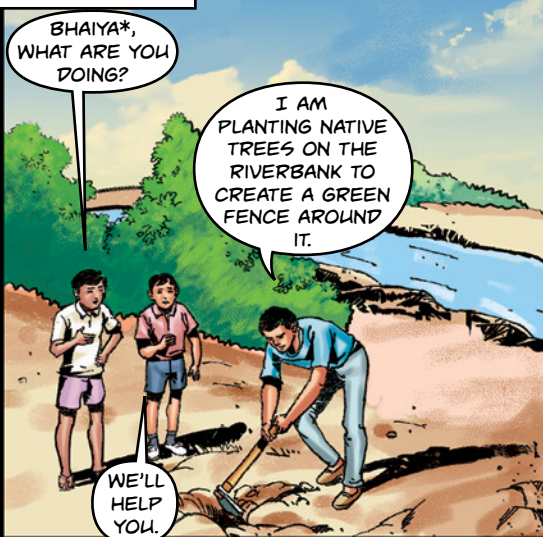
*A TRIBUTARY OF THE GODAVARI RIVER
†HINDU FESTIVAL

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

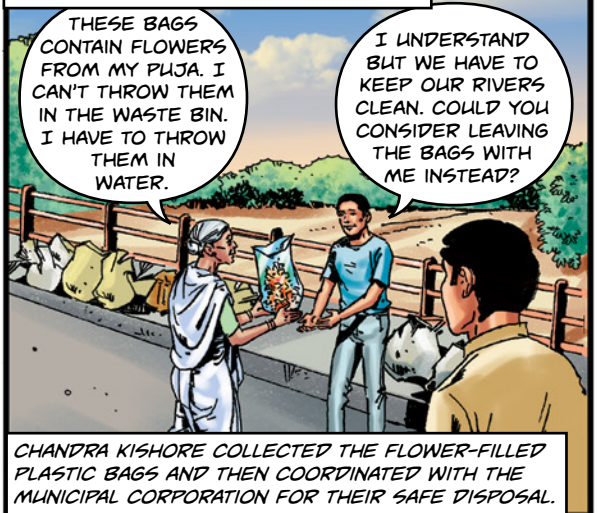
THE INCIDENT DEEPLY DISTURBED CHANDRA KISHORE. ARMED WITH A WHISTLE, HE WALKED TO THE BRIDGE EARLY NEXT MORNING —



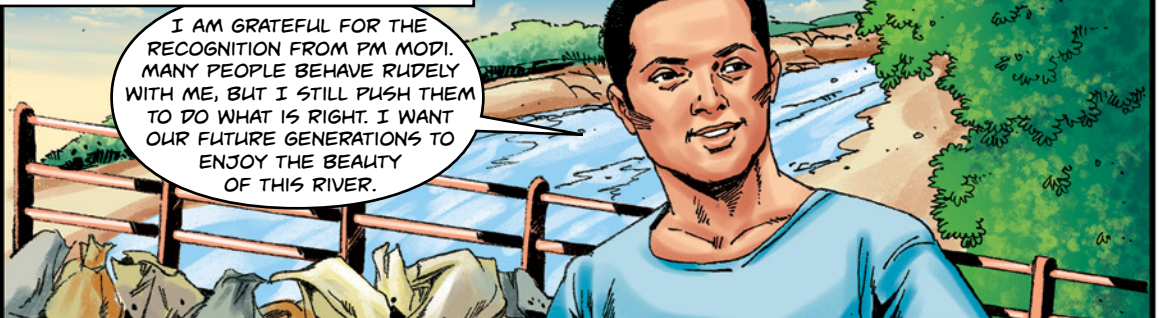
A YEAR LATER —



DURING DUSSEHRA*, CHANDRA KISHORE ENCOUNTERED FRESH CHALLENGES.



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



*BROTHER IN HINDI

*HINDU FESTIVAL

JATIN LALIT SINGH

THERE WAS MUCH EXCITEMENT IN THE CLASS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO.

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

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

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

THAT IS A GOOD THOUGHT. WE WILL SUPPORT YOU.

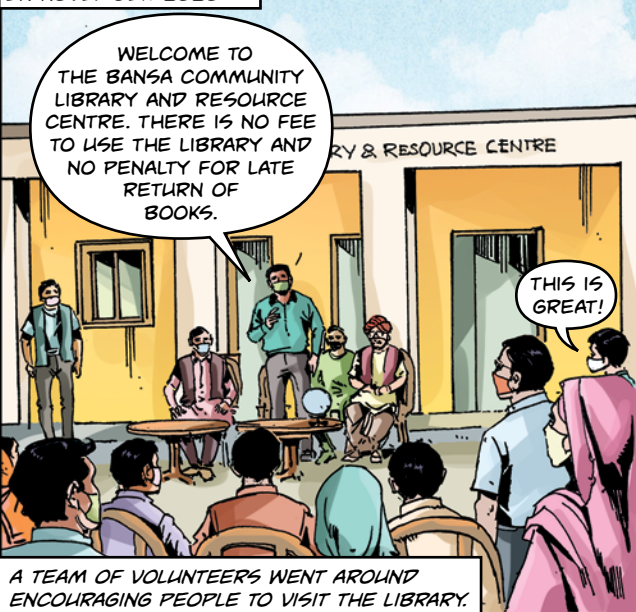
JATIN DECIDED TO FIND A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION.

*A DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH
*BROTHER IN HINDI

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



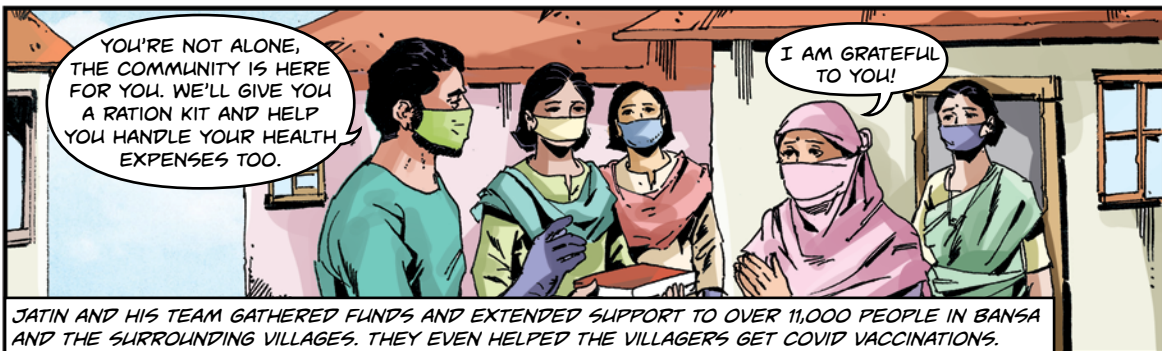
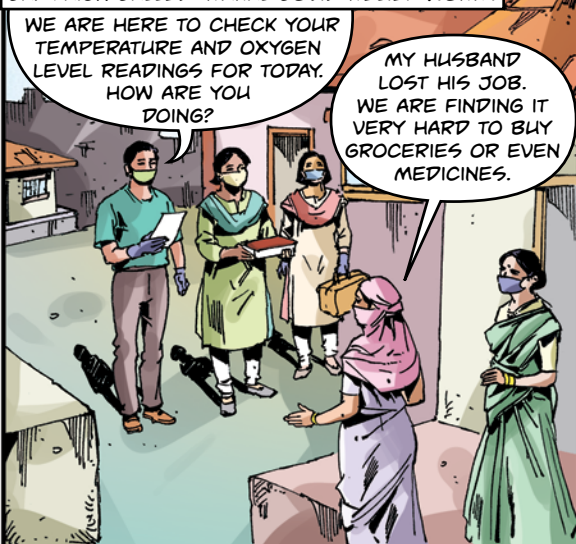
IN NOVEMBER 2020 —



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



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



MANY MONTHS LATER, WHEN
NORMALCY RETURNED —

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

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



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

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

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

ABSOLUTELY!
WE WILL
HELP YOU.



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

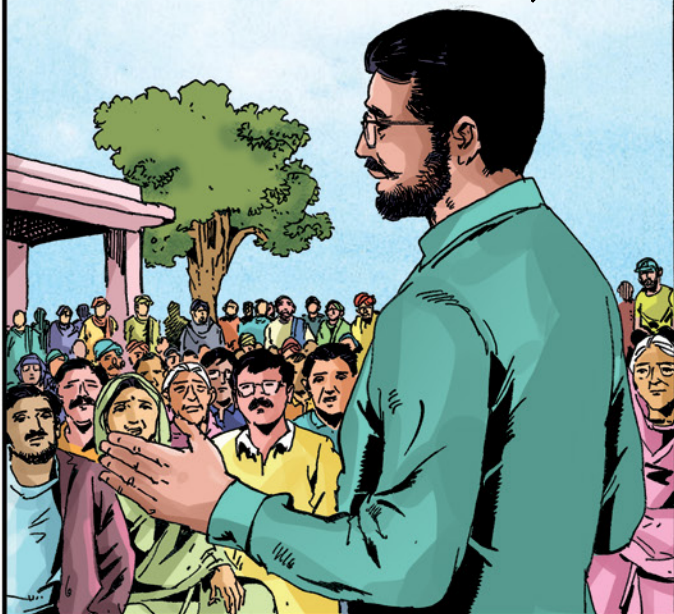
JATIN'S EFFORTS WERE PRAISED
BY PM NARENDRA MODI, ON HIS
PROGRAMME, MANN KI BAAT.

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



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

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



ROHAN KALE

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

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

HEY, WHAT'S THIS?

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

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

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

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

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

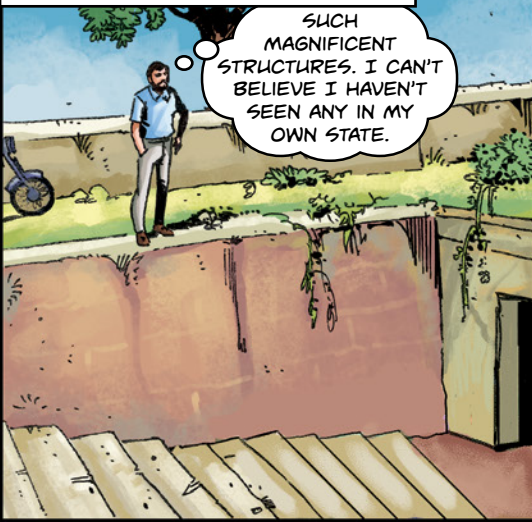
THE ARCHITECTURE IS SO INTRICATE. SIR, WOULD YOU KNOW HOW OLD IT IS?

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

*WELLS OR PONDS WITH LONG FLIGHTS OF STEPS LEADING DOWN TO GROUNDWATER LEVEL

†GOVERNOR OF PUNJAB IN THE 16TH CENTURY

ROHAN VISITED MORE STEPWELLS AND SOON BEGAN TO WONDER ABOUT THE STEPWELLS OF MAHARASHTRA.



SUCH MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURES. I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY IN MY OWN STATE.

THE THOUGHT GREW INTO AN IDEA AND FINALLY IN 2020 —

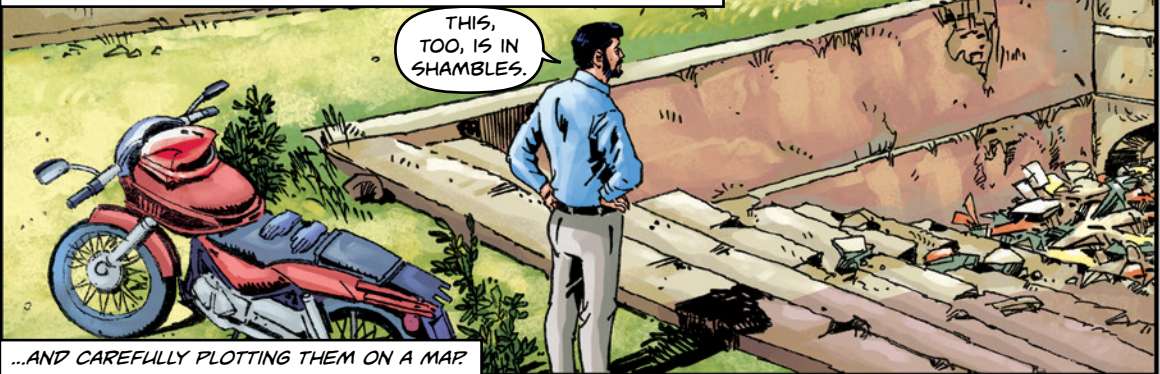


I'M GOING TO QUIT MY JOB.

WHY? WHAT WILL YOU DO, THEN?

I'M GOING TO VISIT THE STEPWELLS OF MAHARASHTRA.

WITH A FEW BELONGINGS ON HIS BACK, ROHAN RODE ON HIS MOTORBIKE FROM ONE DISTRICT TO ANOTHER, VISITING STEPWELLS...



THIS, TOO, IS IN SHAMBLES.

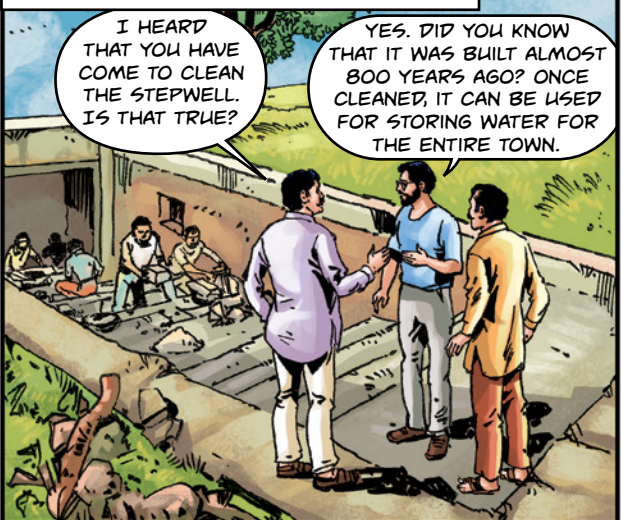
...AND CAREFULLY PLOTTING THEM ON A MAP.

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, HE MANAGED TO VISIT OVER 400 STEPWELLS IN MAHARASHTRA.



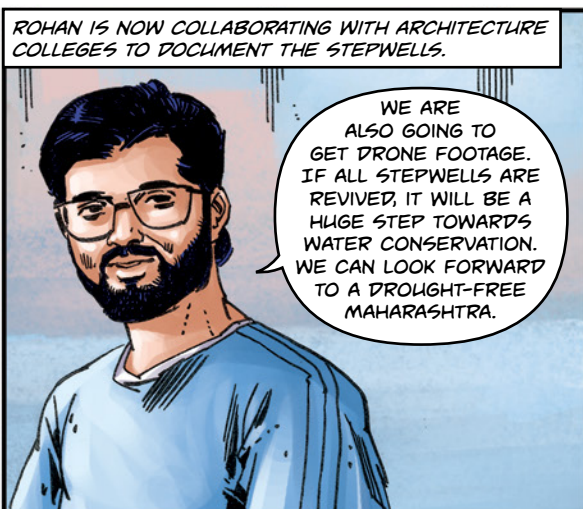
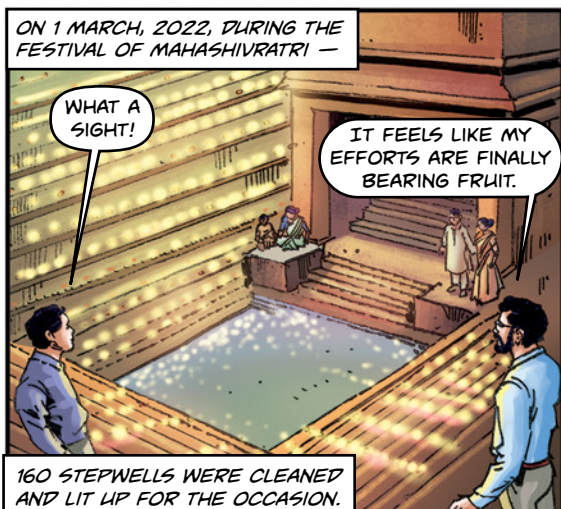
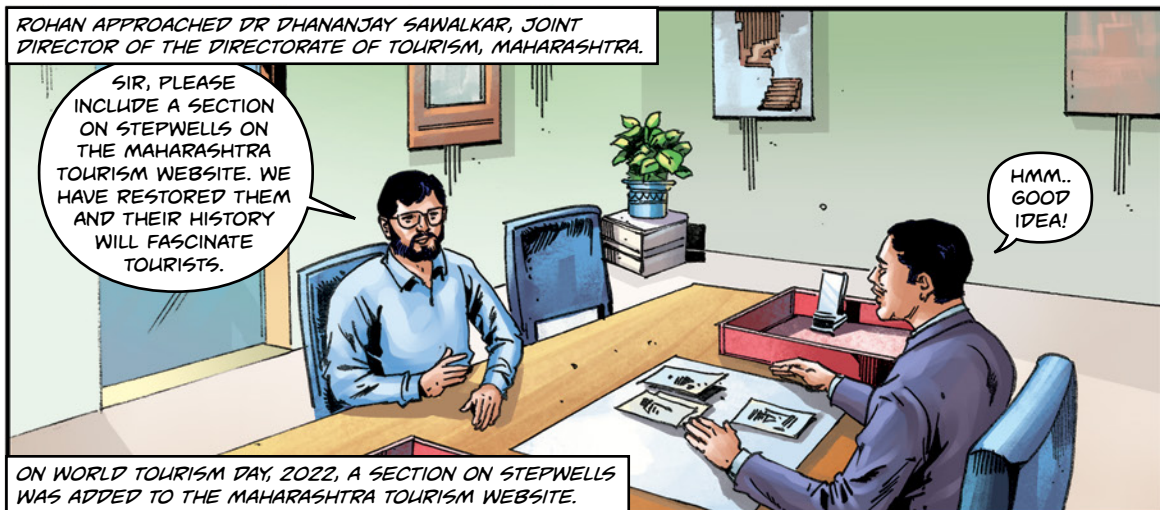
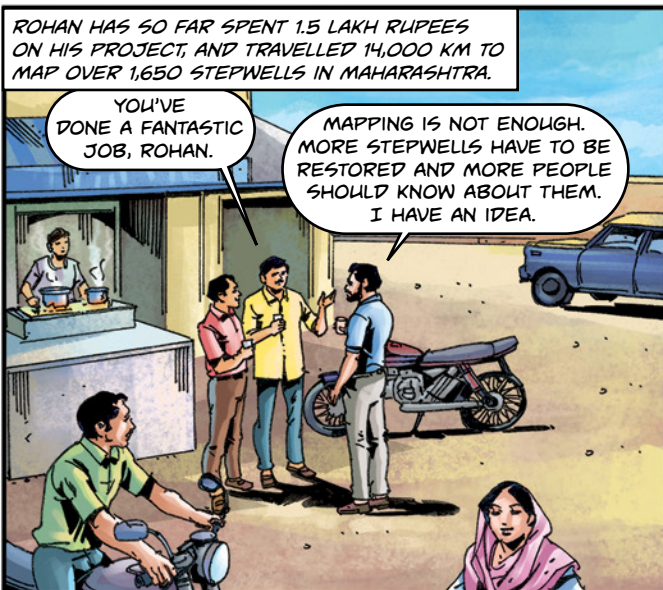
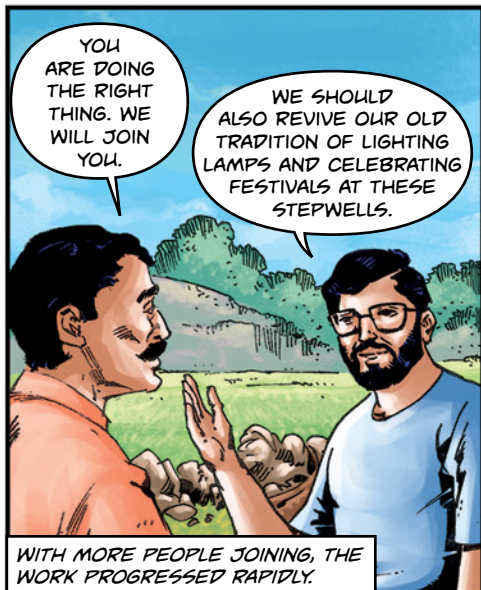
ALMOST 80 PER CENT OF THE STEPWELLS IN MAHARASHTRA ARE IN VERY BAD CONDITION. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

ROHAN STARTED THE MAHARASHTRA STEPWELL CAMPAIGN AND BEGAN WORK WITH A FEW VOLUNTEERS.

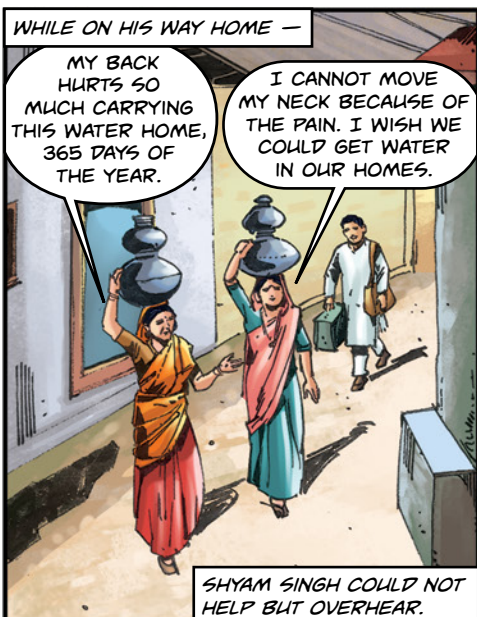
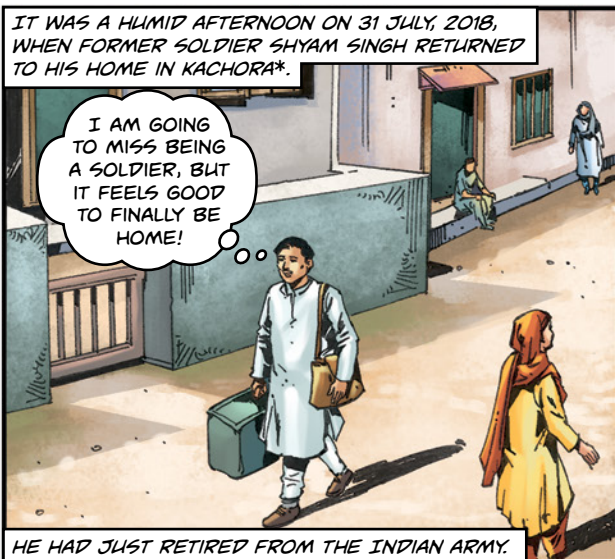
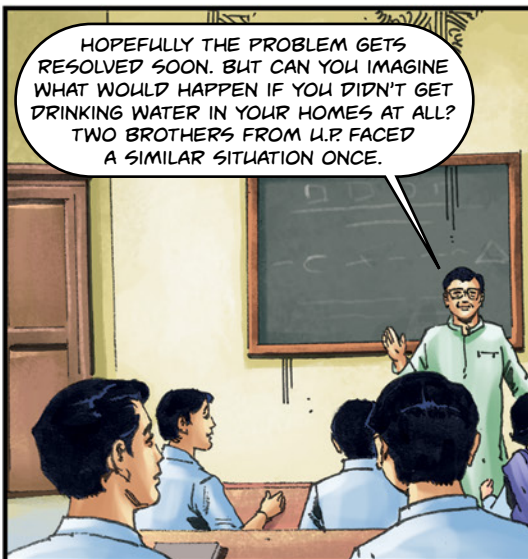


I HEARD THAT YOU HAVE COME TO CLEAN THE STEPWELL. IS THAT TRUE?

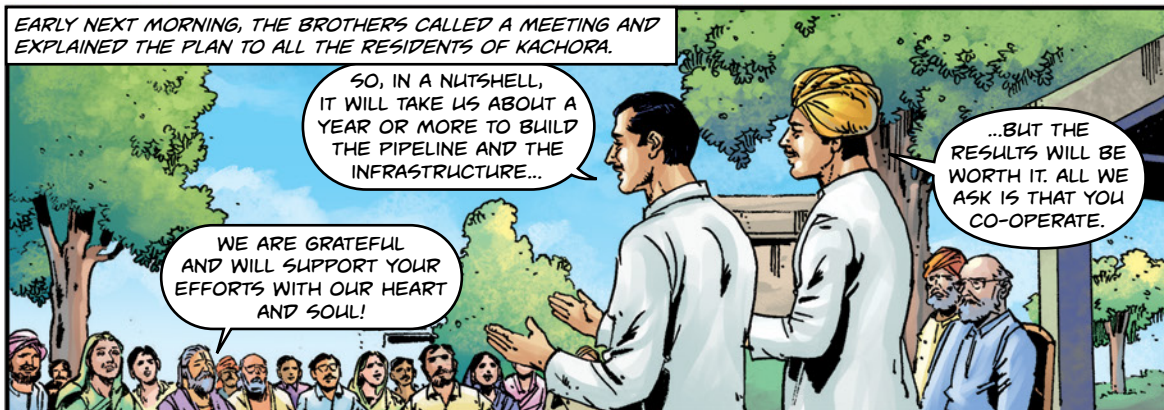
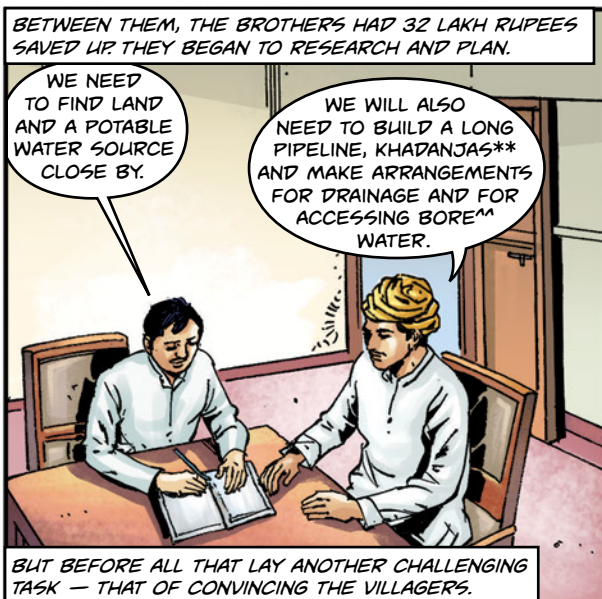
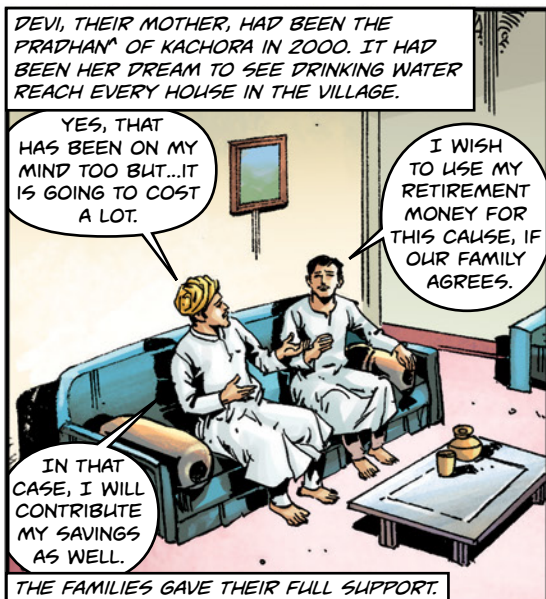
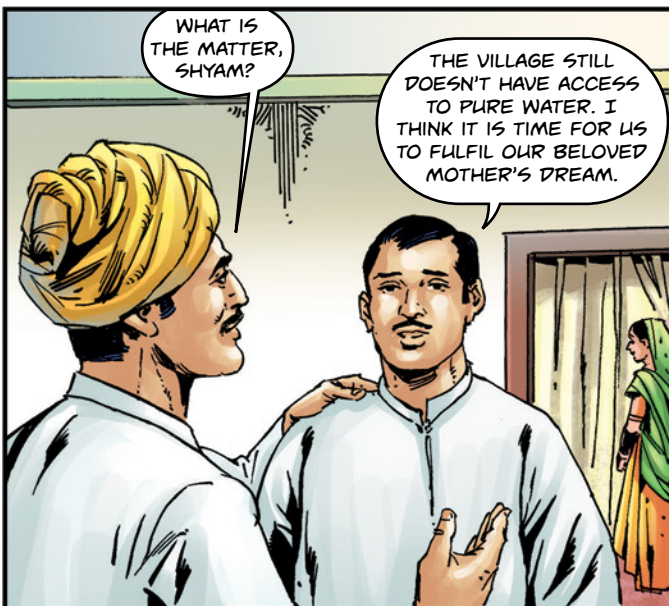
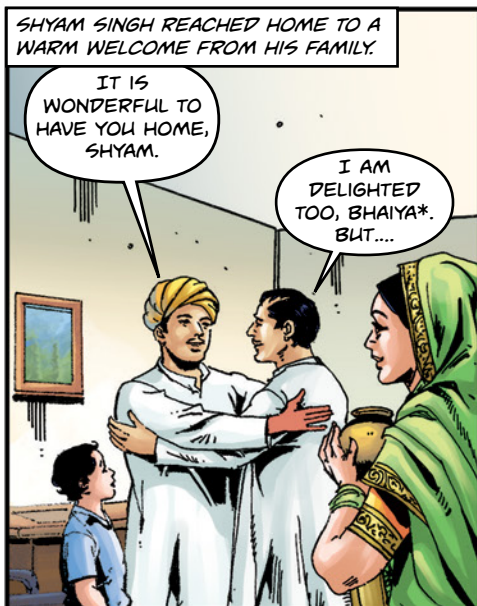
YES. DID YOU KNOW THAT IT WAS BUILT ALMOST 800 YEARS AGO? ONCE CLEANED, IT CAN BE USED FOR STORING WATER FOR THE ENTIRE TOWN.



SHYAM SINGH AND KUNWAR SINGH



*A VILLAGE IN AGRA DISTRICT, U.P.



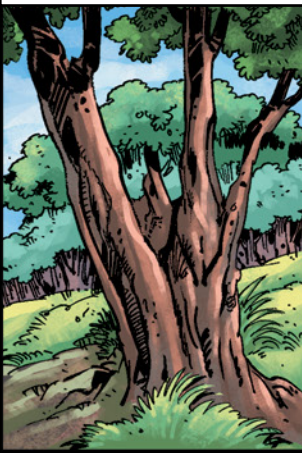
*BROTHER IN HINDI
^CHIEF

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

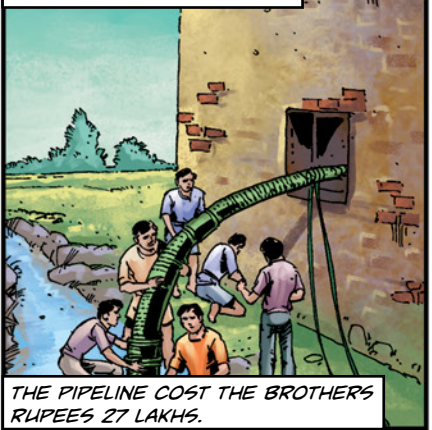
FIVE KILOMETRES AWAY, LAY THE CANAL OF BASTA*. THE BROTHERS CHOSE THIS AS THE SOURCE OF SWEET WATER...



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

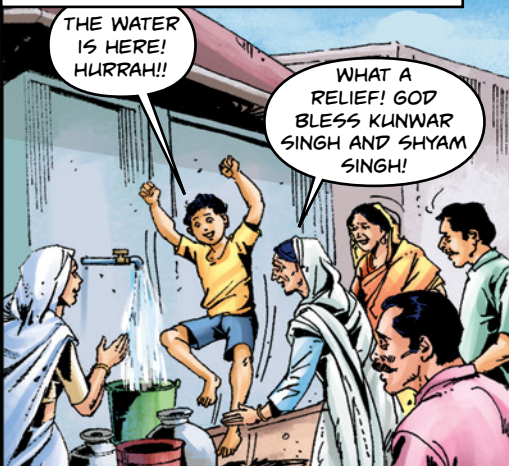


...AND BEGAN BUILDING THE FIVE-KILOMETRE-LONG PIPELINE IN AUGUST 2018.



THE PIPELINE COST THE BROTHERS RUPEES 27 LAKHS.

THE PIPELINE WAS FINALLY BUILT BY 2020.

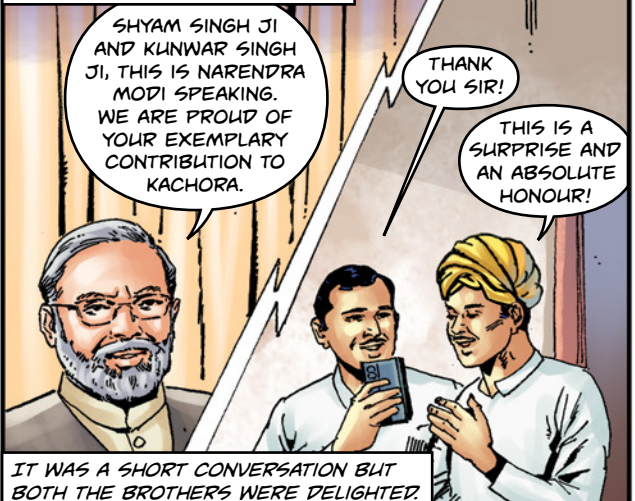


THE WATER IS HERE! HURRAH!!

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

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

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



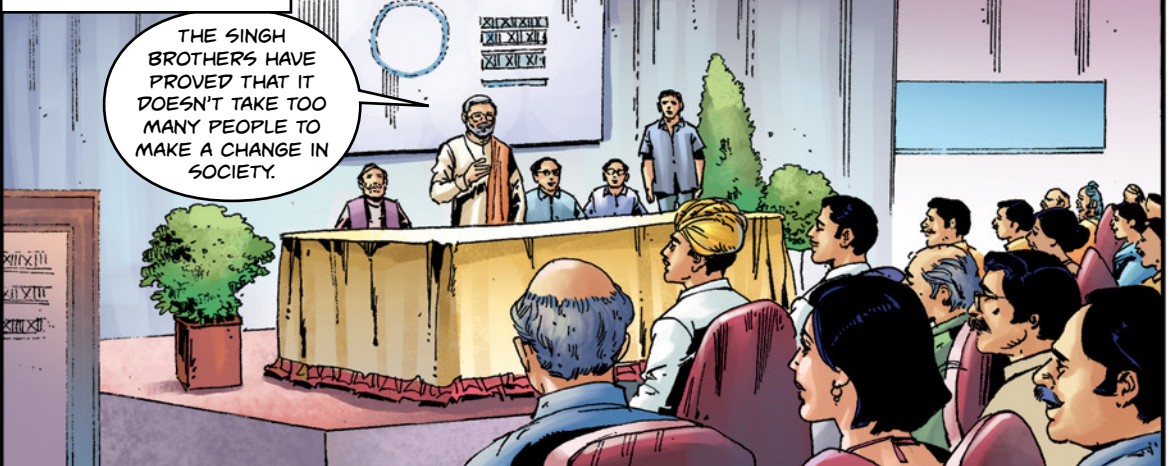
SHYAM SINGH JI AND KUNWAR SINGH JI, THIS IS NARENDRA MODI SPEAKING. WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO KACHORA.

THANK YOU SIR!

THIS IS A SURPRISE AND AN ABSOLUTE HONOUR!

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

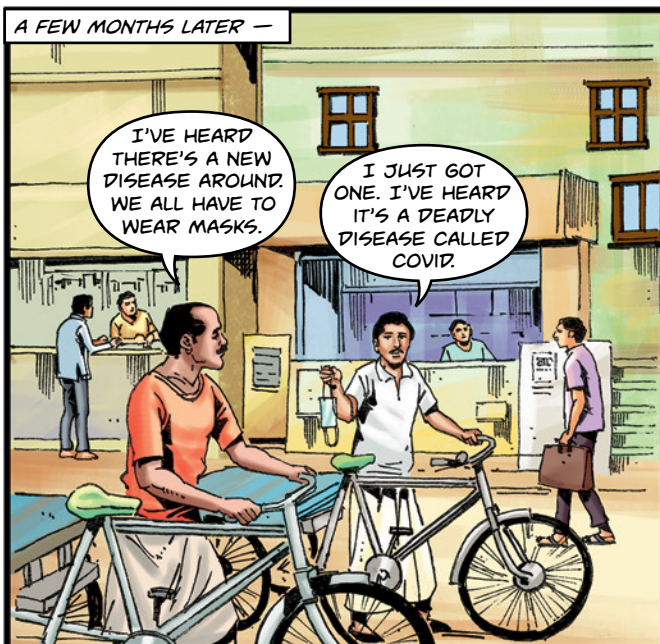
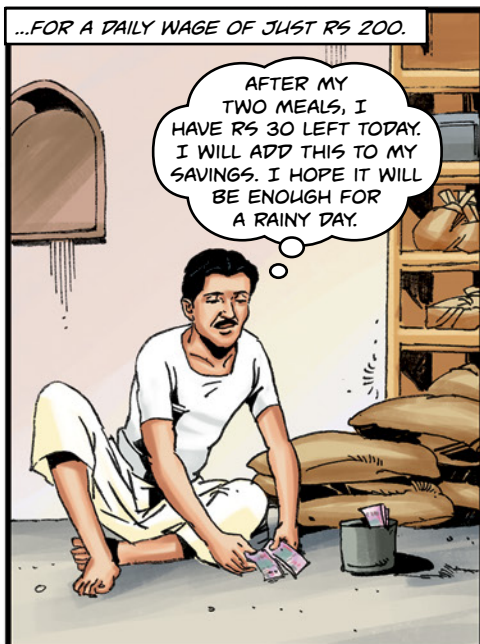
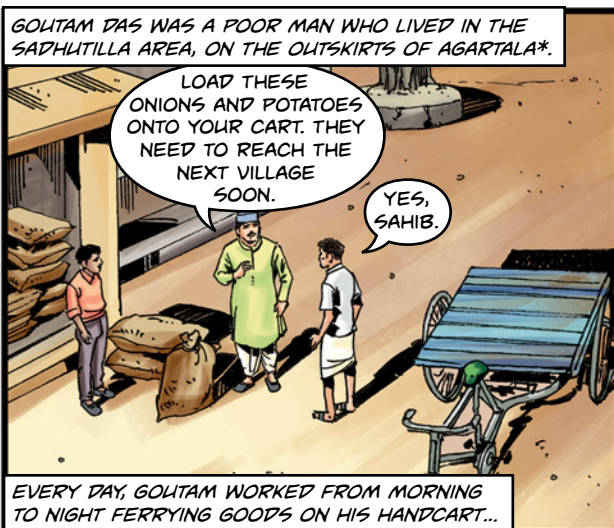
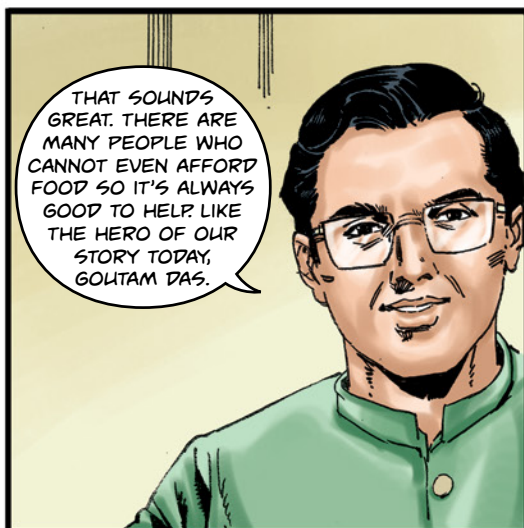
BOTH OF THEM WERE ALSO INVITED TO DELHI FOR A SPECIAL PROGRAMME AND ACKNOWLEDGED ON A LIVE BROADCAST BY PM MODI.



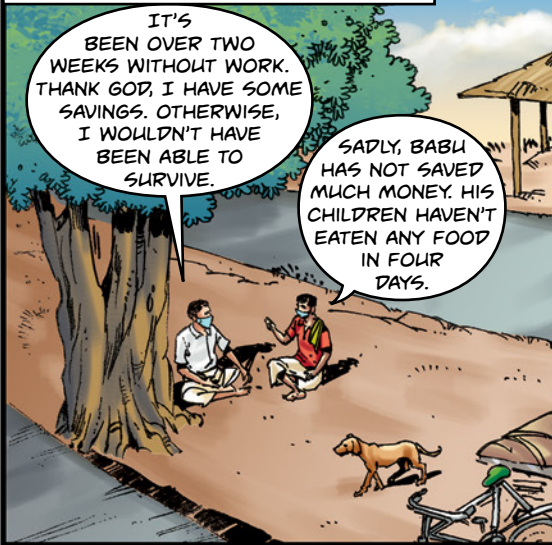
THE SINGH BROTHERS HAVE PROVED THAT IT DOESN'T TAKE TOO MANY PEOPLE TO MAKE A CHANGE IN SOCIETY.

*A VILLAGE CLOSE BY

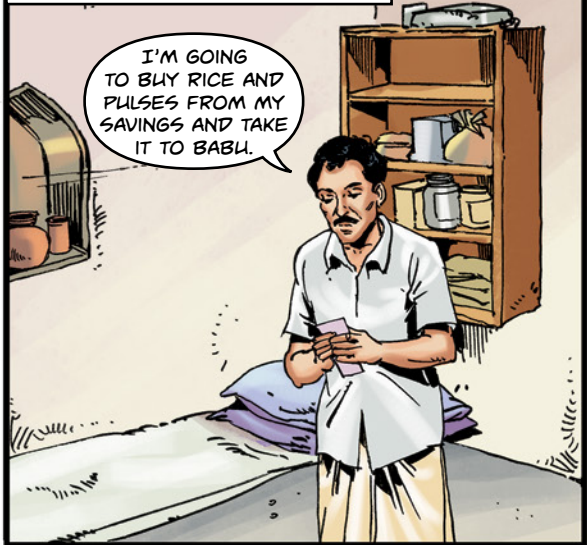
GOUTAM DAS



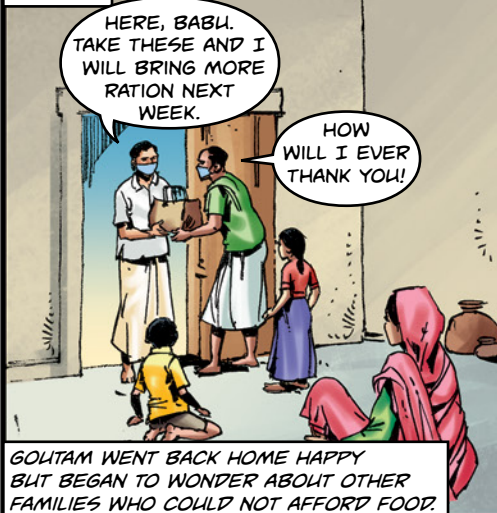
A FEW WEEKS LATER, A LOCKDOWN WAS ANNOUNCED THROUGHOUT THE NATION.



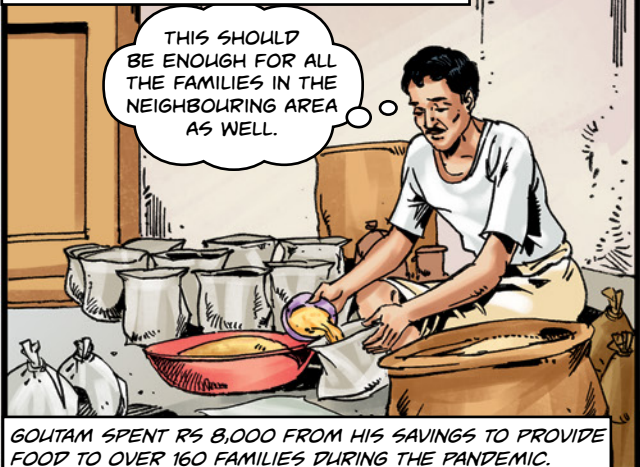
GOUTAM COULD NOT SLEEP ALL NIGHT. AS SOON AS DAWN BROKE —



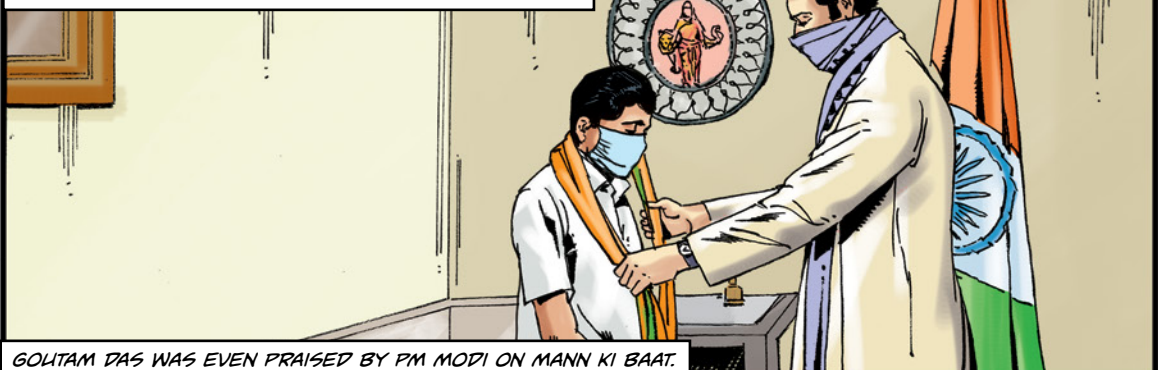
SOON —



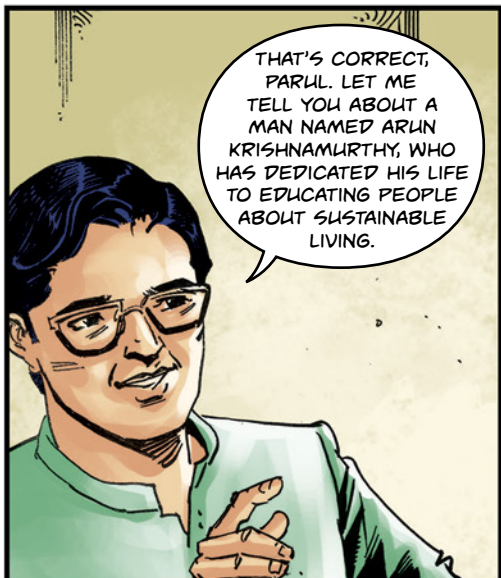
HE SOON BOUGHT MORE RICE AND PULSES AND MADE PACKETS TO DISTRIBUTE TO ALL THOSE WHO DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.



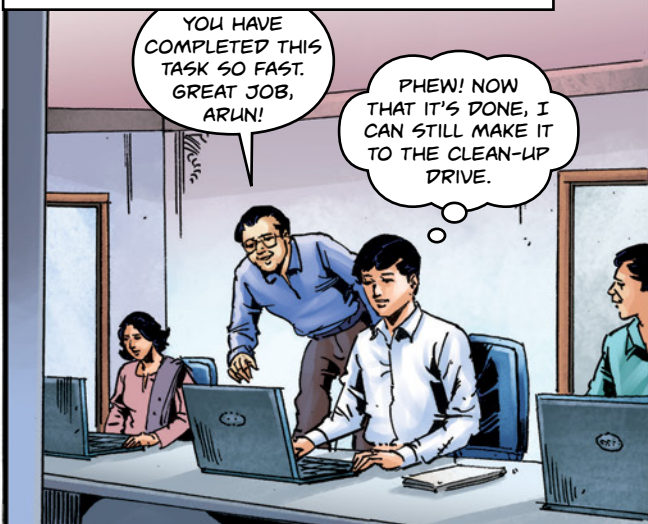
FOR HIS SELFLESS EFFORTS, GOUTAM WAS FELICITATED BY THE THEN-CHIEF MINISTER BIPLAB KUMAR DEB, WHO ALSO PROMISED TO HELP AND SUPPORT HIM.



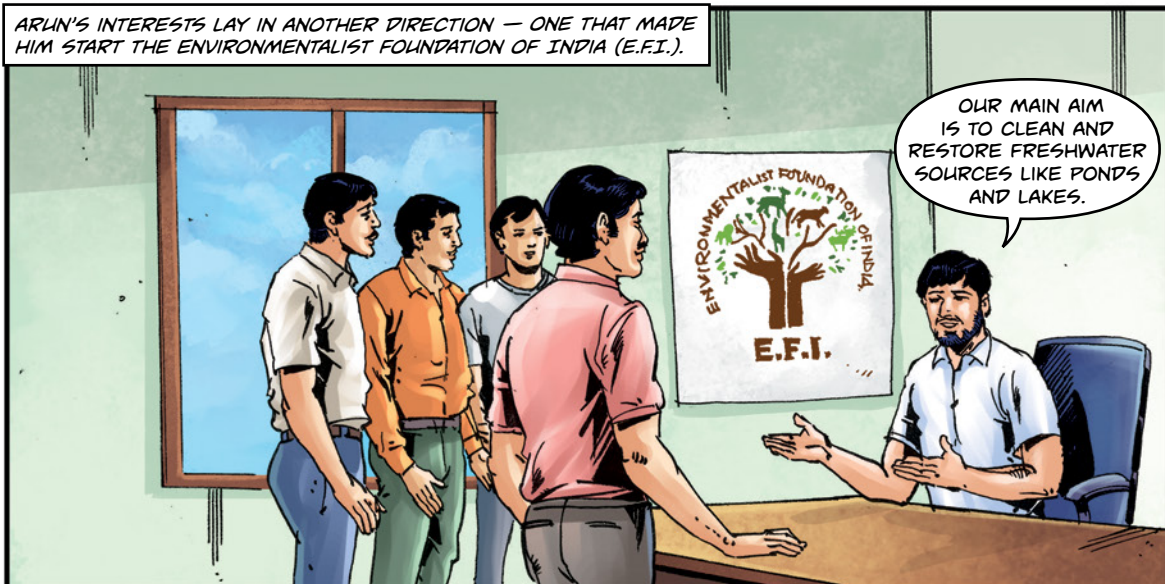
ARUN KRISHNAMURTHY



AFTER COMPLETING HIS GRADUATION, ARUN KRISHNAMURTHY STARTED WORKING IN HYDERABAD.



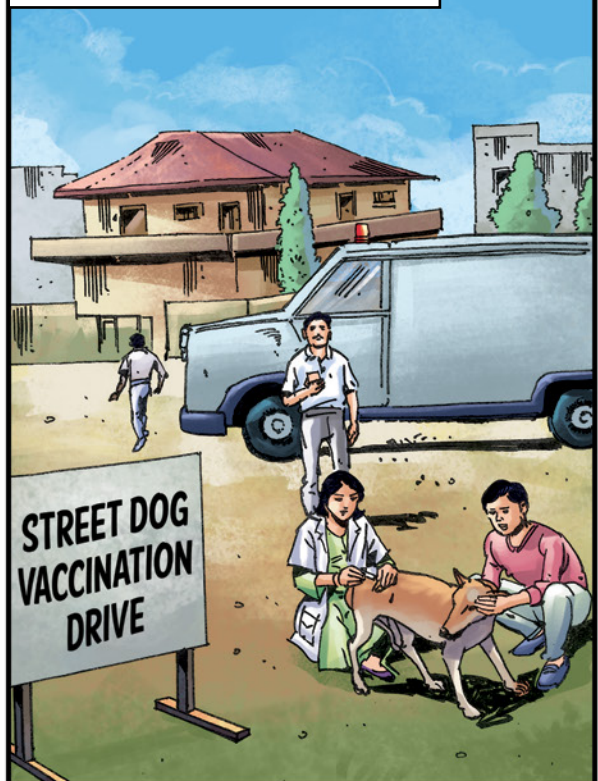
ARUN'S INTERESTS LAY IN ANOTHER DIRECTION — ONE THAT MADE HIM START THE ENVIRONMENTALIST FOUNDATION OF INDIA (E.F.I.).



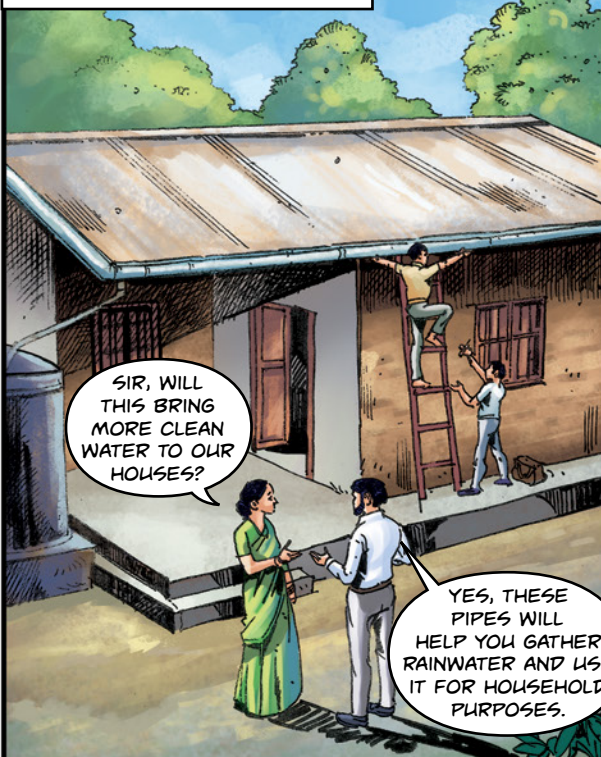
AS PART OF E.F.I. ARUN AND HIS TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN MANY CAPACITIES, LIKE WASTE MANAGEMENT...



...ANIMAL RESCUE AND REHABILITATION...



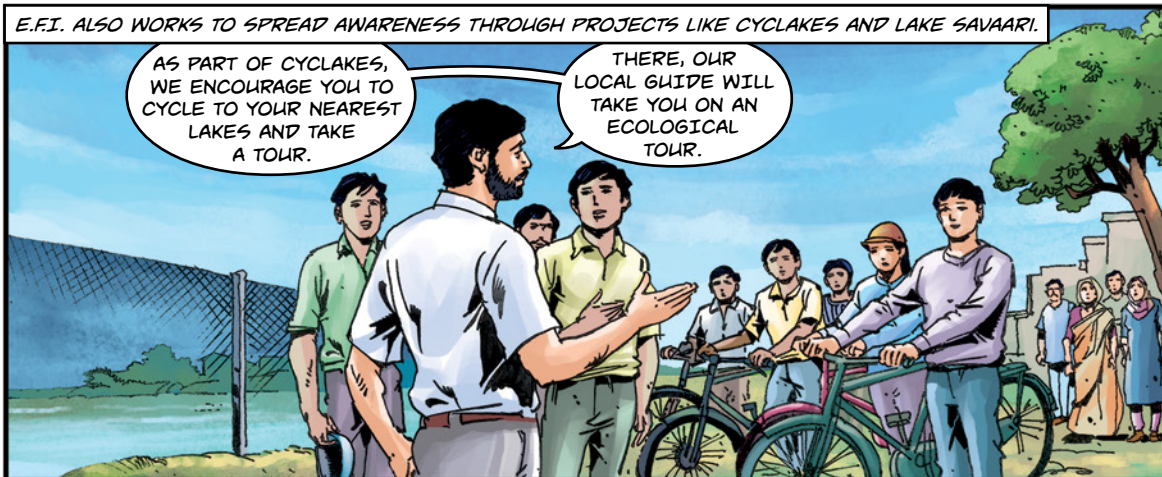
...HELPING VILLAGES BECOME ECO-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE...



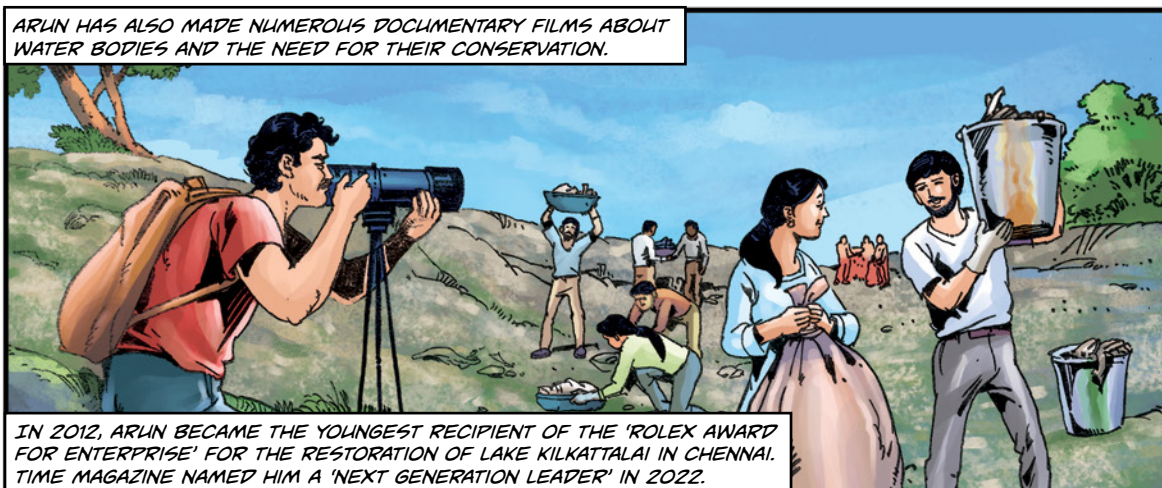
...AND CLEANING AND PROTECTING WATER BODIES.



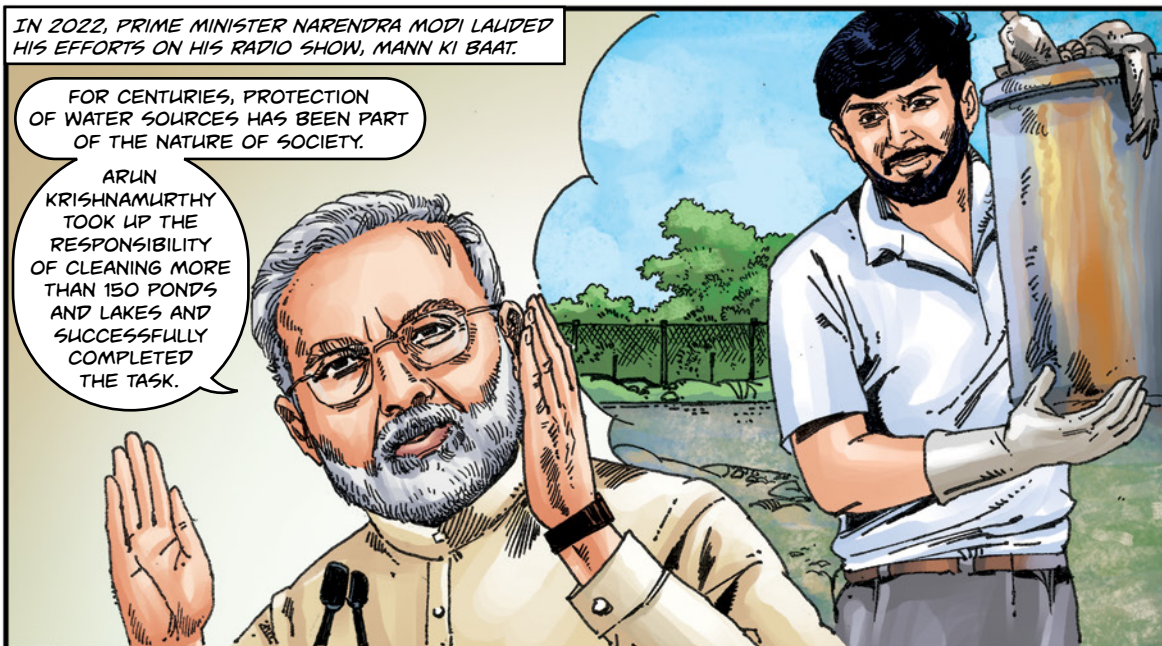
E.F.I. ALSO WORKS TO SPREAD AWARENESS THROUGH PROJECTS LIKE CYCLAKES AND LAKE SAVAARI.



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



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



POORNA MALAVATH

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

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

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



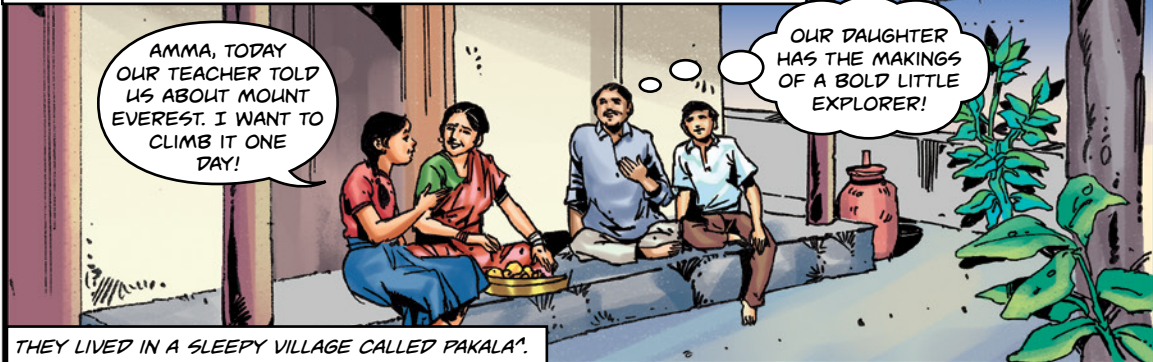
HA HA HA!
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU
THERE IS A 13-YEAR-OLD
GIRL WHO HAS CLIMBED
MOUNT EVEREST? SIT
DOWN AND REST WHILE
I TELL YOU HER
STORY.



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

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

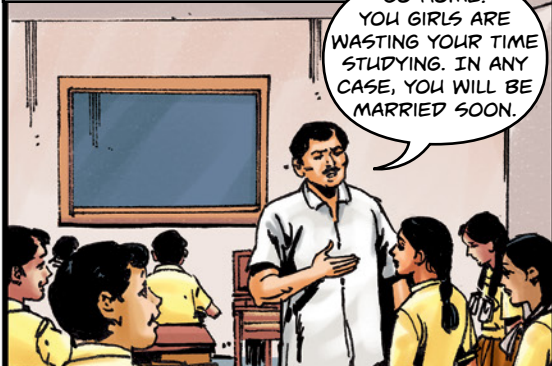
OUR DAUGHTER
HAS THE MAKINGS
OF A BOLD LITTLE
EXPLORER!



THEY LIVED IN A SLEEPY VILLAGE CALLED PAKALA*.

POORNA ATTENDED A GOVERNMENT
SCHOOL IN HER VILLAGE, BUT —

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

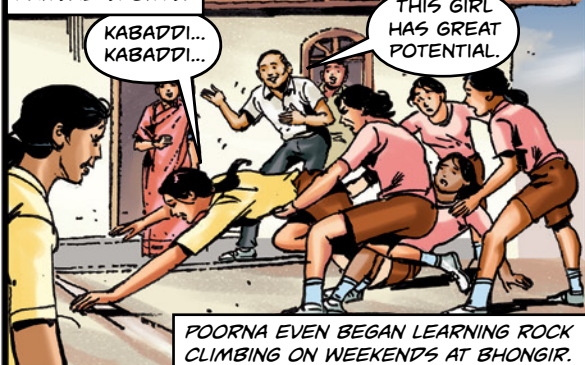


MOST GIRLS WERE DISCOURAGED AND LEFT SCHOOL.

AT THE AGE OF 11, POORNA WAS ADMITTED TO
TSWREIS**, A GIRLS' SCHOOL IN TADWAI**.
THE SCHOOL ENCOURAGED ITS STUDENTS TO
PURSUE SPORTS.

KABADDI...
KABADDI...

THIS GIRL
HAS GREAT
POTENTIAL.



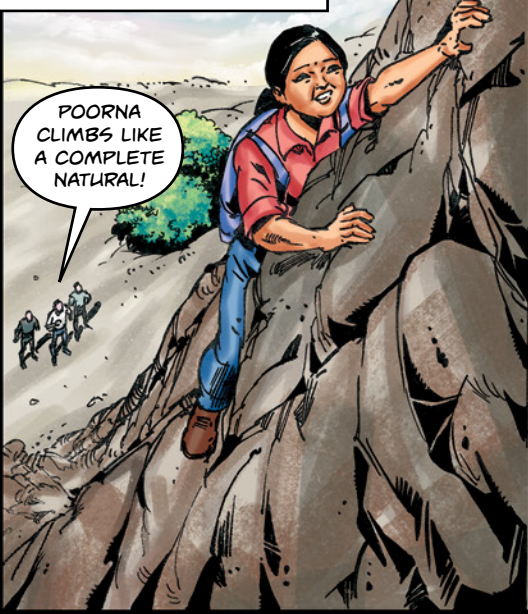
POORNA EVEN BEGAN LEARNING ROCK
CLIMBING ON WEEKENDS AT BHONGIR.

*TRIBAL

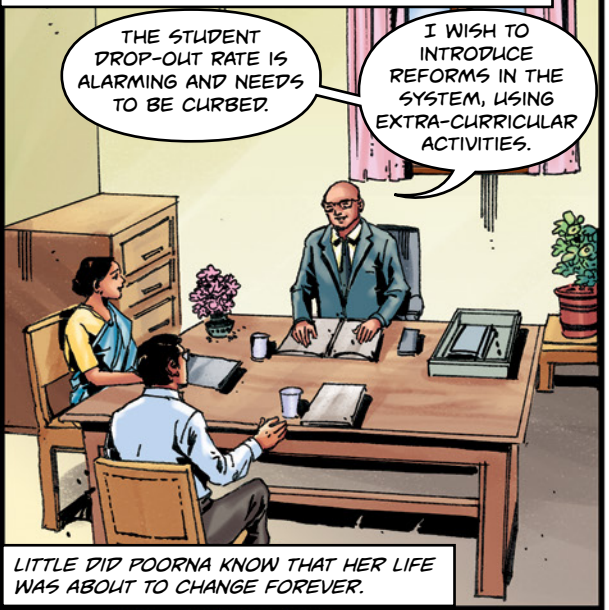
*A VILLAGE IN TELANGANA

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

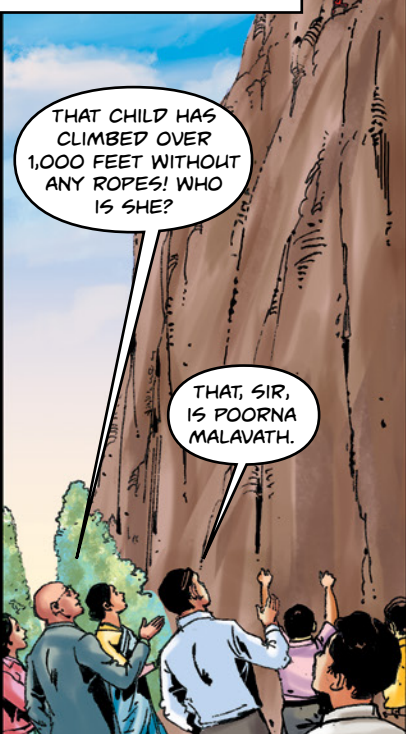
POORNA'S COACH, SEKHAR BABU BACHINEPALLY, WAS A SKILLED MOUNTAINEER WHO HAD SUMMITTED EVEREST IN 2007.



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



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



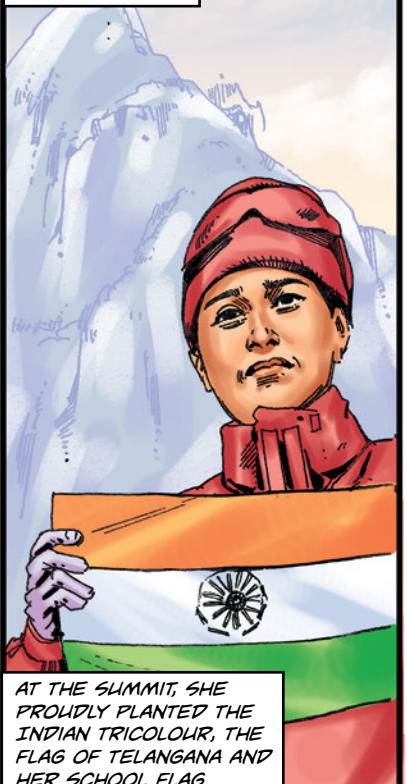
IMPRESSED, DR R.S. PRAVEEN KUMAR IMMEDIATELY CHOSE POORNA TO LEARN HIGH-ALTITUDE MOUNTAINEERING AT DARJEELING....

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



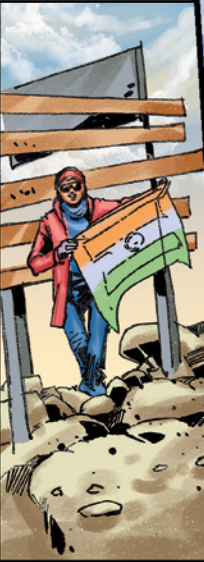
AFTER EIGHT MONTHS OF INTENSE TRAINING, POORNA WAS PREPARED TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST.

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



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

MT KILIMANJARO
IN 2016...



MT ELBRUS
IN 2017...



MT ACONCAGUA
IN 2019...



MT CARSTENZ
PYRAMID IN 2019...

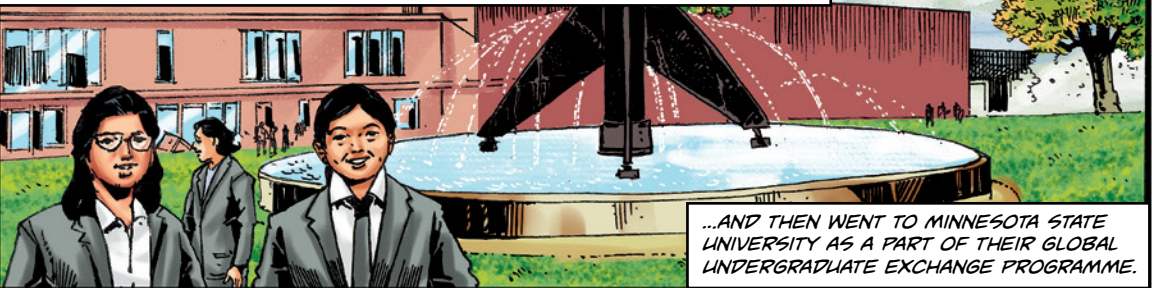


MT VINSON MASSIF
IN 2019...



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

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

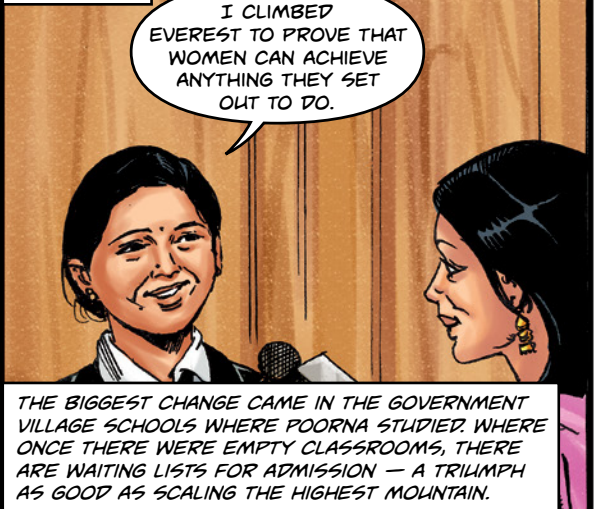


...AND THEN WENT TO MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY AS A PART OF THEIR GLOBAL UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME.

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



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





BIKRAMJIT CHAKMA

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

LOOK AT ALL THE RIPE RED TOMATOES!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GREW THEM OURSELVES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

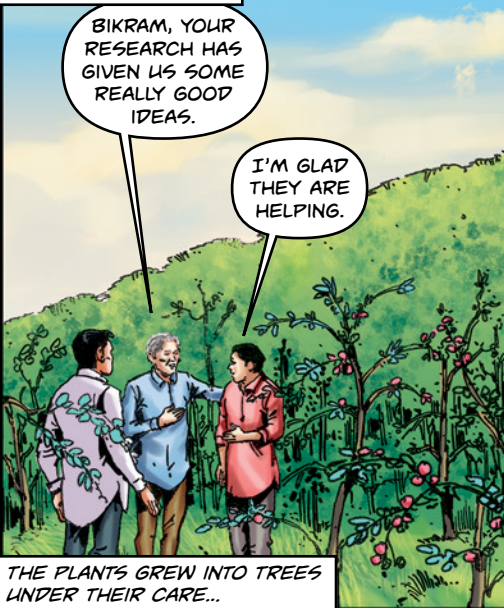
HAKKA**, YOU MUST USE YOUR FARMING EXPERTISE TO CULTIVATE THE SAPLINGS. I WILL KEEP RESEARCHING ONLINE ON HOW TO CARE FOR THE APPLE BER.

*JUJUBE BERRY

^aA VILLAGE IN PECHARTHAL, TRIPURA

**UNCLE, IN THE CHAKMA LANGUAGE

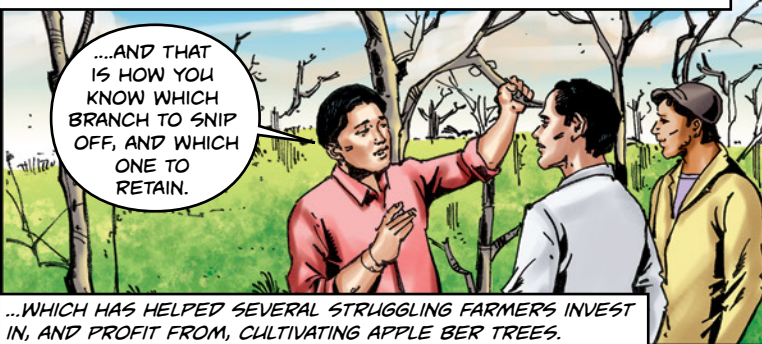
IN A FEW MONTHS —



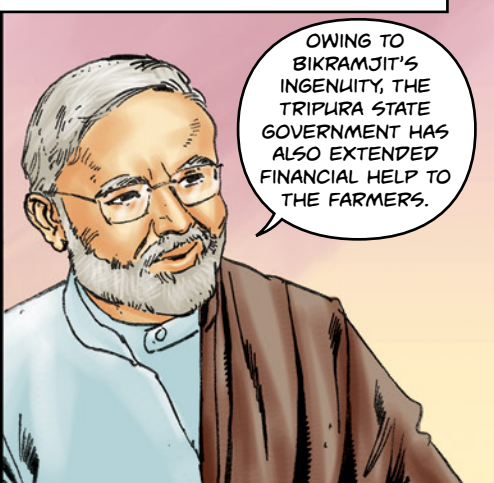
...AND BY JANUARY 2021, THE FRUIT COULD BE HARVESTED.



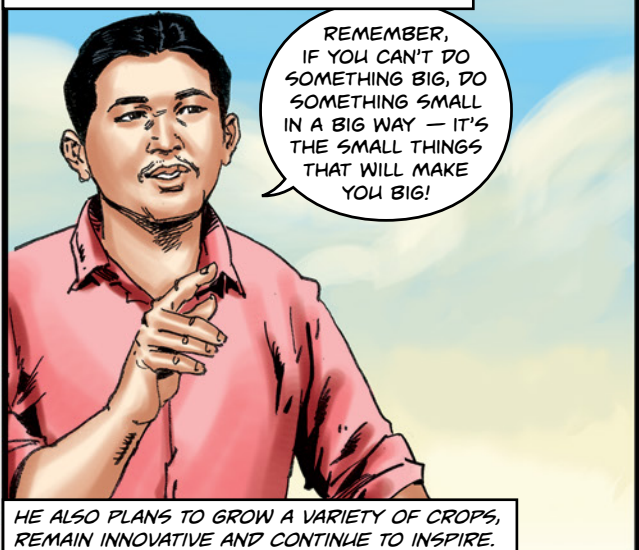
BIKRAMJIT REGULARLY SHARES HIS KNOWLEDGE ON HORTICULTURE*...



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



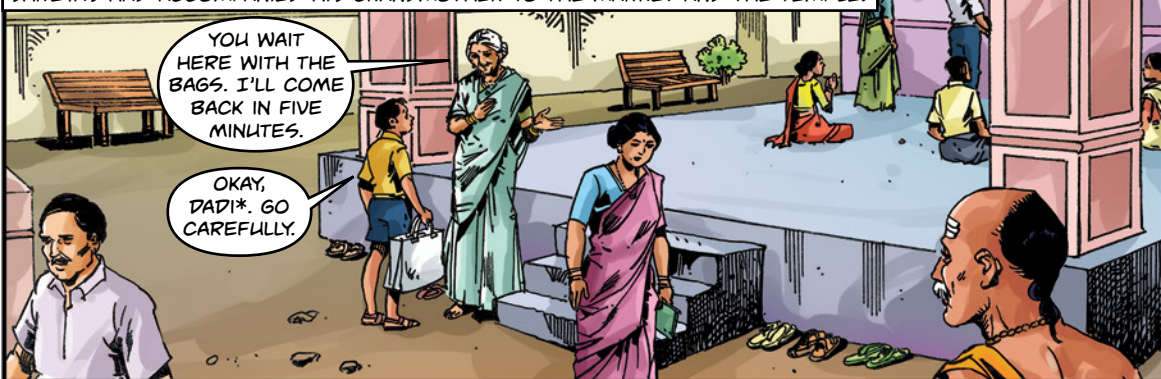
BIKRAMJIT LIVES BY A SIMPLE PRINCIPLE —



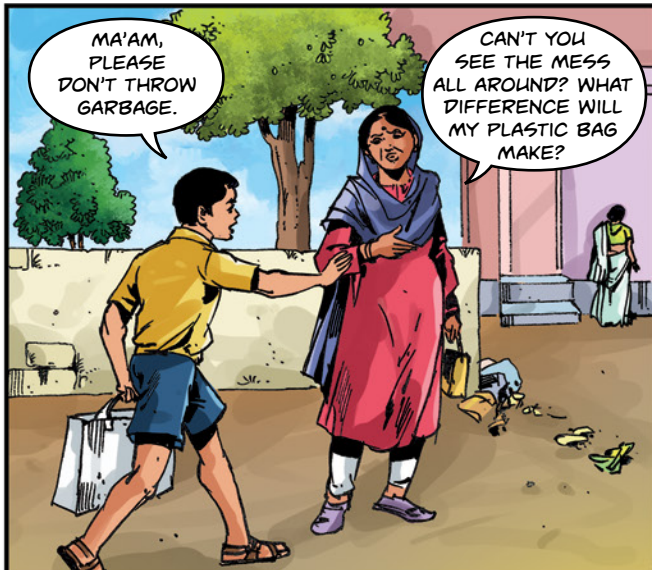
*CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN GARDENS OR GREENHOUSES

MANOJ BENJWAL

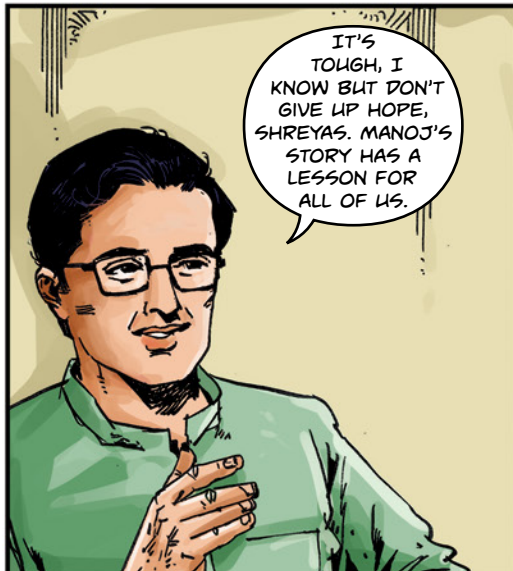
SHREYAS HAD ACCOMPANIED HIS GRANDMOTHER TO THE MARKET AND THE TEMPLE.



AS SHREYAS WAITED, A WOMAN CAME OUT AND —



THE NEXT DAY AT SCHOOL —

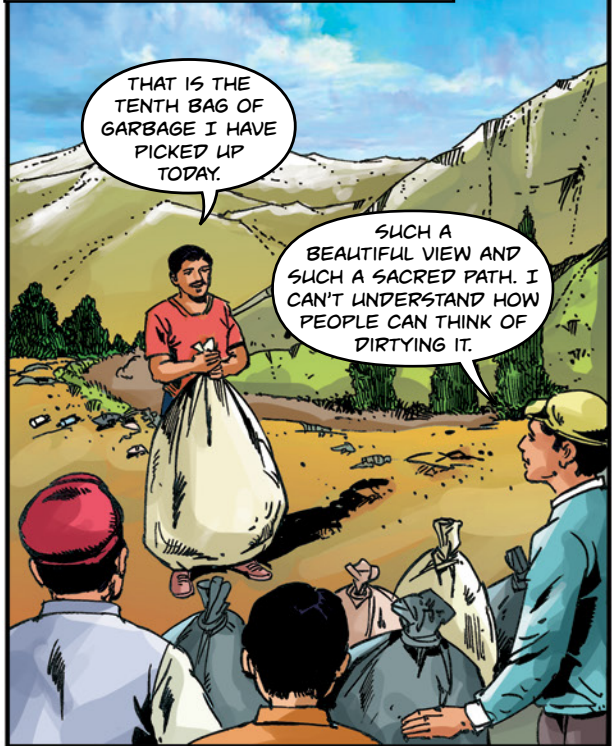


*PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER

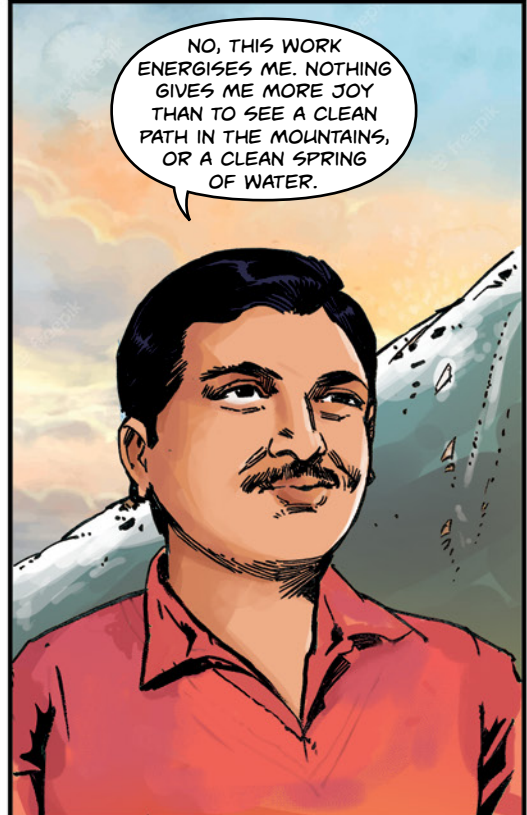
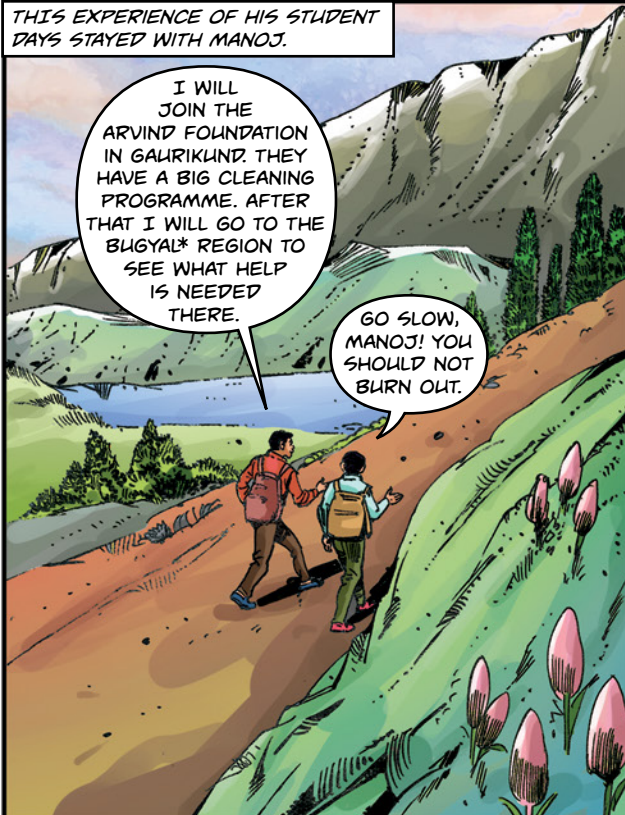
WHEN MANOJ BENJWAL WAS A STUDENT, HE JOINED A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON A CLEANING MISSION.



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



THIS EXPERIENCE OF HIS STUDENT DAYS STAYED WITH MANOJ.



*HIMALAYAN GRASSLANDS

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



IN PRAVAH, WE WORK TOWARDS MAKING THE MOUNTAINS CLEAN AND PRESERVING ALL SACRED SPACES. WE WANT ALL STREAMS TO BE FREE OF PLASTIC. WE ARE PLANTING TREES SO THAT ANIMALS AND BIRDS COME BACK TO THESE REGIONS.



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

WHAT ARE THE AREAS IN WHICH YOU AND YOUR TEAM WORK?

SIR, WE ARE RUNNING CLEANLINESS PROGRAMMES IN MULTIPLE VILLAGES. IT IS OUR WISH THAT ALL OUR PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER.



HOW CAN THE ADMINISTRATION HELP YOU?

IF THE LOCAL PANCHAYATS AND MUNICIPALITIES CAN SUPPORT US, IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO REACH OUR GOALS. I HAVE MANY IDEAS ON HOW TO KEEP THE KEDARNATH ROUTE FREE OF GARBAGE.



YOU WILL HAVE OUR SUPPORT.



WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER ON MANN KI BAAT, MANOJ BENJWAL CAN LOOK FORWARD TO HIS DREAMS BEING REALISED.







MANN KI BAAT

VOL.5

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

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



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