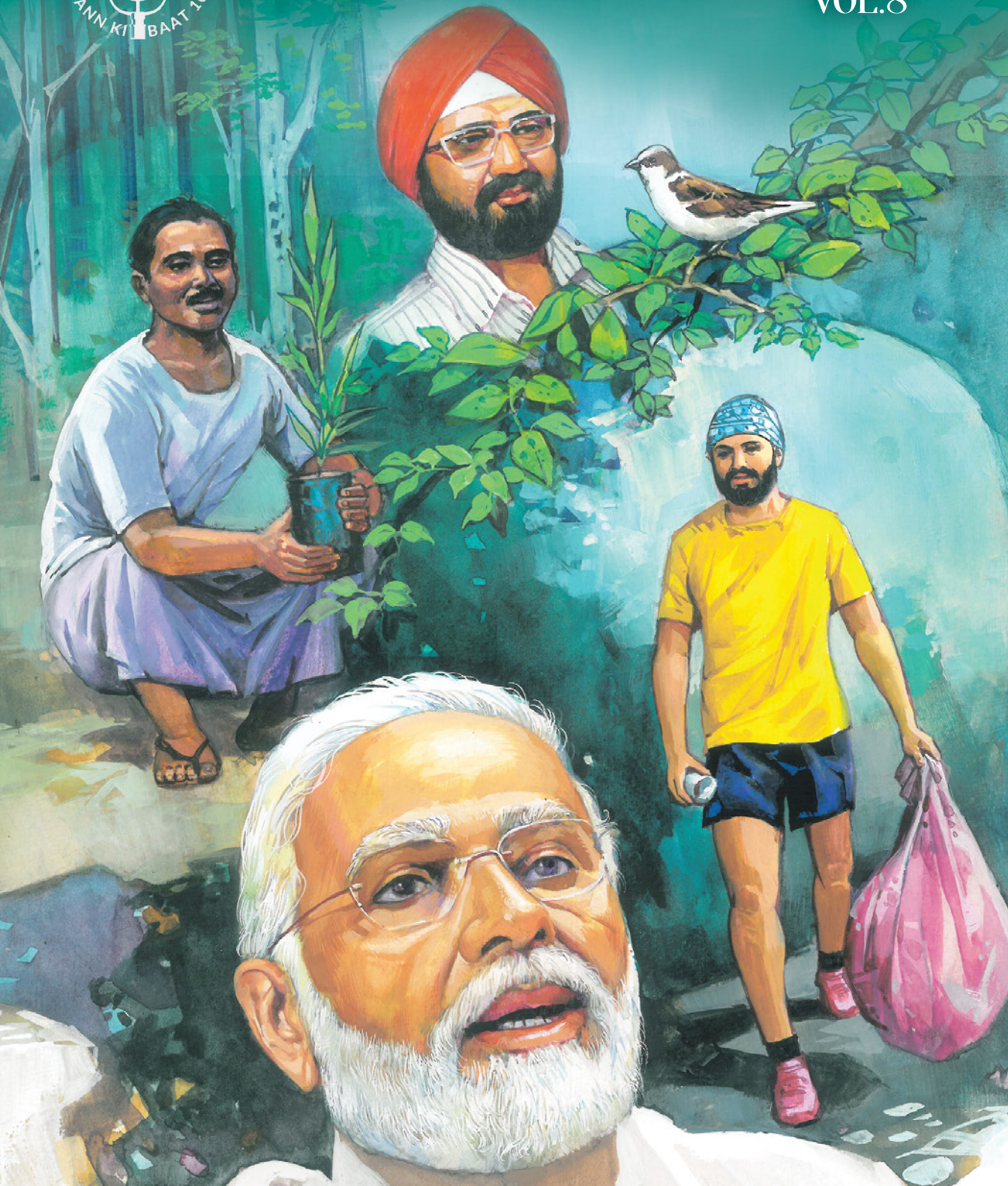




MANN KI BAAT

VOL.8



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My dear children,

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

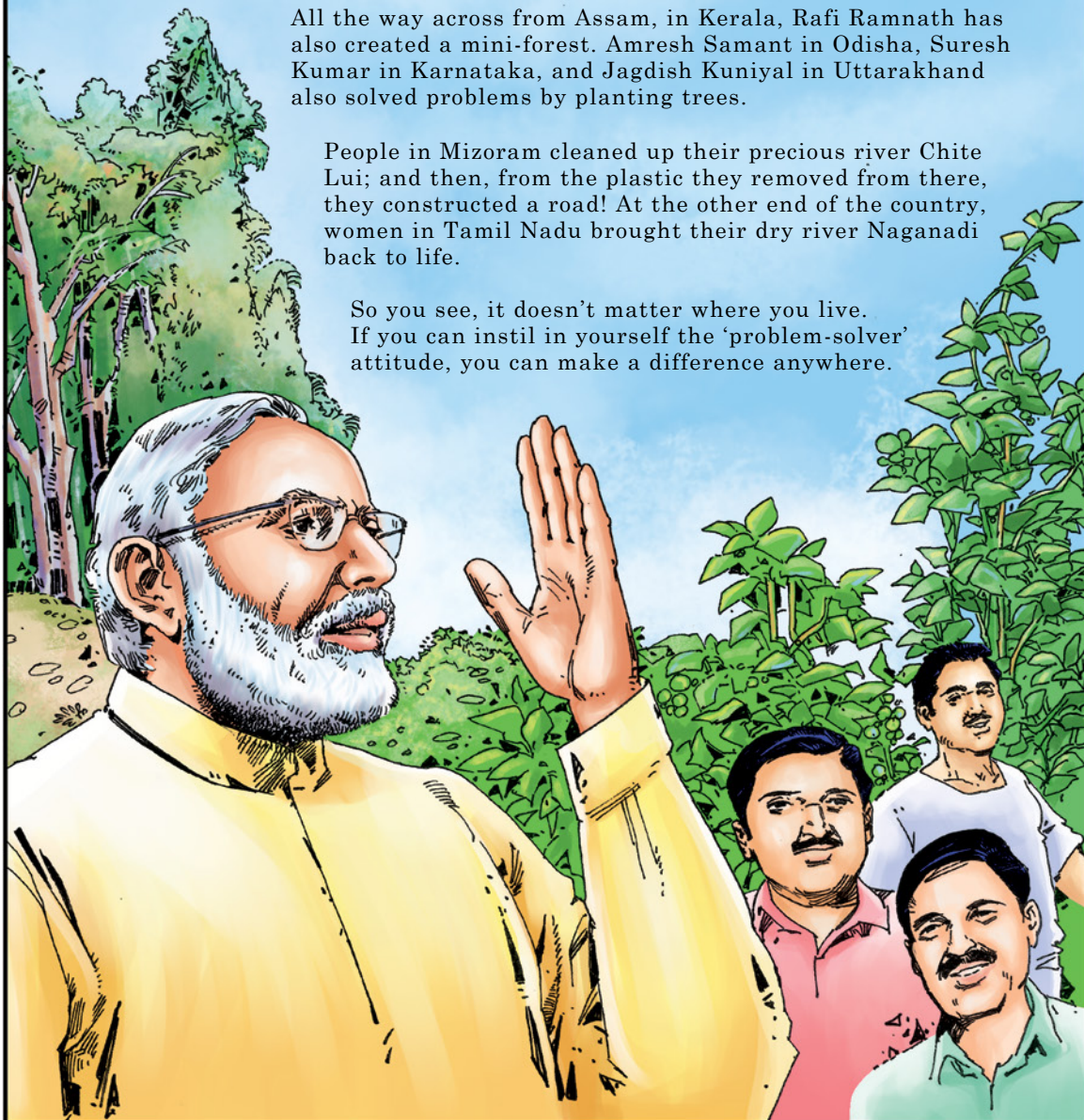
You all know that natural resources are growing scarce everywhere. Forests are dwindling and water is drying up. But there are people all across our country, who have a 'problem-solver' attitude. They have seen the problem, thought of the solution and then done everything they could to implement it.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

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

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

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

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





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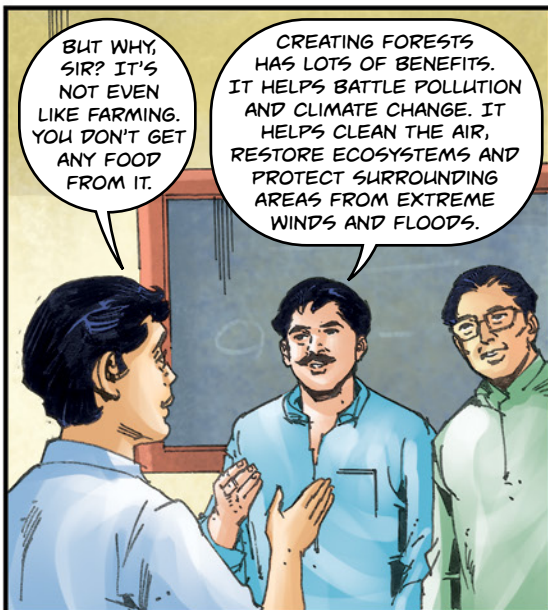
AMRESH SAMANT

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



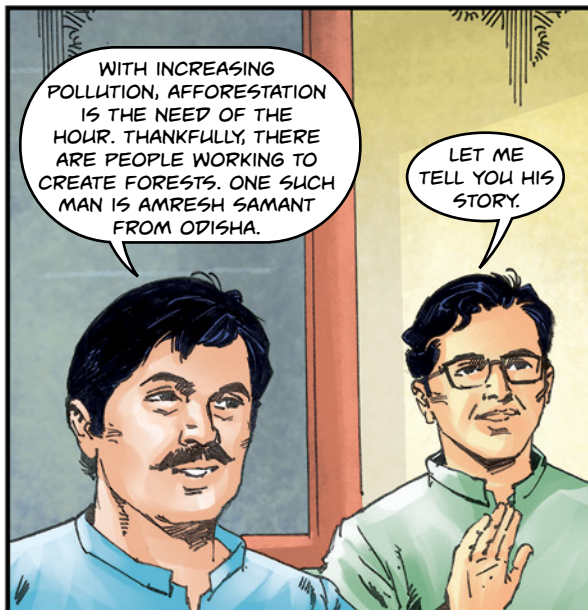
SIR, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU HAVE CREATED A FOREST ALL BY YOURSELF?

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



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

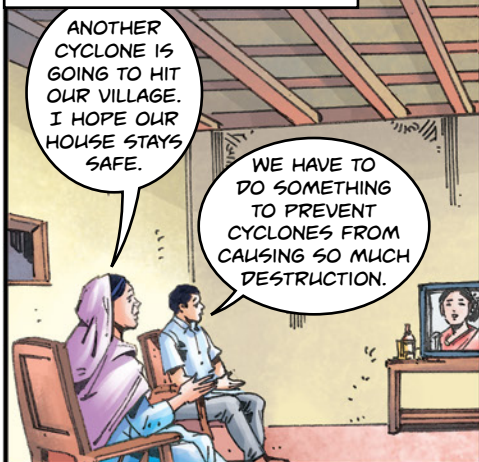
CREATING FORESTS HAS LOTS OF BENEFITS. IT HELPS BATTLE POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE. IT HELPS CLEAN THE AIR, RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS AND PROTECT SURROUNDING AREAS FROM EXTREME WINDS AND FLOODS.



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

LET ME TELL YOU HIS STORY.

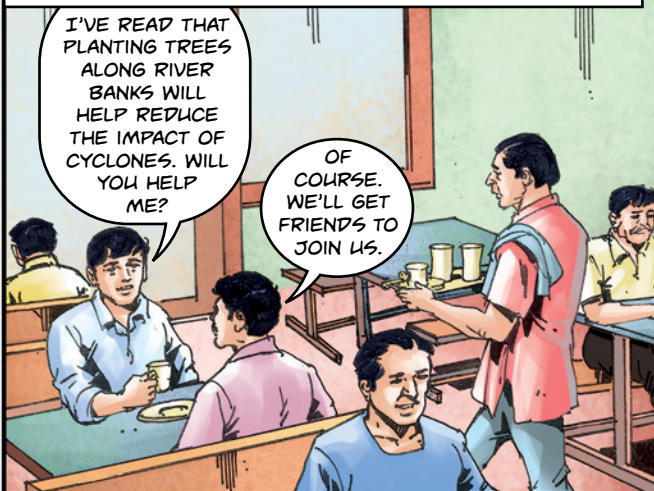
AMRESH SAMANT GREW UP IN A VILLAGE CALLED BILWALI IN THE COASTAL REGION OF ODISHA.



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

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

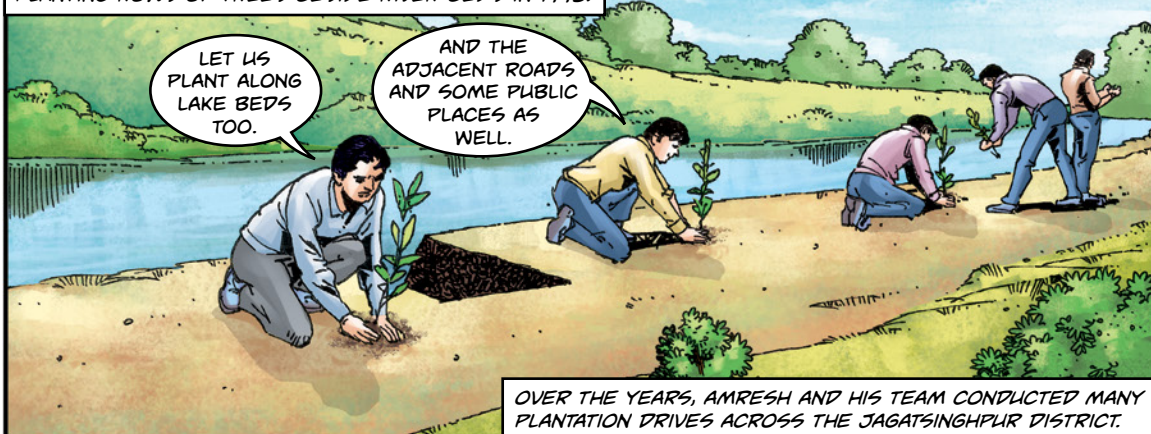
AMRESH WAS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, BUT THE THOUGHT OF PREVENTING NATURAL DISASTERS WAS ALWAYS WITH HIM.



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

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

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

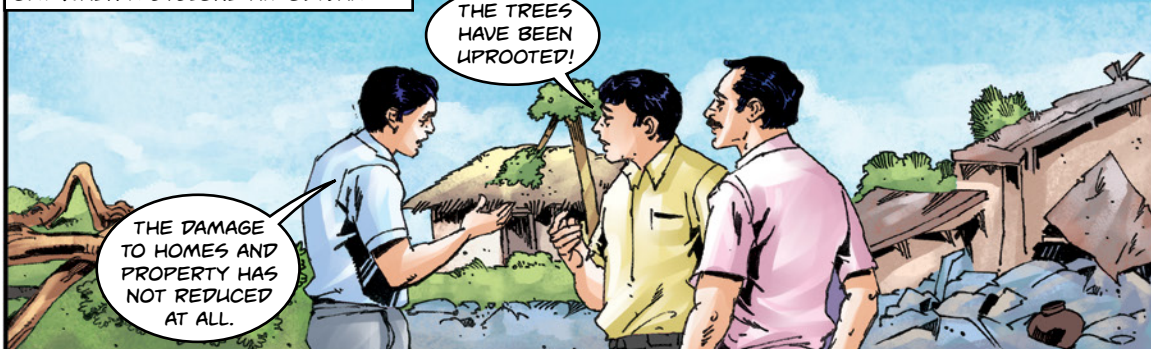


LET US PLANT ALONG LAKE BEDS TOO.

AND THE ADJACENT ROADS AND SOME PUBLIC PLACES AS WELL.

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

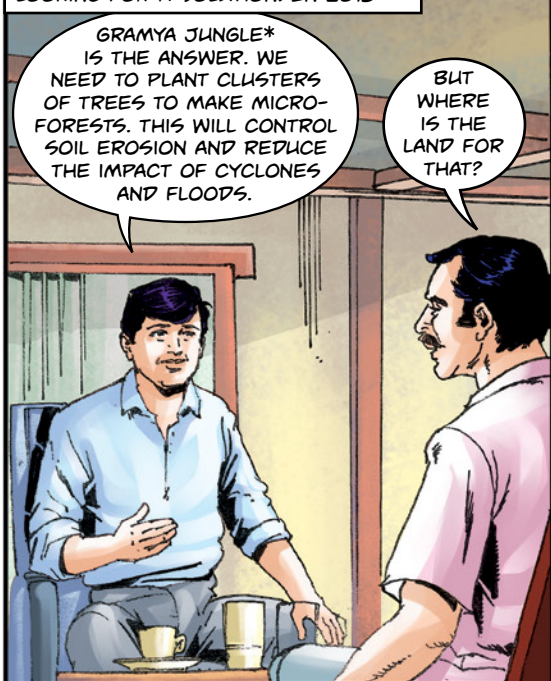
BUT WHEN A CYCLONE HIT ODISHA —



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

THE TREES HAVE BEEN UPROOTED!

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



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

BUT WHERE IS THE LAND FOR THAT?

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



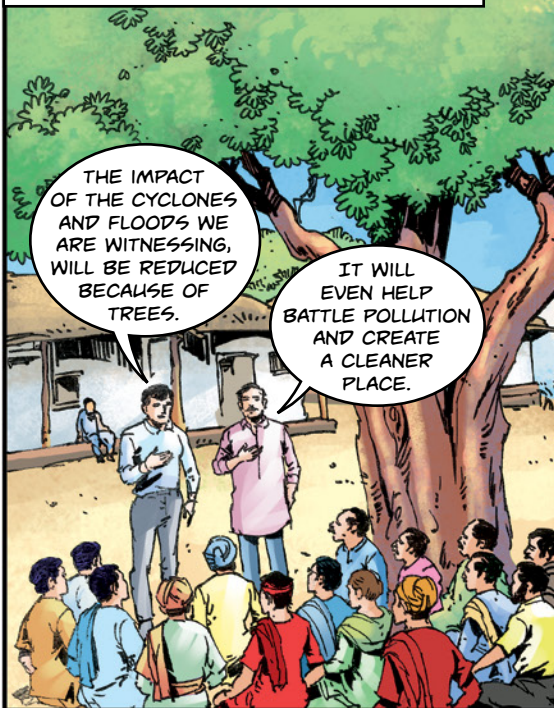
WHY SHOULD WE GIVE AWAY LAND FOR FREE?

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

MANY VILLAGERS REFUSED THEIR REQUEST.

*RURAL FOREST

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



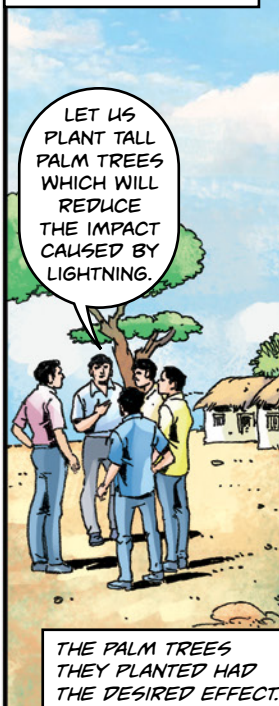
AMRESH CONDUCTED MANY SUCH AWARENESS DRIVES AND SLOWLY THE MINDSET OF THE VILLAGERS BEGAN TO CHANGE. ONE DAY —



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



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



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



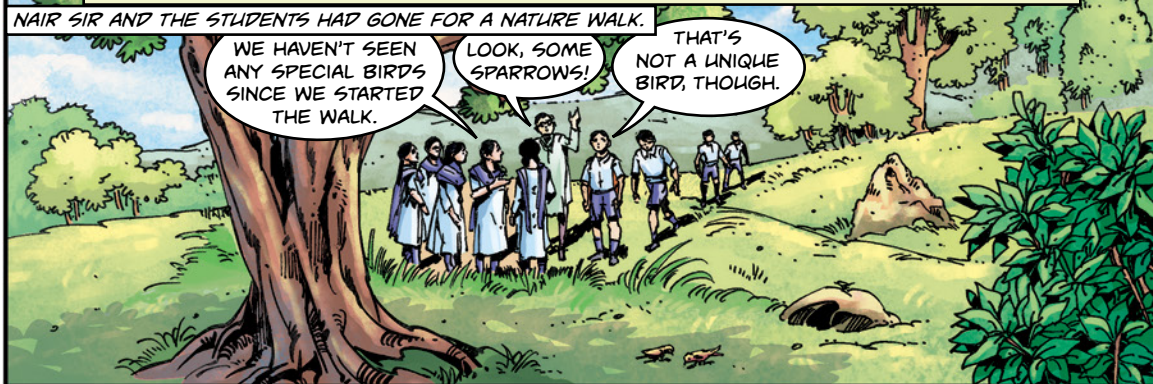
INDERPAL SINGH BATRA

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

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

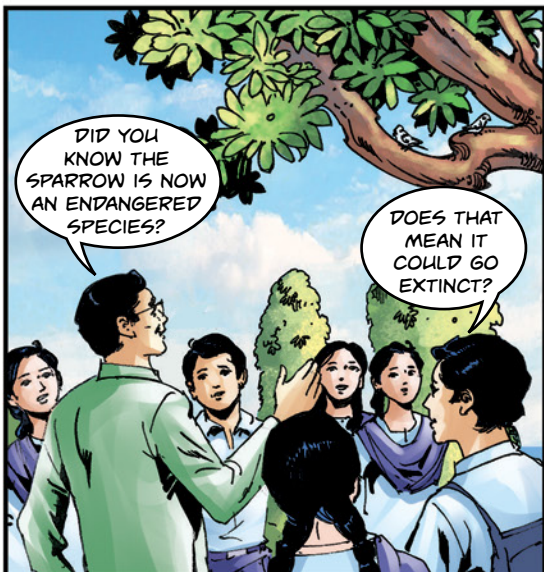
LOOK, SOME SPARROWS!

THAT'S NOT A UNIQUE BIRD, THOUGH.

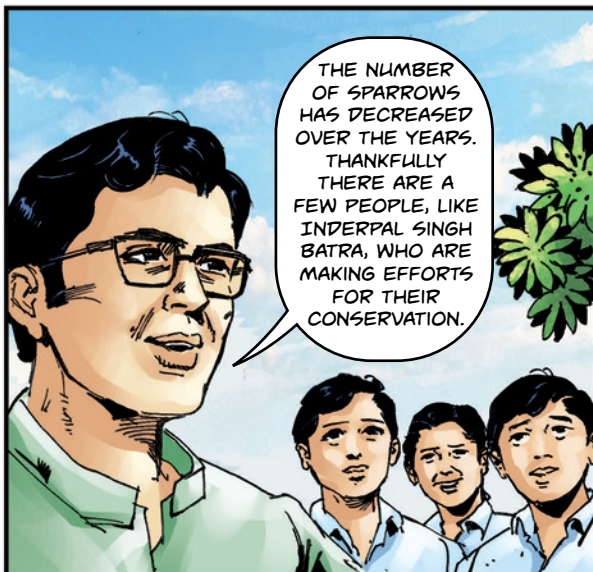


DID YOU KNOW THE SPARROW IS NOW AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

DOES THAT MEAN IT COULD GO EXTINCT?



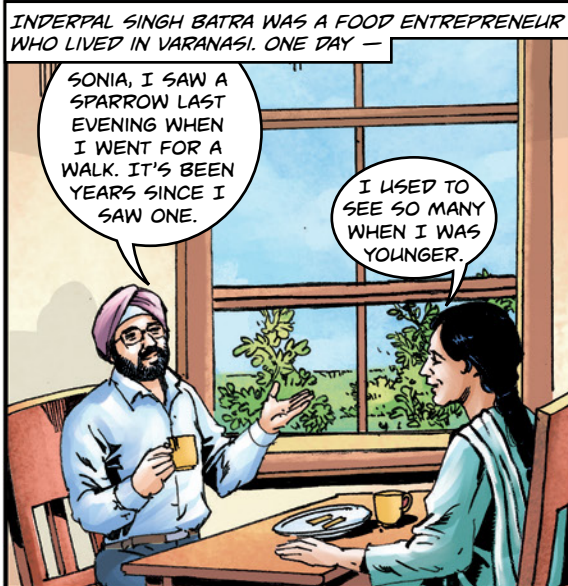
THE NUMBER OF SPARROWS HAS DECREASED OVER THE YEARS. THANKFULLY THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE, LIKE INDERPAL SINGH BATRA, WHO ARE MAKING EFFORTS FOR THEIR CONSERVATION.



INDERPAL SINGH BATRA WAS A FOOD ENTREPRENEUR WHO LIVED IN VARANASI. ONE DAY —

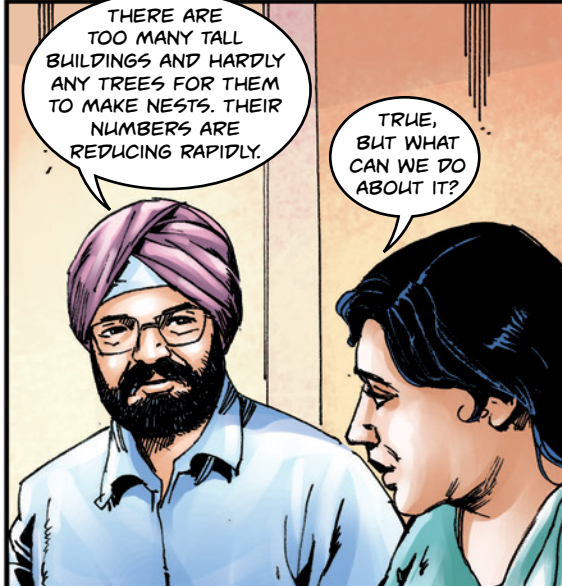
SONIA, I SAW A SPARROW LAST EVENING WHEN I WENT FOR A WALK. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I SAW ONE.

I USED TO SEE SO MANY WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

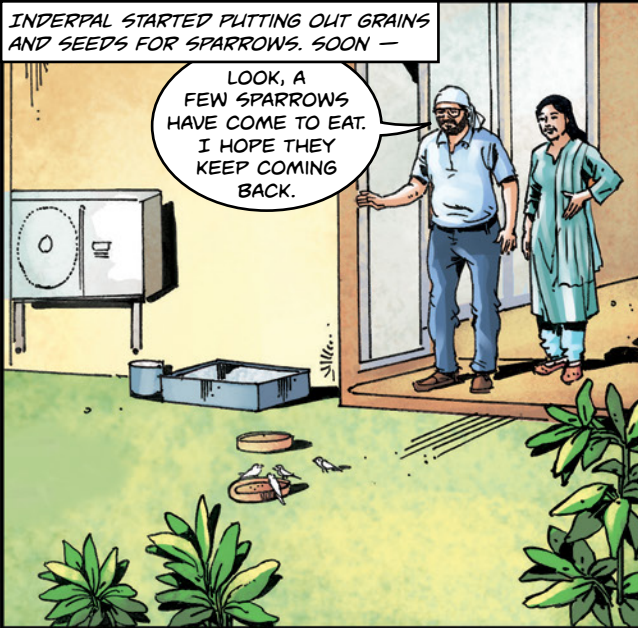


THERE ARE TOO MANY TALL BUILDINGS AND HARDLY ANY TREES FOR THEM TO MAKE NESTS. THEIR NUMBERS ARE REDUCING RAPIDLY.

TRUE, BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?



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



A FEW WEEKS LATER, INDERPAL HAD AN IDEA —



SOON —



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



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



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

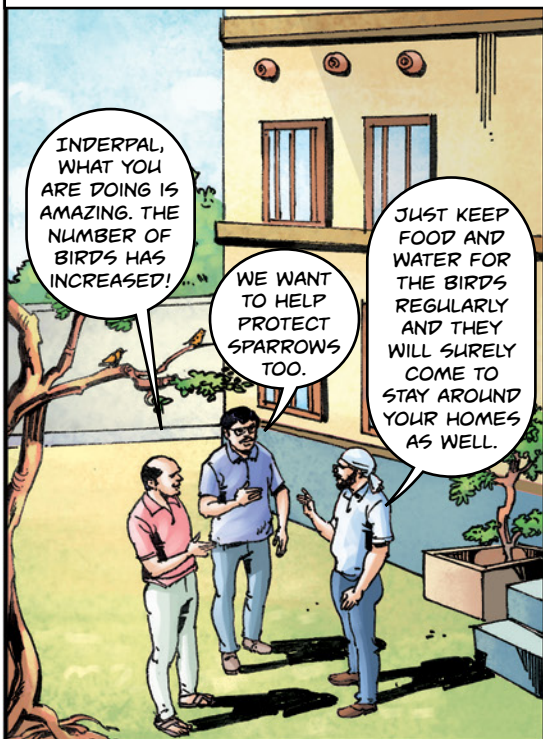
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM NOW, AMRITA. ISN'T IT AMAZING?

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



HE HAS PLANTED HUNDREDS OF TREES OVER THE YEARS.

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

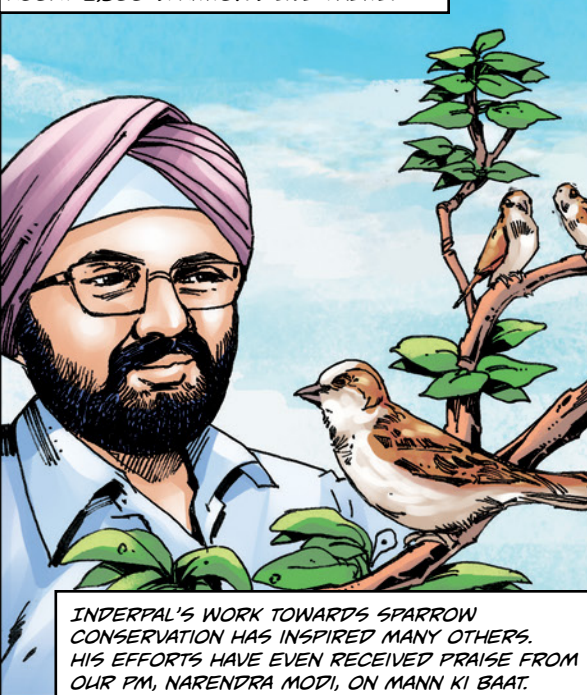


INDERPAL, WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS AMAZING. THE NUMBER OF BIRDS HAS INCREASED!

WE WANT TO HELP PROTECT SPARROWS TOO.

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

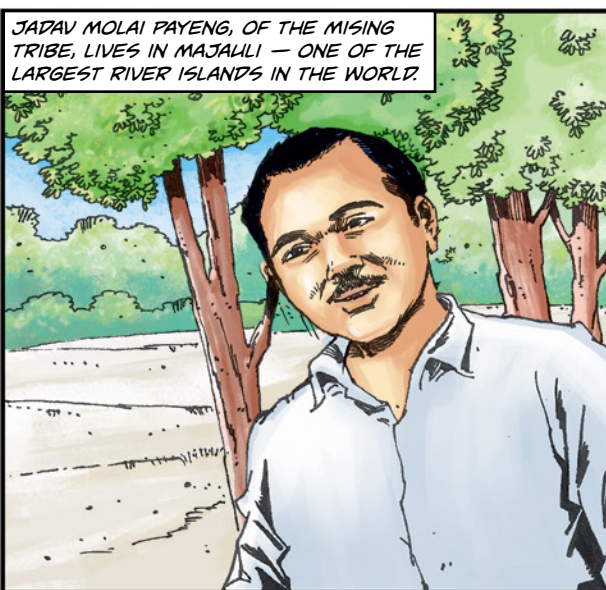
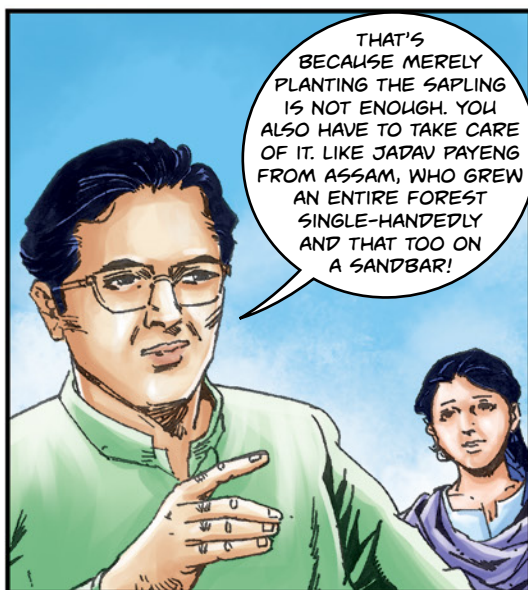
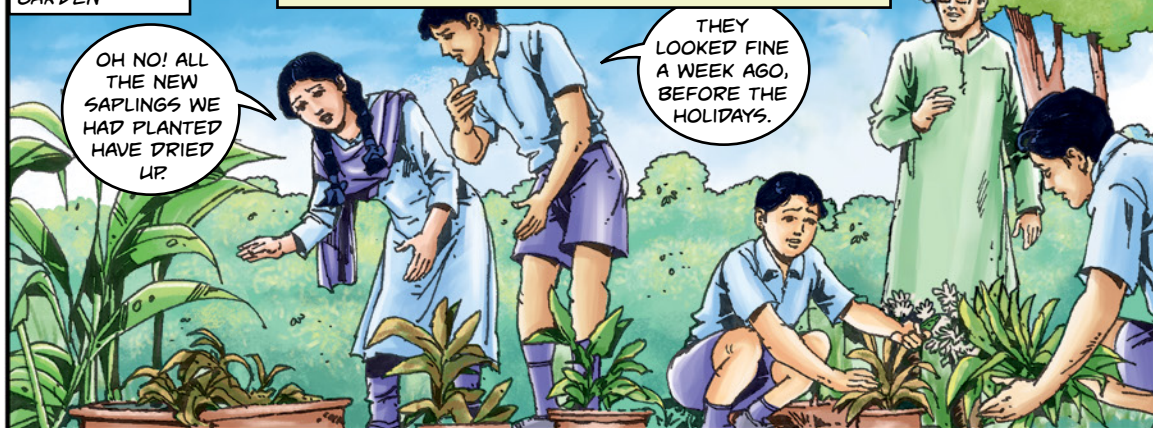
INDERPAL HAS BEEN FEEDING SPARROWS FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS. TODAY, HE HAS OVER 100 NESTS IN HIS HOUSE AND ABOUT 2,500 SPARROWS LIVE THERE.



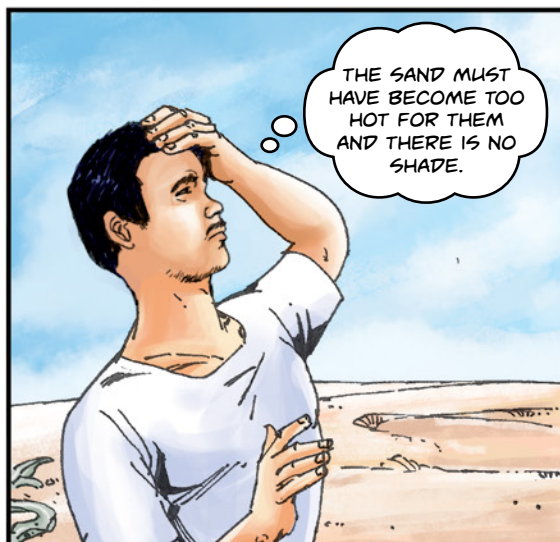
INDERPAL'S WORK TOWARDS SPARROW CONSERVATION HAS INSPIRED MANY OTHERS. HIS EFFORTS HAVE EVEN RECEIVED PRAISE FROM OUR PM, NARENDRA MODI, ON MANN KI BAAT.

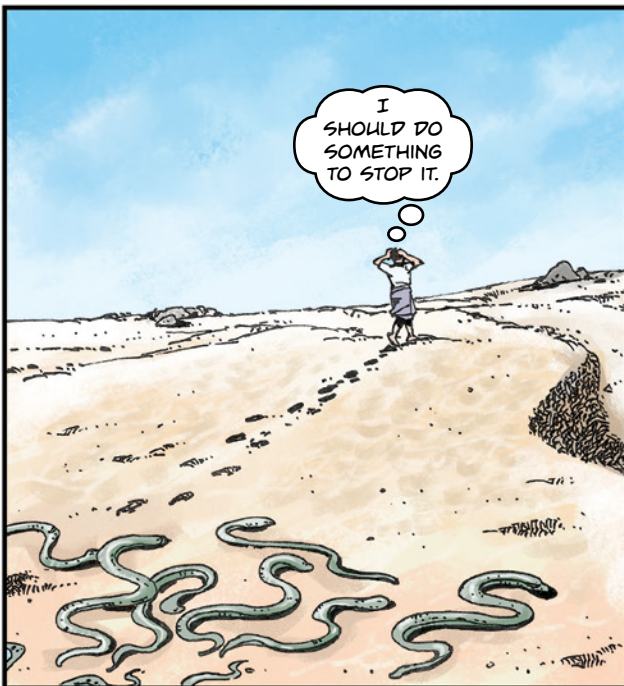
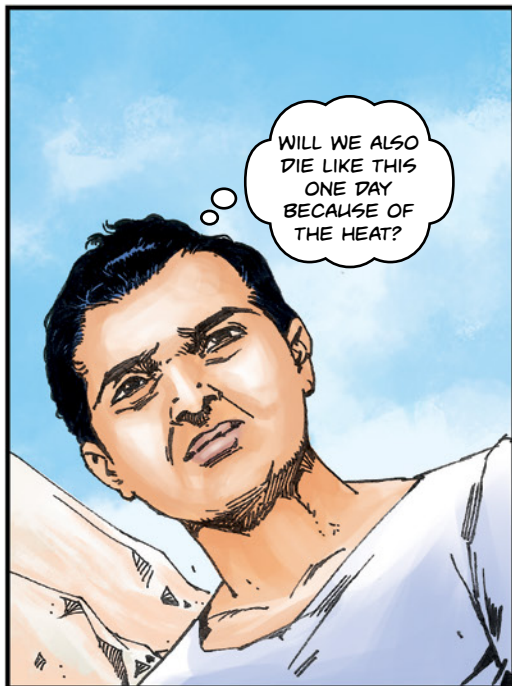
JADAV PAYENG

IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN —

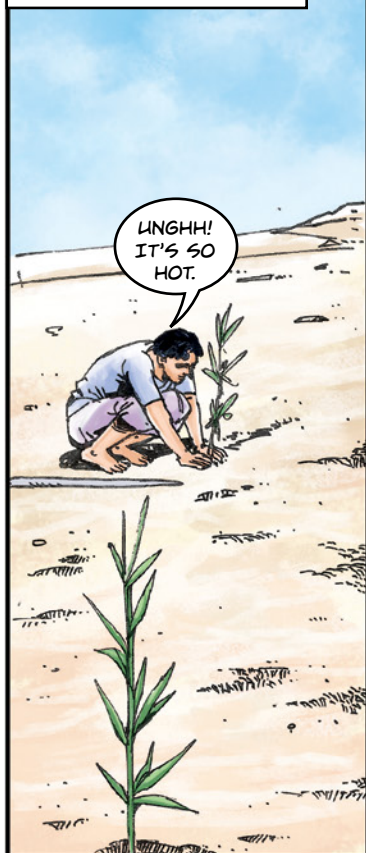


ON A HOT AFTERNOON IN 1979, WHEN HE WAS 16 YEARS OLD, JADAV SAW SOMETHING THAT WOULD CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER.





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



...AND THE NEXT.



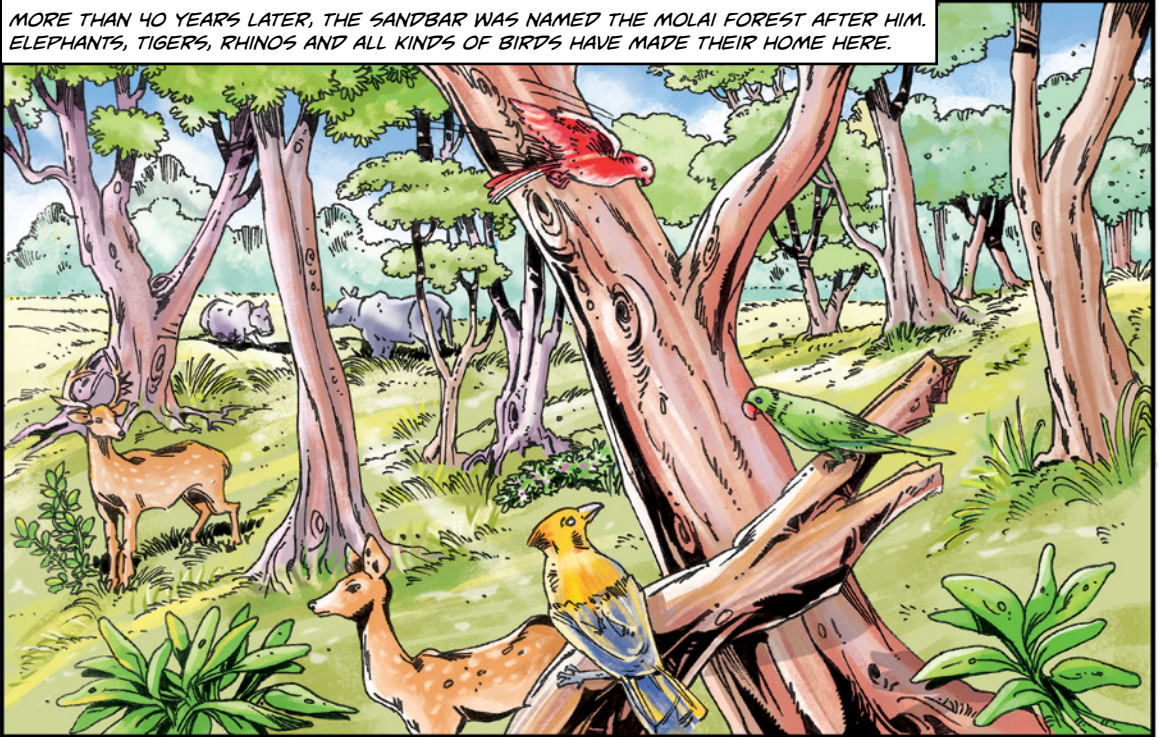
IT WAS HARD WORK, BUT HE KEPT GOING.

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

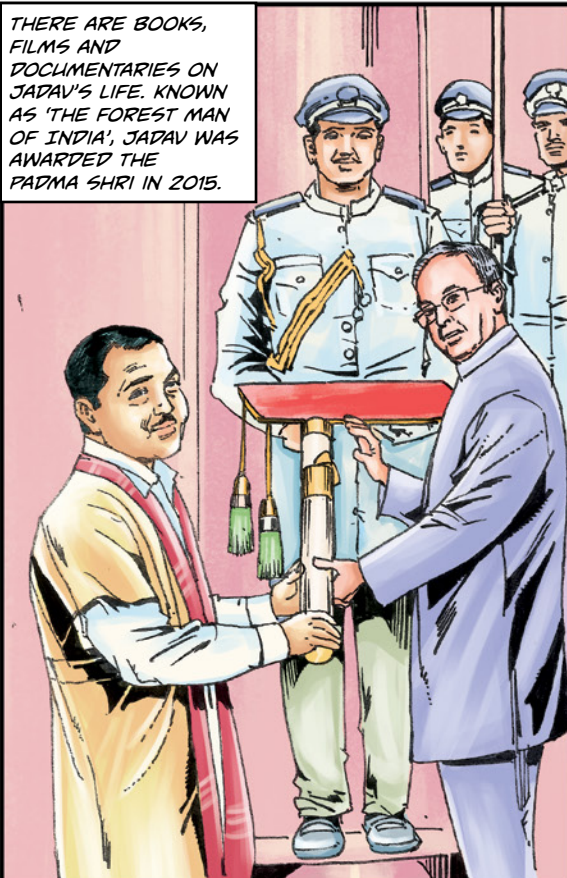


...A LUSH FOREST HAD GROWN WHERE EARLIER THERE HAD BEEN ONLY SAND.

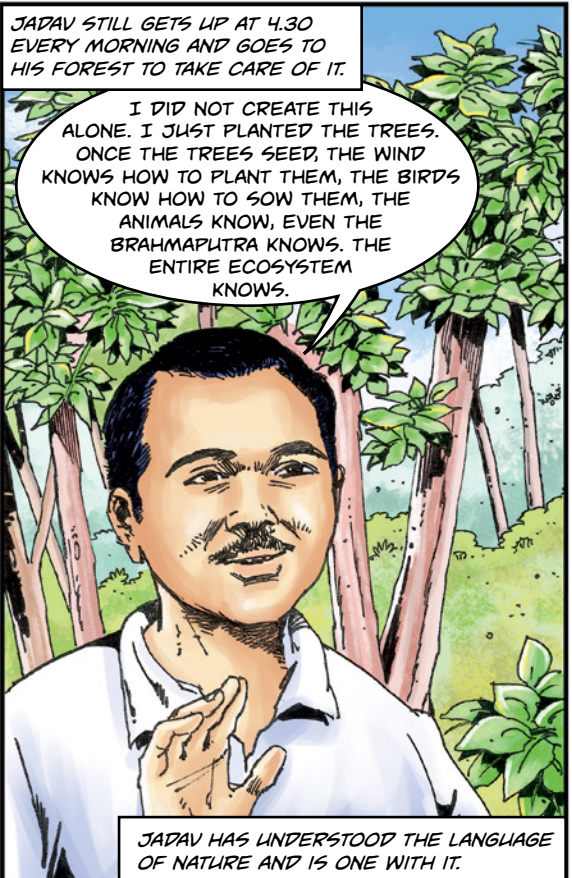
MORE THAN 40 YEARS LATER, THE SANDBAR WAS NAMED THE MOLAI FOREST AFTER HIM. ELEPHANTS, TIGERS, RHINOS AND ALL KINDS OF BIRDS HAVE MADE THEIR HOME HERE.



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



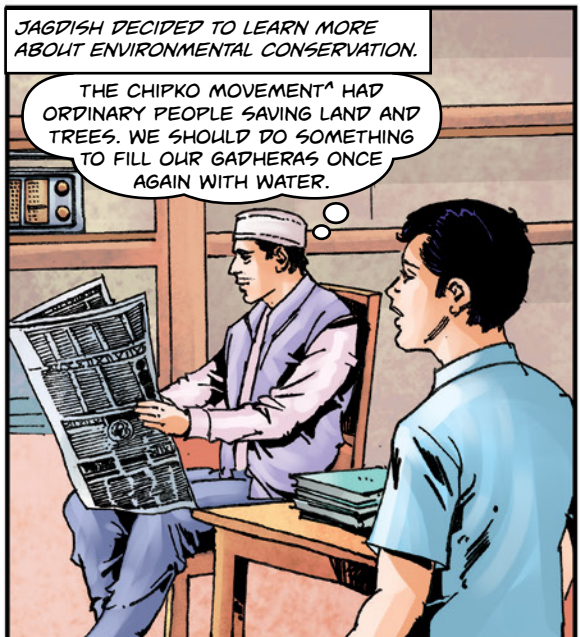
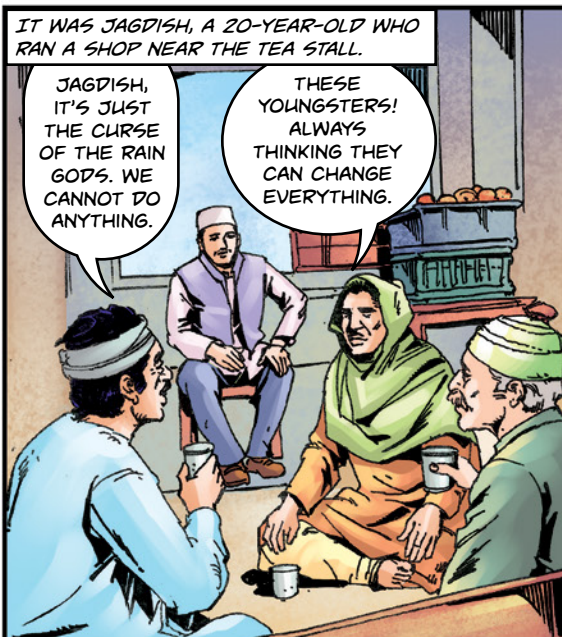
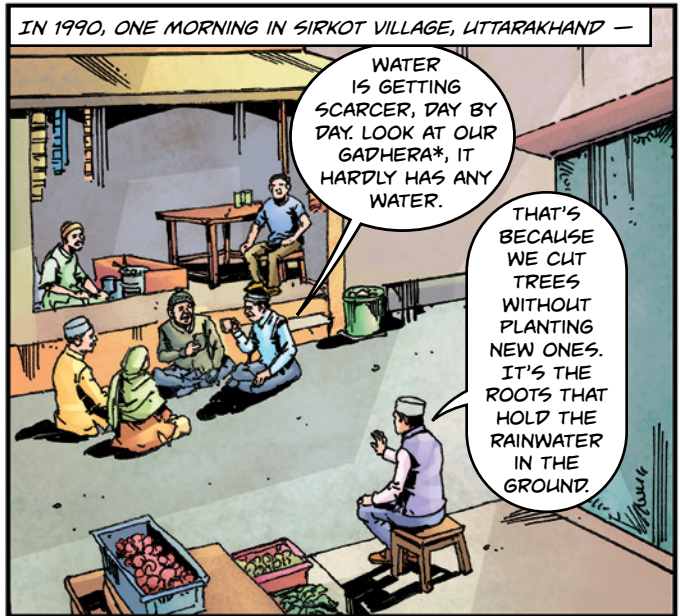
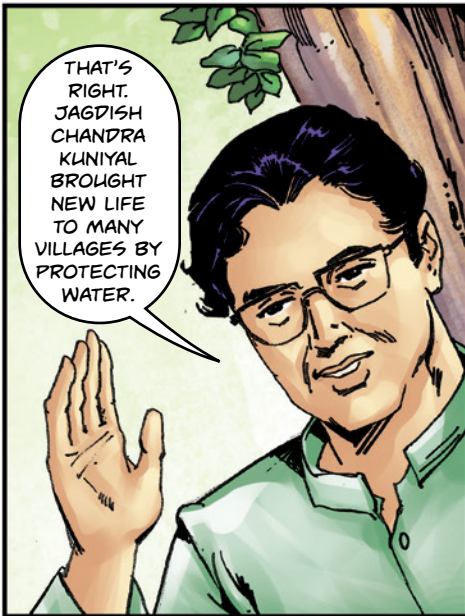
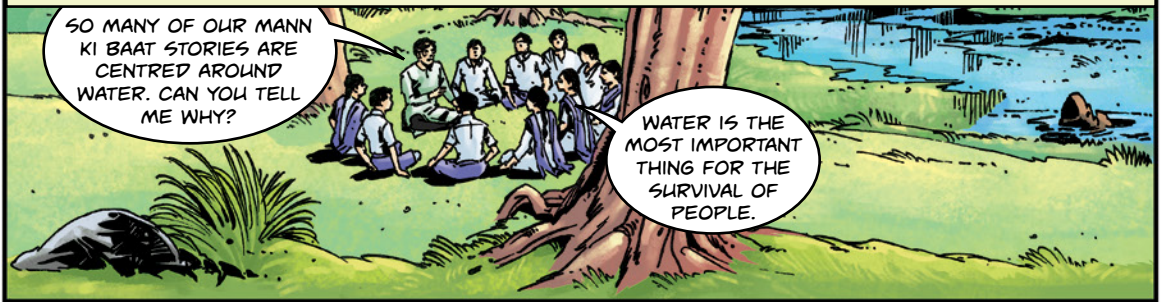
JADAV STILL GETS UP AT 4.30 EVERY MORNING AND GOES TO HIS FOREST TO TAKE CARE OF IT.



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

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

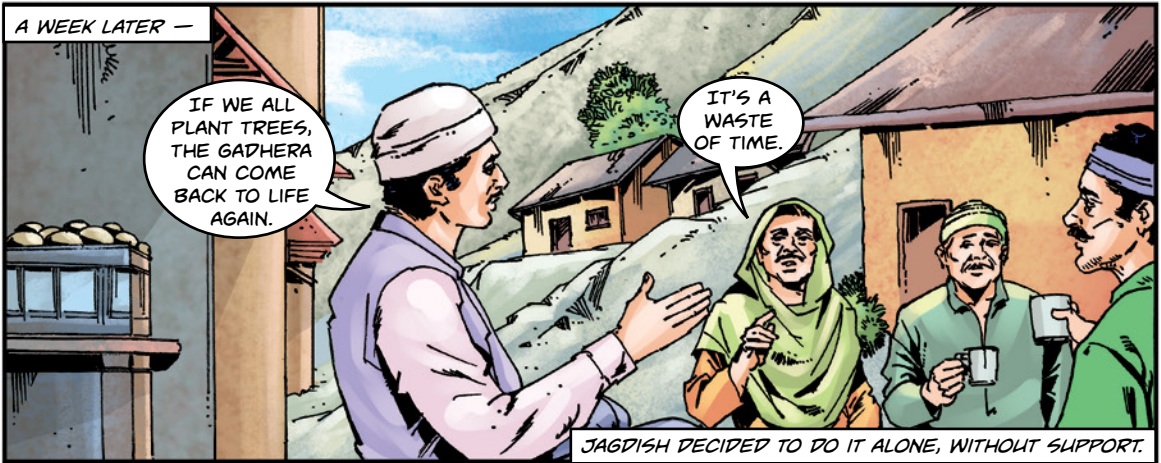
JAGDISH CHANDRA KUNIYAL



*RAINWATER MOUNTAIN STREAM

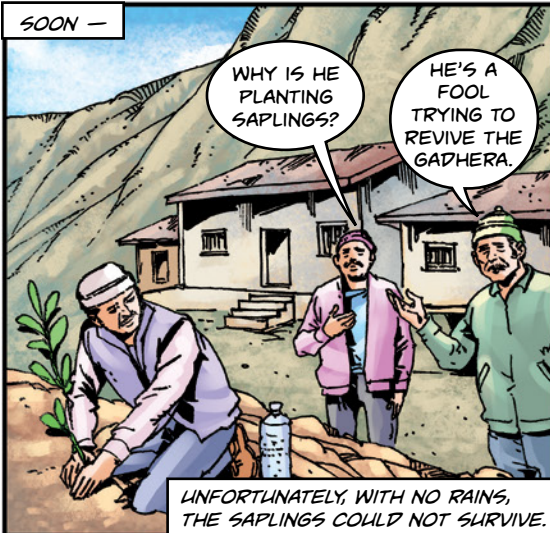
^AN ECOLOGICAL MOVEMENT IN THE 1970s WHEN PEOPLE HUGGED TREES TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING CUT

A WEEK LATER —

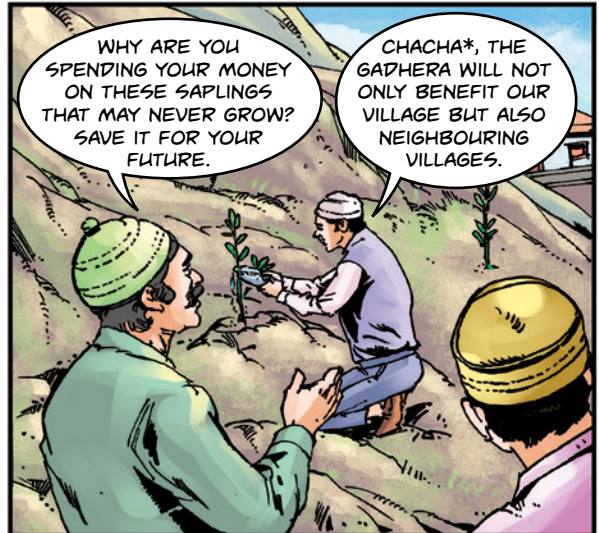


JAGDISH DECIDED TO DO IT ALONE, WITHOUT SUPPORT.

SOON —

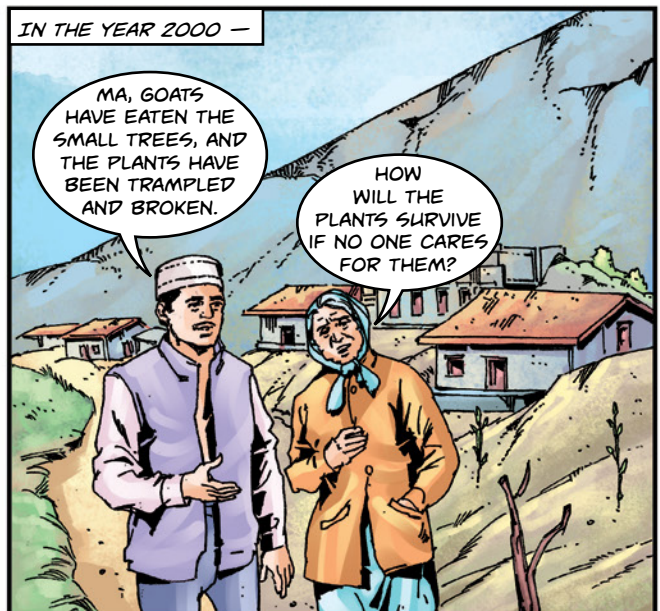


UNFORTUNATELY, WITH NO RAINS, THE SAPPLINGS COULD NOT SURVIVE.



OVER A DECADE, JAGDISH PLANTED SAPPLINGS ACROSS THE VILLAGE.

IN THE YEAR 2000 —



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

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

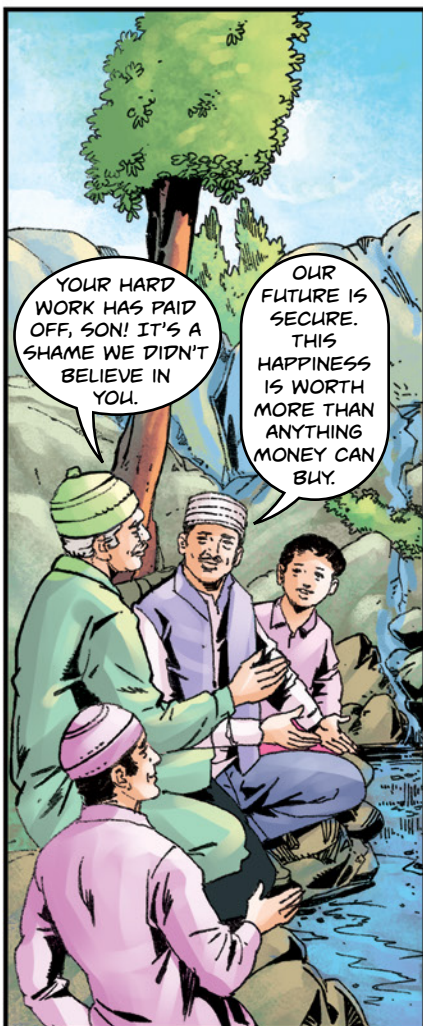
I AM GOING TO DO IT. IF I PLANT TEA AND HAVE A GUARD, THE PLANTS AND TREES WILL BE CARED FOR.

JAGDISH CONTINUED HIS EFFORTS AND THE FOREST COVER INCREASED.

FINALLY, IN 2012 —

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

I'VE WAITED SO LONG FOR THIS DAY!



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

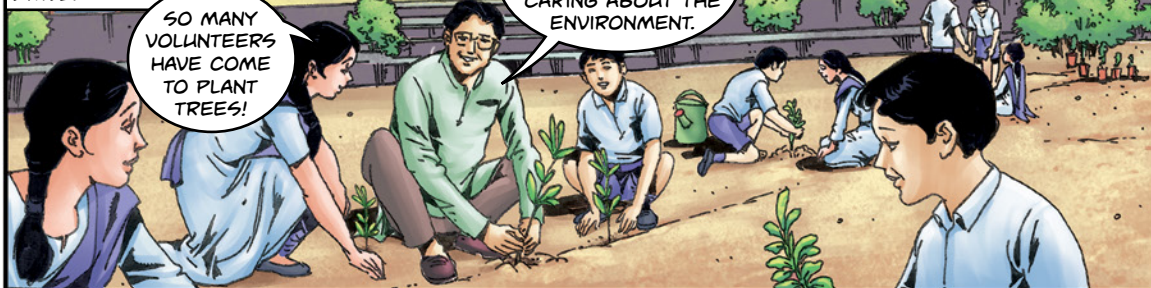


RAFI RAMANATH

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

SO MANY VOLUNTEERS HAVE COME TO PLANT TREES!

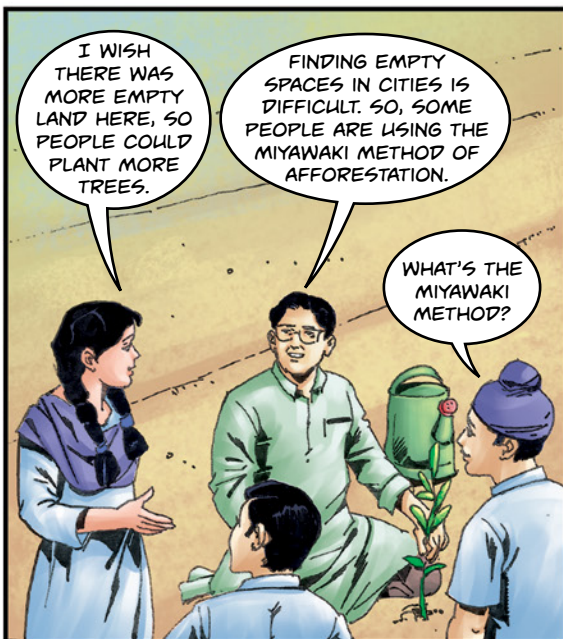
YES. IT'S NICE TO SEE YOUNGSTERS CARING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.



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

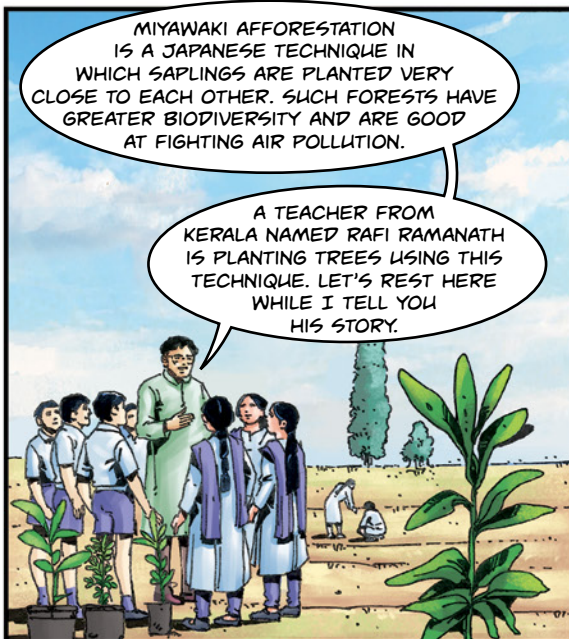
FINDING EMPTY SPACES IN CITIES IS DIFFICULT. SO, SOME PEOPLE ARE USING THE MIYAWAKI METHOD OF AFFORESTATION.

WHAT'S THE MIYAWAKI METHOD?



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

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

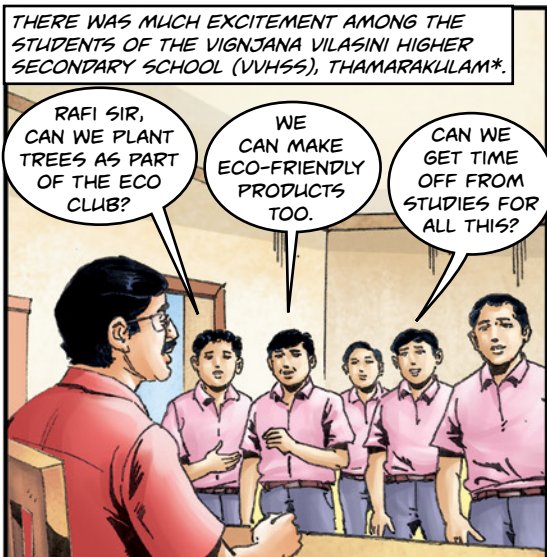


THERE WAS MUCH EXCITEMENT AMONG THE STUDENTS OF THE VIGNJANA VILASINI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL (VVHSS), THAMARAKULAM*.

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

WE CAN MAKE ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS TOO.

CAN WE GET TIME OFF FROM STUDIES FOR ALL THIS?

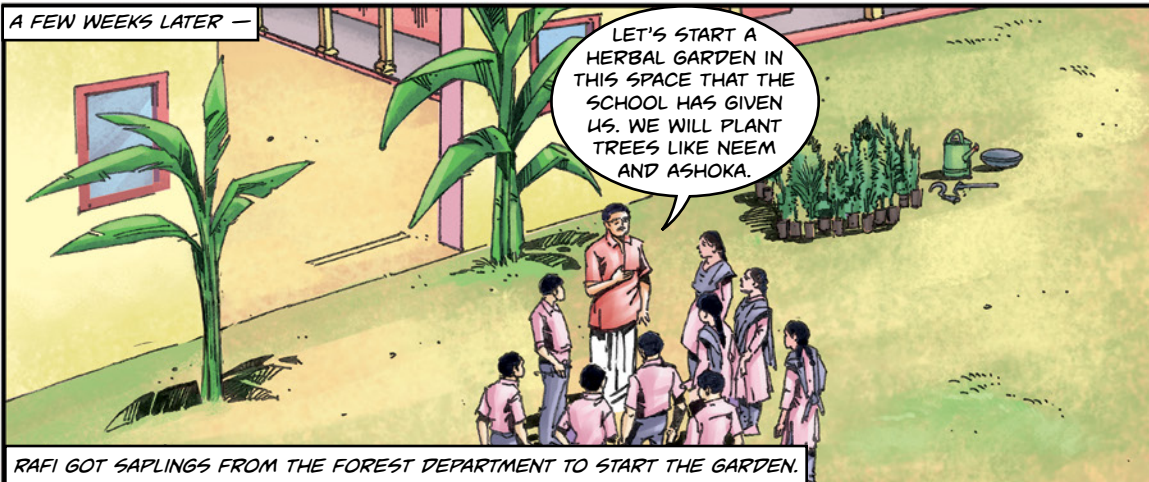


RAFI RAMANATH, THEIR BIOLOGY TEACHER, WAS THE COORDINATOR OF THE ECO CLUB.

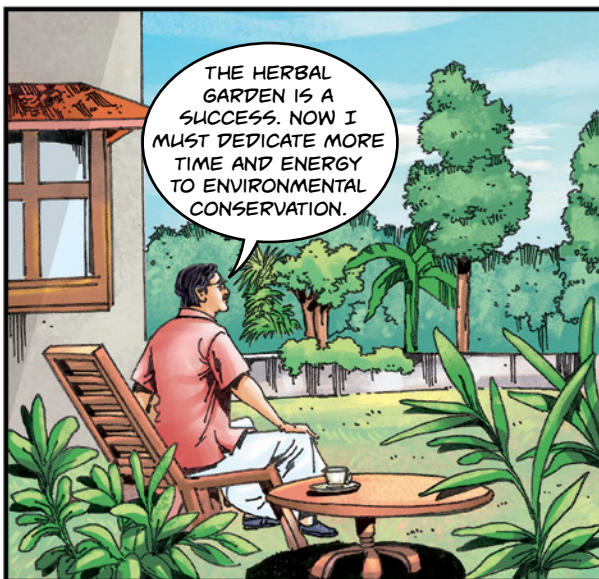
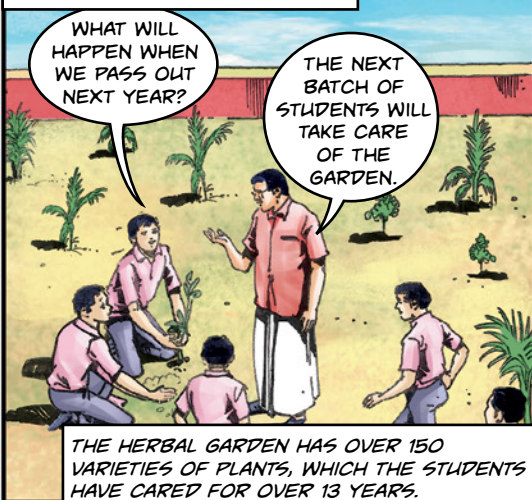
WE WILL PLANT TREES AND DO A LOT MORE. BUT FIRST, WE WILL LEARN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND HOW TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.



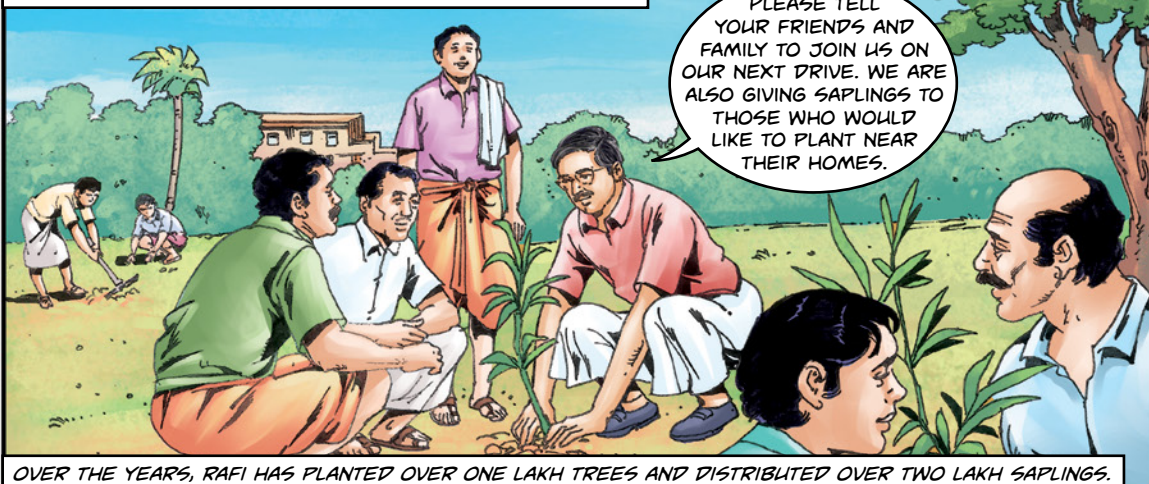
A FEW WEEKS LATER —



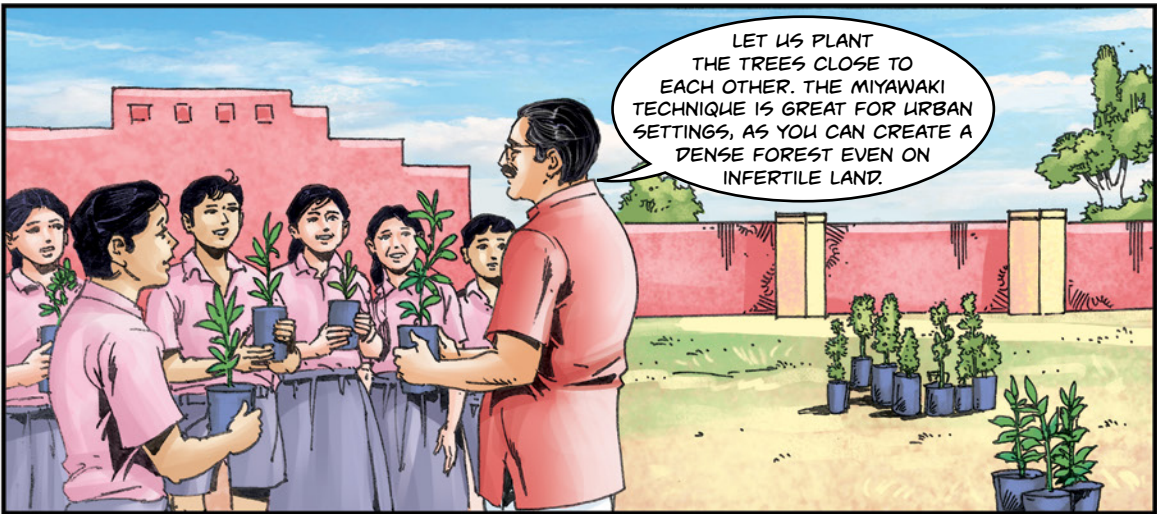
OVER THE YEARS, RAFI AND HIS STUDENTS PLANTED MANY VARIETIES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS.



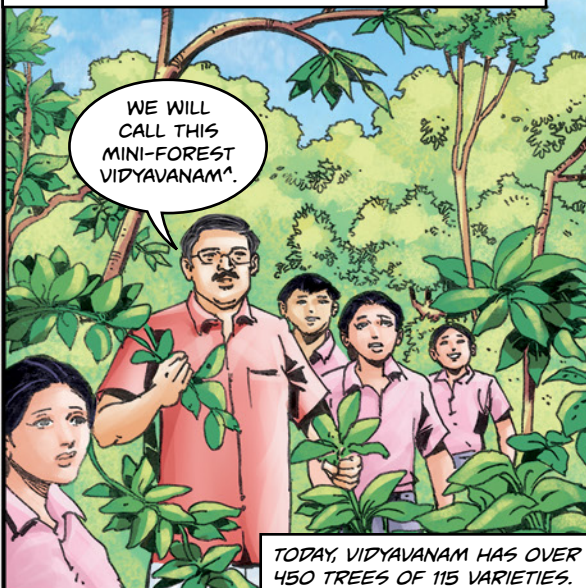
RAFI SOON COLLABORATED WITH AN NGO AND STARTED CONDUCTING PLANTATION DRIVES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.



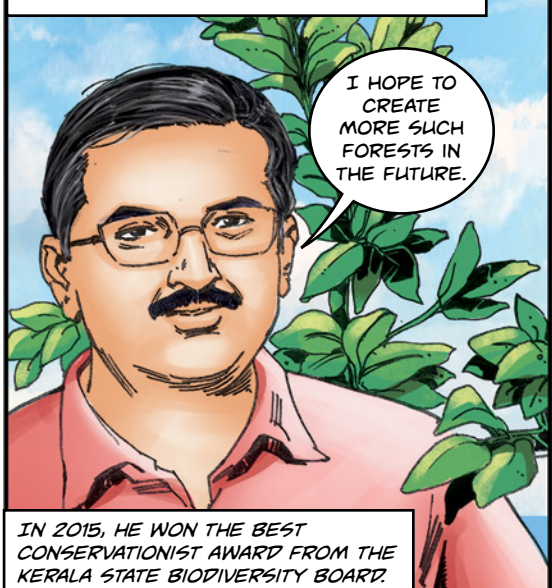
RAFI ALSO SET UP MANY HERBAL, FRUIT AND BUTTERFLY GARDENS AROUND SCHOOLS, OFFICES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP IN 2021 —



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



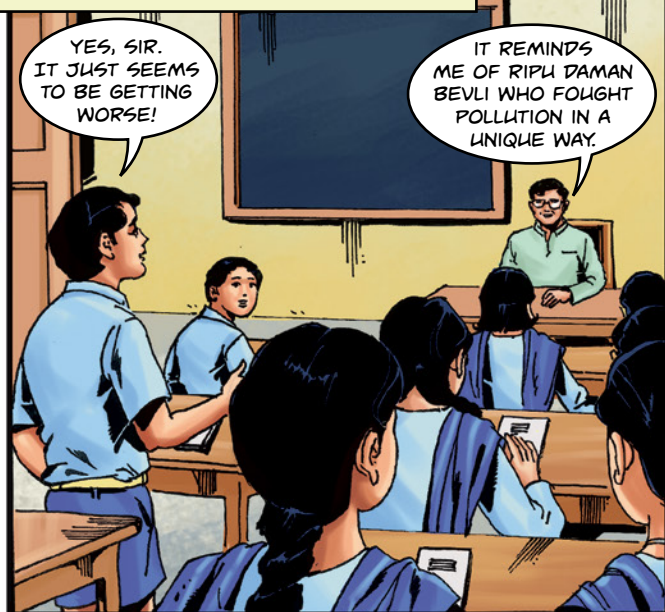
FOR OVER A DECADE, RAFI'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS INCREASING THE GREEN COVER OF HIS STATE.



RIPU DAMAN BEVLI



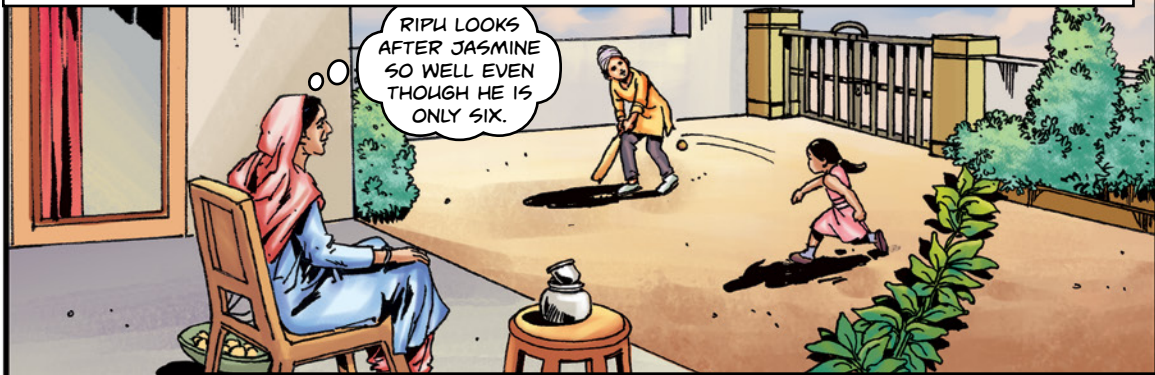
THE POLLUTION IN DELHI HAS TOUCHED SCARY LEVELS. I HOPE YOU ARE WEARING A MASK WHILE COMING TO SCHOOL.



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

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

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



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

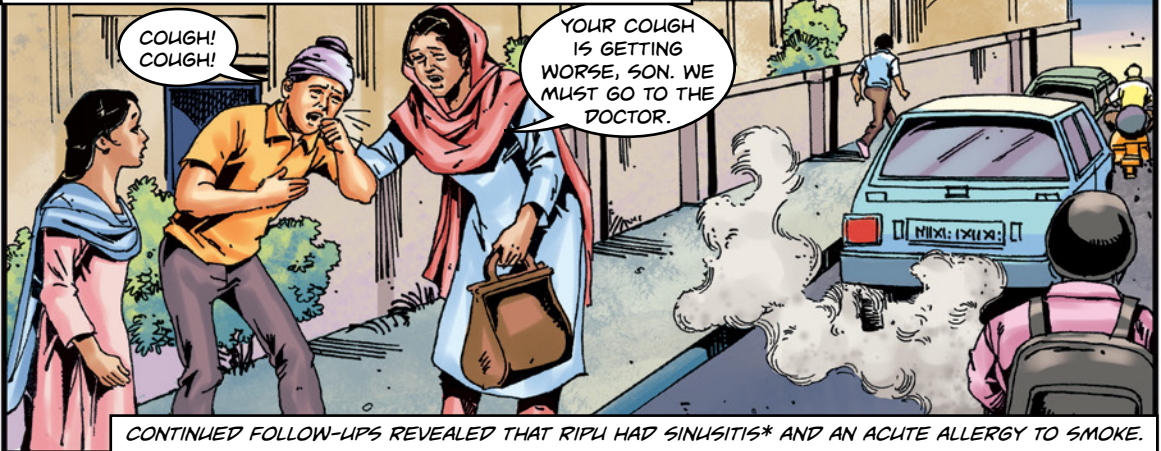
RANBIR ALSO NOTICED THAT HE SHOWED A KEEN INTEREST IN SPORTS, ESPECIALLY CRICKET.

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

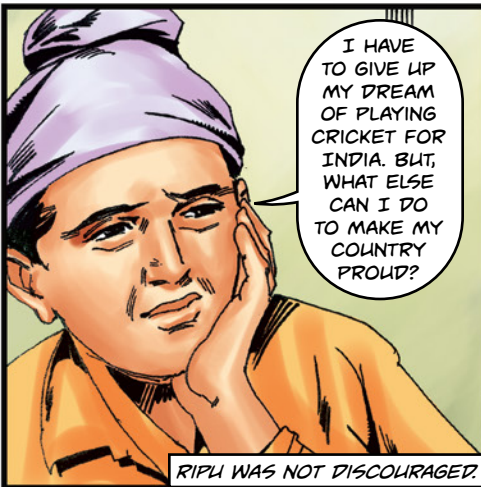


I MUST IMPROVE MY GAME. I WANT TO REPRESENT INDIA ONE DAY.

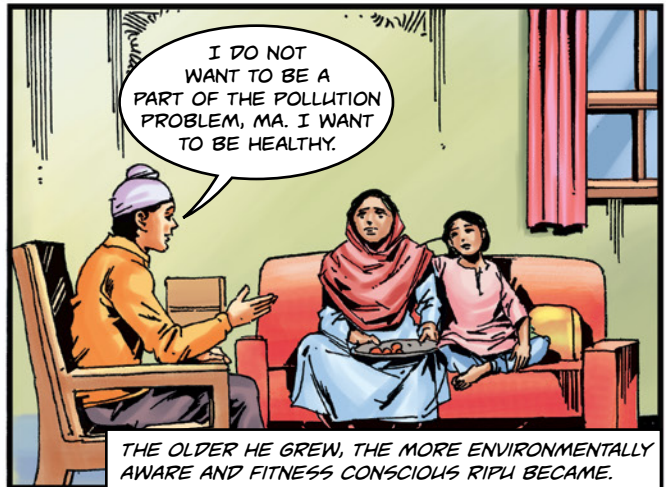
HOWEVER, THE POLLUTION IN DELHI MADE RIPU FALL SICK OFTEN.



CONTINUED FOLLOW-UPS REVEALED THAT RIPU HAD SINUSITIS* AND AN ACUTE ALLERGY TO SMOKE.



RIPU WAS NOT DISCOURAGED.



THE OLDER HE GREW, THE MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARE AND FITNESS CONSCIOUS RIPU BECAME.

HIS PASSION FOR FITNESS ALSO LED HIM TO BECOMING A MARATHONER. ONE DAY —

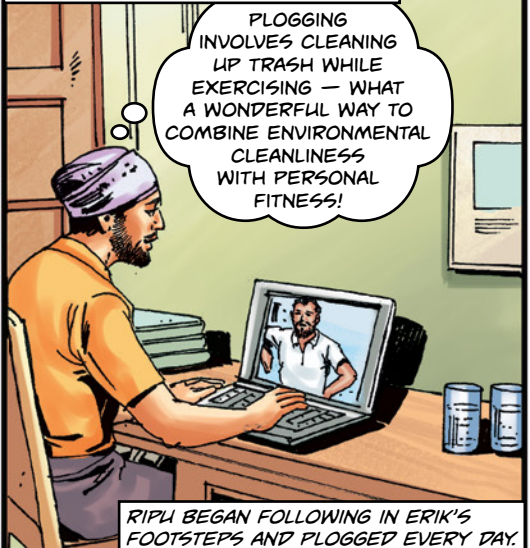


THE SCOOTERIST SPED AWAY, LAUGHING.

RIPU REALISED THAT LITTERING WAS COMMON EVERYWHERE.



DURING THIS TIME, RIPU FOUND OUT ABOUT ERIK AHLSTROM* OF SWEDEN, AND HIS BRAINCHILD, 'PLOGGING'**.



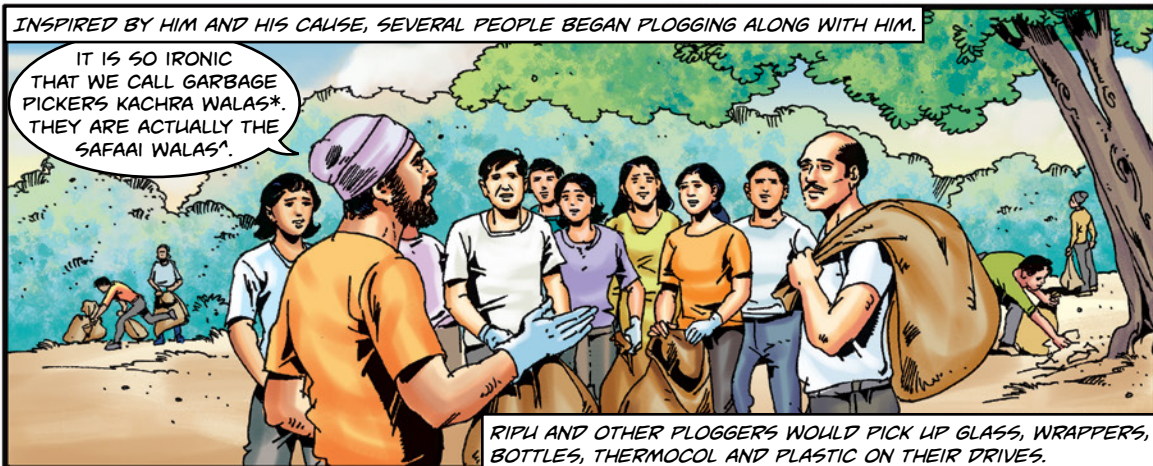
RIPU BEGAN FOLLOWING IN ERIK'S FOOTSTEPS AND PLOGGED EVERY DAY.

*AN INFLAMMATION OF THE TISSUE LINING THE SINUSES
*THE FOUNDER OF THE PLOGGING MOVEMENT

**PLOGGING COMBINES 'PLOCKA UPP', MEANING
'PICK UP' IN SWEDISH, AND 'JOGGING'

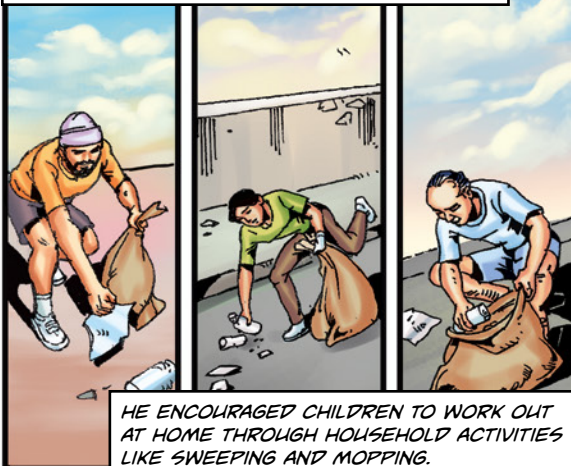
INSPIRED BY HIM AND HIS CAUSE, SEVERAL PEOPLE BEGAN PLOGGING ALONG WITH HIM.

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



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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

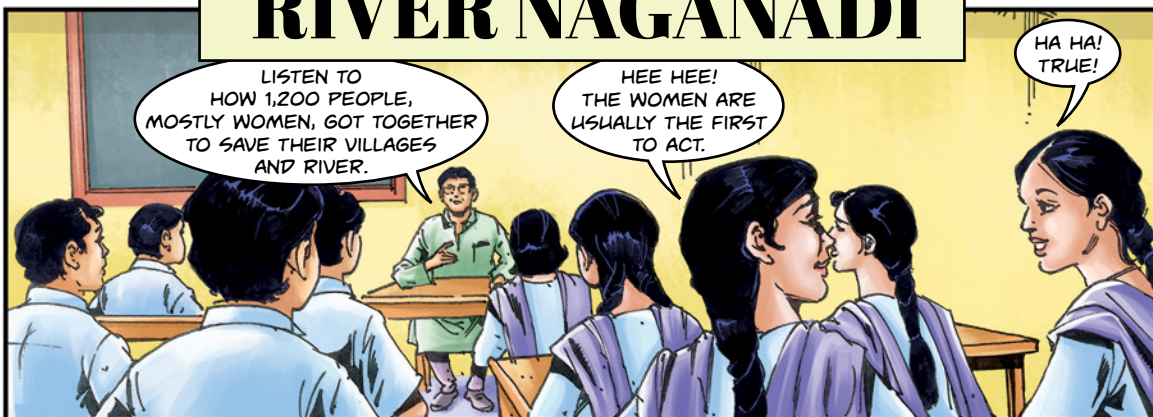
WHILE RIPU HAS MANY MILES TO PLOG, HE LEAVES HIS FELLOW INDIANS WITH ONE SIMPLE MESSAGE —



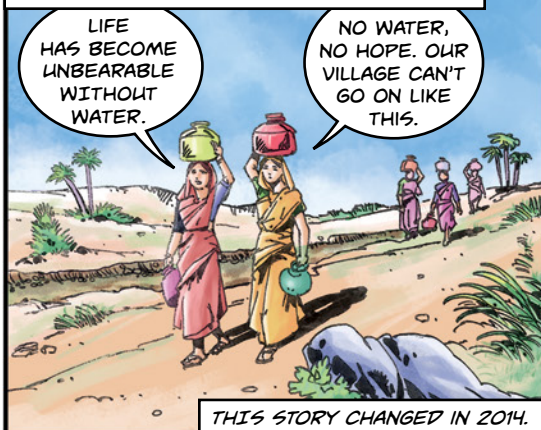
WE MUST PLEDGE TO STOP LITTERING. THAT WILL BE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO INDIA AND TO MOTHER EARTH.

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

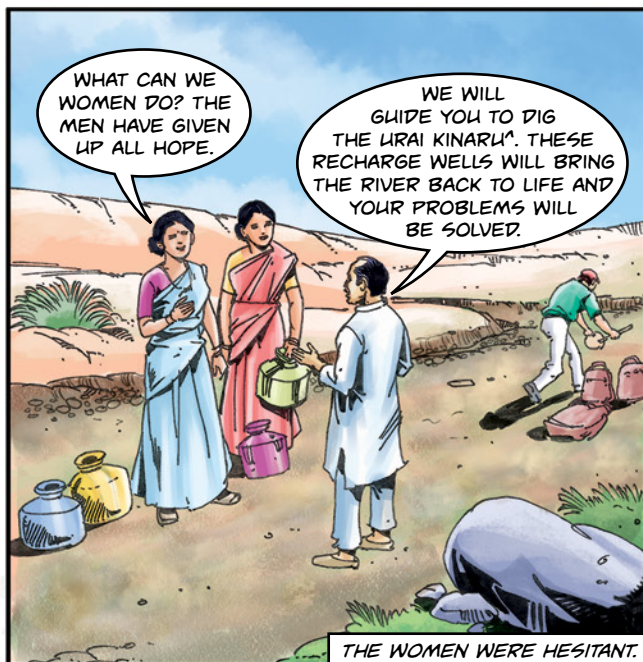
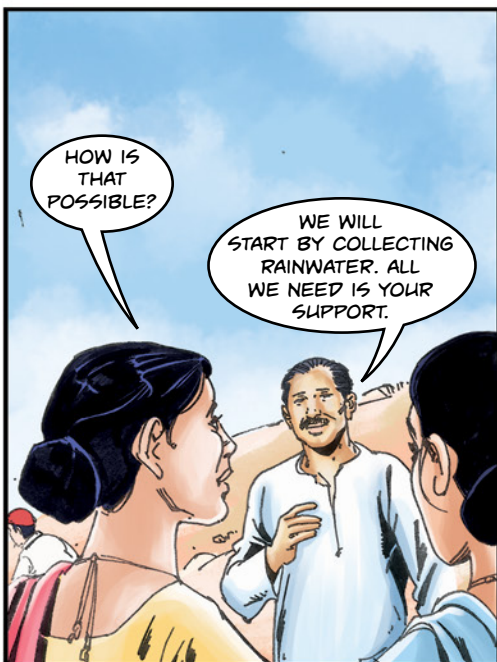
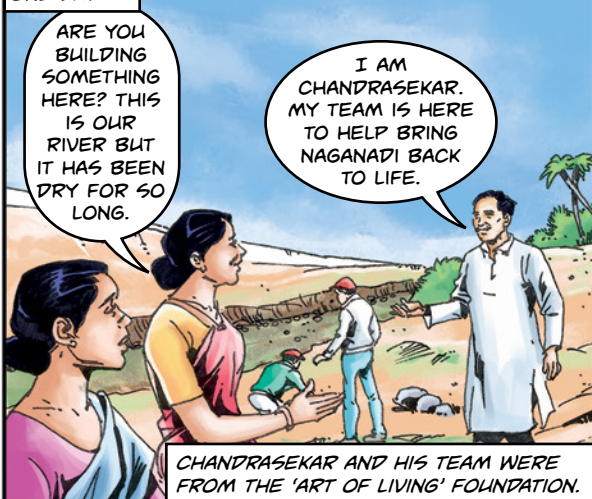
RIVER NAGANADI



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



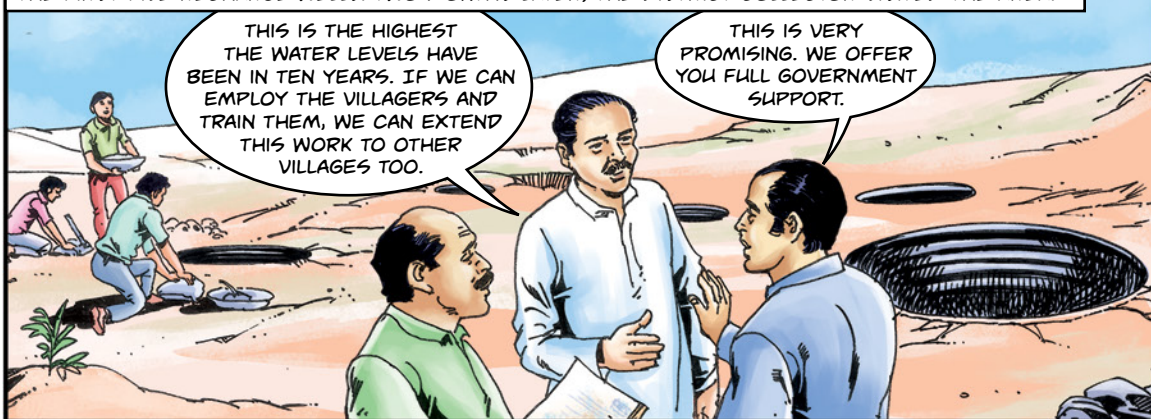
ONE DAY —



*A VILLAGE IN VELLORE DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

*TRADITIONAL RECHARGE WELLS

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

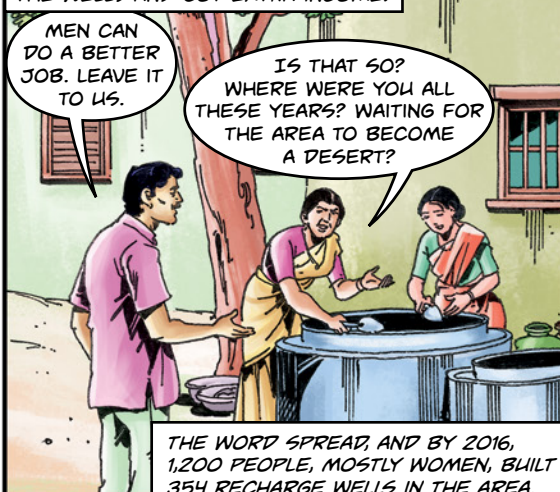


SOON —



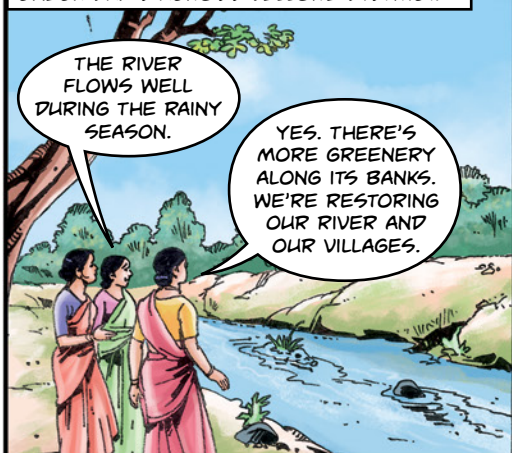
20 WOMEN STARTED DIGGING THE RECHARGE WELLS AND RAINWATER STARTED FLOWING INTO THEM.

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

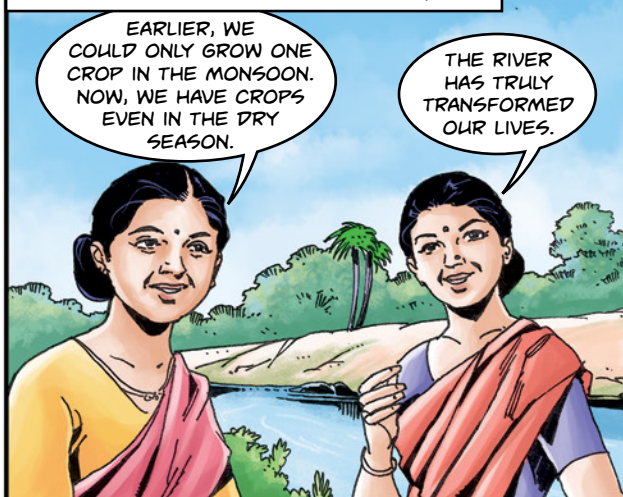


THE WORD SPREAD, AND BY 2016, 1,200 PEOPLE, MOSTLY WOMEN, BUILT 354 RECHARGE WELLS IN THE AREA.

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

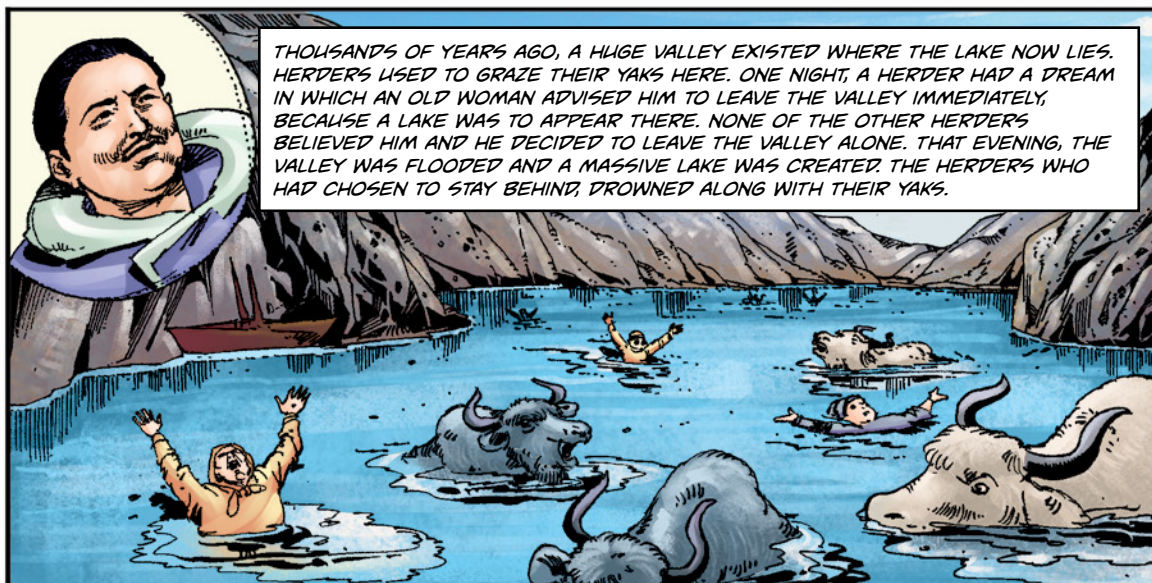
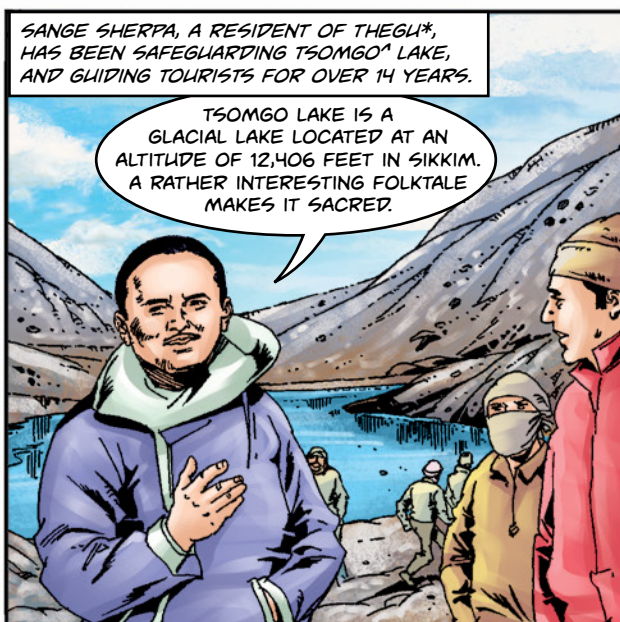
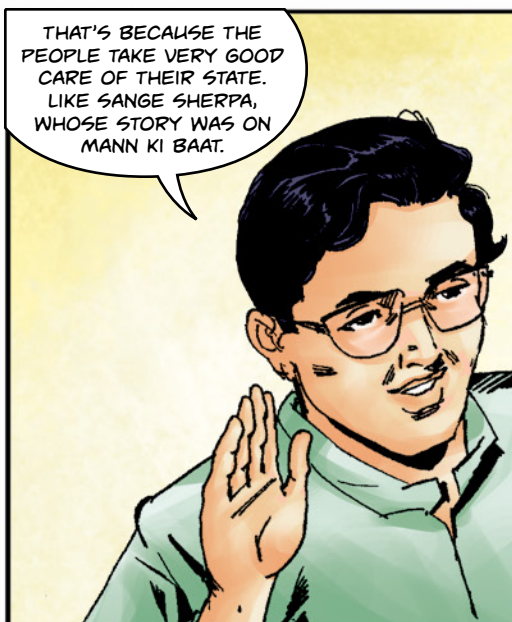


THE PROJECT BROUGHT WATER TO OVER 400 VILLAGES ALONG THE NAGANADI. BY 2019 —



*SISTER IN TAMIL.

SANGE SHERPA



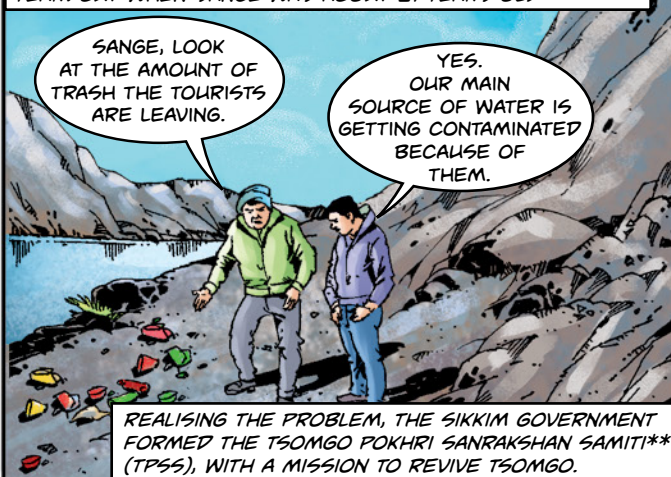
TOURISTS WHO VISIT TSOMGO SEEK SANGE OUT TO LISTEN TO HIS STORIES ABOUT THE LAKE.



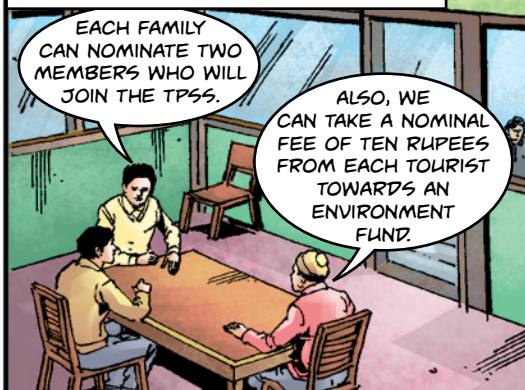
LIKE EVERY CHILD IN THEGH, SANGE GREW UP HEARING FROM THE VILLAGE ELDERS THAT KEEPING TSOMGO CLEAN WAS THEIR DUTY.



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

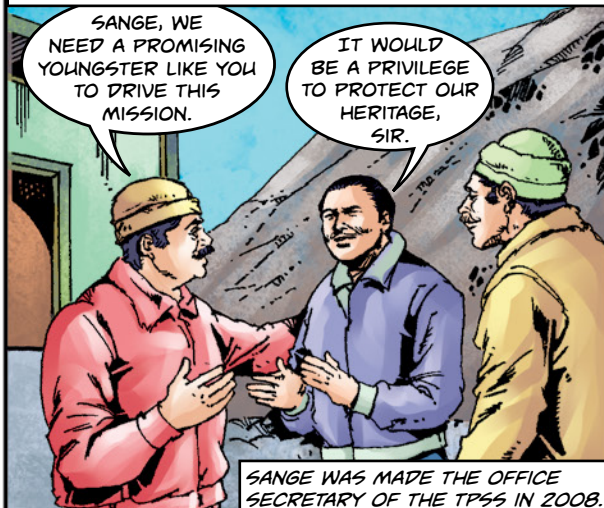


THE TPSS, SUPPORTED BY THE LOCALS, BEGAN TO DESIGN THE GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME.



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

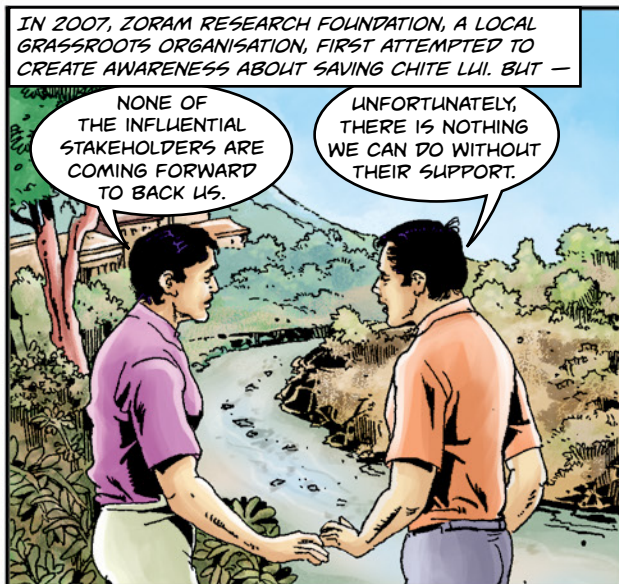
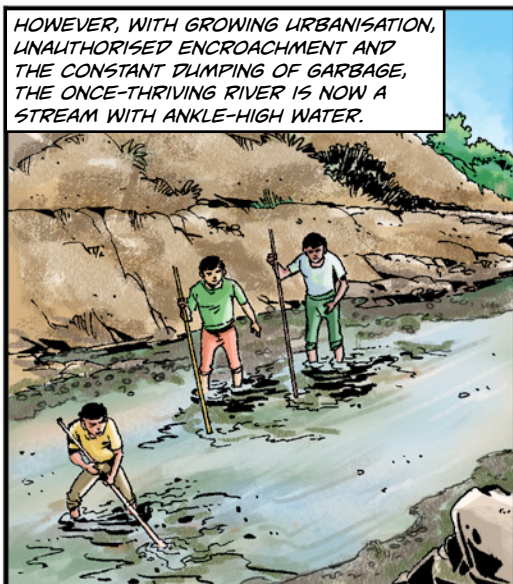
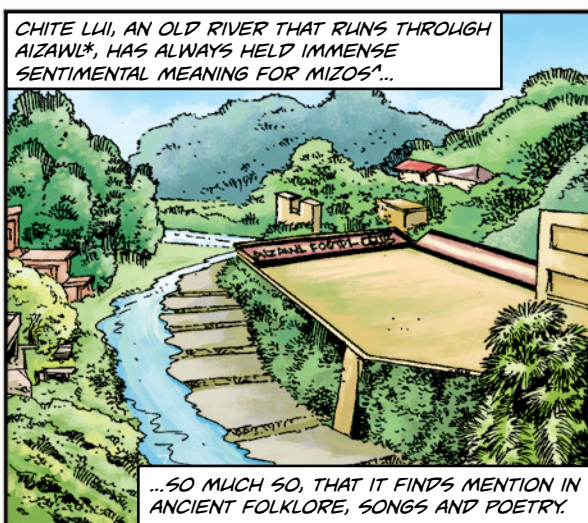
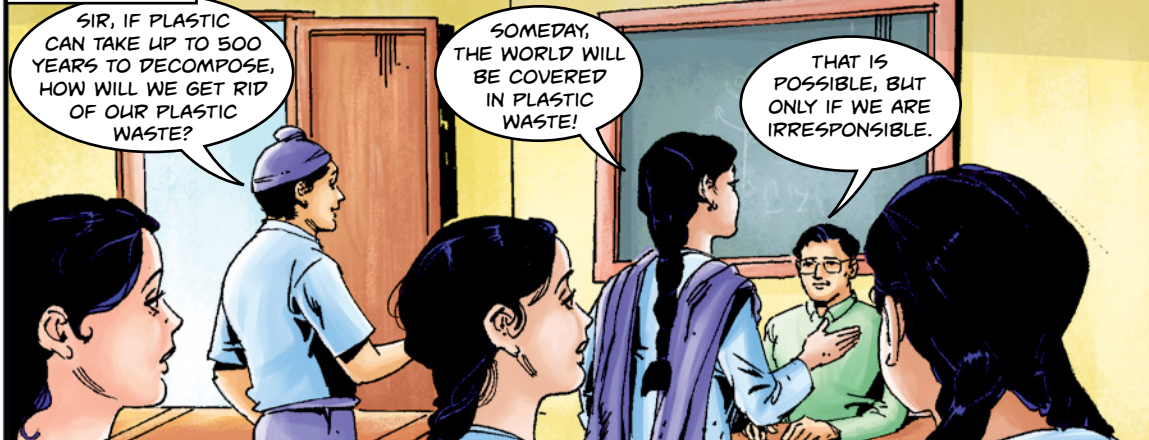
SANGE SHERPA JI'S EFFORTS HAVE TRANSFORMED TSOMGO, WHICH IS A CULTURAL ICON IN SIKKIM!

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

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

SAVE CHITE LUI

DURING SCIENCE CLASS —



*THE CAPITAL OF MIZORAM

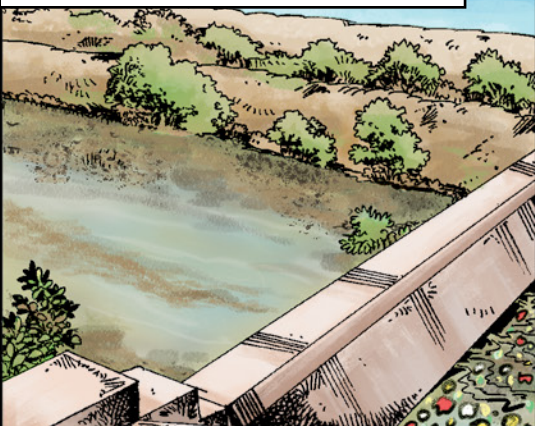
*PEOPLE BELONGING TO MIZORAM

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

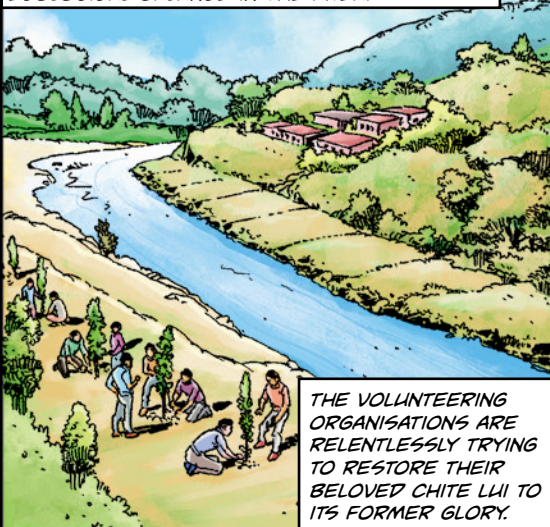
IN 2018, THE CHITE LUI (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WATER POLLUTION) ACT WAS PASSED, WHICH DECLARED GARBAGE DUMPING A NON-BAILABLE OFFENCE.

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



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

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

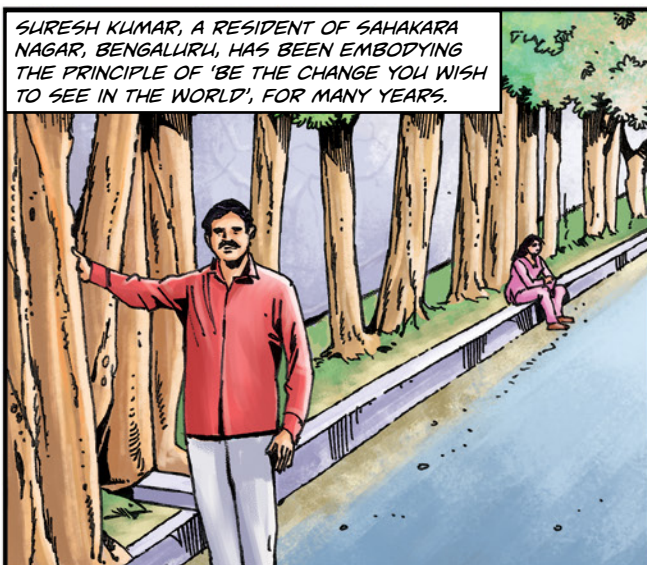
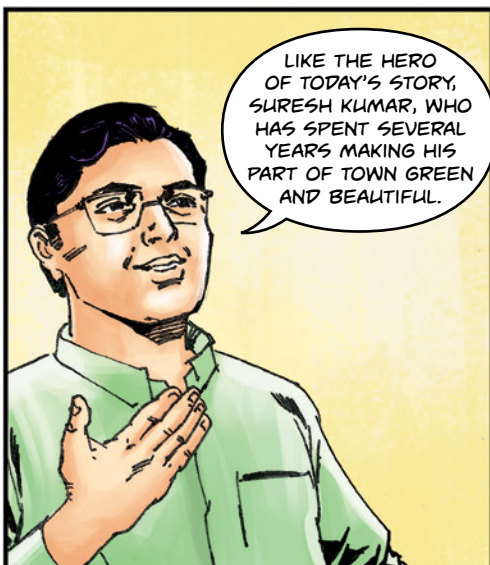
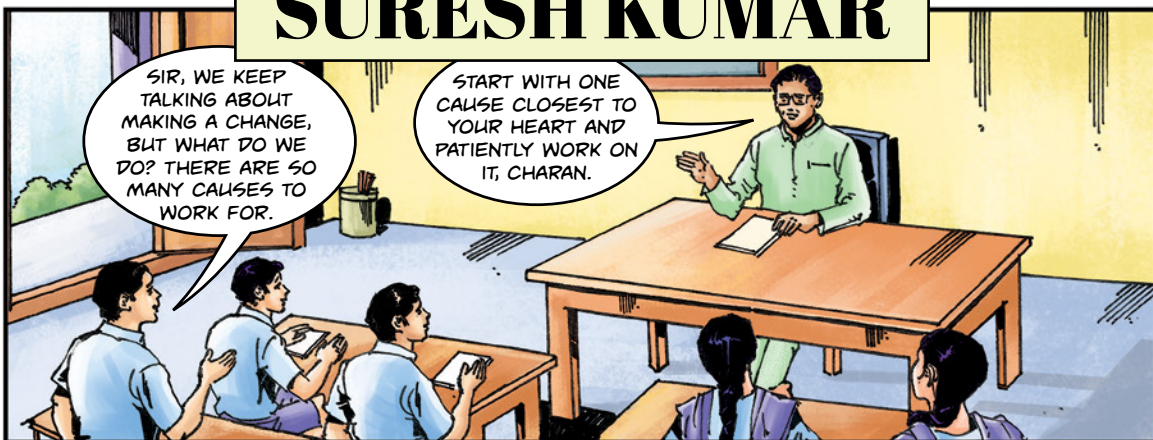


THE VOLUNTEERING ORGANISATIONS ARE RELENTLESSLY TRYING TO RESTORE THEIR BELOVED CHITE LUI TO ITS FORMER GLORY.

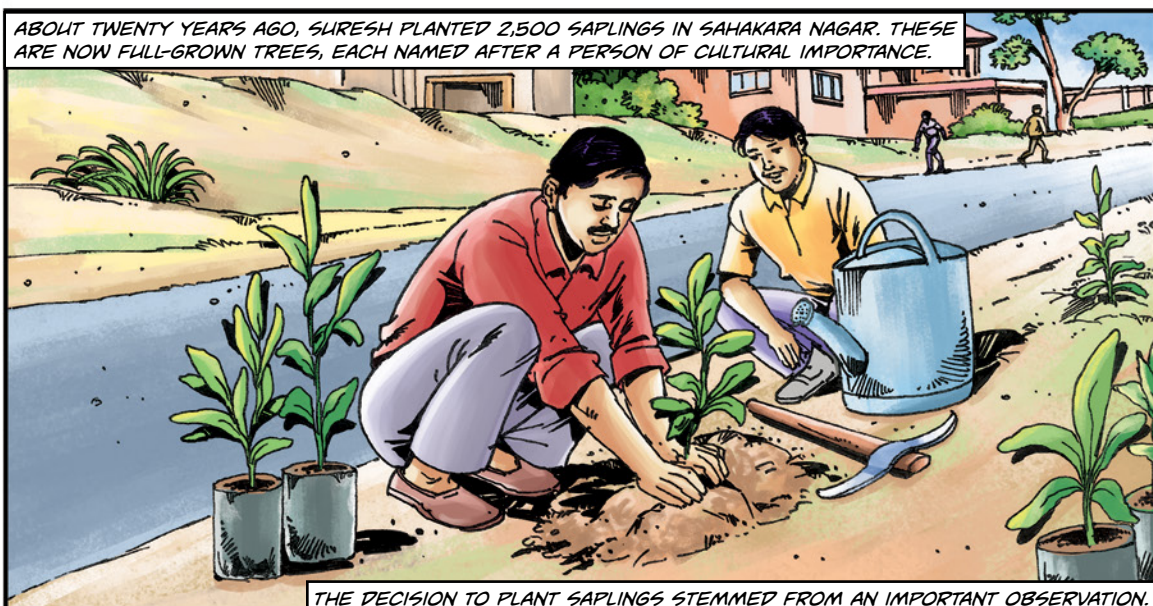
*SMALL DAMS THAT ARE BUILT TO TRAP AND OBSTRUCT SEDIMENT FROM ENTERING A WATER BODY

^aNATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

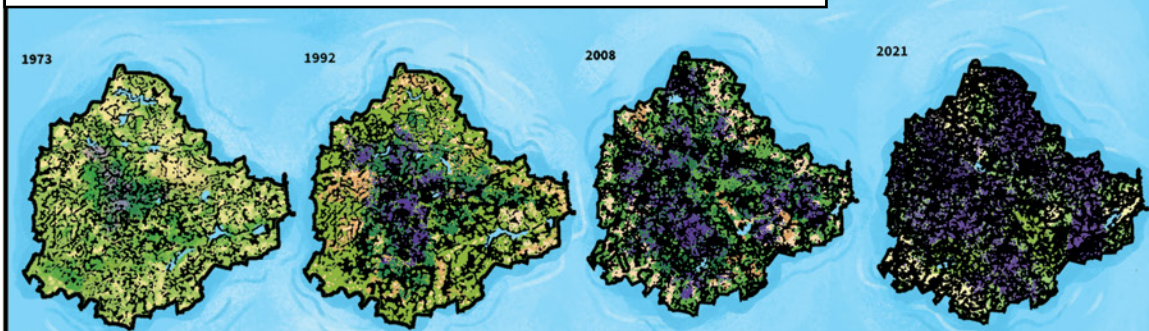
SURESH KUMAR



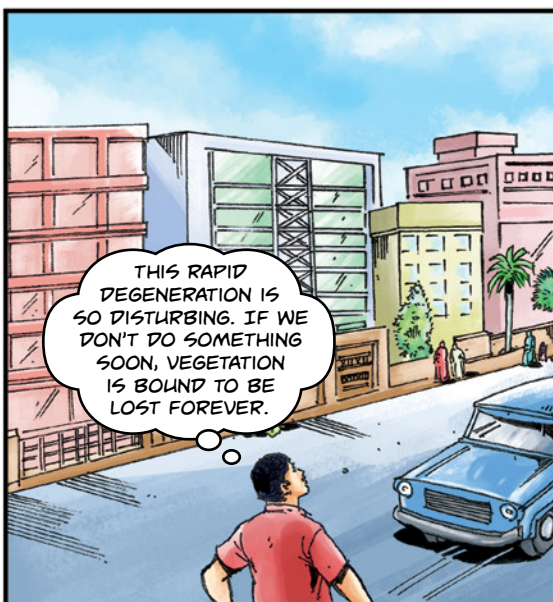
ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO, SURESH PLANTED 2,500 SAPLINGS IN SAHAKARA NAGAR. THESE ARE NOW FULL-GROWN TREES, EACH NAMED AFTER A PERSON OF CULTURAL IMPORTANCE.



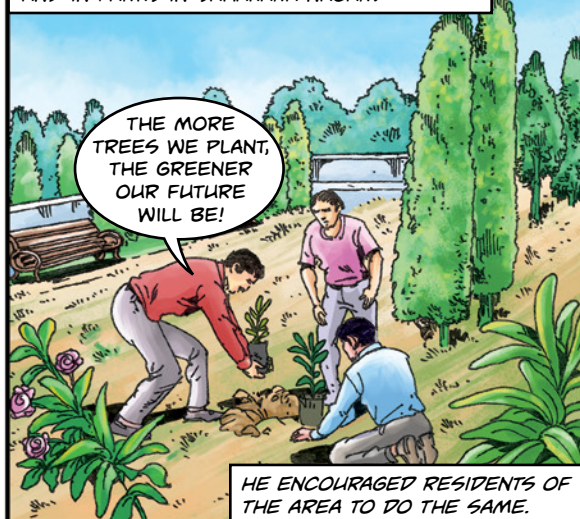
LABELLED THE 'GARDEN CITY OF INDIA', BENGALURU WAS ONCE WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS VEGETATION COVER, SPRAWLING GARDENS AND LAKES.



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



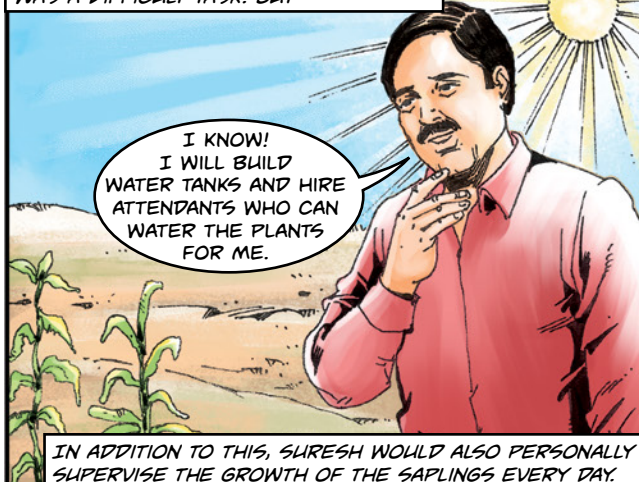
SURESH BEGAN PLANTING SAPLINGS ON THE MAIN ROAD, ALONG THE RAILWAY TRACKS, AND IN PARKS IN SAHAKARA NAGAR.



INITIALLY, HIS GOOD INTENTION HAD ITS SHARE OF PROBLEMS.



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



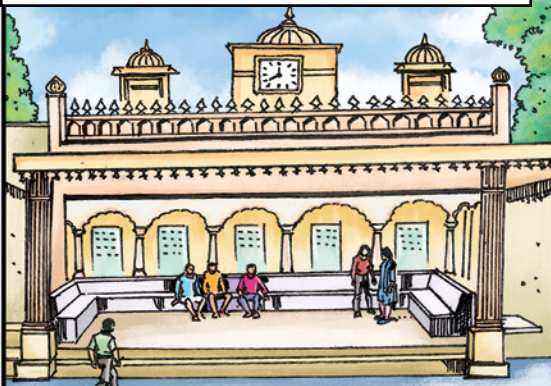
OWING TO SURESH'S EFFORTS, THERE IS A WEALTH OF TREES, SUCH AS MAHOGANY, NEEM, TREE JASMINE AND JACARANDA, AMONG MANY OTHERS IN THE AREA TODAY.



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

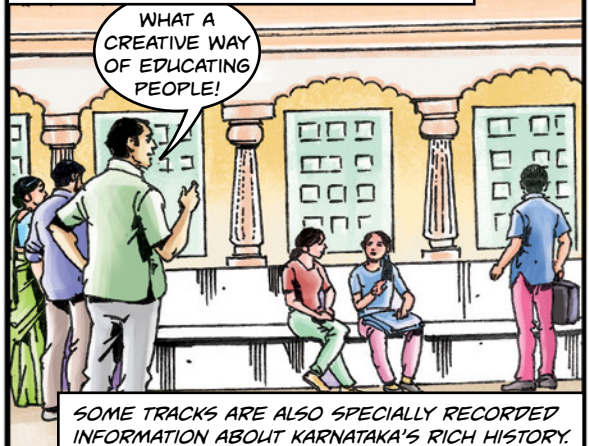


SURESH HAS ALSO WORKED TO PROMOTE THE LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND CULTURE OF KARNATAKA.



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

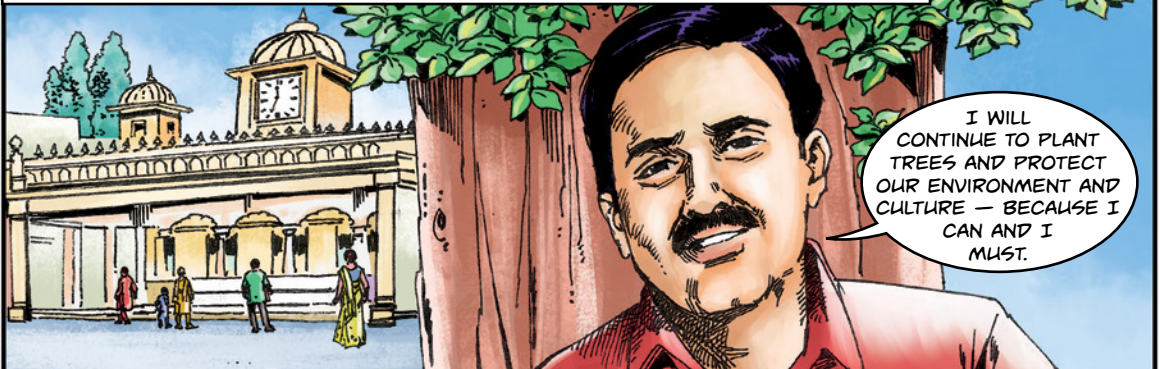
THE BUS STAND ALSO PLAYS KANNADA SONGS OF ALL KINDS — FROM DEVOTIONAL AND FOLK TO FILM AND CLASSICAL.



WHAT A CREATIVE WAY OF EDUCATING PEOPLE!

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

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



I WILL CONTINUE TO PLANT TREES AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE — BECAUSE I CAN AND I MUST.

TULSI RAM YADAV

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

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

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

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

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

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

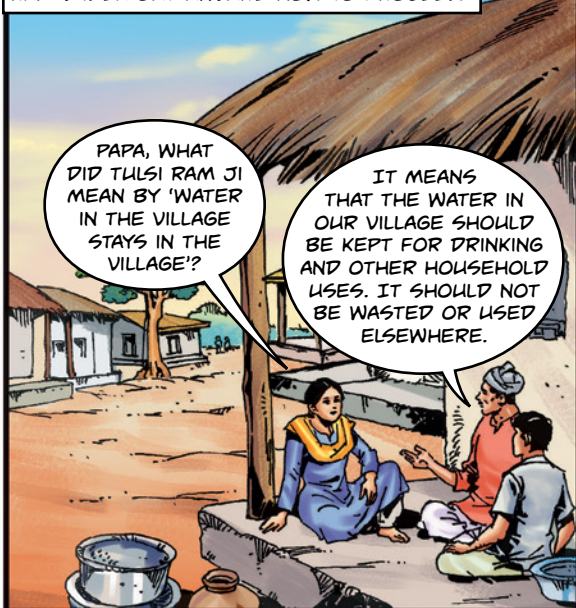
YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT YOU WOULD SOLVE THE WATER PROBLEM. BUT HOW?

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

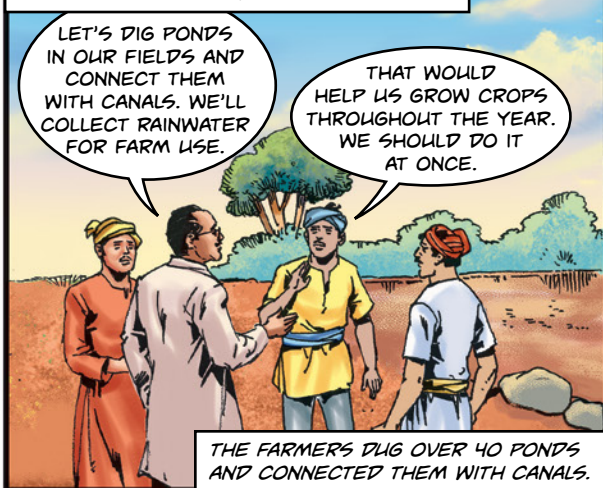
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TULSI RAM JI?

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

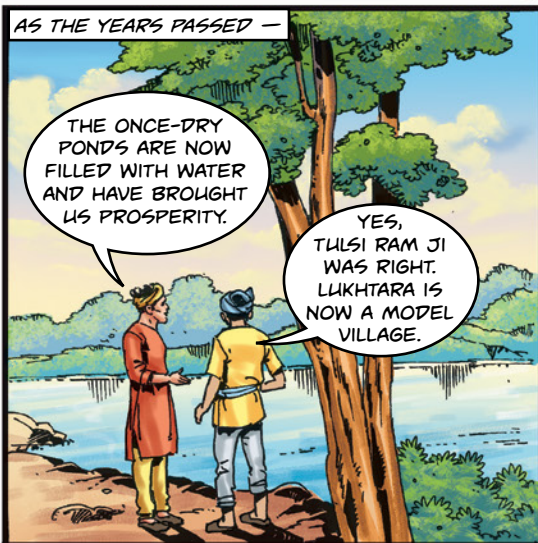
THE VILLAGERS WERE CURIOUS ABOUT TULSI RAM'S IDEA BUT UNSURE HOW TO PROCEED.



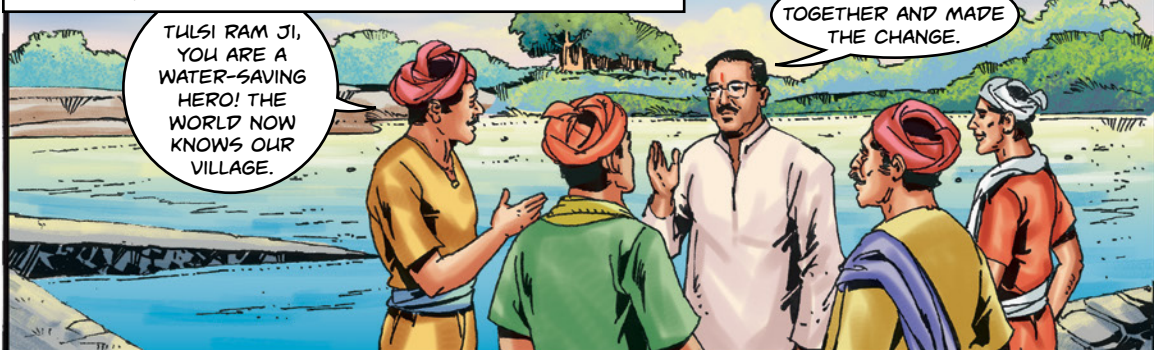
TULSI RAM ADVISED THE FARMERS TO START BY SAVING RAINWATER FOR FARMING.



AS THE YEARS PASSED —



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







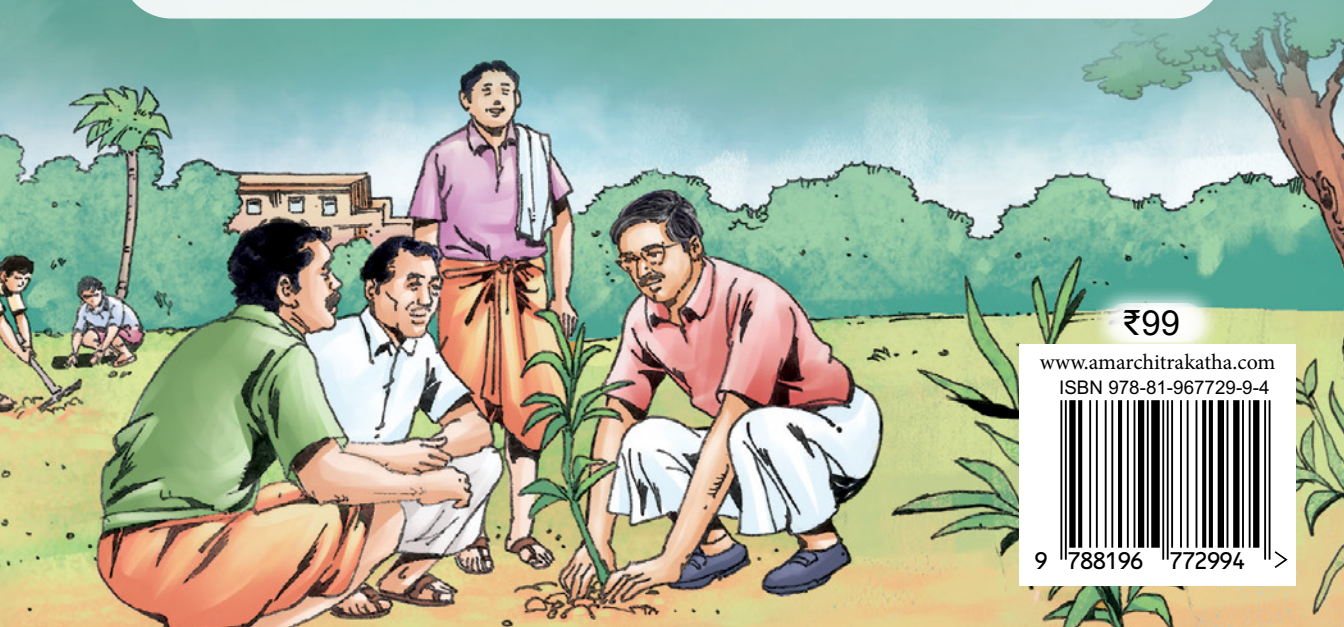
MANN KI BAAT

VOL.8

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

The eighth volume of Mann ki Baat is about people from around the country who saw a problem in their surroundings and took matters into their own hands to fix it.

From Inderpal Singh Batra, who built homes for sparrows to keep them from being endangered, to women in Tamil Nadu who rejuvenated the river Naganadi, these eleven stories are about heroes who conserve the environment. Each of them took a step in the right direction and inspired hundreds of others to join their causes.



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