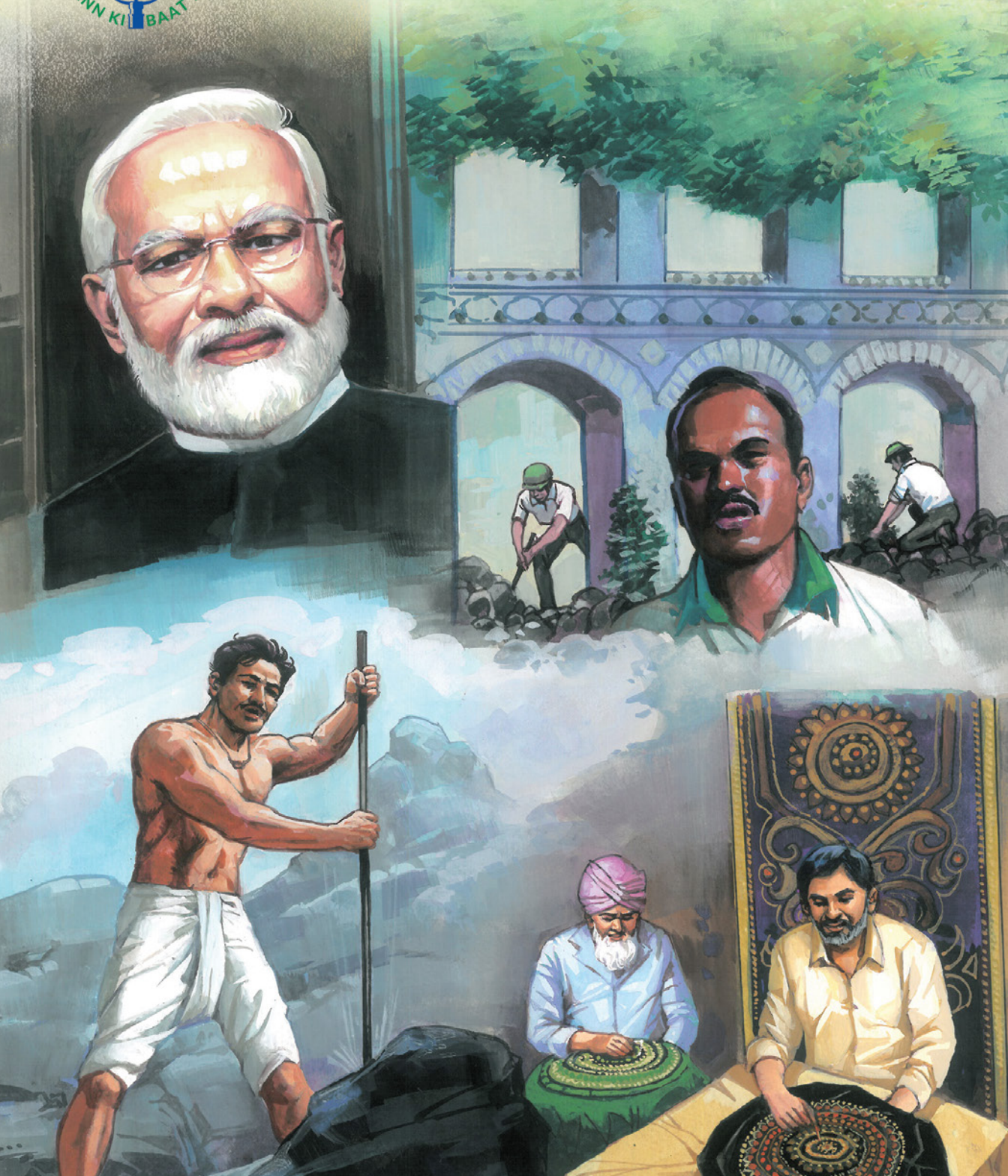




MANN KI BAAT

VOL.11



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My dear children,

Our culture has always believed in the saying, “Mata, pita, guru, daivam.”

N.K. Hemalatha, a Tamil teacher, has lived up to this. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when schools were closed, Hemalatha ji made animated videos of the lessons and distributed them among her students.

There is also Sripati Tudu, a professor of Santhali. After months of research, Sripati ji translated our Constitution into Santhali. Now, many Santhal people can finally read about their rights – something I wish for every Indian citizen to be able to do.

However, a great teacher is not always found in a classroom.

Abdul Gafar Khatri, a Rogan artist, has trained over 200 girls in this ancient form of cloth painting, giving them a place in a historically male-dominant field. Similarly, the Lidi Krou Society of Nagaland aims to keep Naga traditions from dying out, by conducting workshops for the next generation.

As Gandhi ji said, “A thousand candles can be lit from the flame of one.” Learn passionately and teach generously. When you light someone else’s candle, it might just become the torch that leads change.





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ABDUL GAFUR KHATRI

THE CHILDREN WERE LEARNING ABOUT THE VARIOUS ART FORMS IN INDIA.

HOW COME WE'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF MOST OF THEM?

MACHINE-MADE ARTEFACTS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE MARKET, DINESH. THEY ARE CHEAP AND EASILY AVAILABLE.

ART FORMS OF INDIA

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ABDUL GAFUR KHATRI, AN ARTIST WHO FOUGHT TO KEEP HIS ART RELEVANT. HE HAS NOW POPULARISED IT ALL OVER THE WORLD.

STORY TIME! YAY!

'ROGAN' ART IS AN ANCIENT ART FORM THAT HAS COME TO INDIA FROM PERSIA. ROGAN, A MIXTURE OF CASTOR OIL AND COLOUR, IS USED TO MAKE INTRICATE PATTERNS ON FABRIC BY HAND.

IN 1965, A BABY BOY WAS BORN INTO THE KHATRI FAMILY. HE WAS NAMED ABDUL. HE GREW UP WATCHING HIS FAMILY PRACTICE ROGAN ART.

AND NOW, WE WILL MIX THE PIGMENT INTO THIS BALL OF THICKENED OIL.

WOW!

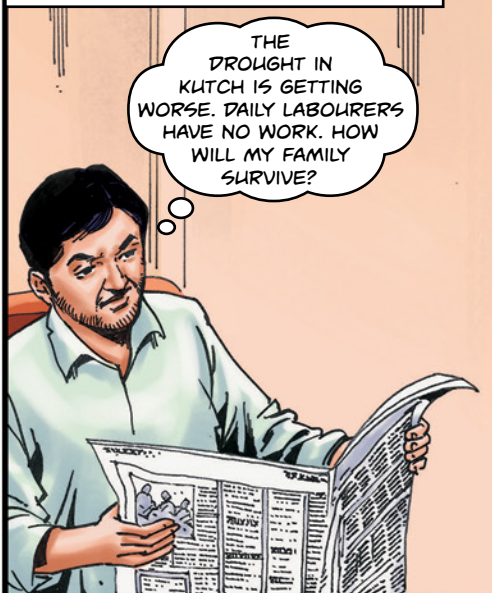
THE KHATRI FAMILY FROM NIRONA VILLAGE IN KUTCH, GUJARAT, HAS BEEN PRACTISING THIS ART FOR MANY GENERATIONS.

UNFORTUNATELY, BY THE LATE 70s, THE ART FORM WAS ALMOST EXTINCT.

NOBODY WANTS TO BUY HAND-DONE ROGAN ART ANYMORE. THEY ONLY BUY FABRICS WITH MACHINE-PRINTED DESIGNS.

WE ARE THE LAST FAMILY OF ROGAN ARTISTS IN INDIA. IF WE STOP THIS ART FORM WILL BE LOST FOREVER.

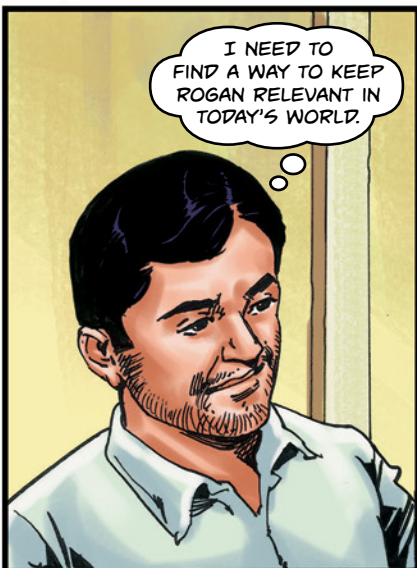
SOON, ABDUL TOO HAD TO MOVE TO THE CITY FOR WORK. HE LIVED FOR A WHILE IN AHMEDABAD AND THEN IN MUMBAI.



IN THE LATE 1980S, AN ORDER FOR ROGAN ARTWORKS CAME FROM THE GUJARAT GOVERNMENT. ABDUL DECIDED TO RETURN HOME AND WORK ON IT WITH HIS FAMILY.

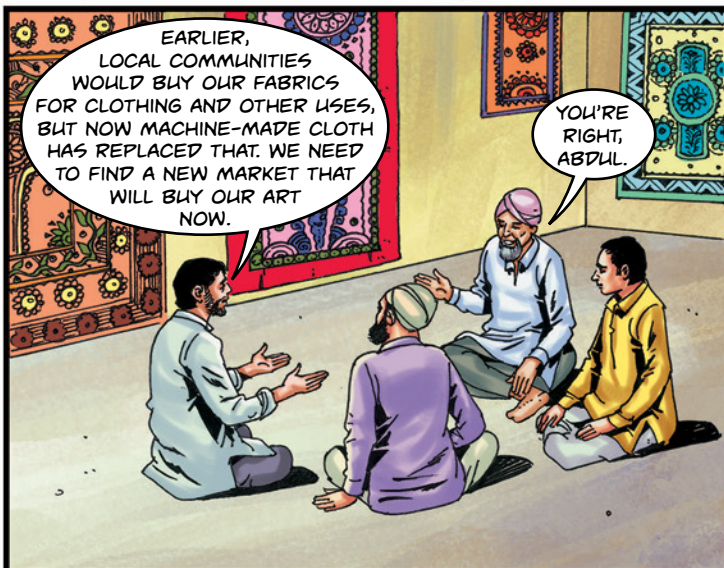


I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO KEEP ROGAN RELEVANT IN TODAY'S WORLD.



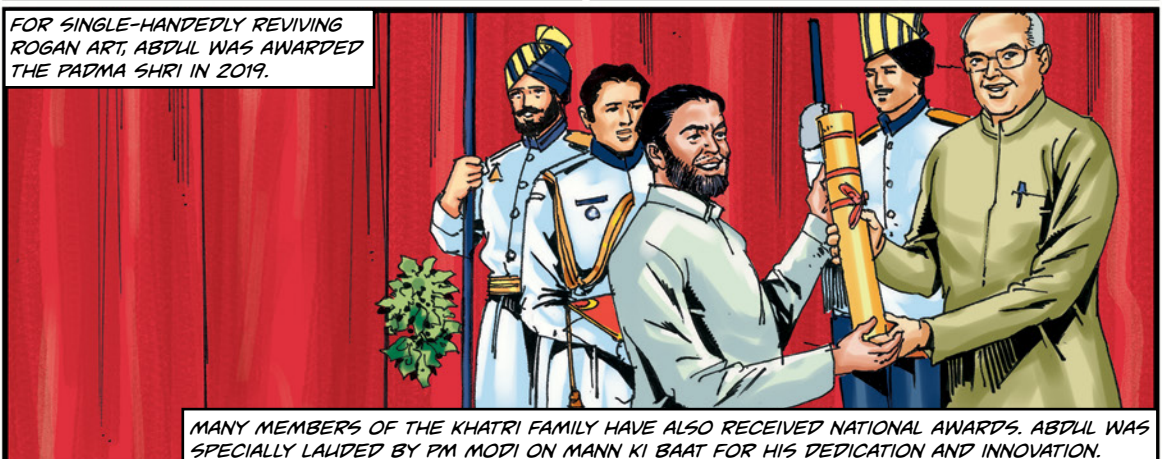
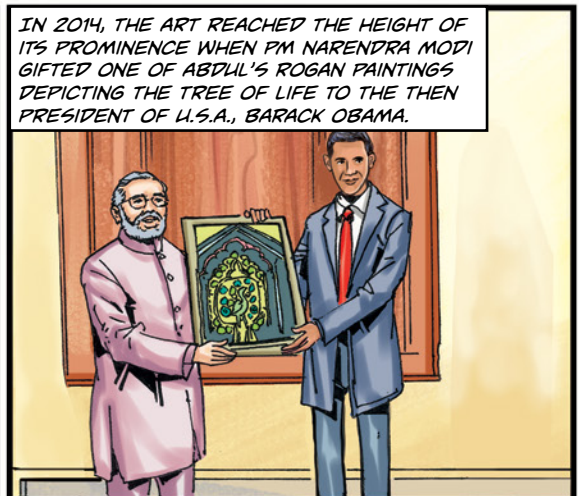
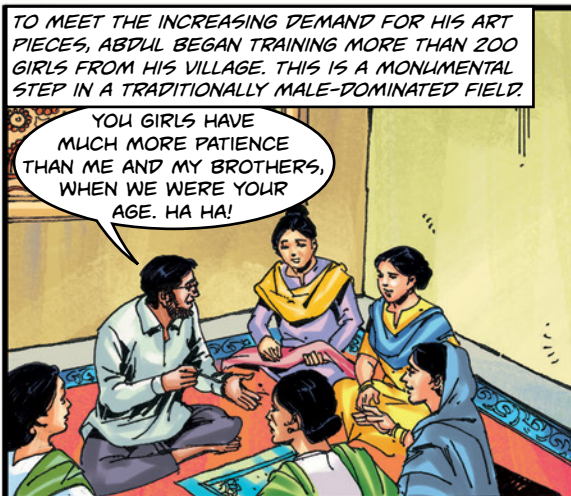
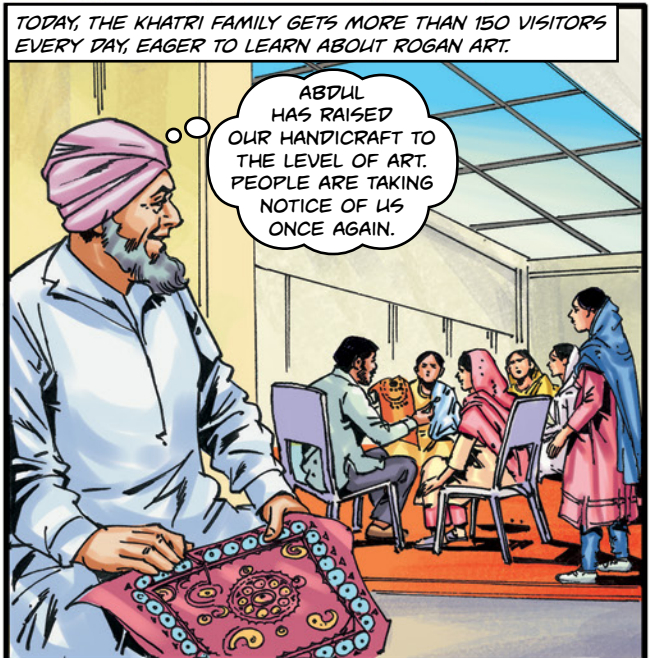
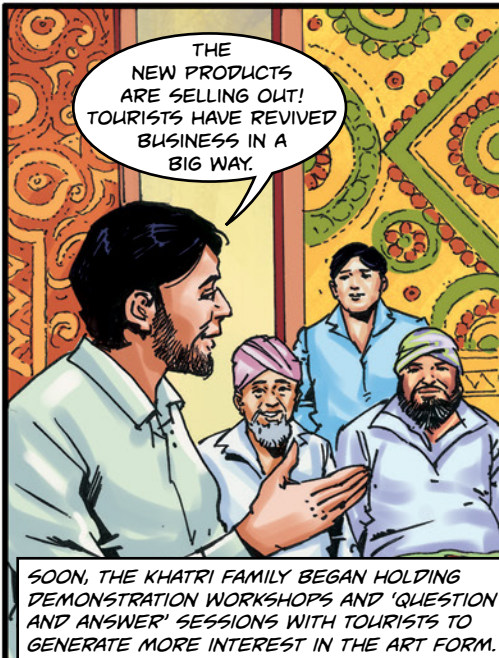
EARLIER, LOCAL COMMUNITIES WOULD BUY OUR FABRICS FOR CLOTHING AND OTHER USES, BUT NOW MACHINE-MADE CLOTH HAS REPLACED THAT. WE NEED TO FIND A NEW MARKET THAT WILL BUY OUR ART NOW.

YOU'RE RIGHT, ABDUL.



SOON, ABDUL REINVENTED TRADITIONAL ROGAN DESIGNS TO INCLUDE BAGS, BEDSHEETS, JACKETS, KURTAS AND MORE, ALONG WITH WALL HANGINGS.





BANDU DHOTRE

THE STUDENTS WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A DISCUSSION.

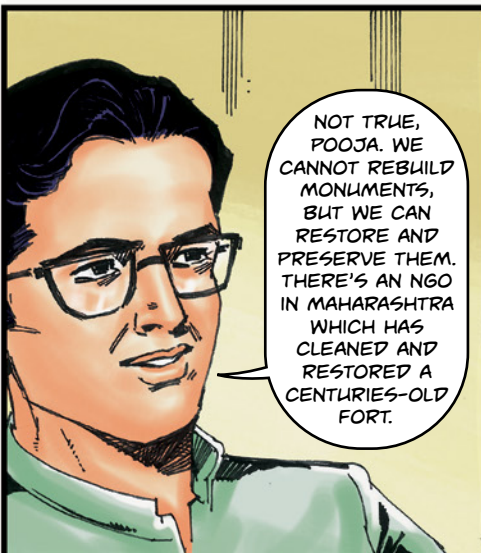
I HAVE READ THAT THE TAJ MAHAL USED TO BE PRISTINE WHITE EARLIER. THE POLLUTION OVER THE YEARS HAS CAUSED IT TO BECOME A DULL YELLOW COLOUR NOW.

BUT WE CANNOT FIX THESE DAMAGES OR REBUILD THE MONUMENT. THERE IS NOTHING TO BE DONE.

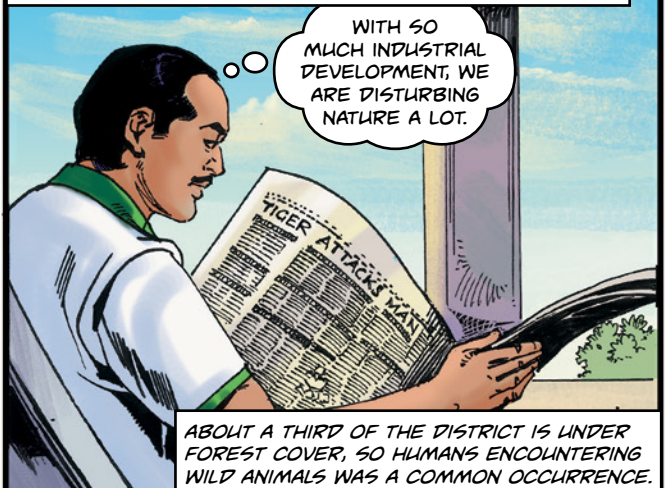


BANDU DHOTRE, A NATIVE OF CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA, HAD IMMENSE LOVE FOR HIS HOMELAND AND NATURE.

NOT TRUE, POOJA. WE CANNOT REBUILD MONUMENTS, BUT WE CAN RESTORE AND PRESERVE THEM. THERE'S AN NGO IN MAHARASHTRA WHICH HAS CLEANED AND RESTORED A CENTURIES-OLD FORT.



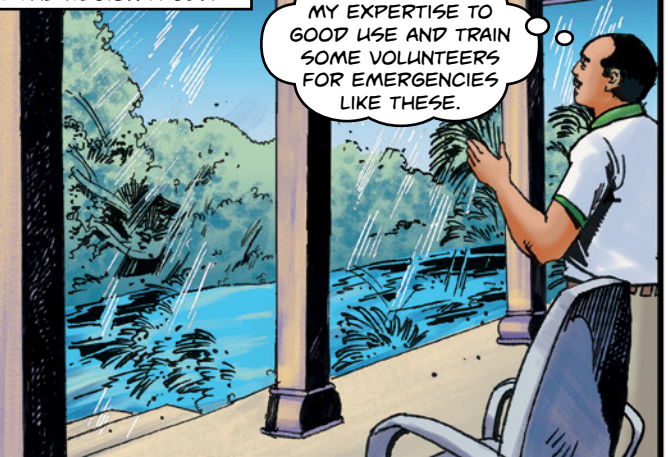
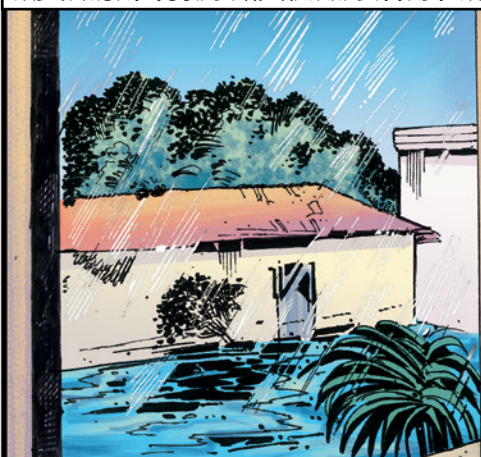
WITH SO MUCH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, WE ARE DISTURBING NATURE A LOT.



ABOUT A THIRD OF THE DISTRICT IS UNDER FOREST COVER, SO HUMANS ENCOUNTERING WILD ANIMALS WAS A COMMON OCCURRENCE.

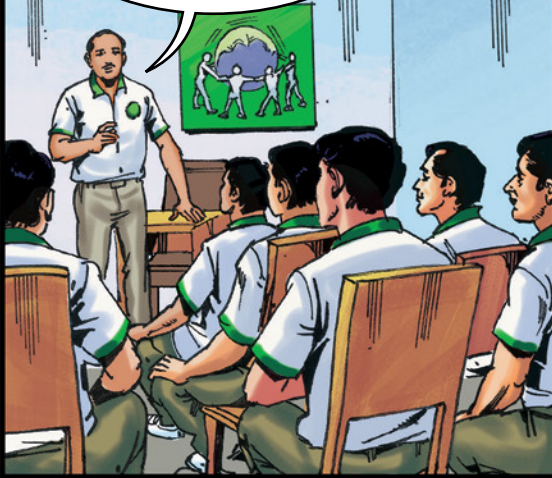
TRAINED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT, HE WAS DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT THE VARIOUS SOCIAL AND NATURAL ISSUES THAT THE REGION FACED.

I SHOULD PUT MY EXPERTISE TO GOOD USE AND TRAIN SOME VOLUNTEERS FOR EMERGENCIES LIKE THESE.



IN 2006, BANDU FOUNDED AN NGO CALLED ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION ORGANISATION, ALSO KNOWN AS ECO-PRO.

OUR GOAL IS TO CONSERVE OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE, WHILE ALSO BEING PREPARED TO MANAGE NATURAL DISASTERS AND HELP THE CIVIC BODY CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.



AS PART OF ECO-PRO, VOLUNTEERS WOULD ENGAGE IN A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES, LIKE ANIMAL RESCUE...

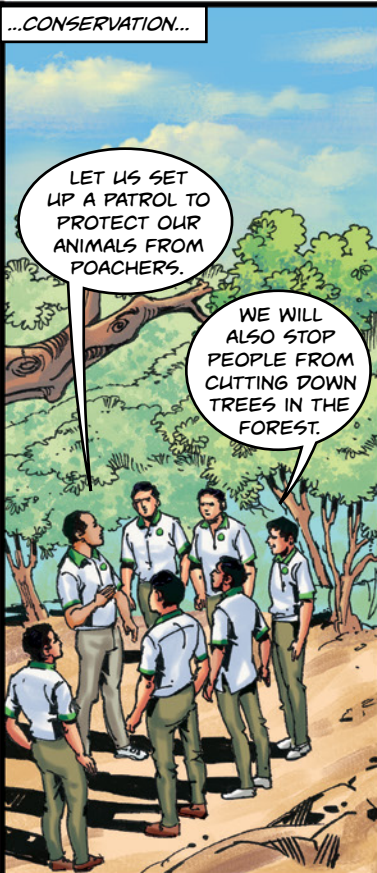
DON'T KILL THAT SNAKE, TAI*. I WILL TAKE IT AWAY.



...CONSERVATION...

LET US SET UP A PATROL TO PROTECT OUR ANIMALS FROM POACHERS.

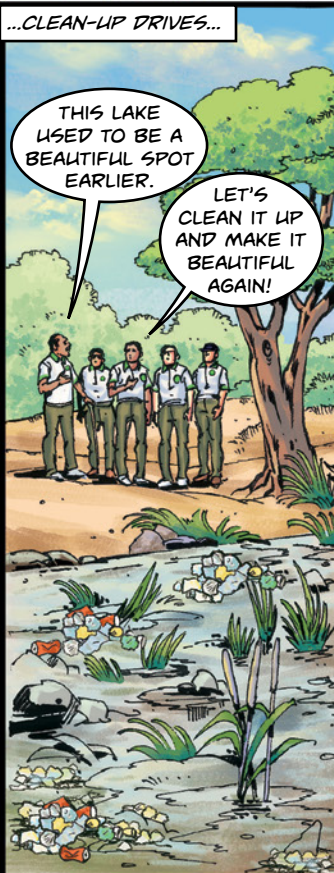
WE WILL ALSO STOP PEOPLE FROM CUTTING DOWN TREES IN THE FOREST.



...CLEAN-UP DRIVES...

THIS LAKE USED TO BE A BEAUTIFUL SPOT EARLIER.

LET'S CLEAN IT UP AND MAKE IT BEAUTIFUL AGAIN!



...AS WELL AS PROTESTS AND AWARENESS RALLIES FOR SOCIAL CAUSES.

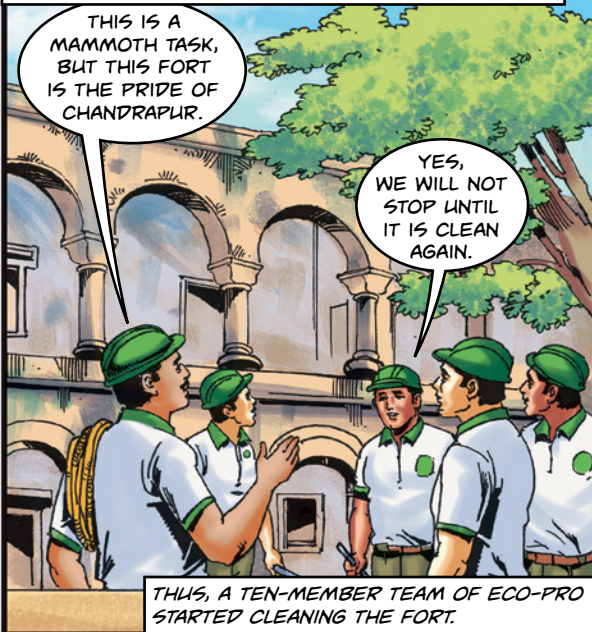
AIR POLLUTION LEVELS IN OUR TOWN HAVE RISEN IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. STRICT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN OR OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH WILL SUFFER.

YOU ARE RIGHT, THE AIR IS BECOMING WORSE EVERY DAY.

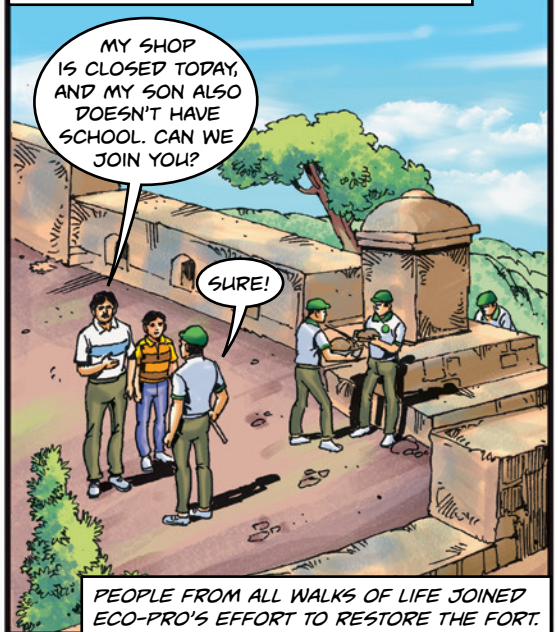
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, BHALI*?



ONE OF THE PROJECTS ADOPTED BY ECO-PRO WAS THE CLEANING AND RESTORATION OF CHANDA FORT.



EVERY WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY, OTHER VOLUNTEERS WOULD ALSO JOIN THE TEAM.



AFTER 200 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS WORK, MOST PARTS OF THE FORT HAD BEEN CLEANED.



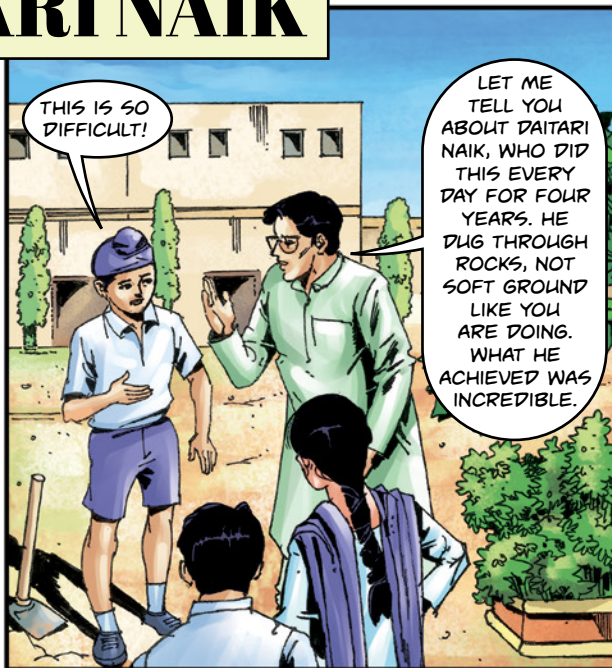
ECO-PRO'S ACHIEVEMENT WAS PRAISED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AS WELL.



DAITARI NAIK



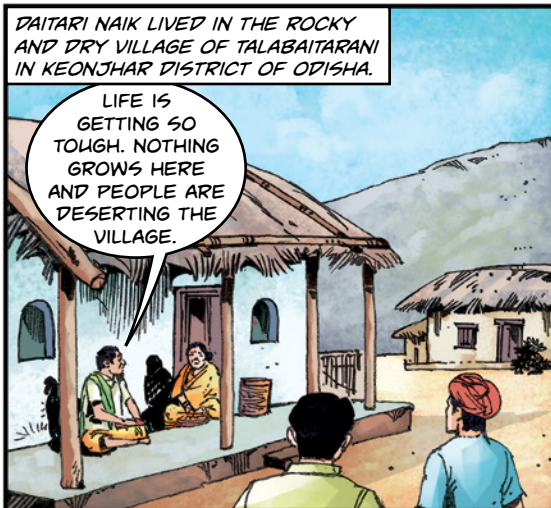
LINGH!
AARGH!



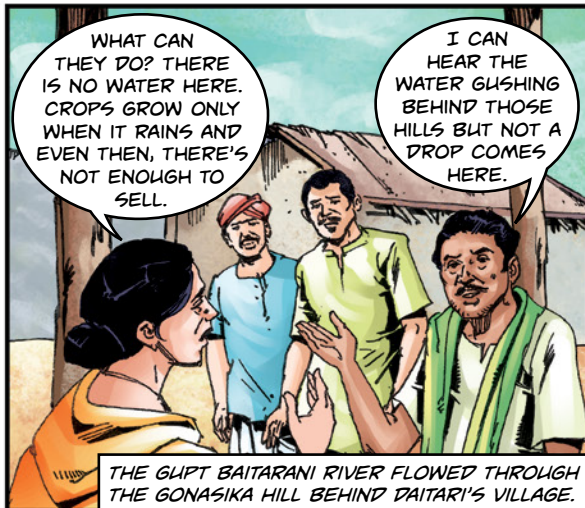
THIS IS SO
DIFFICULT!

LET ME
TELL YOU
ABOUT DAITARI
NAIK, WHO DID
THIS EVERY
DAY FOR FOUR
YEARS. HE
DUG THROUGH
ROCKS, NOT
SOFT GROUND
LIKE YOU
ARE DOING.
WHAT HE
ACHIEVED WAS
INCREDIBLE.

DAITARI NAIK LIVED IN THE ROCKY
AND DRY VILLAGE OF TALABAITARANI
IN KEONJHAR DISTRICT OF ODISHA.



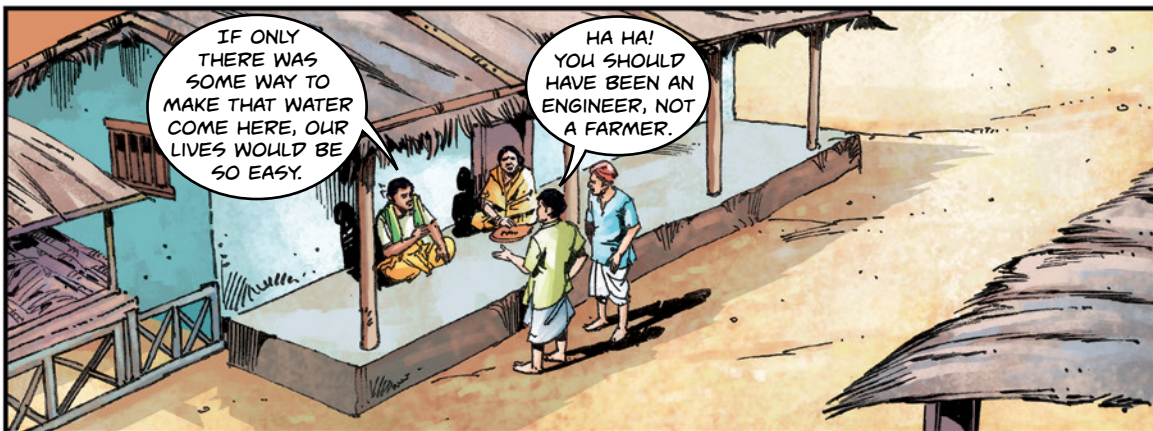
LIFE IS
GETTING SO
TOUGH. NOTHING
GROWS HERE
AND PEOPLE ARE
DESERTING THE
VILLAGE.



WHAT CAN
THEY DO? THERE
IS NO WATER HERE.
CROPS GROW ONLY
WHEN IT RAINS AND
EVEN THEN, THERE'S
NOT ENOUGH TO
SELL.

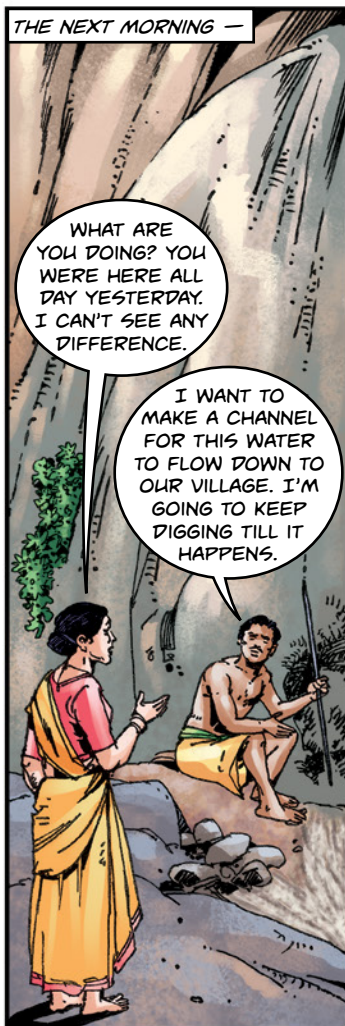
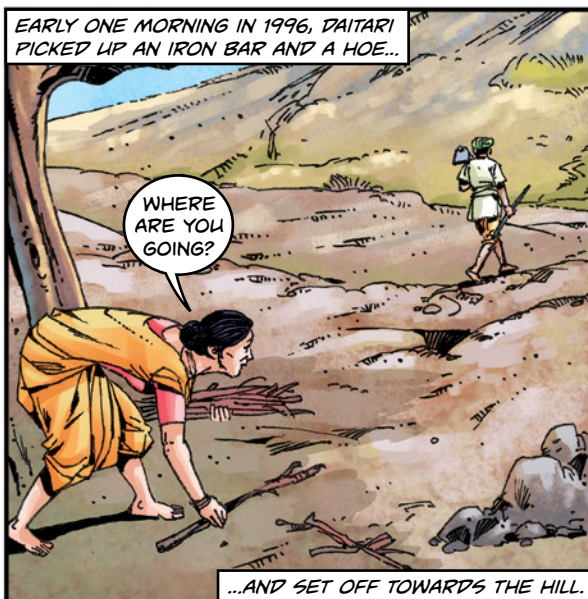
I CAN
HEAR THE
WATER GUSHING
BEHIND THOSE
HILLS BUT NOT A
DROP COMES
HERE.

THE GUPT BAITARANI RIVER FLOWED THROUGH
THE GONASIKA HILL BEHIND DAITARI'S VILLAGE.



IF ONLY
THERE WAS
SOME WAY TO
MAKE THAT WATER
COME HERE, OUR
LIVES WOULD BE
SO EASY.

HA HA!
YOU SHOULD
HAVE BEEN AN
ENGINEER, NOT
A FARMER.



BUT AFTER A WHILE —



SLOWLY, THE ROCKS BEGAN TO GIVE WAY. FOR FOUR LONG YEARS, DAITARI DUG A ROUGH, THREE-KILOMETRE-LONG CANAL DOWNHILL FROM THE RIVER, UNTIL —



ALMOST 100 ACRES OF TALABAITARANI GET IRRIGATED BECAUSE OF THE CANAL THAT DAITARI DUG. WITHIN A YEAR, THE LIVES OF THE VILLAGERS CHANGED.



NOW KNOWN AS THE 'CANAL MAN OF ODISHA', DAITARI WAS AWARDED THE PADMA SHRI IN 2019. HE WAS ALSO APPRECIATED ON MANN KI BAAT.



BUT DAITARI HAS A REQUEST.



LIDI KROU SOCIETY



IN A BID TO SAVE THEIR CULTURE FROM GOING EXTINCT, THE GROUP OF WOMEN STARTED THE LIDI KROU SOCIETY.



MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WERE MOTHERS, WHO WERE PART OF A CHOIR GROUP.

THEY CONDUCTED WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES FOR PEOPLE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE TRADITIONAL WAYS OF THE NAGAS, LIKE THEIR HOUSEHOLD PRACTICES...

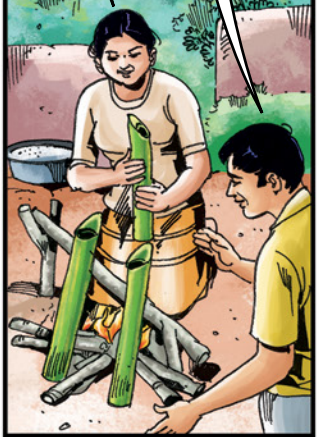


LET ME SHOW YOU HOW WE POUND RICE.

...COOKING THEIR DISHES...

NOW THE FISH IS READY TO BE COOKED INSIDE THE BAMBOO.

I HAVE HAD IT ONCE, IT WAS SO FLAVOURFUL!



...THEIR MUSIC...



LET'S RECORD THESE SONGS AND MAKE AN ALBUM WITH IT.

GREAT IDEA!

...THEIR DANCES...



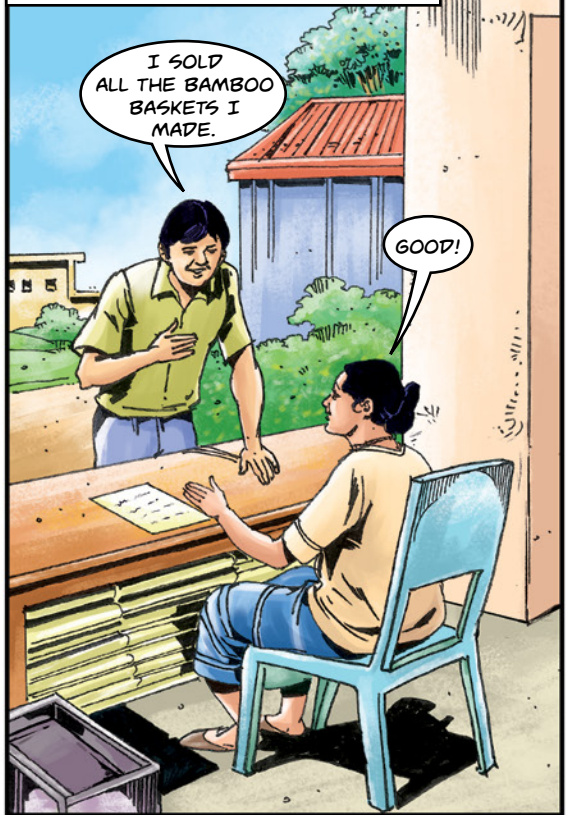
THEY HAVE TRAINED THESE KIDS WELL.

TRUE. I HAVEN'T SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE OF OUR FOLK DANCE SINCE MY CHILDHOOD.

...AS WELL AS THEIR CLOTHING AND LIFESTYLE.



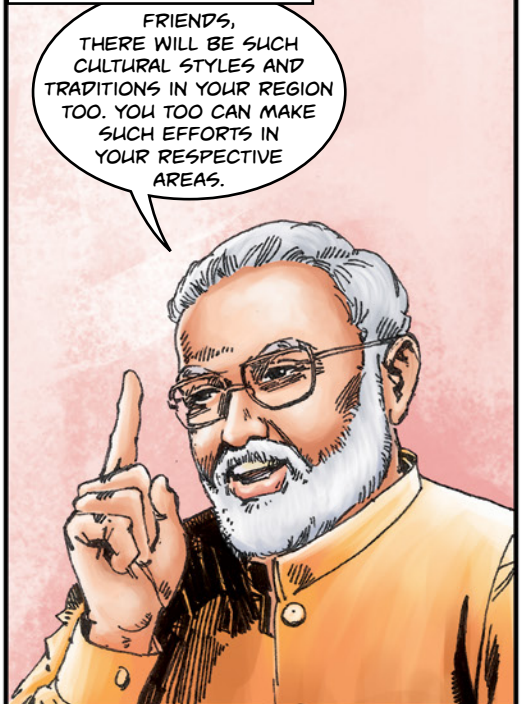
PEOPLE COULD EARN THEIR LIVELIHOOD.



LIDI KROI'S MISSION OF REVIVING NAGA CULTURE HAS BEEN A SUCCESS.



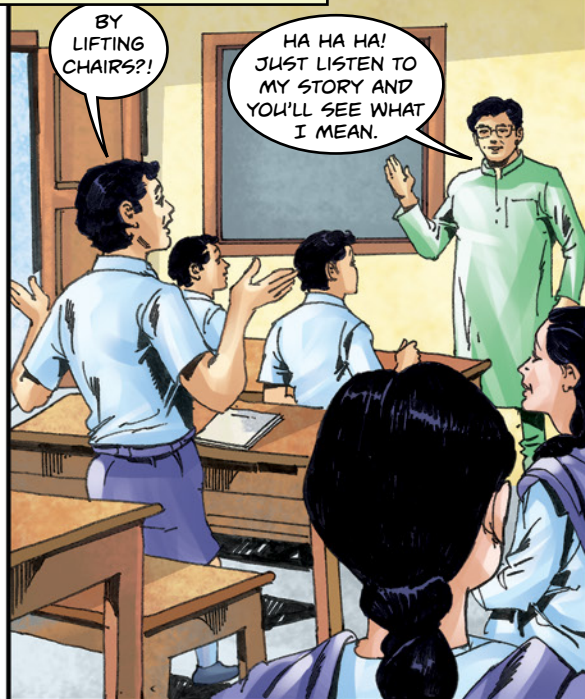
THEIR WORK COULD BE AN INSPIRATION TO OTHERS.



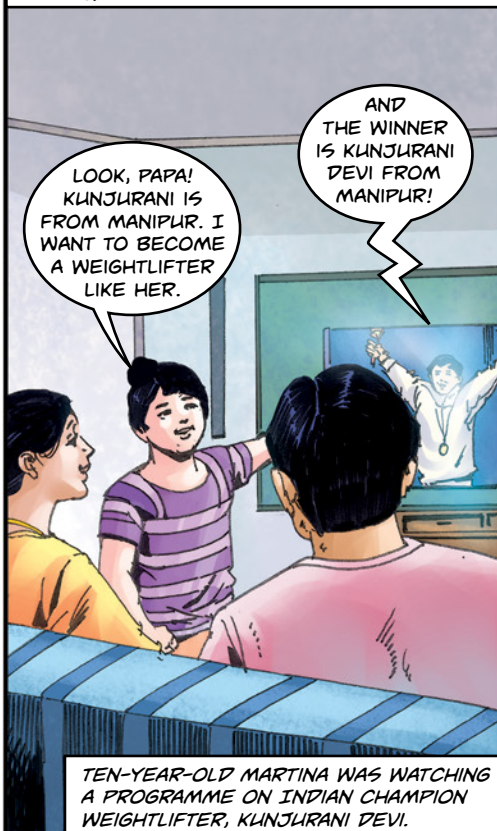
*A TRADITIONAL NAGA GARMENT, USUALLY WORN AS A SKIRT

MARTINA DEVI

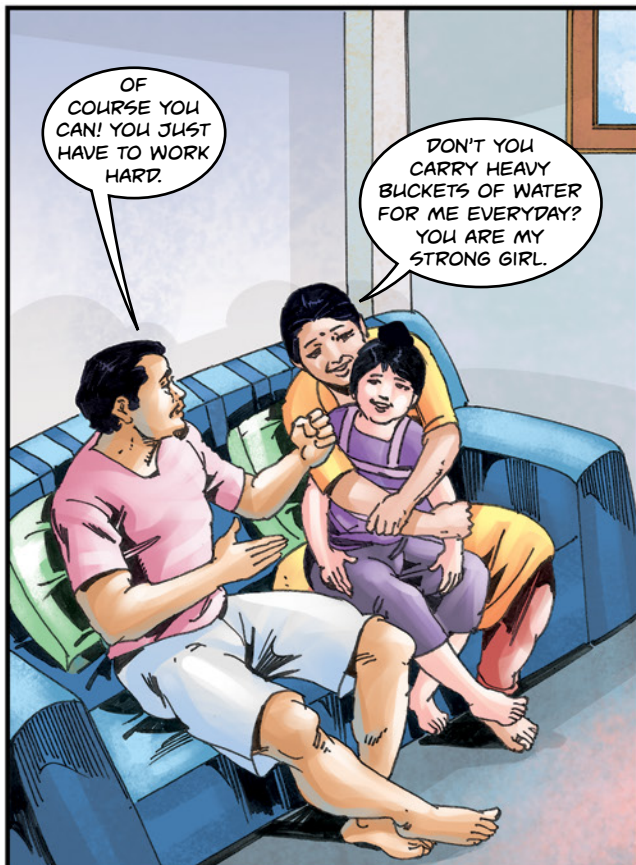
SHREYAS WAS
IN A BAD MOOD.



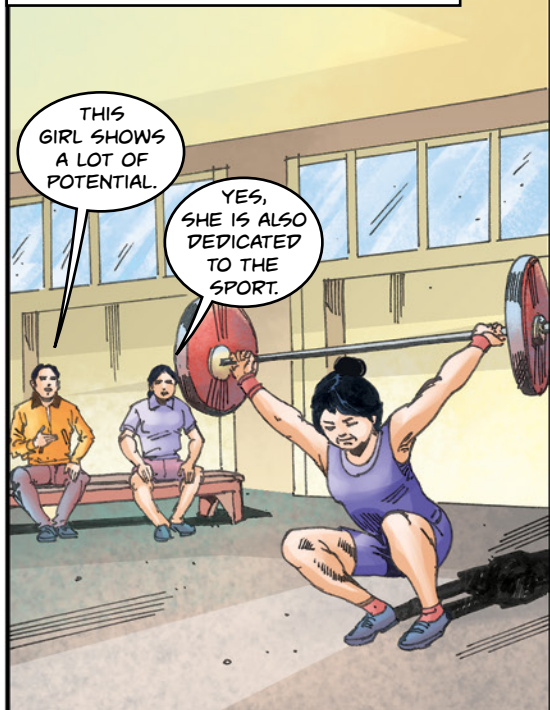
IN 2016, IN A REMOTE VILLAGE OF MANIPUR —



TEN-YEAR-OLD MARTINA WAS WATCHING A PROGRAMME ON INDIAN CHAMPION WEIGHTLIFTER, KUNJURANI DEVI.



FOR MARTINA, HER PARENTS' CONFIDENCE IN HER WAS ENOUGH. SHE BEGAN TRAINING IN DECEMBER THAT YEAR.



THAT DEDICATION, ALONG WITH SUPPORT AND TRAINING AT THE SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (SAI), LUCKNOW, RESULTED IN MANY VICTORIES.

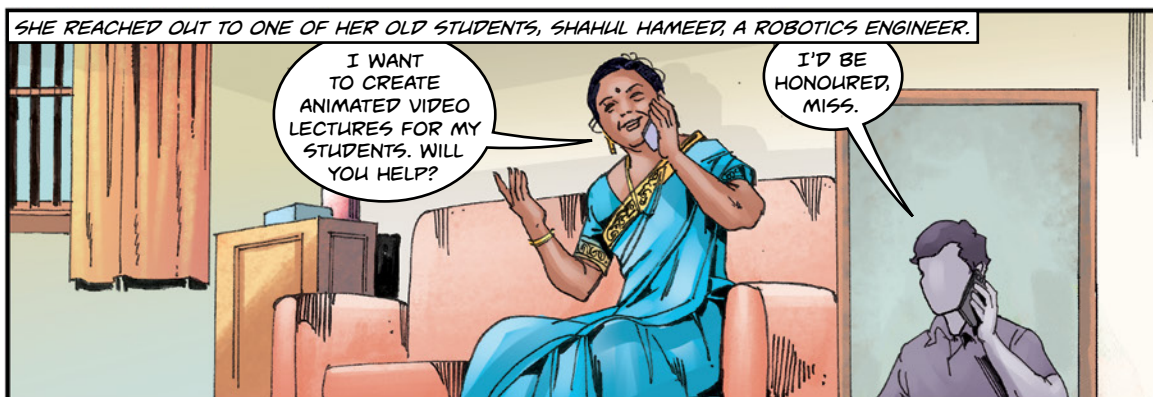
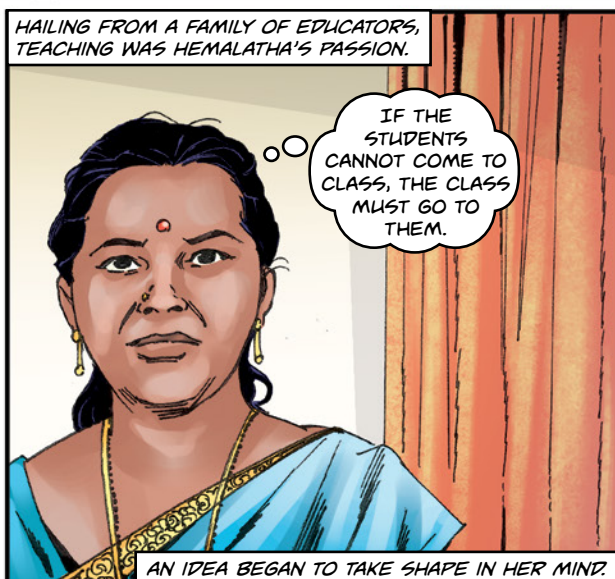
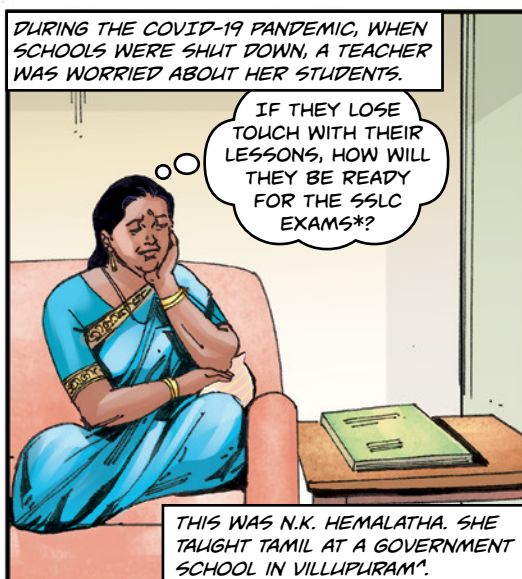
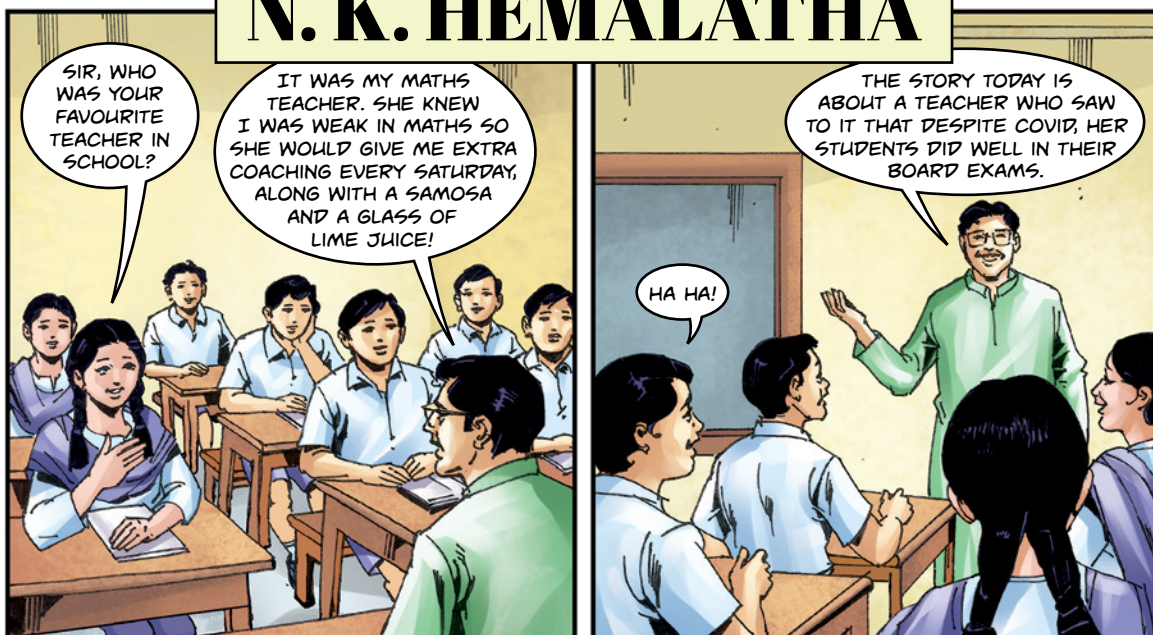


MARTINA'S IMMENSE CONFIDENCE IN HERSELF ECHOES IN HER OWN STATEMENT.



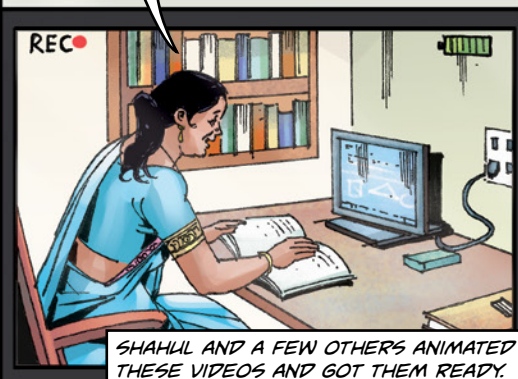
THE FACT THAT PRIME MINISTER MODI HAS LAUDED HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN HIS RADIO PROGRAMME, IS PROOF ENOUGH OF MARTINA'S SUCCESS.

N. K. HEMALATHA



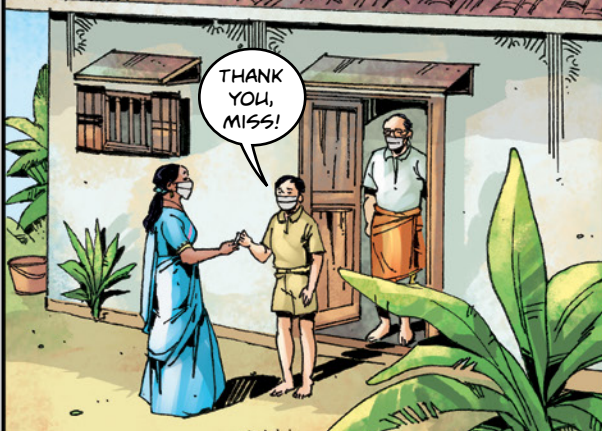
HEMALATHA RECORDED OVER 50 VIDEOS, DOING WHAT SHE DID BEST – TEACHING.

OPEN YOUR TEXTBOOKS TO PAGE 33. IN THIS CHAPTER, WE'LL BE LEARNING THE THIRUKKURAL*.



SHAHUL AND A FEW OTHERS ANIMATED THESE VIDEOS AND GOT THEM READY.

THE VIDEOS WERE UPLOADED ONTO 30 PEN DRIVES AND DISTRIBUTED TO HEMALATHA'S STUDENTS.



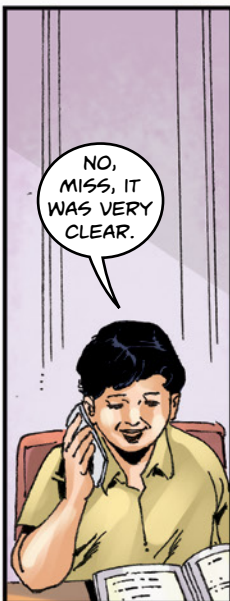
THANK YOU, MISS!

THE WHOLE INITIATIVE COST SEVERAL THOUSAND RUPEES, WHICH CAME OUT OF HEMALATHA'S OWN POCKET.

SHE EVEN CALLED HER STUDENTS DAILY TO CHECK ON THEIR PROGRESS.



ANY DOUBTS IN TODAY'S CHAPTER?



NO, MISS, IT WAS VERY CLEAR.

UNSURPRISINGLY, THEY PERFORMED WELL.

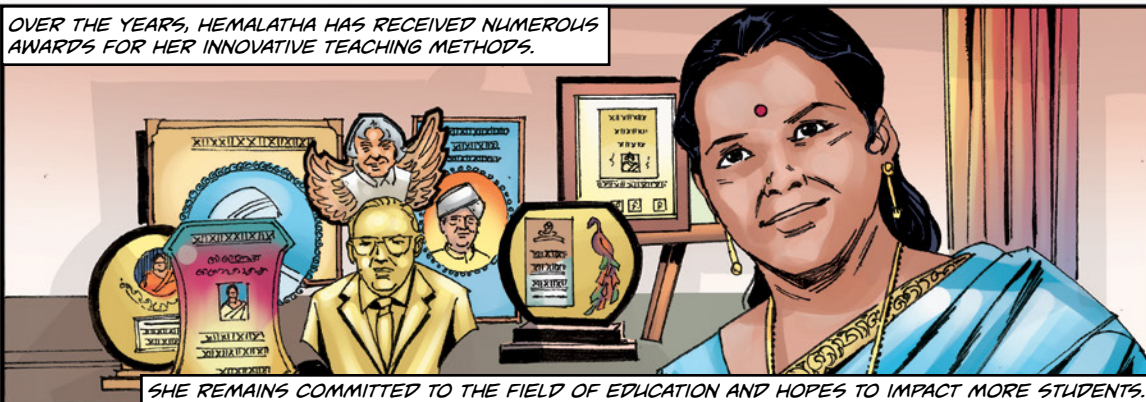


ANOTHER CLASS OF YOURS WITH A FULL PASS PERCENTAGE!



MY STUDENTS ALWAYS MAKE ME PROUD.

OVER THE YEARS, HEMALATHA HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS FOR HER INNOVATIVE TEACHING METHODS.



SHE REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND HOPES TO IMPACT MORE STUDENTS.

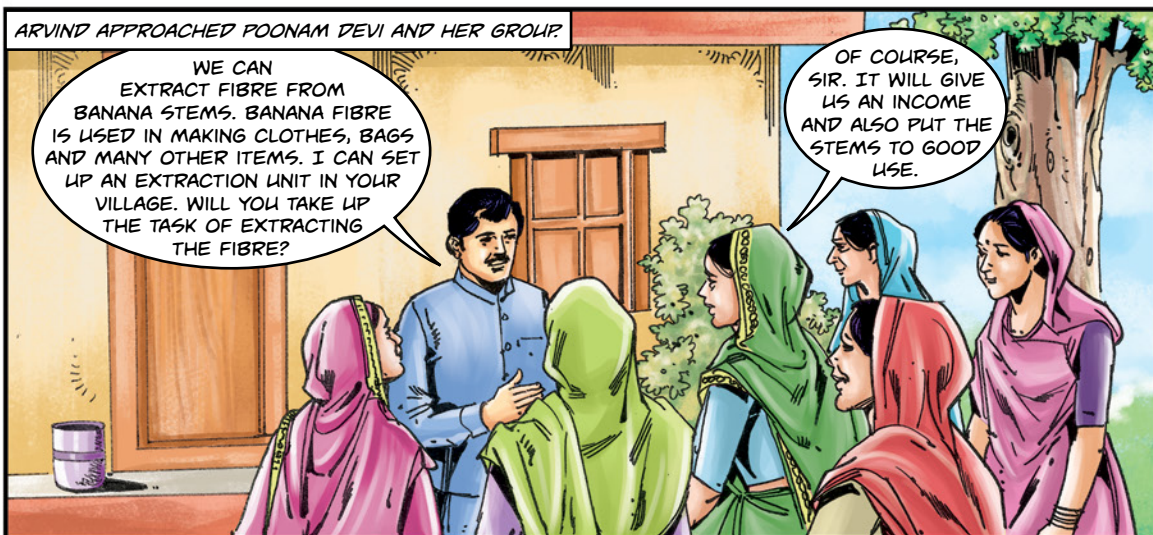
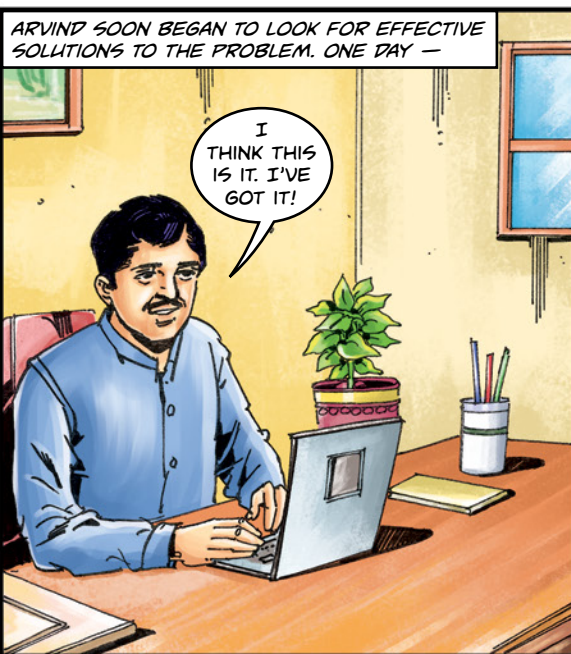
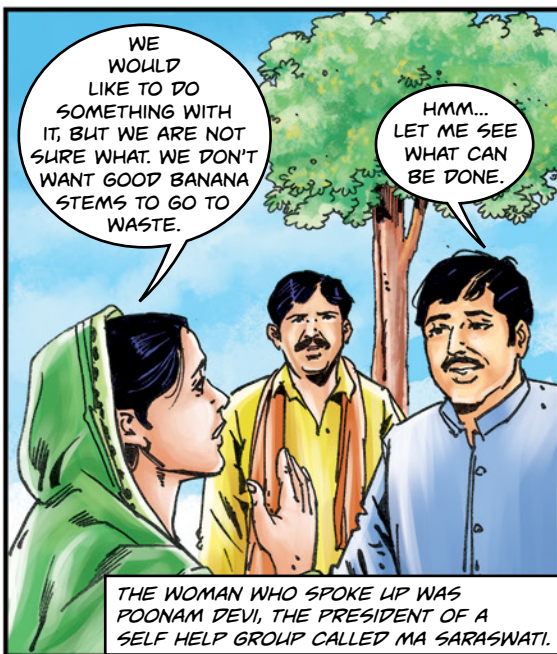
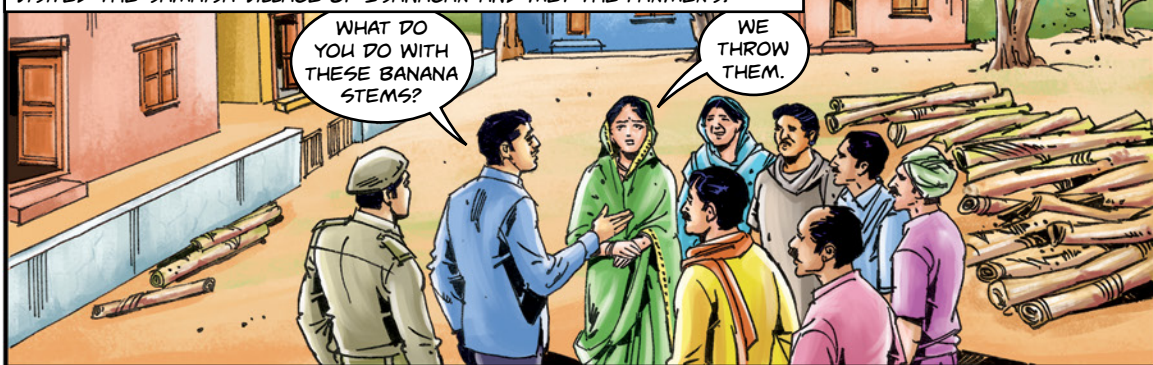
MA SARASWATI SELF HELP GROUP



*DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH

*A BANANA PLANT FRUITS JUST ONCE. AFTER THAT, THE STEM IS CUT DOWN AND NEW SHOOTS ARE ALLOWED TO GROW INTO A NEW PLANT.

ONE DAY, ARVIND SINGH, LAKHIMPUR KHERI'S CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, VISITED THE SAMAISA VILLAGE OF ISANAGAR AND MET THE FARMERS.



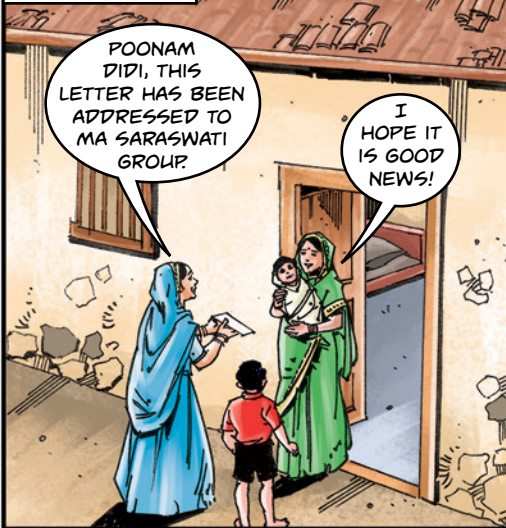
ARVIND SOON PROCURED THE EQUIPMENT AND SET IT UP IN SAMAIISA.



A FEW WEEKS LATER —



IN JUNE 2021 —



AND IT SURE WAS —



TODAY, EACH OF THE 40 WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP EXTRACTS FOUR TO SIX KGS OF FIBRE A DAY.



THE WOMEN HOPE MORE COMPANIES BUY THE FIBRE. THIS WILL NOT JUST INCREASE THEIR INCOME, BUT ALSO HELP HANDLE A HUGE AGRICULTURAL WASTE.

SMARTGAON

THE RECESS WAS OVER AND THE CHILDREN WERE SETTTLING BACK INTO CLASS.

WHAT'S WRONG, SHARADA? YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY QUIET ALL DAY.

MY MOTHER SAYS WE MIGHT HAVE TO GO BACK TO OUR VILLAGE NEXT YEAR. CAN YOU IMAGINE LIFE WITHOUT PARKS OR THE INTERNET OR YOU ALL?

WHEN NAIR SIR ENTERED THE CLASS —

SIR, SHARADA MAY HAVE TO GO BACK TO HER VILLAGE. SHE DOESN'T WANT TO.

YES SIR, IT WILL BE VERY BORING FOR HER.

I DO HOPE SHARADA DOESN'T HAVE TO LEAVE, BUT INDIAN VILLAGES ARE BECOMING MODERN TOO. TWO YOUNG MEN, YOGESH SAHU AND RAJNISH BAJPAI, ARE ON A MISSION TO TRANSFORM THE VILLAGES OF INDIA AND ARE DOING A GREAT JOB.

IN 2015, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI VISITED SAN JOSE* AND GAVE A SPEECH AT THE SAP CENTRE†.

PEOPLE SAY THAT SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE TO STOP THIS 'BRAIN DRAIN'. THIS 'BRAIN DRAIN' CAN ALSO BECOME A 'BRAIN GAIN'.

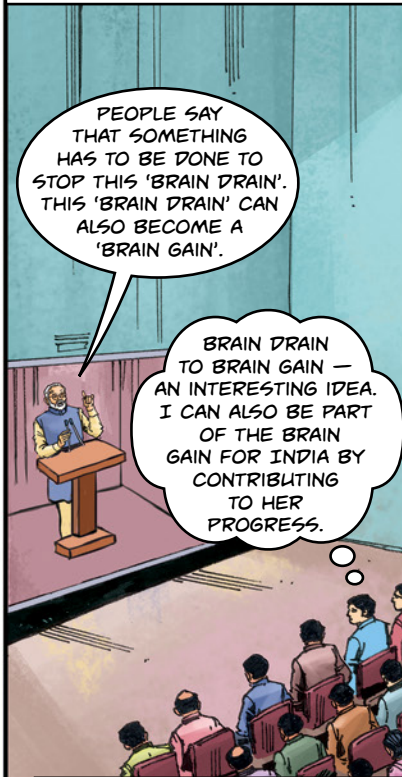
BRAIN DRAIN TO BRAIN GAIN — AN INTERESTING IDEA. I CAN ALSO BE PART OF THE BRAIN GAIN FOR INDIA BY CONTRIBUTING TO HER PROGRESS.

THE MAN INSPIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S WORDS WAS RAJNISH BAJPAI, A SOFTWARE ENGINEER.

A FEW DAYS LATER, RAJNISH CALLED UP HIS COLLEGE FRIEND, YOGESH SAHU, A MUMBAI-BASED ENTREPRENEUR.

YOU REMEMBER BACK IN COLLEGE WE WOULD TALK ABOUT DOING SOMETHING FOR OUR VILLAGES. I HAVE A PROJECT IN MIND. DO YOU WANT TO WORK WITH ME?

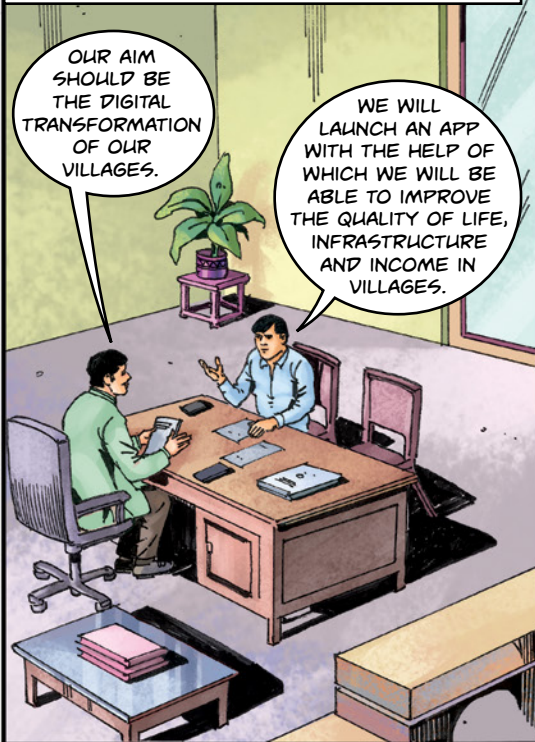
OF COURSE, I DO.



*CITY IN CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

†INDOOR ARENA IN SAN JOSE

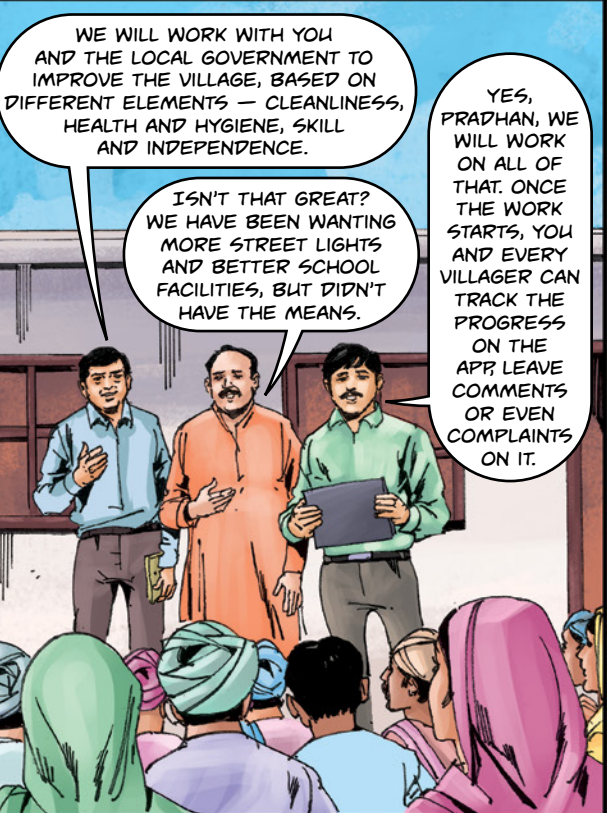
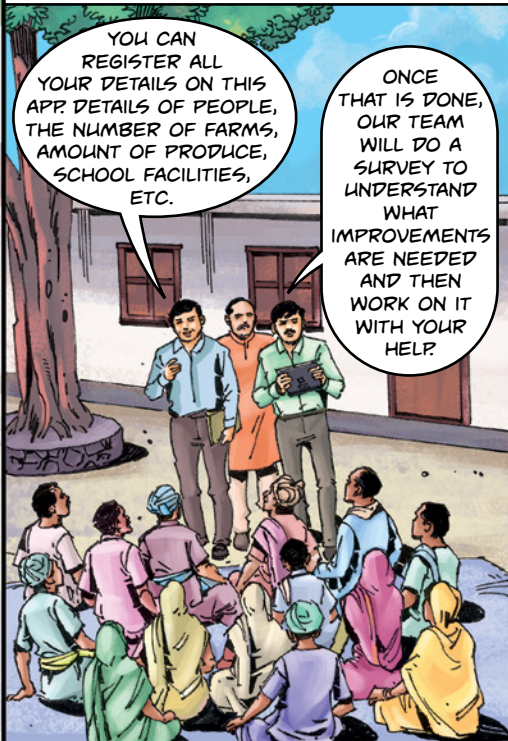
OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, THEY HAD MULTIPLE DISCUSSIONS AND ARRIVED AT A PLAN.



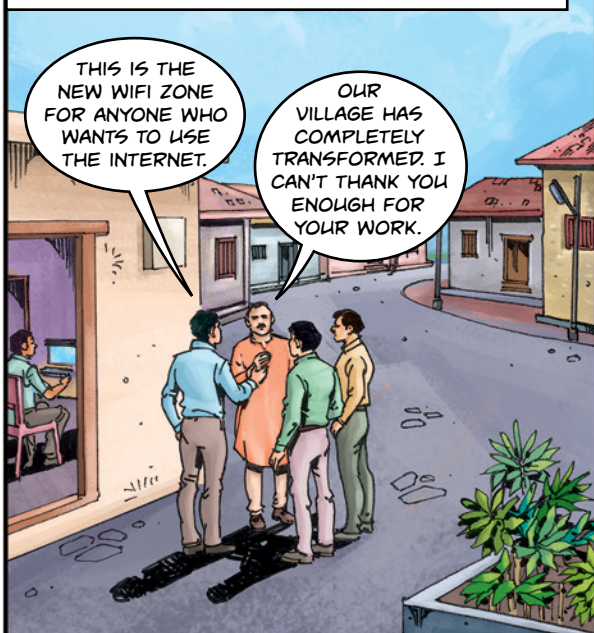
IN 2017, THEY LAUNCHED THE SMARTGAON DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION AND THE SMARTGAON APP.



ARMED WITH THE APP AND PLANS TO CHANGE THE VILLAGE, THE DUO REACHED TALDHAKPUR AND CALLED FOR A MEETING OF THE VILLAGERS.



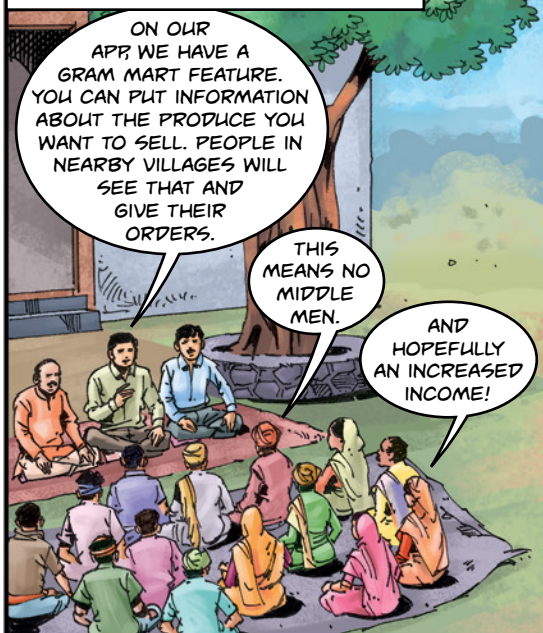
OVER THE NEXT YEAR, THEY GOT INTERNET SERVICE IN THE VILLAGE, STREET LIGHTS, TOILETS, BETTER POWER SUPPLY AND BETTER HEALTHCARE SERVICES.



THIS IS THE NEW WIFI ZONE FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO USE THE INTERNET.

OUR VILLAGE HAS COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED. I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR WORK.

THE DUO'S WORK, HOWEVER, WASN'T DONE. THEY SOON MET UP WITH THE FARMERS IN THE VILLAGE WITH A PLAN.

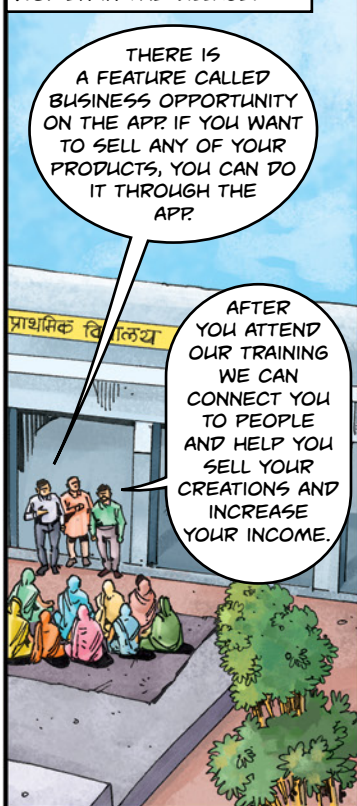


ON OUR APP WE HAVE A GRAM MART FEATURE. YOU CAN PUT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRODUCE YOU WANT TO SELL. PEOPLE IN NEARBY VILLAGES WILL SEE THAT AND GIVE THEIR ORDERS.

THIS MEANS NO MIDDLE MEN.

AND HOPEFULLY AN INCREASED INCOME!

RAJNISH AND YOGESH ALSO HAD A PLAN TO IMPROVE THE INCOME OF THE WOMEN IN THE VILLAGE.



THERE IS A FEATURE CALLED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY ON THE APP. IF YOU WANT TO SELL ANY OF YOUR PRODUCTS, YOU CAN DO IT THROUGH THE APP.

AFTER YOU ATTEND OUR TRAINING WE CAN CONNECT YOU TO PEOPLE AND HELP YOU SELL YOUR CREATIONS AND INCREASE YOUR INCOME.

OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS, RAJNISH AND YOGESH REPLICATED THE SUCCESS OF TAUDHAKPUR IN 14 OTHER VILLAGES.



REST ASSURED. YOUR VILLAGE WILL SOON HAVE CLEAN DRINKING WATER.

WE ONLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

TODAY, RAJNISH AND YOGESH ARE WORKING WITH OVER 20 VILLAGES AND HAVE ABOUT 22 START-UPS COLLABORATING WITH THEM.

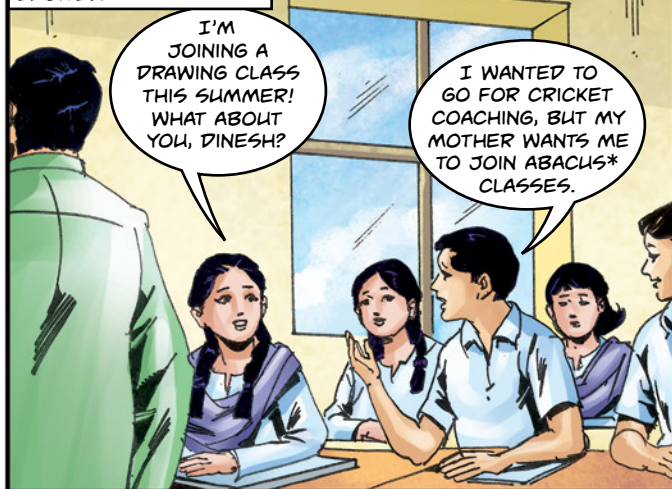


OVER TIME, WE WISH TO REACH EACH AND EVERY VILLAGE OF THE COUNTRY AND MAKE THEM ALL SMART VILLAGES.

THE SMARTGOAN VENTURE HAS GAINED POPULARITY OVER TIME AND EVEN FOUND MENTION IN PM MODI'S MANN KI BAAT.

SONALI HELVI

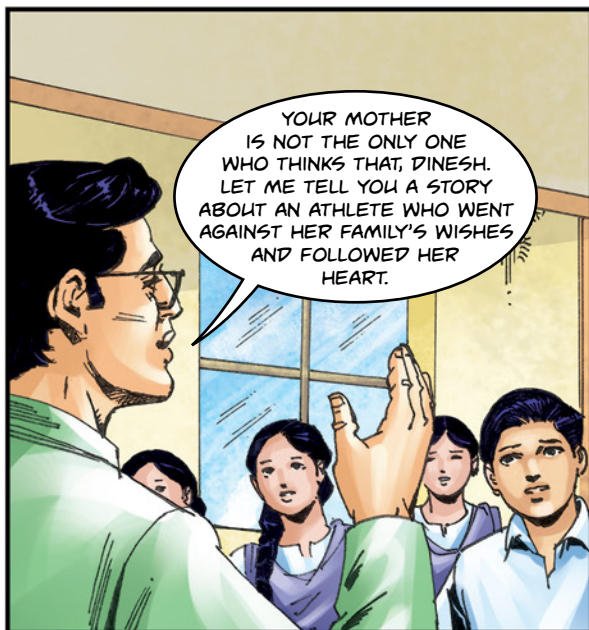
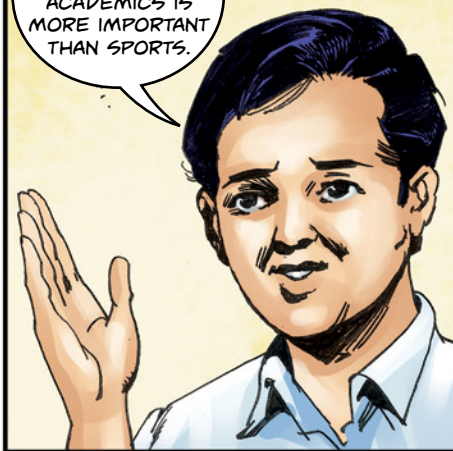
THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS WERE COMING AND ALL THE STUDENTS WERE EXCITED



I'M JOINING A DRAWING CLASS THIS SUMMER! WHAT ABOUT YOU, DINESH?

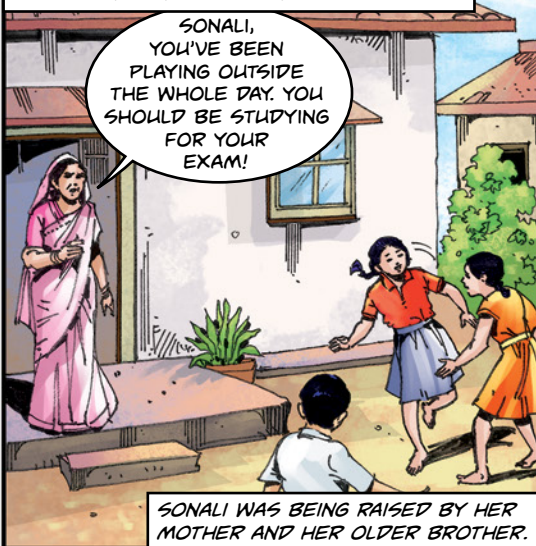
I WANTED TO GO FOR CRICKET COACHING, BUT MY MOTHER WANTS ME TO JOIN ABACUS* CLASSES.

I DON'T LIKE MATHS, BUT SHE THINKS ACADEMICS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SPORTS.



YOUR MOTHER IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS THAT, DINESH. LET ME TELL YOU A STORY ABOUT AN ATHLETE WHO WENT AGAINST HER FAMILY'S WISHES AND FOLLOWED HER HEART.

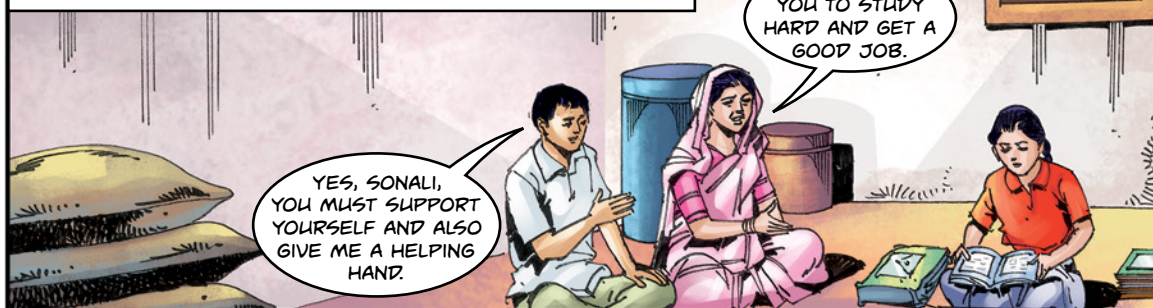
SONALI HELVI WAS BORN IN A RURAL PART OF SATARA IN MAHARASHTRA. HER FATHER PASSED AWAY WHEN SHE WAS VERY YOUNG.



SONALI, YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING OUTSIDE THE WHOLE DAY. YOU SHOULD BE STUDYING FOR YOUR EXAM!

SONALI WAS BEING RAISED BY HER MOTHER AND HER OLDER BROTHER.

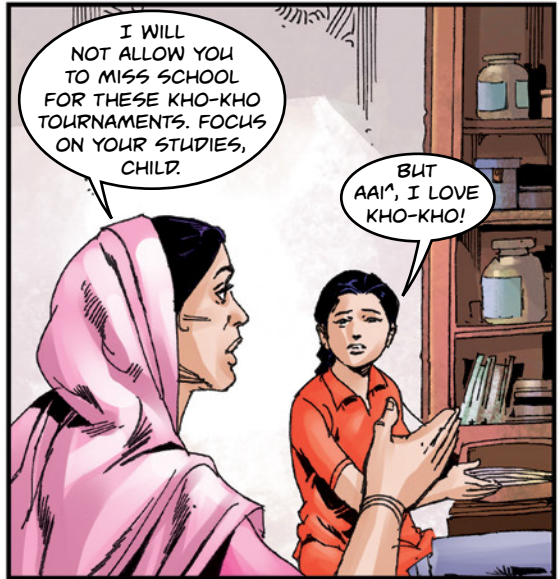
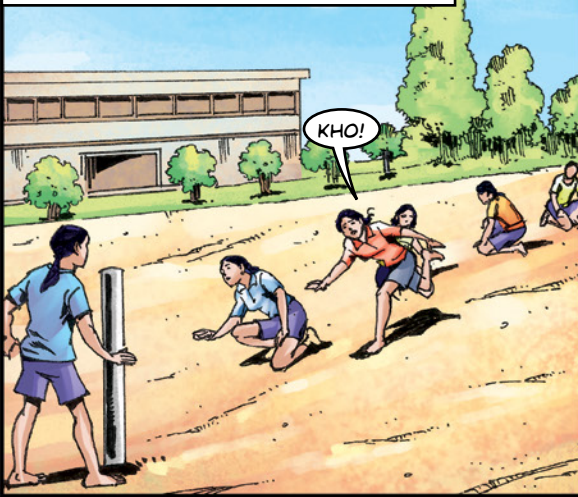
SONALI HAD A NATURAL TALENT FOR SPORTS BUT DUE TO THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION, HER FAMILY HAD OTHER DREAMS FOR HER.



YES, SONALI, YOU MUST SUPPORT YOURSELF AND ALSO GIVE ME A HELPING HAND.

I WANT YOU TO STUDY HARD AND GET A GOOD JOB.

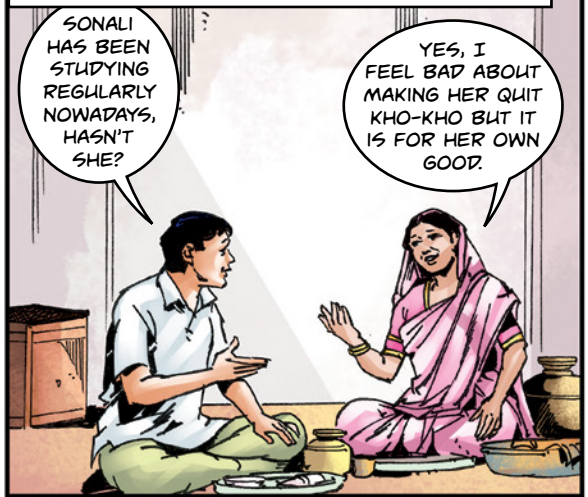
HOWEVER, SONALI WAS A STRONG-WILLED CHILD. SHE FOLLOWED HER PASSION AND STARTED PLAYING KHO-KHO*.



SOON, SONALI'S INTEREST TURNED TOWARDS KABADDI**.



THIS TIME THOUGH, SONALI DID NOT TELL ANYONE AT HOME ABOUT HER TOURNAMENTS AND TRAINING.



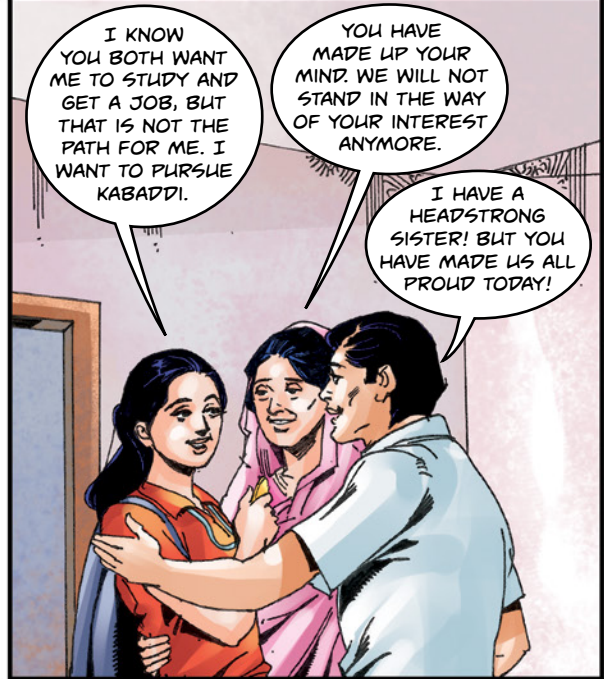
THE GIFTED YOUNGSTER PLAYED AND WON GOLD IN HER FIRST JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT WHEN SHE WAS ONLY IN THE EIGHTH STANDARD.



*TRADITIONAL INDIAN GAME PLAYED BY A ROW OF SEATED CHASERS AND DEFENDERS
 **TRADITIONAL INDIAN GAME CONSISTING OF RAIDING AND DEFENDING TEAMS

*MOTHER IN MARATHI

AFTER THE BIG WIN, SONALI KNEW IT WAS TIME TO TELL HER FAMILY.



FROM THEN ON, THERE WAS NO LOOKING BACK.



SONALI STARTED TRAINING IN EARNEST AND BECAME THE CAPTAIN OF THE MAHARASHTRA TEAM IN 2008.

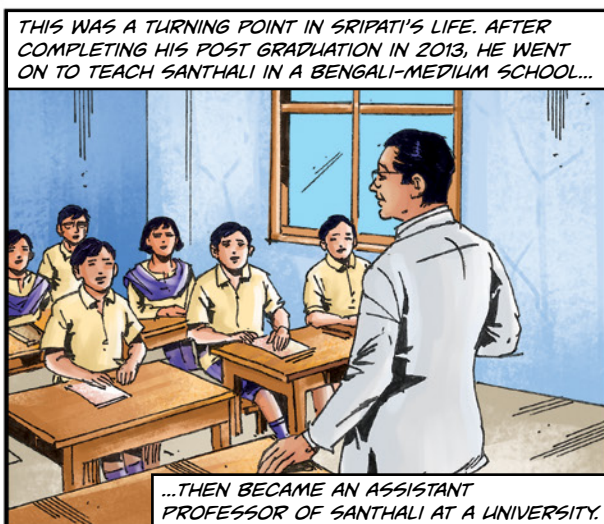
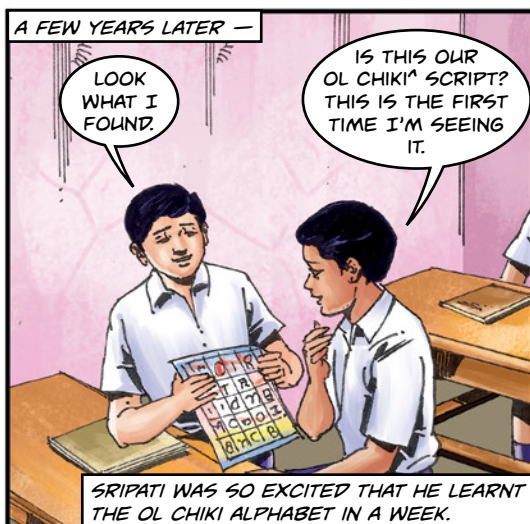
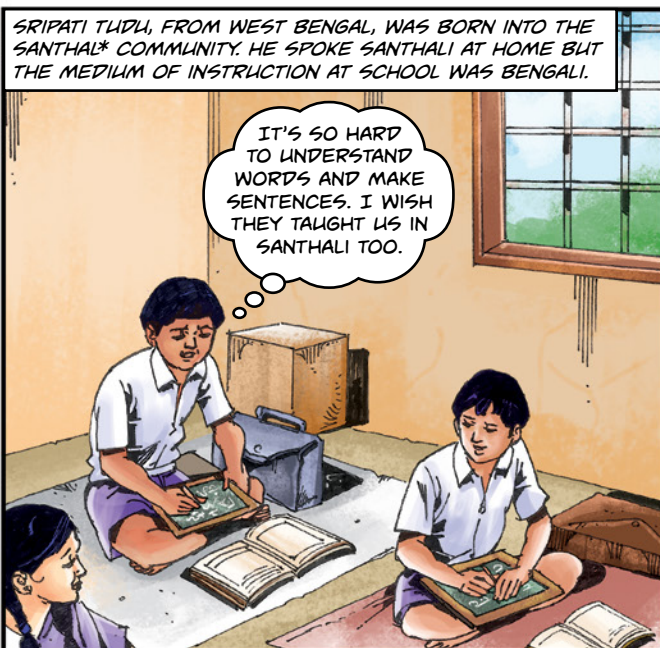
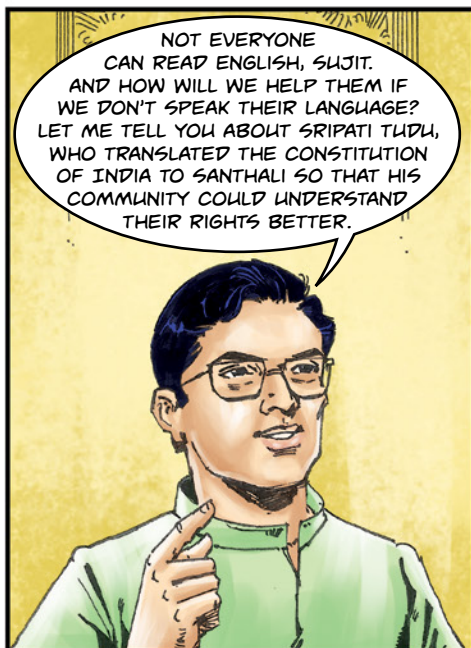
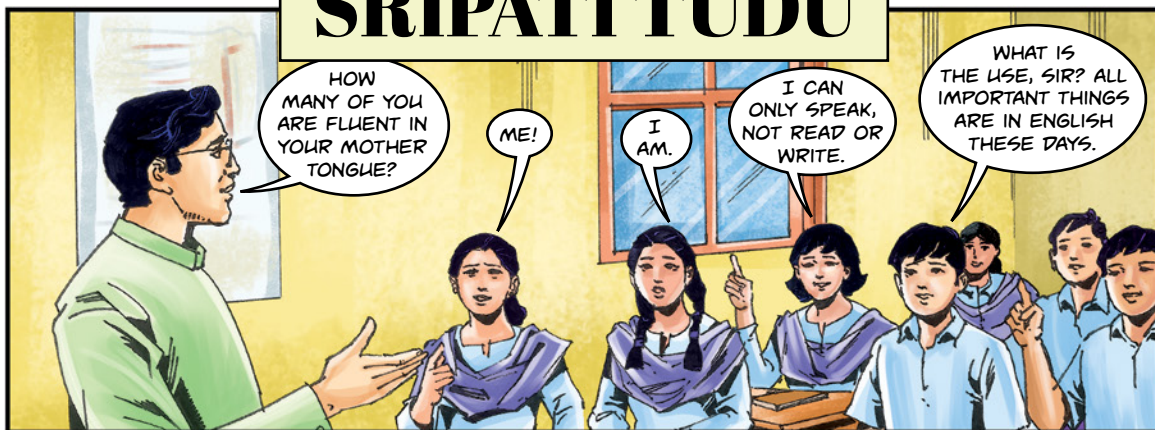
TODAY, SONALI IS KNOWN FOR HER AGGRESSIVE RAIDING STYLE AND FOR BEING AN EXCELLENT ALL-ROUNDER. SHE FOLLOWS HER PASSION, WHILE BALANCING HER EDUCATION AND WORK.



HER PASSION AND DETERMINATION WERE CELEBRATED BY PM MODI ON HIS RADIO SHOW, MANN KI BAAT.



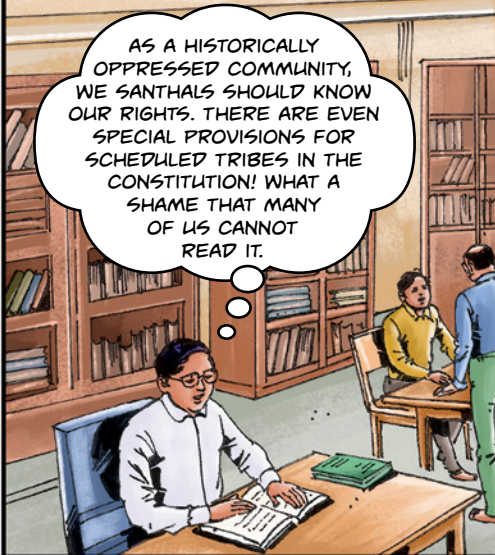
SRIPATI TUDU



*A TRIBE NATIVE TO THE REGION, ALSO FOUND IN BANGLADESH AND NEPAL

*NAME OF THE SCRIPT FOR THE SANTHALI LANGUAGE

SRIPATI HAD HEARD OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA, BUT IT WAS NOW THAT HE FINALLY GOT TO READ IT IN ENGLISH.

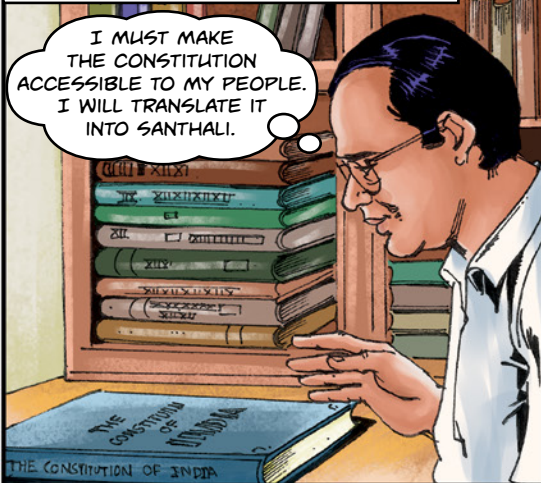


IN 2003, SANTHALI WAS RECOGNISED AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE. AS GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS STARTED TEACHING IT, A DEMAND FOR SANTHALI TEXTBOOKS SLOWLY AROSE.



SRIPATI WAS ONE OF THE ACADEMICS HIRED TO TRANSLATE EXISTING TEXTBOOKS INTO SANTHALI.

IN 2019, AFTER YEARS OF TEACHING SANTHALI AND MASTERING THE ART OF TRANSLATION, HE BEGAN THINKING OF A PROJECT THAT HAD NEVER LEFT HIS MIND.

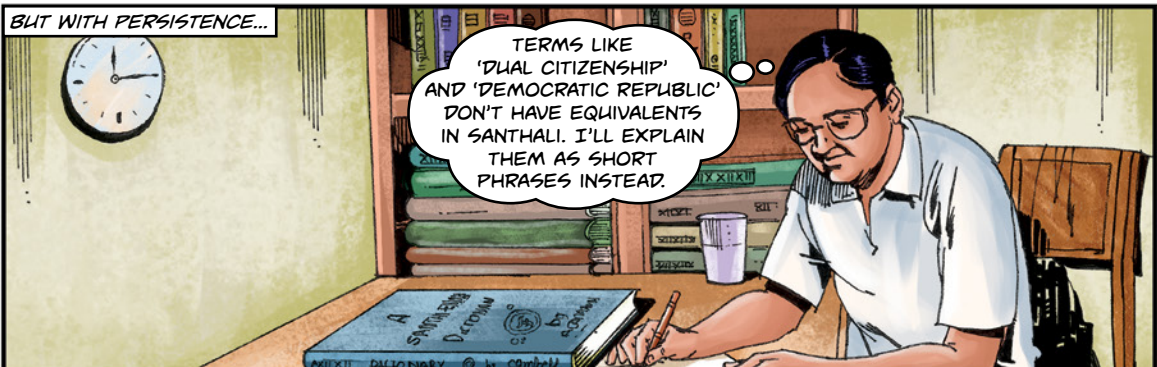


SOON, THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN GAVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET STARTED. HE CONSULTED THE ENGLISH, HINDI, AND BENGALI VERSIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

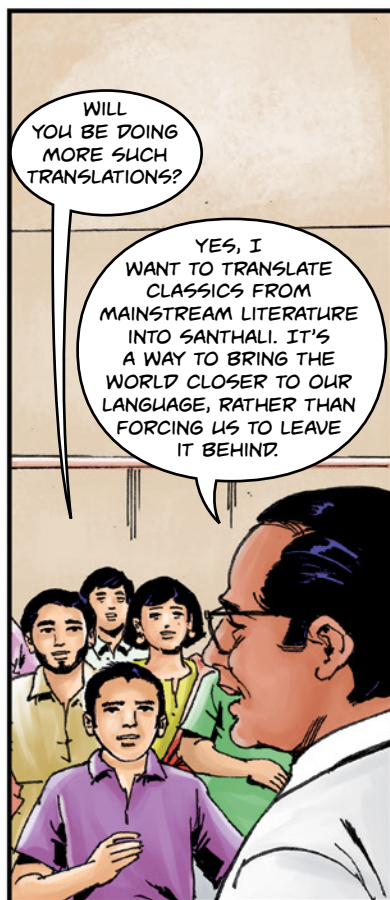
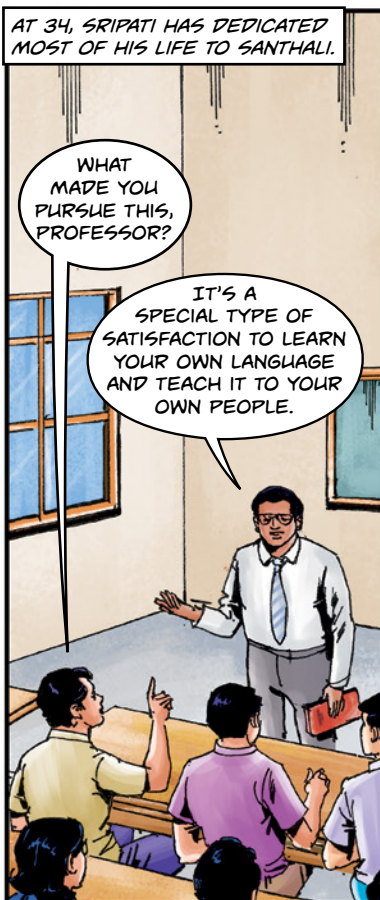
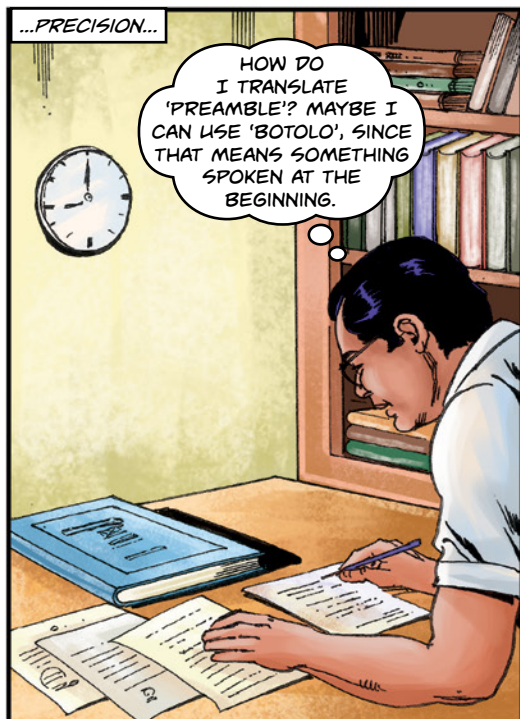


MANY CHALLENGES SURFACED.

BUT WITH PERSISTENCE...



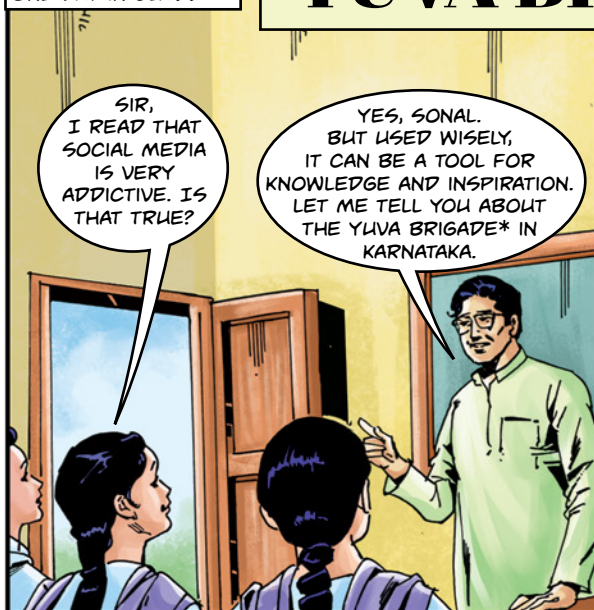
*VERY COMPLICATED WORK



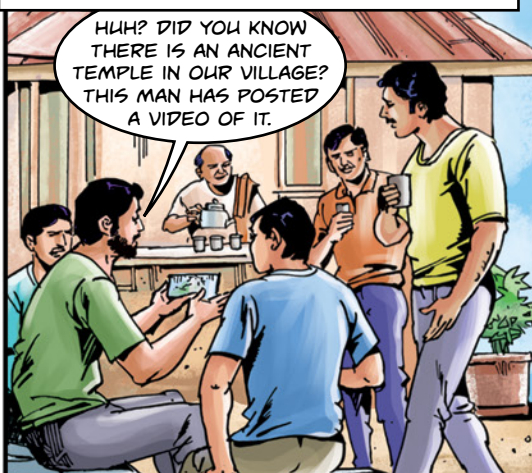
*"WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, HAVING SOLEMNLY RESOLVED TO CONSTITUTE...." THIS IS THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE PREAMBLE.

ONE DAY IN CLASS —

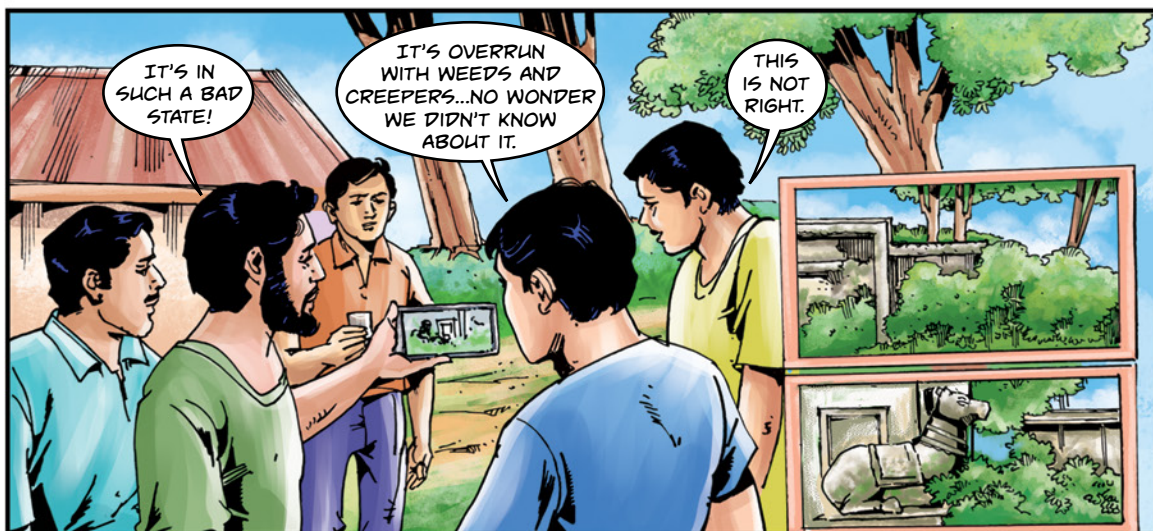
YUVA BRIGADE



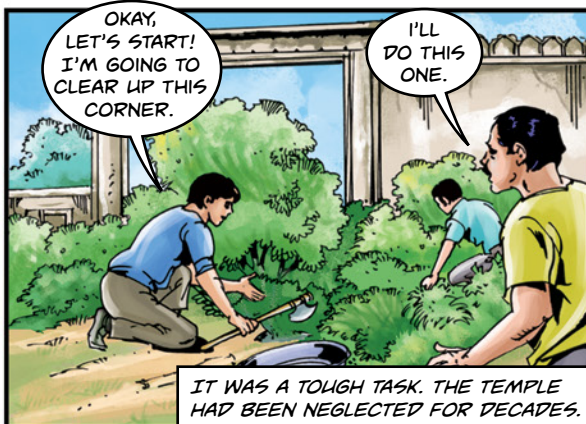
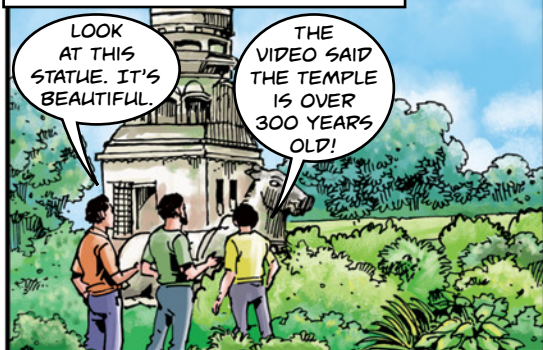
IN EARLY 2020, IN GANJAM VILLAGE NEAR SRIRANGAPATNA IN KARNATAKA, SOME YOUNG MEN WERE SCROLLING THROUGH THEIR PHONES.



ALL THE OTHERS RUSHED TO SEE THE VIDEO.



ALL THE YOUNG MEN WERE PART OF A GROUP CALLED THE YUVA BRIGADE. THEY SOON VISITED THE TEMPLE.



*YOUTH GROUP

SINCE THEY ALL HAD JOBS, THE MEMBERS OF THE YUVA BRIGADE WORKED ON THE TEMPLE ON WEEKENDS.



OOF, THIS TUNNEL IS FULL OF MUD.

WATCH OUT! SNAKE!

UNDETERRED, THEY CONTINUED THEIR CLEANING.

SLOWLY, THE BEAUTY OF THE TEMPLE BEGAN TO BE SEEN.



ALL THESE CARVINGS ARE SO INTRICATE.

I'M GOING TO POST THIS ON SOCIAL MEDIA...MAYBE OTHERS WILL JOIN US.

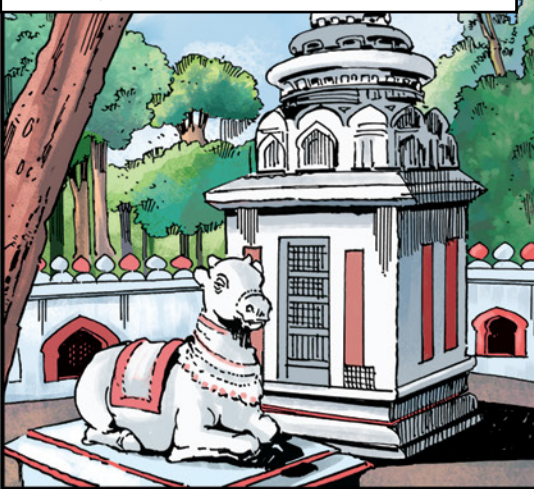
SOON —



I SAW YOUR POST. I HAVE A CEMENT BUSINESS. I CAN HELP WITH MATERIALS FOR THE RESTORATION.

I CAN SUPPLY PAINTS.

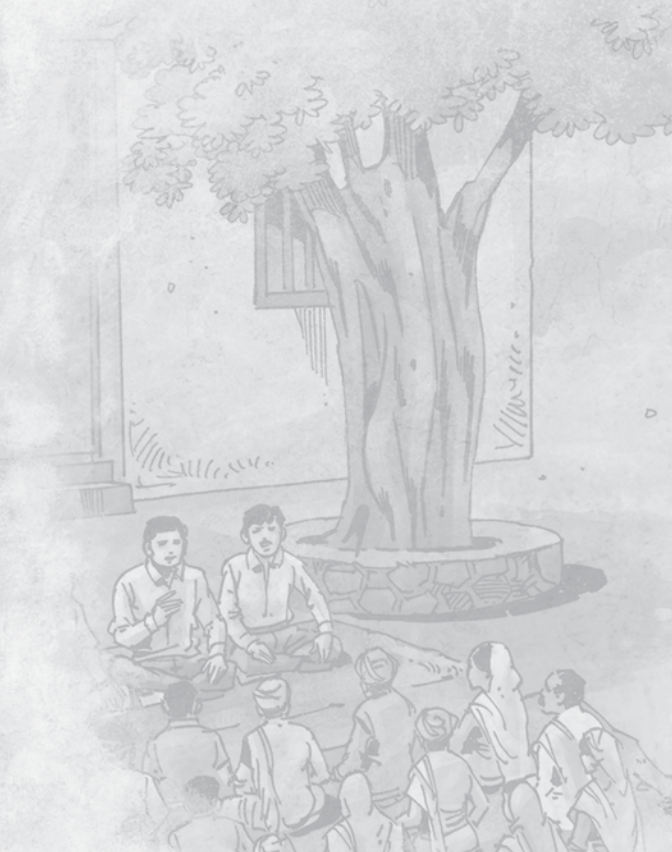
THE ORIGINAL IDOLS HAD LONG BEEN STOLEN. THE YUVA BRIGADE INSTALLED NEW IDOLS, REPAIRED DAMAGED WALLS AND AFTER MONTHS OF HARD WORK, THE VEERABHADRASWAMY TEMPLE WAS CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL AGAIN.



LATER THE SAME YEAR, THE GROUP WAS PRAISED BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON MANN KI BAAT.



WHEN I SEE THE YOUTH OF INDIA, I FEEL DELIGHTED AND ASSURED BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE 'CAN DO' APPROACH AND THE 'WILL DO' SPIRIT IN THEM. NO CHALLENGE IS TOO BIG FOR THEM. NOTHING IS OUT OF REACH.





MANN KI BAAT

VOL. 11

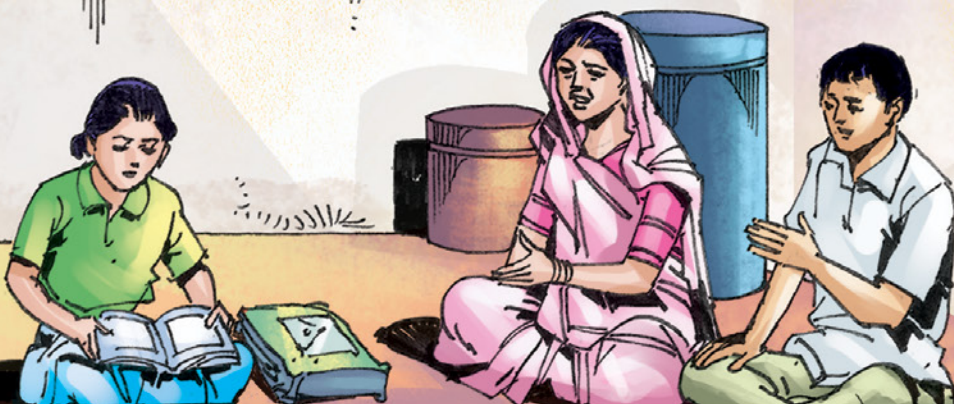
The eleventh volume of Mann Ki Baat, based on Prime Minister Modi's radio show, proves that where there is a will, there is a way.

Daitari Naik lived in a village where the ground was parched, crops were dying, and the gush of water from behind the hills was always heard but never seen. One fateful morning, he set off with an iron bar, a hoe, and the will to make history. Years of toil later, a canal filled with lifegiving water stands as the testament to this will.

Sonali Helvi was born with big dreams under the crushing weight of poverty. Her interest in kabaddi was discouraged by a family that saw report cards and entrance exams as the only path to success. But Sonali's will was strong. Over the years, it has turned as many matches into medals as she has, skeptics into supporters!

Sripati Tudu has spent his life in service to his mother tongue, Santhali. When he discovered that the Constitution of India did not exist in this tribal language, his will awoke. It stood by him, in the months of painstaking translation, and brought the knowledge of their rights to Santhal people.

This collection of eleven inspiring stories is as much about the will to try, as it is about the way to succeed.



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