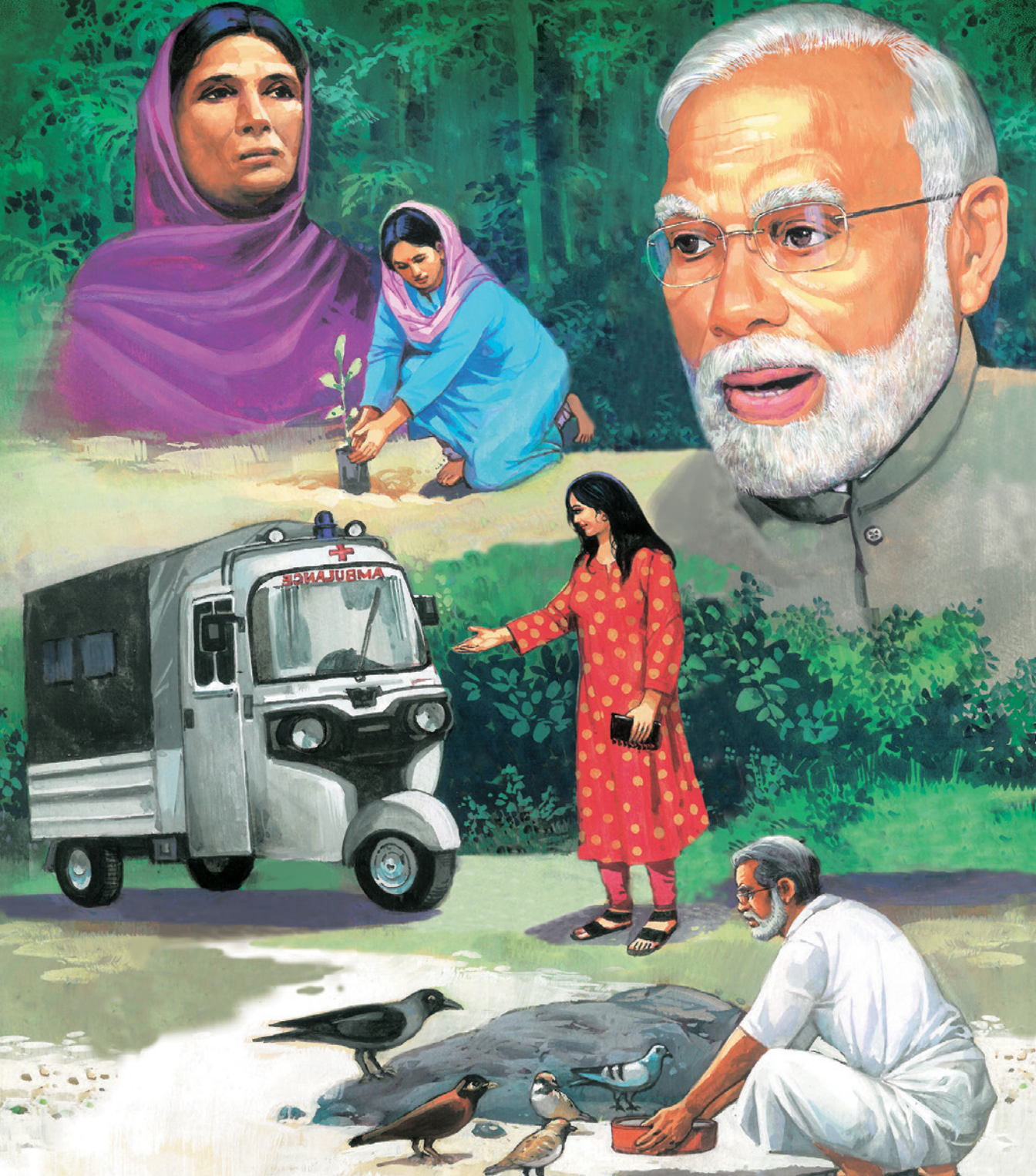




# MANN KI BAAT

VOL.4



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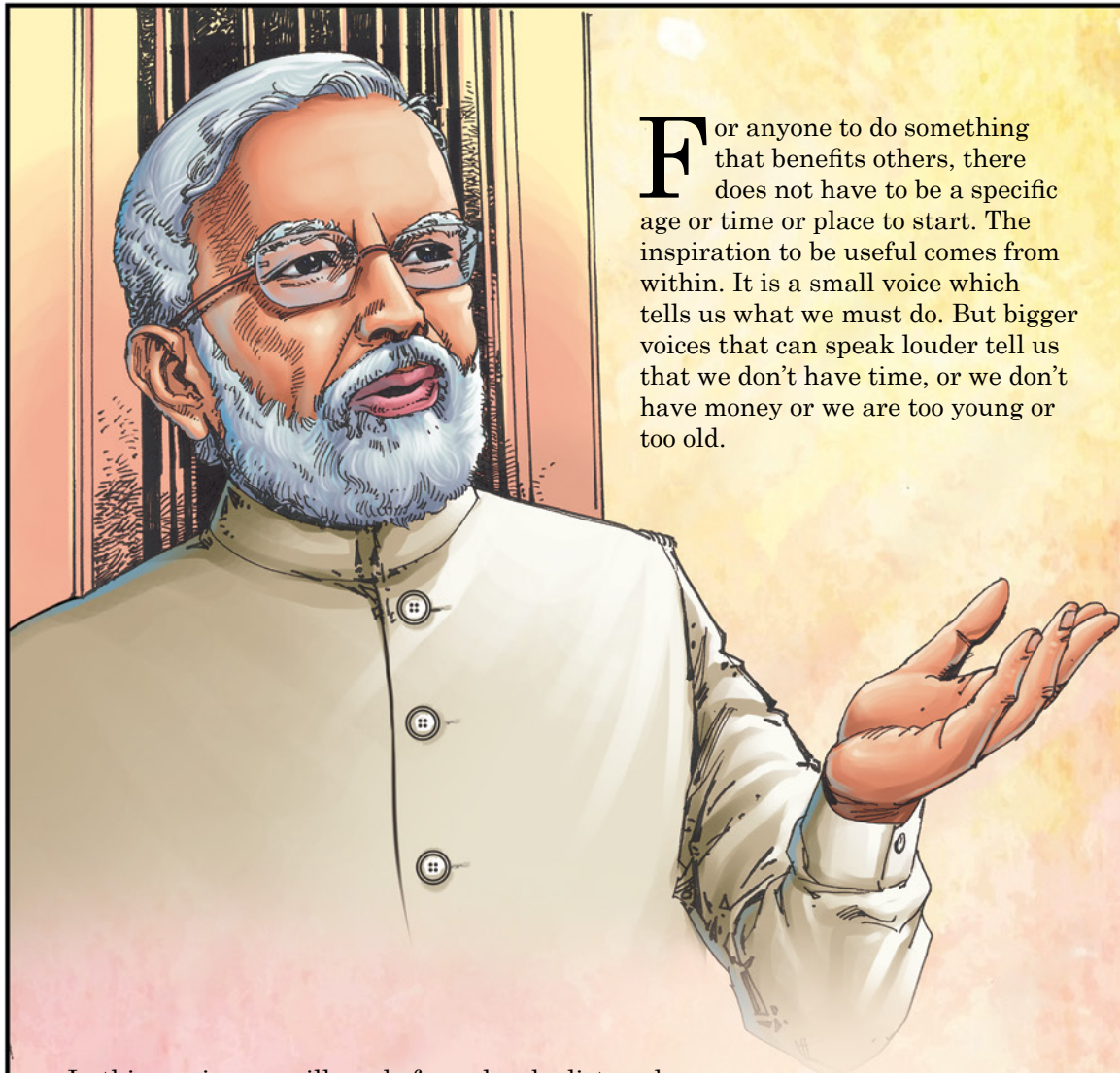
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**F**or anyone to do something that benefits others, there does not have to be a specific age or time or place to start. The inspiration to be useful comes from within. It is a small voice which tells us what we must do. But bigger voices that can speak louder tell us that we don't have time, or we don't have money or we are too young or too old.

In this comic, you will read of people who listened to their small voices and did great things.

Champa Devi, a midday meal worker in a school, who taught her village to compost and reduce pollution.

Ramveer Tanwar, who gave up a very good job to clean and restore lakes.

Radhika Shastry, a cafe owner, who started auto ambulances for humans and animals because the roads were too narrow to allow a regular ambulance.

And many more, who did not take the easy road but the one less walked on, so that they could do something useful for their fellow human beings, for animals and the environment.

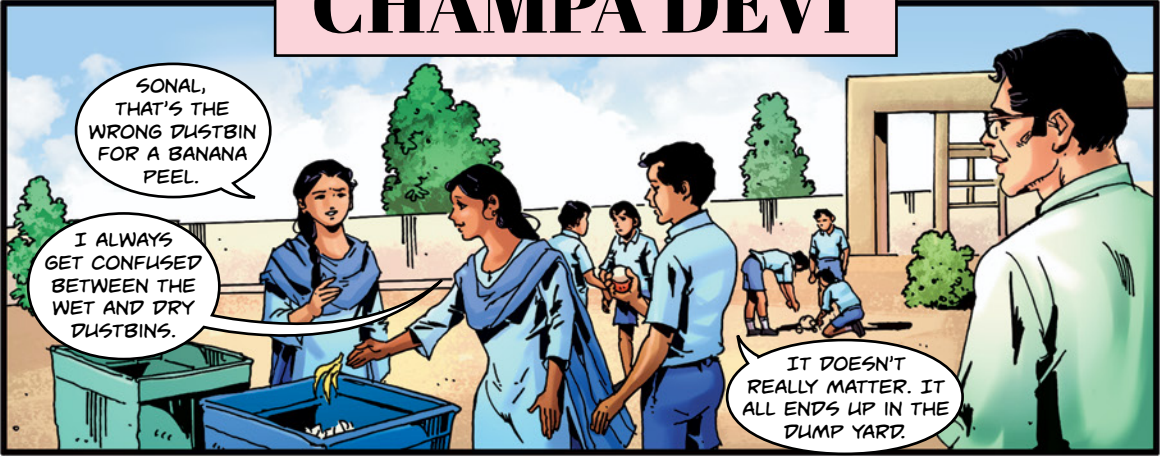


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# CHAMPA DEVI



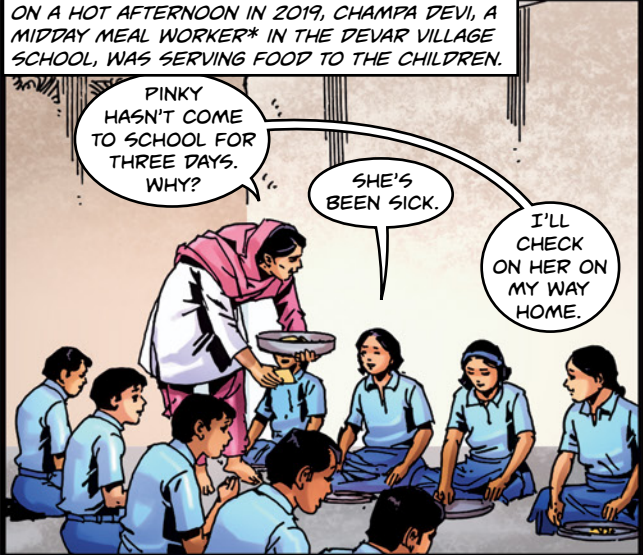
SONAL, THAT'S THE WRONG DUSTBIN FOR A BANANA PEEL.

I ALWAYS GET CONFUSED BETWEEN THE WET AND DRY DUSTBINS.

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. IT ALL ENDS UP IN THE DUMP YARD.



THAT'S NOT TRUE. THE WET WASTE IS COMPOSTED AND THE DRY IS RECYCLED. OUR MANN KI BAAT STORY IS ABOUT A CLEANLINESS CHAMPION CALLED CHAMPA DEVI.

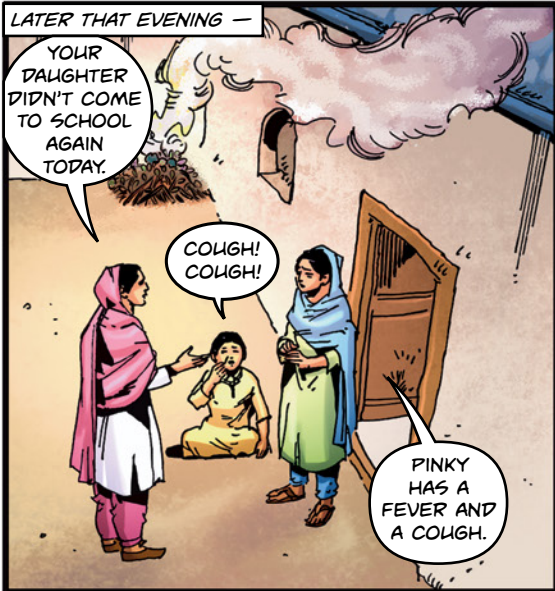


ON A HOT AFTERNOON IN 2019, CHAMPA DEVI, A MIDDAY MEAL WORKER\* IN THE DEVAR VILLAGE SCHOOL, WAS SERVING FOOD TO THE CHILDREN.

PINKY HASN'T COME TO SCHOOL FOR THREE DAYS. WHY?

SHE'S BEEN SICK.

I'LL CHECK ON HER ON MY WAY HOME.



LATER THAT EVENING —

YOUR DAUGHTER DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL AGAIN TODAY.

COUGH! COUGH!

PINKY HAS A FEVER AND A COUGH.

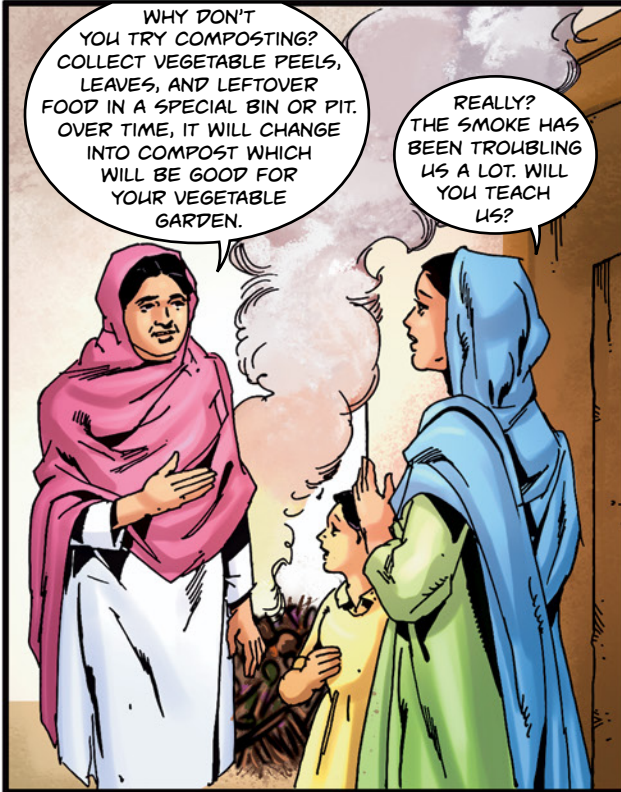


WHAT ARE YOU BURNING? THE SMOKE CAN MAKE YOUR CHILD'S COUGH WORSE.

JUST LEAVES AND WASTE.

\*GOVERNMENT SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMME WORKERS WHO COOK FOR SCHOOL KIDS





WHY DON'T YOU TRY COMPOSTING? COLLECT VEGETABLE PEELS, LEAVES, AND LEFTOVER FOOD IN A SPECIAL BIN OR PIT. OVER TIME, IT WILL CHANGE INTO COMPOST WHICH WILL BE GOOD FOR YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN.

REALLY? THE SMOKE HAS BEEN TROUBLING US A LOT. WILL YOU TEACH US?



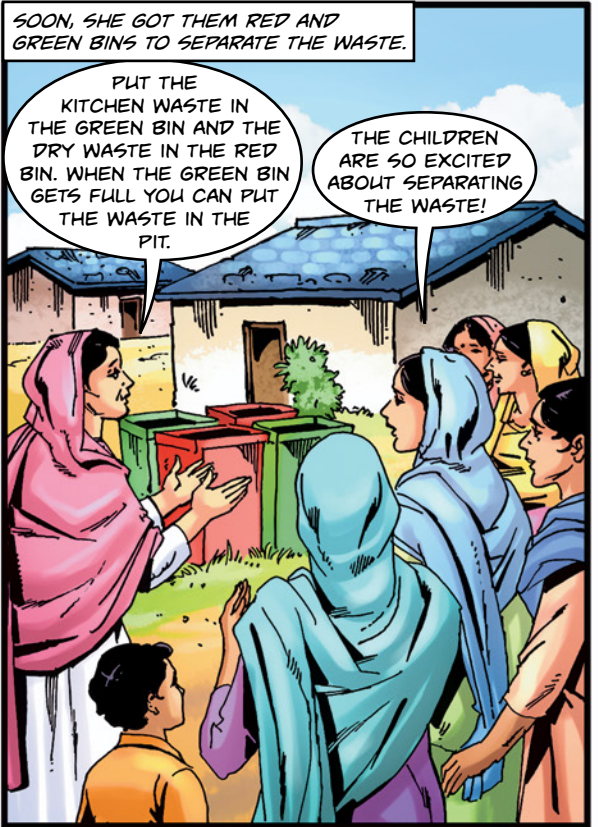
SURE.

THERE WERE OTHER WOMEN WHO ALSO WANTED TO LEARN FROM CHAMPA DEVI. SOON —



IN THIS LARGE PIT WE ARE GOING TO LAYER KITCHEN SCRAPS, DRY LEAVES AND GRASS. ONE LAYER OF WET WASTE FROM THE KITCHEN AND ONE LAYER OF DRY WASTE FROM THE GARDEN.

SLOWLY, IN STEPS, CHAMPA DEVI TAUGHT THE WOMEN OF THE VILLAGE HOW TO COMPOST AND AVOID BURNING WASTE.



SOON, SHE GOT THEM RED AND GREEN BINS TO SEPARATE THE WASTE.

PUT THE KITCHEN WASTE IN THE GREEN BIN AND THE DRY WASTE IN THE RED BIN. WHEN THE GREEN BIN GETS FULL YOU CAN PUT THE WASTE IN THE PIT.

THE CHILDREN ARE SO EXCITED ABOUT SEPARATING THE WASTE!





BEFORE LONG, THE WOMEN HAD DISTRIBUTED THE COLOURED BINS TO EVERY HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE. AND NOW THERE WERE MORE COLOURS FOR MORE TYPES OF WASTE.



USE THE BLUE BIN FOR PAPER, GLASS AND METAL WASTE. THEY CAN ALSO BE REUSED OR RECYCLED. COMPOST YOUR WET WASTE LIKE WE TAUGHT YOU.

PUT PLASTIC ITEMS LIKE BOTTLES AND BAGS IN THE YELLOW BIN FOR RECYCLING.

A FEW WEEKS LATER —



IT'S GOOD THAT WE ARE GETTING TOGETHER TO PLANT TREES.

MORE TREES MEAN CLEANER AIR, TOO!

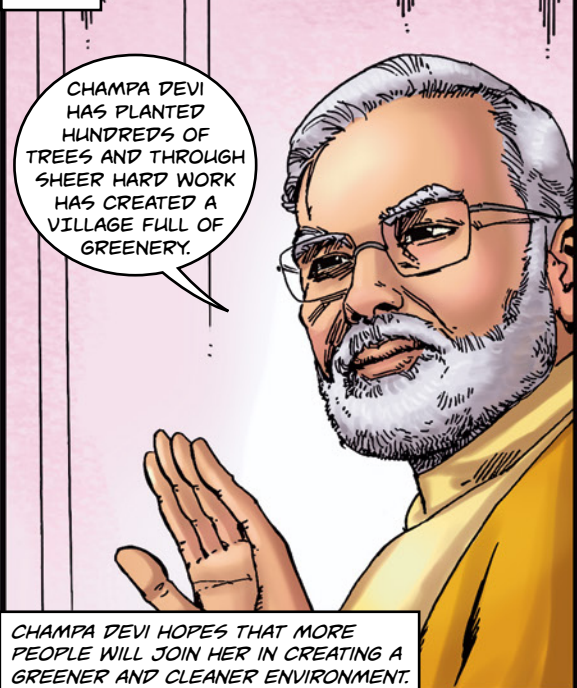
THE NEWS OF CHAMPA DEVI'S WORK SPREAD TO NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES.



YOU HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF YOUR VILLAGE, CHAMPA DEVI! TEACH US TOO.

WILLINGLY! ALL OUR VILLAGES MUST BE CLEAN AND HEALTHY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OURSELVES.

THREE YEARS LATER, PM MODI ACKNOWLEDGED CHAMPA DEVI'S EFFORTS ON HIS RADIO PROGRAMME, MANN KI BAAT, MUCH TO THE JOY OF THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.



CHAMPA DEVI HAS PLANTED HUNDREDS OF TREES AND THROUGH SHEER HARD WORK HAS CREATED A VILLAGE FULL OF GREENERY.

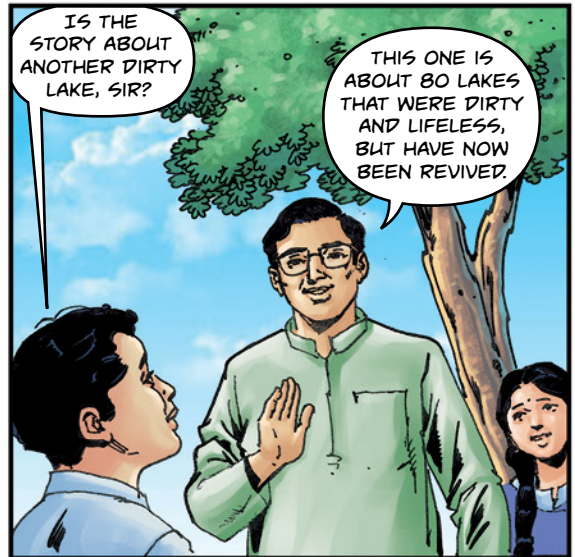
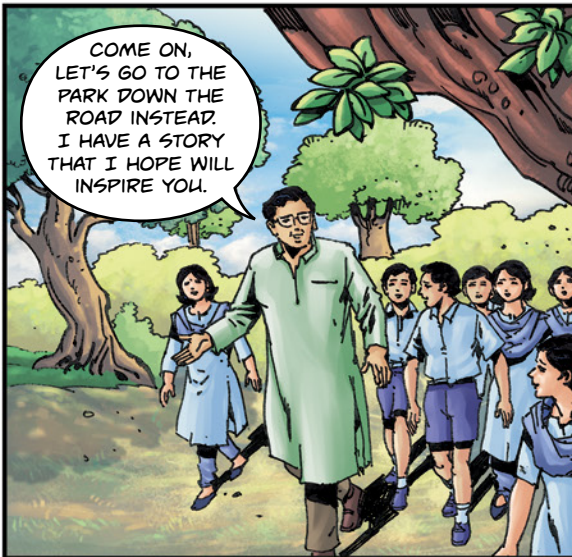
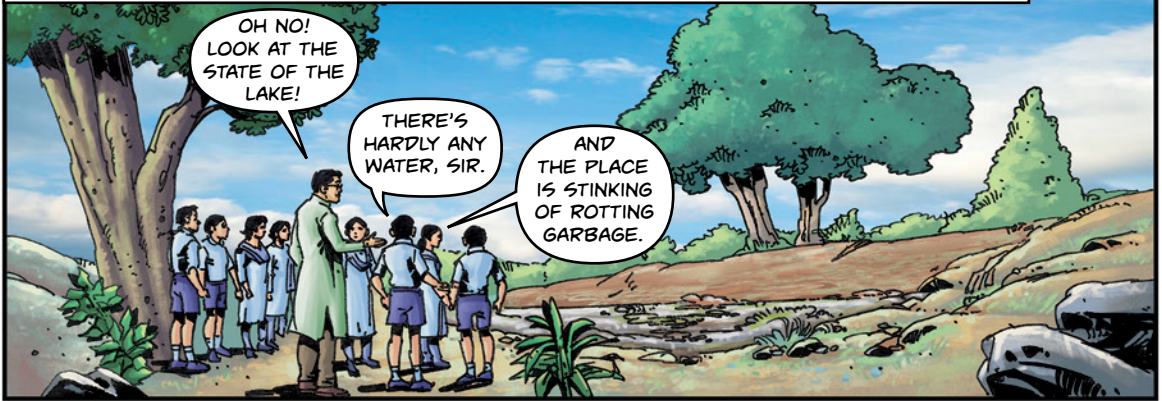
CHAMPA DEVI HOPES THAT MORE PEOPLE WILL JOIN HER IN CREATING A GREENER AND CLEANER ENVIRONMENT.



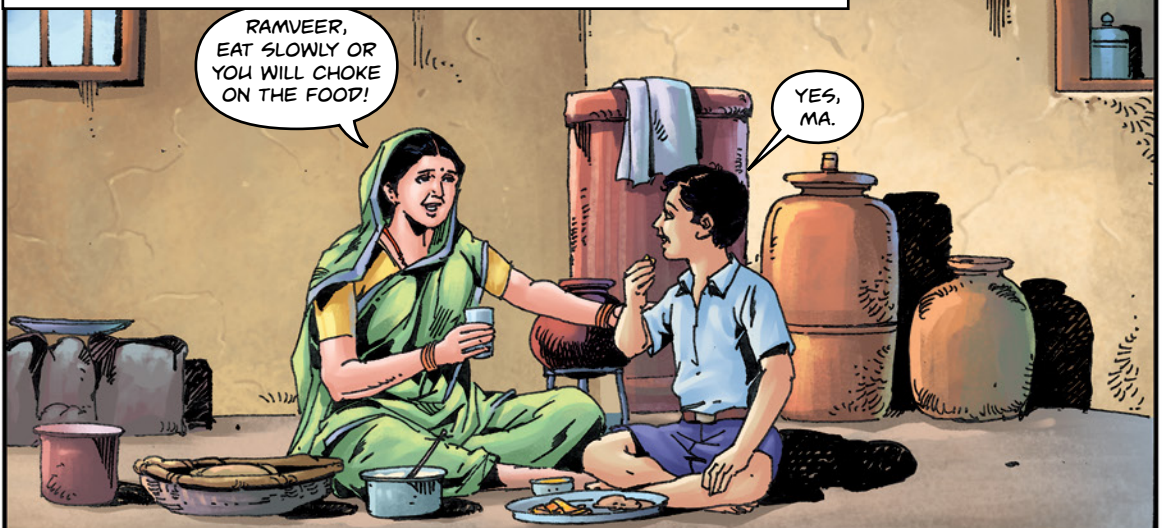


# RAMVEER TANWAR

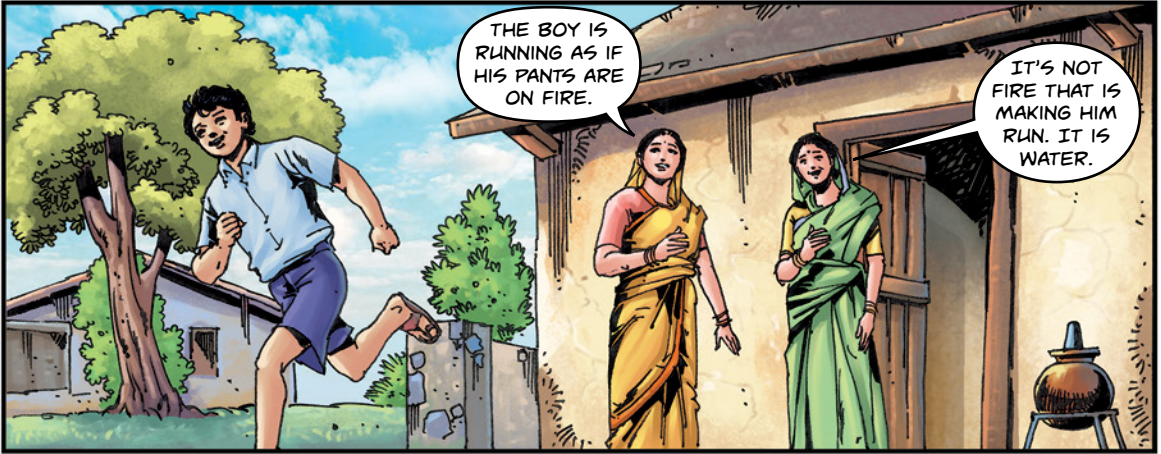
NAIR SIR HAD TAKEN HIS STUDENTS TO A NEARBY LAKE TO SHOW THEM MIGRATORY BIRDS, BUT —



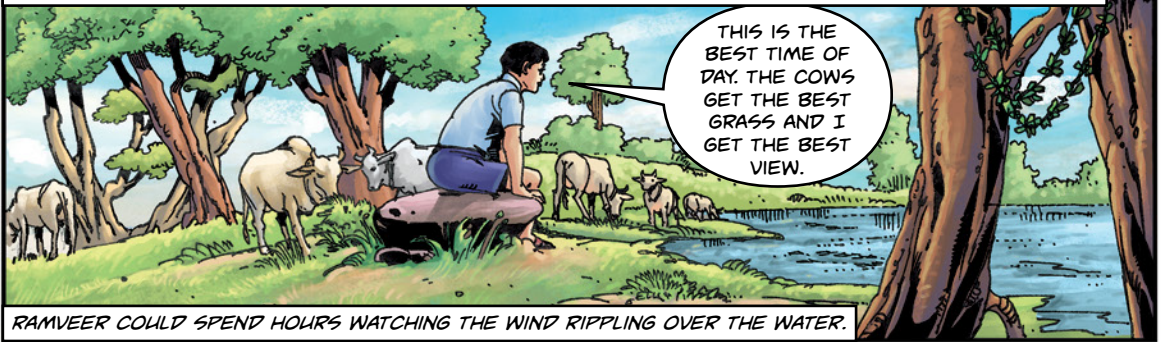
RAMVEER TANWAR WAS ALWAYS IN A RUSH TO FINISH HIS LUNCH AFTER SCHOOL.





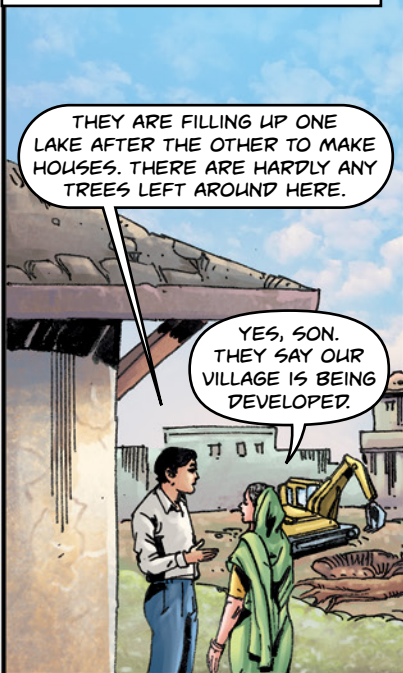


THAT WAS TRUE. EVERYDAY, RAMVEER TOOK A HERD OF CATTLE TO GRAZE BY THE LAKE NEAR HIS HOUSE.



RAMVEER COULD SPEND HOURS WATCHING THE WIND RIPPLING OVER THE WATER.

THE YEARS PASSED AND RAMVEER LEFT FOR THE CITY TO STUDY MECHANICAL ENGINEERING. BUT EACH TIME HE VISITED HOME —



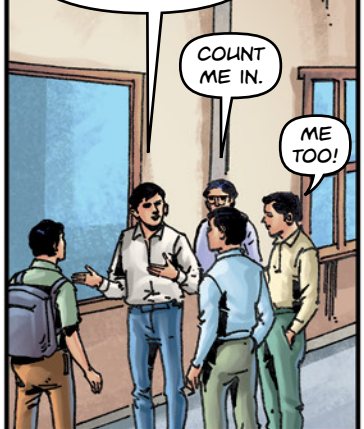
HE SPOKE ABOUT IT TO HIS FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES.

IN THE NAME OF DEVELOPMENT, THEY HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF DADHA. GREATER NOIDA IS JUST BECOMING A CROWDED AND NOISY URBAN AREA.



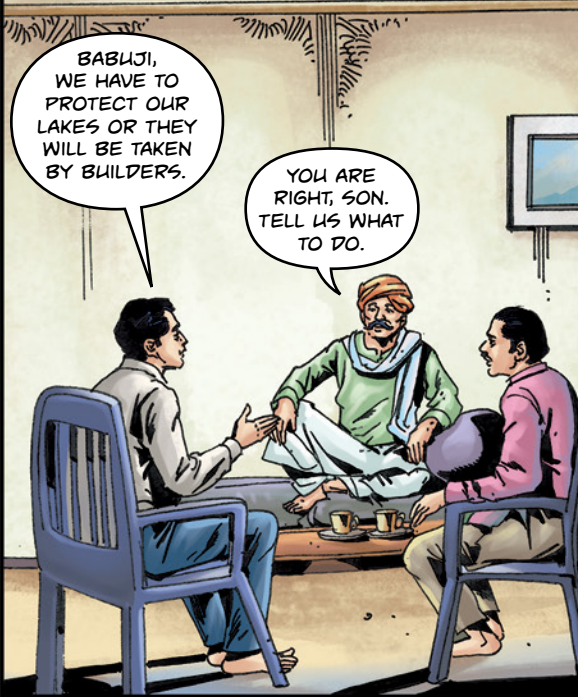
LUCKILY FOR THEM, THEIR COLLEGE GAVE THEM A CHANCE TO JOIN PROGRAMMES TO WORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE. WE'LL FORM A GROUP AND WORK TO PROTECT WATER BODIES. WE'LL GO TO PEOPLE AND EDUCATE THEM ABOUT THE NEED TO CONSERVE WATER AND TREES.





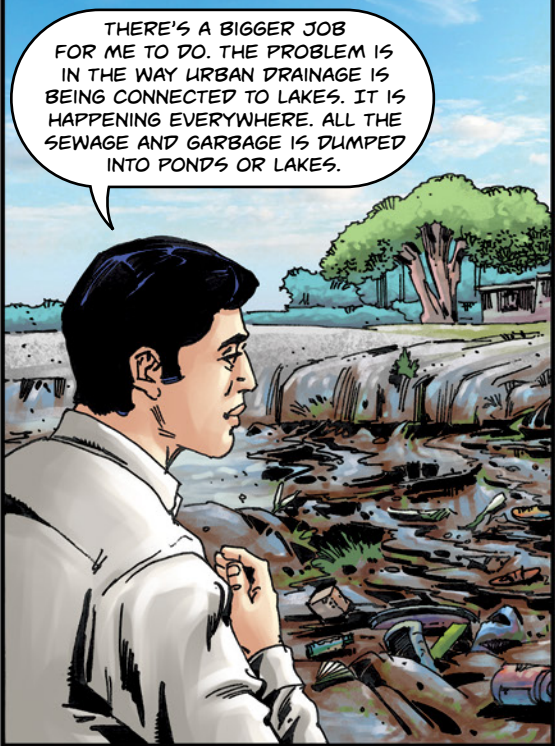
RAMVEER FORMED A GROUP — 'JAL CHAUPAL'\* AND, ALONG WITH HIS FRIENDS STARTED HOLDING INFORMAL CHATS WITH VILLAGERS.



BABUJI, WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR LAKES OR THEY WILL BE TAKEN BY BUILDERS.

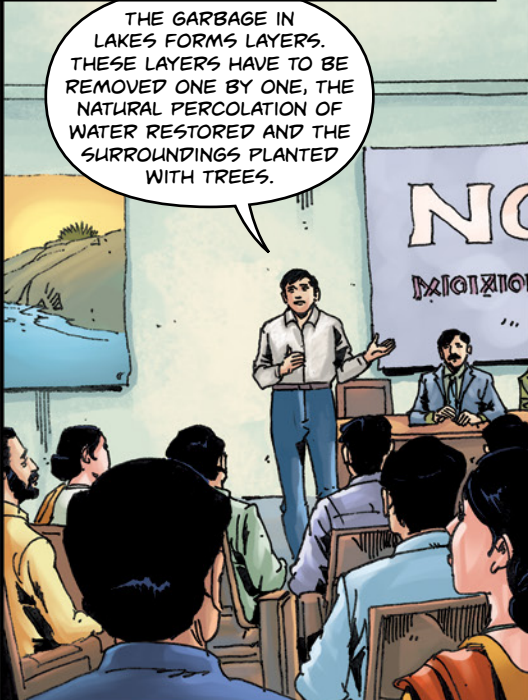
YOU ARE RIGHT, SON. TELL US WHAT TO DO.

THOUGH RAMVEER GOT A JOB IN A BIG COMPANY, HE GAVE IT UP IN TWO YEARS.



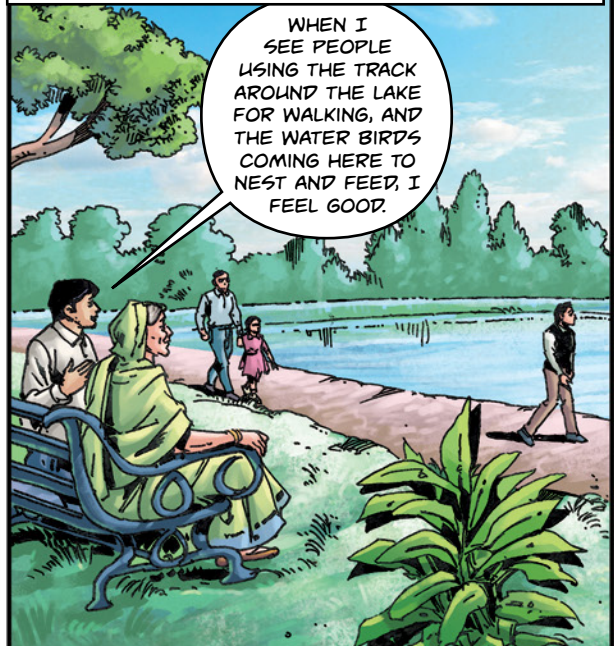
THERE'S A BIGGER JOB FOR ME TO DO. THE PROBLEM IS IN THE WAY URBAN DRAINAGE IS BEING CONNECTED TO LAKES. IT IS HAPPENING EVERYWHERE. ALL THE SEWAGE AND GARBAGE IS DUMPED INTO PONDS OR LAKES.

IN 2018, RAMVEER FOUNDED AN NGO CALLED 'SAY EARTH'. HERE, WITH FRIENDS AND VOLUNTEERS, HE WORKS TO RESTORE WATER BODIES AND CREATE URBAN FORESTS.



THE GARBAGE IN LAKES FORMS LAYERS. THESE LAYERS HAVE TO BE REMOVED ONE BY ONE, THE NATURAL PERCOLATION OF WATER RESTORED AND THE SURROUNDINGS PLANTED WITH TREES.

IN SIX YEARS, RAMVEER'S NGO HAS REVIVED 80 LAKES AND CREATED FOUR URBAN FORESTS IN SIX STATES.



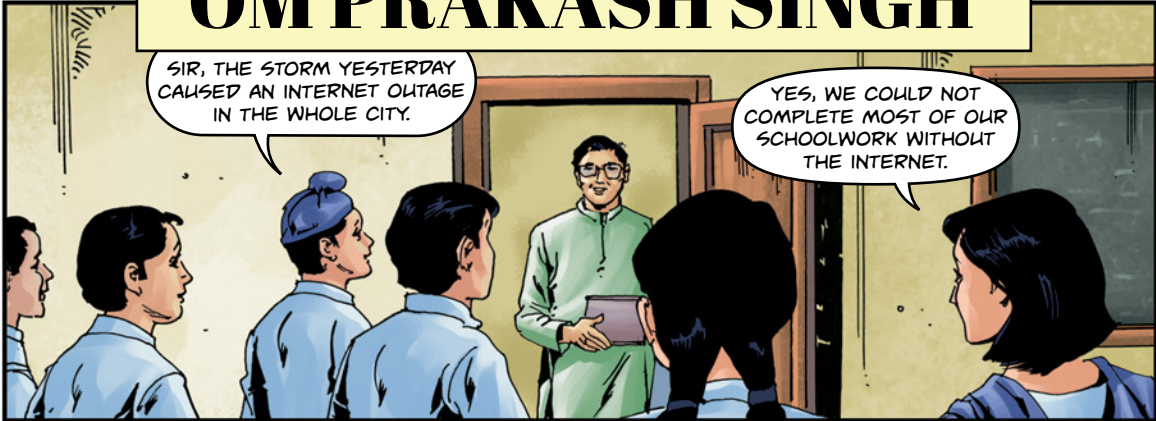
WHEN I SEE PEOPLE USING THE TRACK AROUND THE LAKE FOR WALKING, AND THE WATER BIRDS COMING HERE TO NEST AND FEED, I FEEL GOOD.

RAMVEER'S WORK WAS SHARED ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND PEOPLE CALL HIM THE 'PONDMAN OF INDIA'. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS RECOGNISED HIS EFFORTS AND COMMENDED HIM FOR IT.

\*COMMUNITY FOR WATER

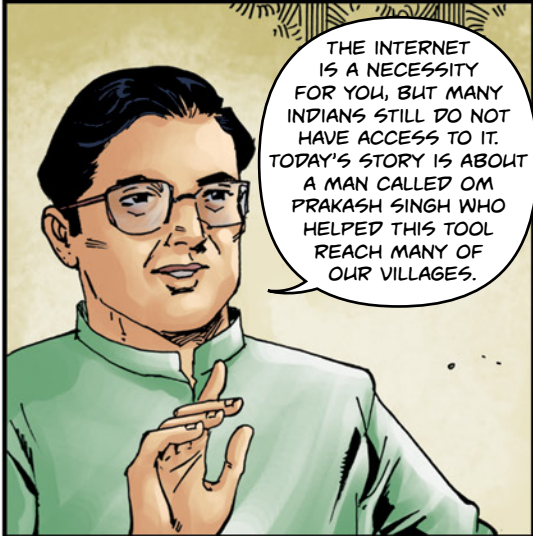


# OM PRAKASH SINGH

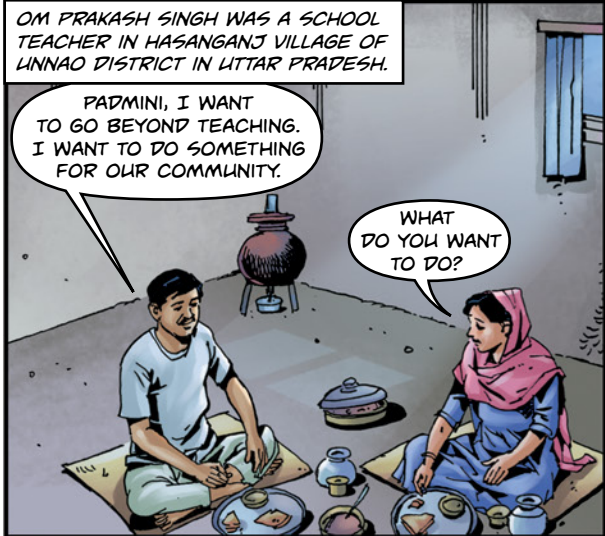


SIR, THE STORM YESTERDAY CAUSED AN INTERNET OUTAGE IN THE WHOLE CITY.

YES, WE COULD NOT COMPLETE MOST OF OUR SCHOOLWORK WITHOUT THE INTERNET.



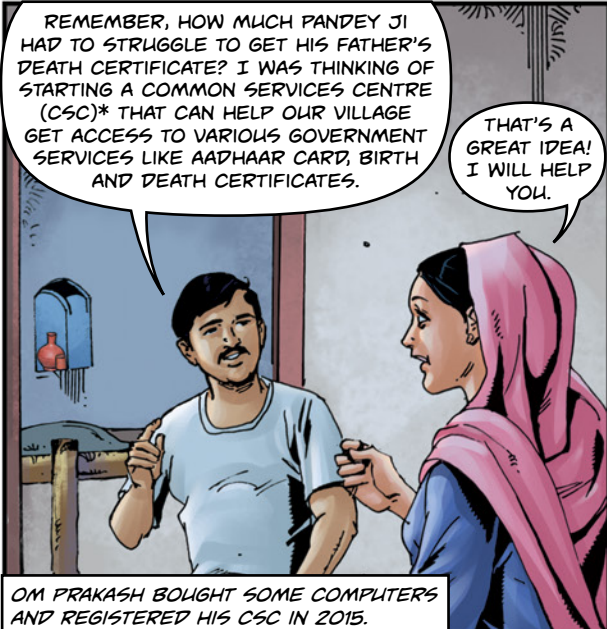
THE INTERNET IS A NECESSITY FOR YOU, BUT MANY INDIANS STILL DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO IT. TODAY'S STORY IS ABOUT A MAN CALLED OM PRAKASH SINGH WHO HELPED THIS TOOL REACH MANY OF OUR VILLAGES.



OM PRAKASH SINGH WAS A SCHOOL TEACHER IN HASANGANJ VILLAGE OF UNNAO DISTRICT IN UTTAR PRADESH.

PADMINI, I WANT TO GO BEYOND TEACHING. I WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

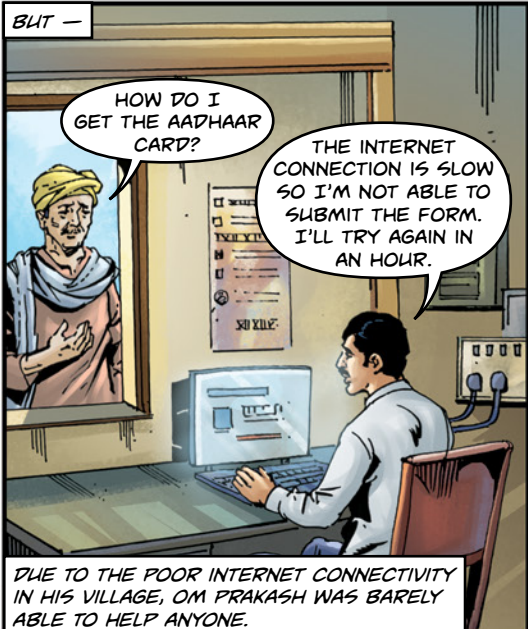
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?



REMEMBER, HOW MUCH PANDEY JI HAD TO STRUGGLE TO GET HIS FATHER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE? I WAS THINKING OF STARTING A COMMON SERVICES CENTRE (CSC)\* THAT CAN HELP OUR VILLAGE GET ACCESS TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SERVICES LIKE AADHAAR CARD, BIRTH AND DEATH CERTIFICATES.

THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! I WILL HELP YOU.

OM PRAKASH BOUGHT SOME COMPUTERS AND REGISTERED HIS CSC IN 2015.



BUT —

HOW DO I GET THE AADHAAR CARD?

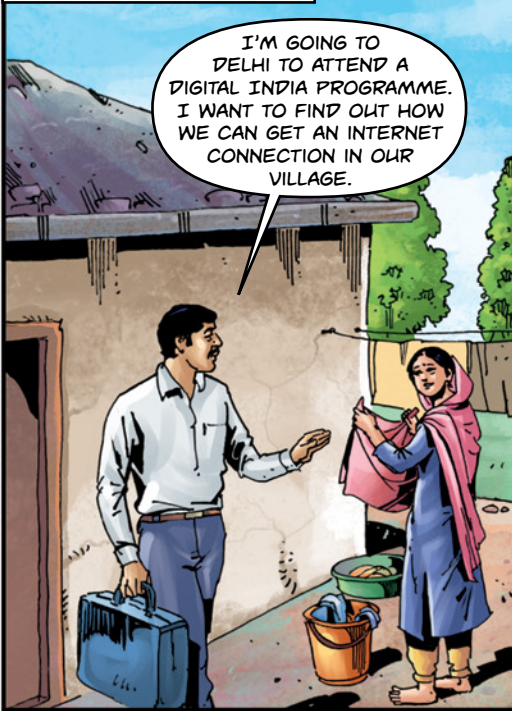
THE INTERNET CONNECTION IS SLOW SO I'M NOT ABLE TO SUBMIT THE FORM. I'LL TRY AGAIN IN AN HOUR.

DUE TO THE POOR INTERNET CONNECTIVITY IN HIS VILLAGE, OM PRAKASH WAS BARELY ABLE TO HELP ANYONE.

\*PHYSICAL FACILITIES FOR DELIVERING GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO RURAL AND REMOTE LOCATIONS

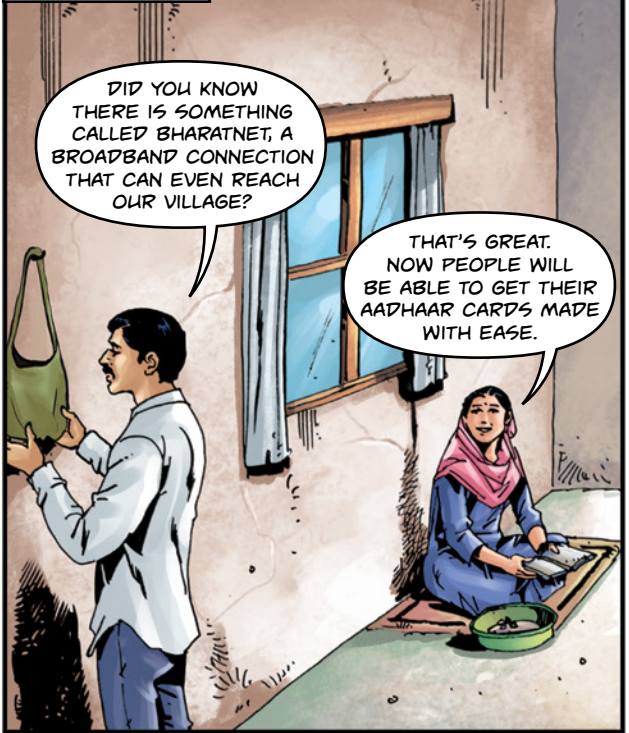


THIS CONTINUED FOR THREE YEARS TILL ONE DAY —



I'M GOING TO DELHI TO ATTEND A DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAMME. I WANT TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN GET AN INTERNET CONNECTION IN OUR VILLAGE.

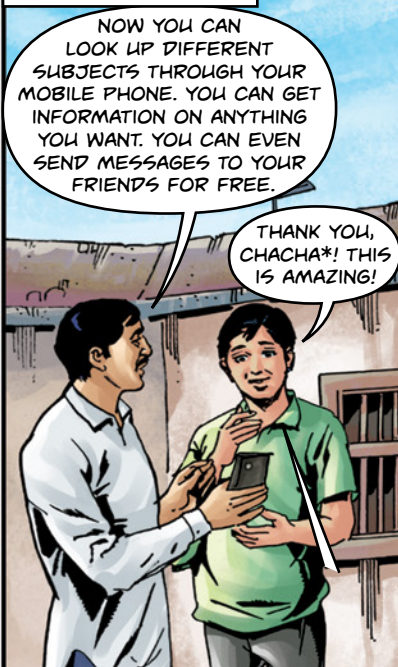
ON HIS RETURN —



DID YOU KNOW THERE IS SOMETHING CALLED BHARATNET, A BROADBAND CONNECTION THAT CAN EVEN REACH OUR VILLAGE?

THAT'S GREAT. NOW PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO GET THEIR AADHAAR CARDS MADE WITH EASE.

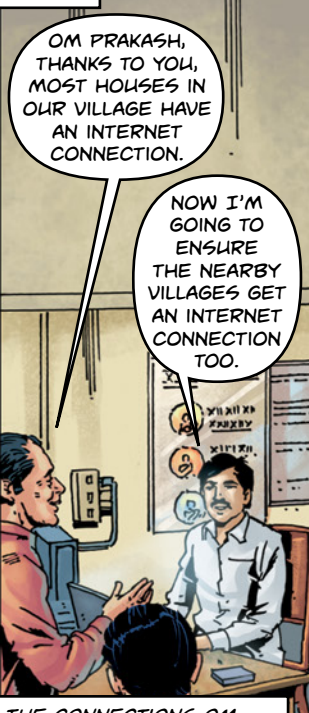
HE SOON BEGAN TO GIVE INTERNET CONNECTIONS TO THE HOMES IN HIS VILLAGE FOR FREE.



NOW YOU CAN LOOK UP DIFFERENT SUBJECTS THROUGH YOUR MOBILE PHONE. YOU CAN GET INFORMATION ON ANYTHING YOU WANT. YOU CAN EVEN SEND MESSAGES TO YOUR FRIENDS FOR FREE.

THANK YOU, CHACHA\*! THIS IS AMAZING!

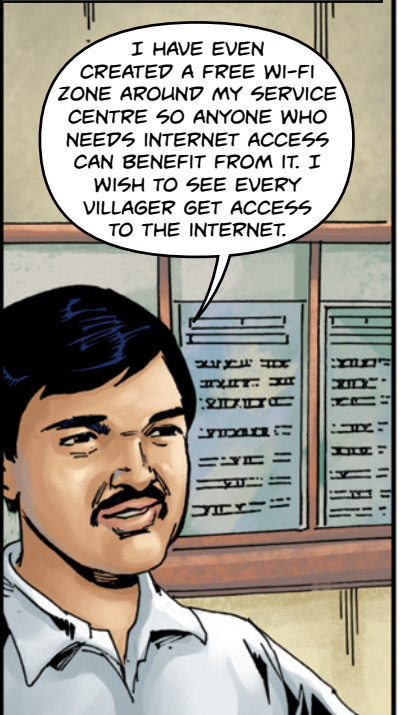
SOON —



OM PRAKASH, THANKS TO YOU, MOST HOUSES IN OUR VILLAGE HAVE AN INTERNET CONNECTION.

NOW I'M GOING TO ENSURE THE NEARBY VILLAGES GET AN INTERNET CONNECTION TOO.

OM PRAKASH HAS GIVEN INTERNET CONNECTIONS TO 82 GRAM PANCHAYATS AND IS STILL GIVING FREE CONNECTIONS TO HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND ANGANWADIS\*.



I HAVE EVEN CREATED A FREE WI-FI ZONE AROUND MY SERVICE CENTRE SO ANYONE WHO NEEDS INTERNET ACCESS CAN BENEFIT FROM IT. I WISH TO SEE EVERY VILLAGER GET ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, OM PRAKASH BEGAN TO CHARGE A SMALL AMOUNT FOR THE CONNECTIONS AND MOST PEOPLE WERE HAPPY TO PAY.

THE CONNECTIONS OM PRAKASH ESTABLISHED HAVE HELPED THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS DURING THE COVID LOCKDOWN.

\*UNCLE IN HINDI

\*A RURAL MOTHER AND CHILDCARE CENTRE



# RADHIKA SHASTRY

ALL THE CHILDREN WERE HUDDLED TOGETHER IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL, WATCHING AN AMBULANCE TAKE A CLASS 10 BOY TO HOSPITAL.

POOR RAUL!  
IT SEEMS HE  
TWISTED HIS  
LEG BADLY  
WHILE PLAYING  
CRICKET.

THEY SAY IT COULD BE A  
FRACTURE. ANYWAY, THE AMBULANCE WILL  
SOON HAVE HIM AT THE HOSPITAL.

YES, HE'LL BE THERE  
IN FIVE MINUTES. BUT CAN  
YOU THINK OF A SITUATION WHEN  
AN AMBULANCE IS NOT ABLE TO  
REACH A PATIENT IN TIME?  
THAT'S WHAT RADHIKA SHASTRY  
REALISED WHEN SHE STARTED  
LIVING IN COONOR.

RADHIKA SHASTRY HAD LIVED AND WORKED FOR  
30 YEARS IN BENGALURU. NOW SHE WAS MOVING  
TO COONOR WHERE SHE HAD OPENED A CAFE.

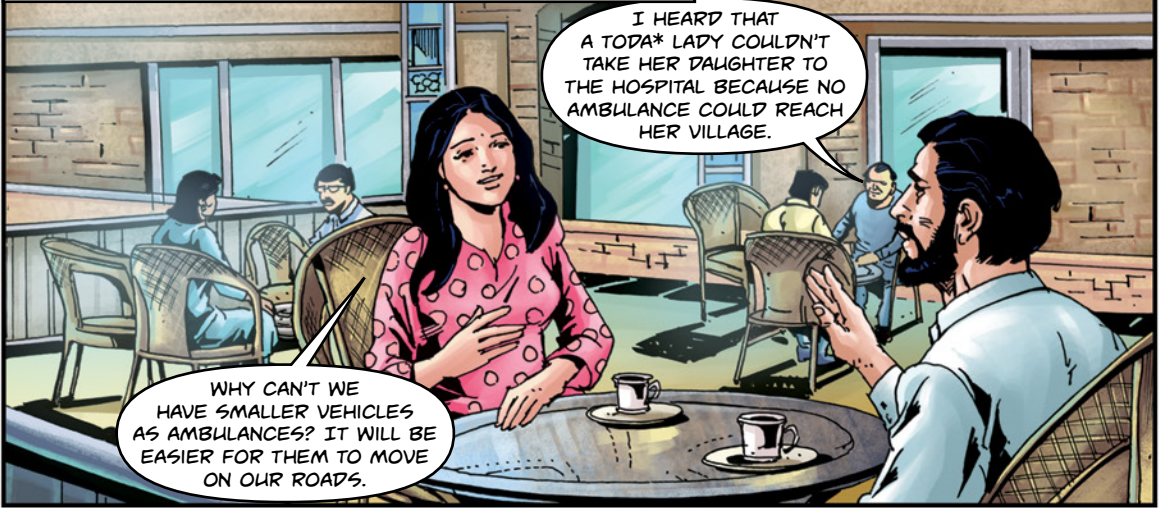
PEOPLE TELL  
ME THAT A VEGETARIAN  
CAFE WILL NOT WORK. BUT  
I BELIEVE IT WILL.

WHILE CAFE DIEM BUILT FOR ITSELF AN UNSHAKEABLE REPUTATION,  
RADHIKA'S MIND TURNED TO OTHER PROBLEMS.

THAT AMBULANCE  
CANNOT GO UP THE NARROW  
PATH. THEY'LL HAVE TO BRING  
THE PATIENT ALL THE  
WAY DOWN!



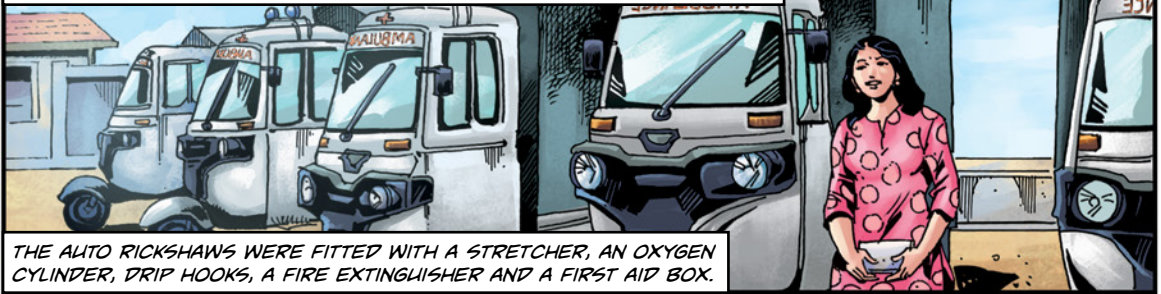
THIS BROUGHT OUT THE ENTREPRENEUR IN RADHIKA, ONCE AGAIN.



I HEARD THAT A TODA\* LADY COULDN'T TAKE HER DAUGHTER TO THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE NO AMBULANCE COULD REACH HER VILLAGE.

WHY CAN'T WE HAVE SMALLER VEHICLES AS AMBULANCES? IT WILL BE EASIER FOR THEM TO MOVE ON OUR ROADS.

RADHIKA RAISED MONEY THROUGH CROWDFUNDING AND BOUGHT SIX AUTO RICKSHAWS. SHE GOT THEM MODIFIED INTO AMBULANCES IN JABALPUR.



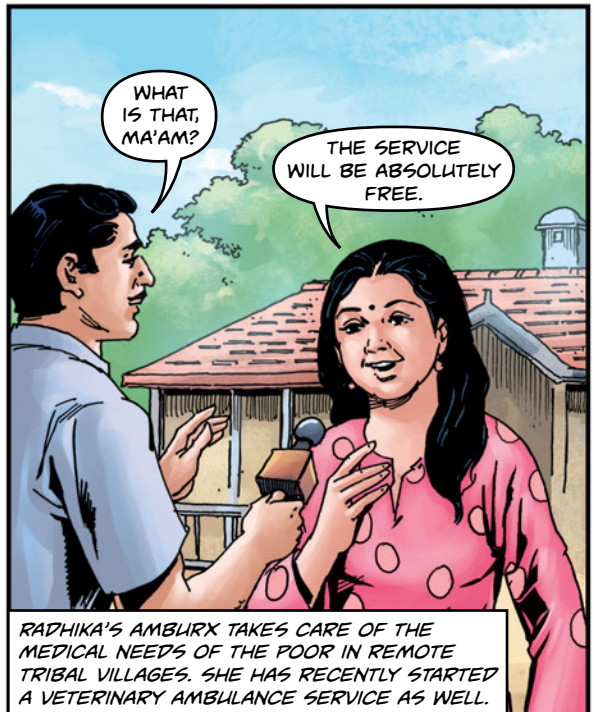
THE AUTO RICKSHAWS WERE FITTED WITH A STRETCHER, AN OXYGEN CYLINDER, DRIP HOOKS, A FIRE EXTINGUISHER AND A FIRST AID BOX.

IT WAS A HAPPY DAY WHEN THE SIX AUTO AMBULANCES DROVE INTO COONOOR. THEY WERE NAMED AMBURX.



HOW DO YOU PLAN TO USE AMBURX, MA'AM?

I AM GOING TO DONATE THEM TO THE HOSPITALS HERE. THEY WILL KNOW HOW TO USE THEM. I JUST HAVE ONE CONDITION.



WHAT IS THAT, MA'AM?

THE SERVICE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY FREE.

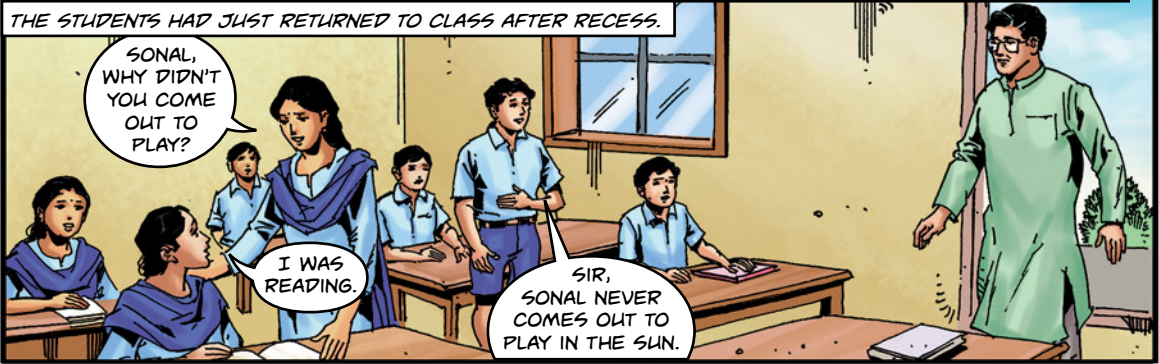
RADHIKA'S AMBURX TAKES CARE OF THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE POOR IN REMOTE TRIBAL VILLAGES. SHE HAS RECENTLY STARTED A VETERINARY AMBULANCE SERVICE AS WELL.

\*A TRIBE THAT LIVES IN THE NILGIRIS



# CHINTALA VENKAT REDDY

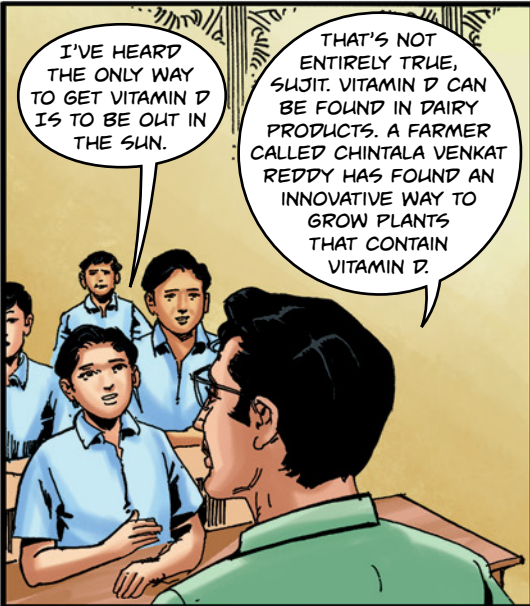
THE STUDENTS HAD JUST RETURNED TO CLASS AFTER RECESS.



SONAL, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME OUT TO PLAY?

I WAS READING.

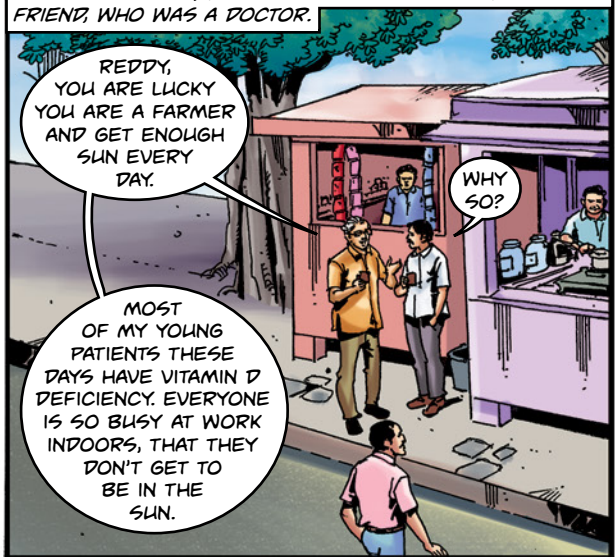
SIR, SONAL NEVER COMES OUT TO PLAY IN THE SUN.



I'VE HEARD THE ONLY WAY TO GET VITAMIN D IS TO BE OUT IN THE SUN.

THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY TRUE, SUJIT. VITAMIN D CAN BE FOUND IN DAIRY PRODUCTS. A FARMER CALLED CHINTALA VENKAT REDDY HAS FOUND AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO GROW PLANTS THAT CONTAIN VITAMIN D.

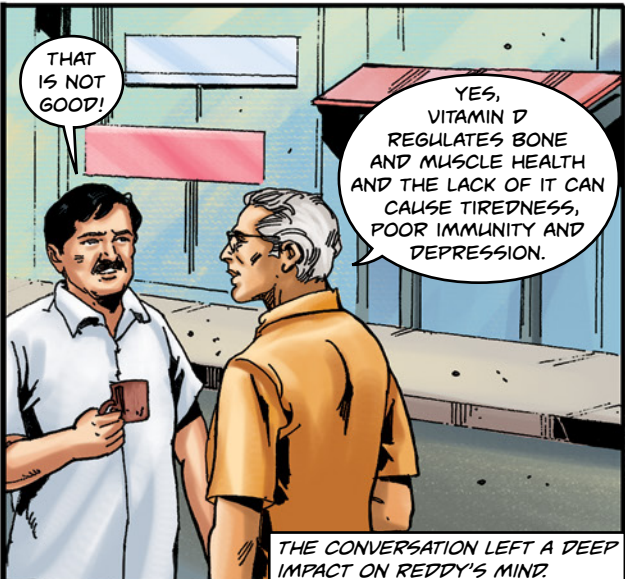
IN 2017, CHINTALA VENKAT REDDY, A WELL-TO-DO FARMER FROM TELANGANA, WAS HAVING A DISCUSSION WITH HIS FRIEND, WHO WAS A DOCTOR.



REDDY, YOU ARE LUCKY YOU ARE A FARMER AND GET ENOUGH SUN EVERY DAY.

WHY SO?

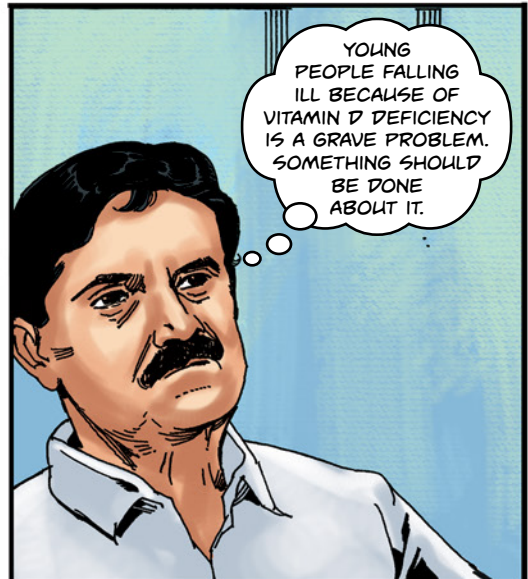
MOST OF MY YOUNG PATIENTS THESE DAYS HAVE VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY. EVERYONE IS SO BUSY AT WORK INDOORS, THAT THEY DON'T GET TO BE IN THE SUN.



THAT IS NOT GOOD!

YES, VITAMIN D REGULATES BONE AND MUSCLE HEALTH AND THE LACK OF IT CAN CAUSE TIREDNESS, POOR IMMUNITY AND DEPRESSION.

THE CONVERSATION LEFT A DEEP IMPACT ON REDDY'S MIND.



YOUNG PEOPLE FALLING ILL BECAUSE OF VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY IS A GRAVE PROBLEM. SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT.

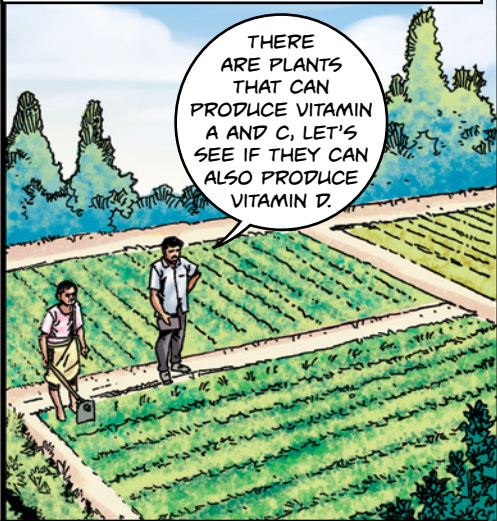


WHILE ON HIS FARM ONE DAY, REDDY HAD A BRAINWAVE.



IF PLANTS CAN PERFORM PHOTOSYNTHESIS FOR THEIR FOOD, WHY CAN'T THEY ALSO PRODUCE VITAMIN D FROM THE SUN?

REDDY BEGAN TO EXPERIMENT ON HIS FARM.



THERE ARE PLANTS THAT CAN PRODUCE VITAMIN A AND C, LET'S SEE IF THEY CAN ALSO PRODUCE VITAMIN D.

REDDY CREATED THREE SAMPLE BEDS WITH RICE AND WHEAT FOR HIS EXPERIMENTS.

IN ONE BED, HE ADDED ANIMAL PRODUCTS LIKE EGGS, MILK, GHEE AND CHEESE.



I HOPE THE PLANTS ABSORB THE NUTRIENTS FROM THESE.

IN THE SECOND, HE ADDED A SOLUTION OF VITAMIN D TABLETS.



IN THE THIRD BED, HE ADDED A PASTE OF CARROTS, SWEET POTATOES AND MAIZE FLOUR.





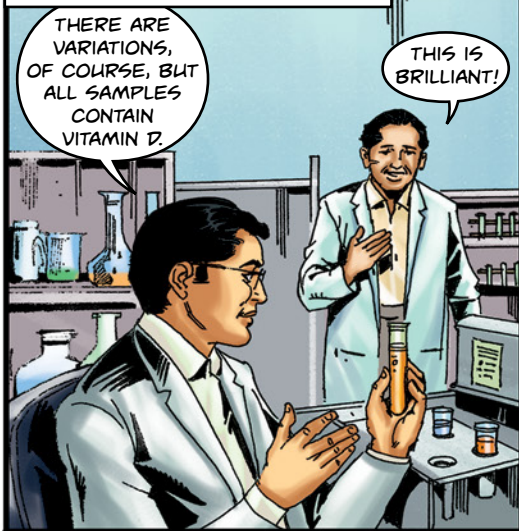


AFTER EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF RICE AND WHEAT FOR TWO YEARS —

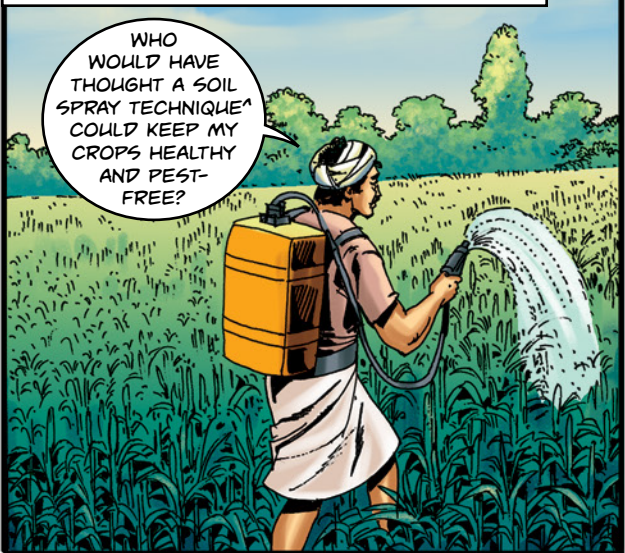


THE MIXTURE IN THE THIRD BED HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING THE PLANTS CONVERT VITAMIN A TO VITAMIN D.

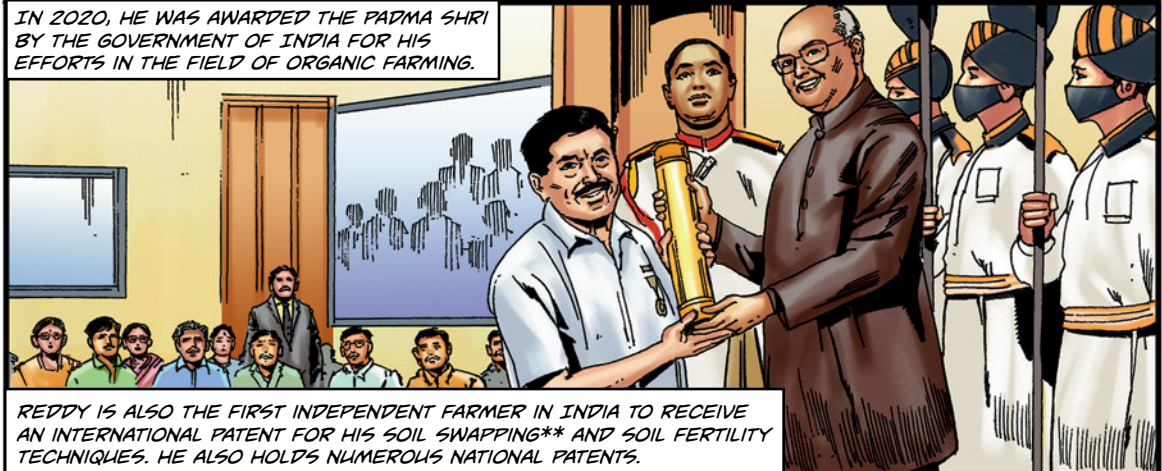
THE PLANT SAMPLES WERE TESTED IN DIFFERENT SOIL CONDITIONS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY.



CHINTALA VENKAT REDDY IS ALSO THE BRAINS BEHIND NUMEROUS FARMING TECHNIQUES THAT HE FREELY ALLOWS THE WORLD TO BENEFIT FROM.



IN 2020, HE WAS AWARDED THE PADMA SHRI BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ORGANIC FARMING.



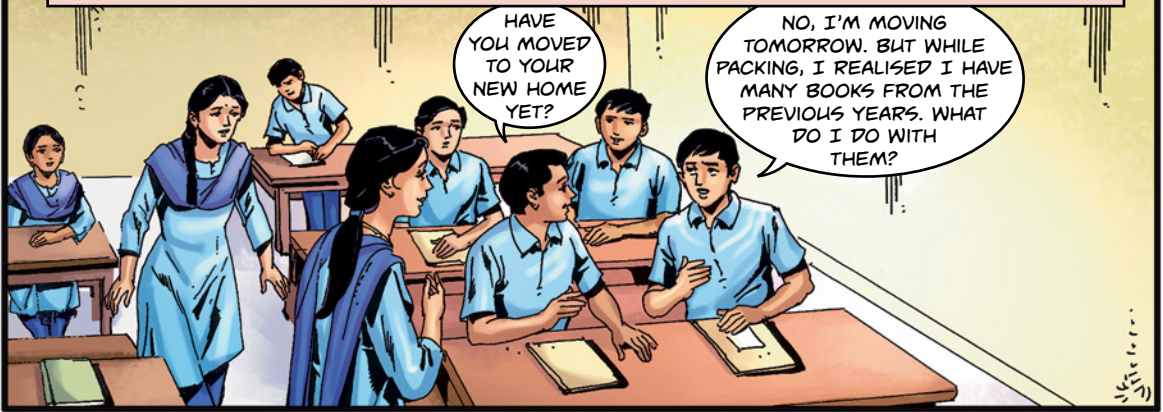
REDDY IS ALSO THE FIRST INDEPENDENT FARMER IN INDIA TO RECEIVE AN INTERNATIONAL PATENT FOR HIS SOIL SWAPPING\*\* AND SOIL FERTILITY TECHNIQUES. HE ALSO HOLDS NUMEROUS NATIONAL PATENTS.

\*INTERNATIONAL UNITS  
\*\*KNOWN AS CVR (CHINTALA VENKAT REDDY) SOIL TECHNIQUE

\*\*A TECHNIQUE WHERE THE TOP LAYER OF SOIL IS REPLACED TO IMPROVE FERTILITY



# SANDEEP KUMAR BADSRA



HAVE YOU MOVED TO YOUR NEW HOME YET?

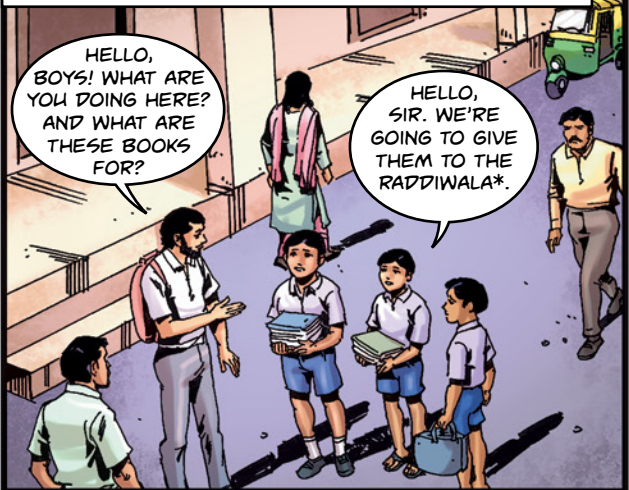
NO, I'M MOVING TOMORROW. BUT WHILE PACKING, I REALISED I HAVE MANY BOOKS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEARS. WHAT DO I DO WITH THEM?

THE STUDENTS DECIDED TO ASK NAIR SIR FOR A SOLUTION.



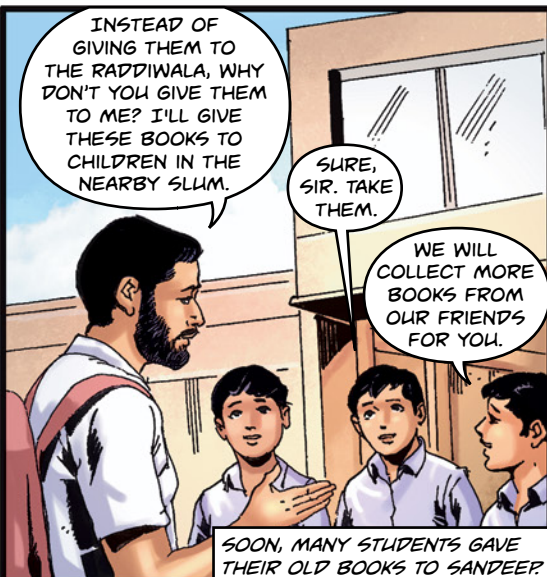
YOU CAN DONATE THEM TO THE LOCAL NGO, CHARAN. THEY GIVE BOOKS TO CHILDREN IN THE NEARBY SLUMS, MUCH LIKE THE HERO OF TODAY'S MANN KI BAAT STORY, SANDEEP KUMAR.

ONE EVENING IN 2016, SANDEEP KUMAR BADSRA, A TEACHER IN CHANDIGARH, WAS SHOPPING AT THE LOCAL MARKET, WHEN HE SAW SOME OF HIS STUDENTS.



HELLO, BOYS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND WHAT ARE THESE BOOKS FOR?

HELLO, SIR. WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM TO THE RADDIWALA\*.



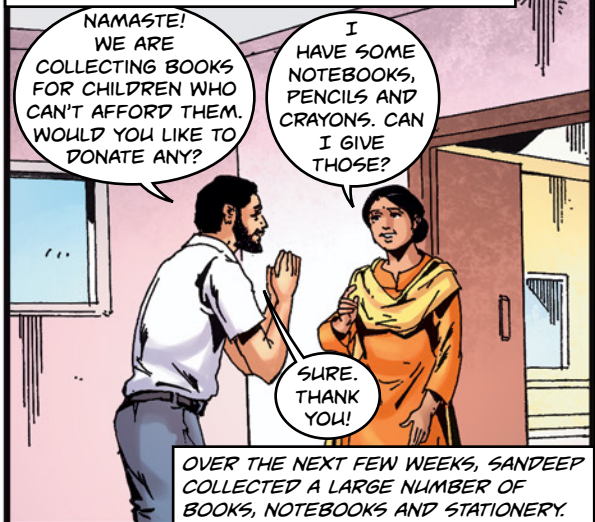
INSTEAD OF GIVING THEM TO THE RADDIWALA, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THEM TO ME? I'LL GIVE THESE BOOKS TO CHILDREN IN THE NEARBY SLUM.

SURE, SIR. TAKE THEM.

WE WILL COLLECT MORE BOOKS FROM OUR FRIENDS FOR YOU.

SOON, MANY STUDENTS GAVE THEIR OLD BOOKS TO SANDEEP.

ENCOURAGED BY THEIR RESPONSE, SANDEEP STARTED VISITING THE HOUSES IN HIS NEIGHBOURHOOD.



NAMASTE! WE ARE COLLECTING BOOKS FOR CHILDREN WHO CAN'T AFFORD THEM. WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE ANY?

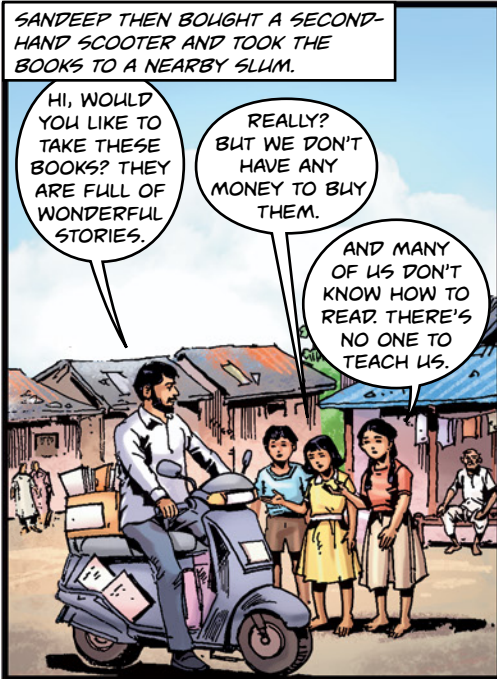
I HAVE SOME NOTEBOOKS, PENCILS AND CRAYONS. CAN I GIVE THOSE?

SURE. THANK YOU!

OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, SANDEEP COLLECTED A LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKS, NOTEBOOKS AND STATIONERY.

\*SCRAP COLLECTOR WHO COLLECTS BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS





SANDEEP THEN BOUGHT A SECOND-HAND SCOOTER AND TOOK THE BOOKS TO A NEARBY SLUM.

HI, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE THESE BOOKS? THEY ARE FULL OF WONDERFUL STORIES.

REALLY? BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO BUY THEM.

AND MANY OF US DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ. THERE'S NO ONE TO TEACH US.

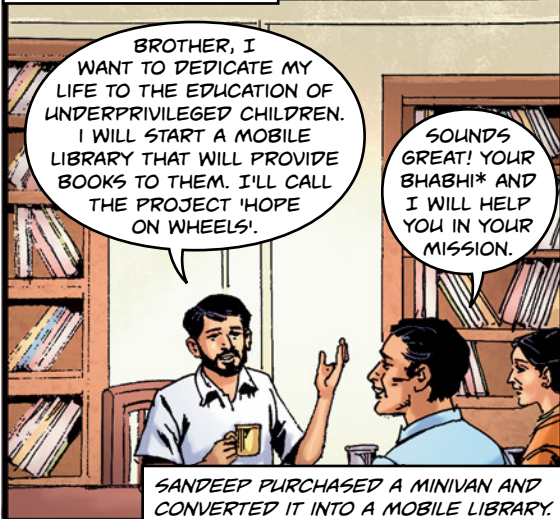


DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN TAKE THESE BOOKS FOR FREE AND I WILL ALSO TEACH YOU TO READ.

IT'S GOT MANY COLOURFUL PICTURES.

SANDEEP REGULARLY BROUGHT BOOKS TO THE CHILDREN AND EVEN TAUGHT THEM TO READ AND WRITE.

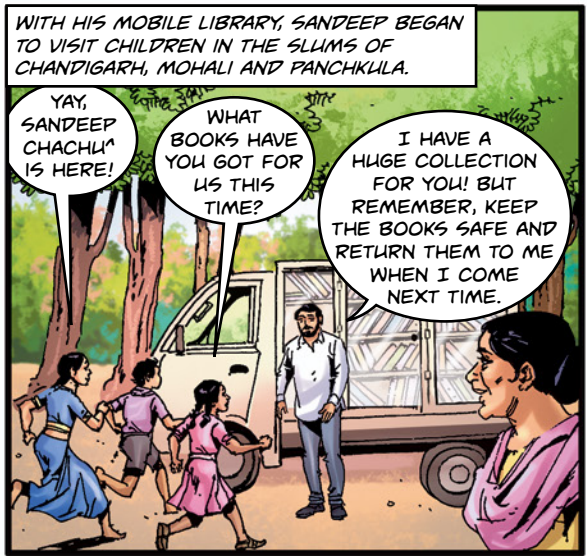
ABOUT A YEAR LATER —



BROTHER, I WANT TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO THE EDUCATION OF UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN. I WILL START A MOBILE LIBRARY THAT WILL PROVIDE BOOKS TO THEM. I'LL CALL THE PROJECT 'HOPE ON WHEELS'!

SOUNDS GREAT! YOUR BHABHI\* AND I WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR MISSION.

SANDEEP PURCHASED A MINIVAN AND CONVERTED IT INTO A MOBILE LIBRARY.



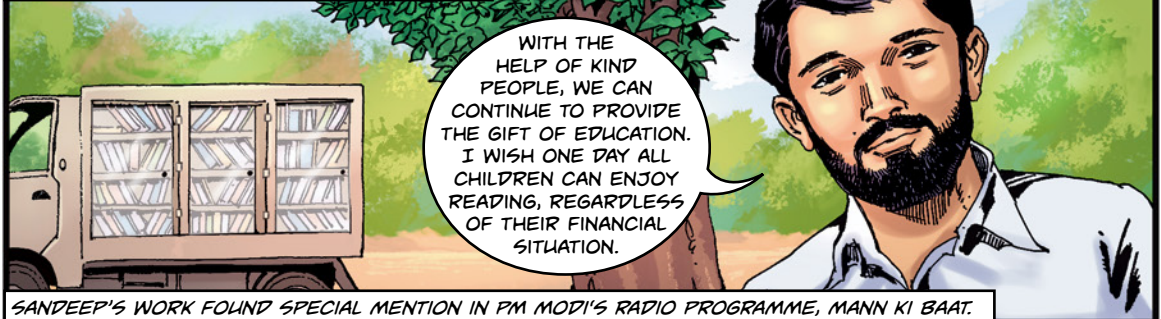
WITH HIS MOBILE LIBRARY, SANDEEP BEGAN TO VISIT CHILDREN IN THE SLUMS OF CHANDIGARH, MOHALI AND PANCHKULA.

YAY, SANDEEP CHACHU\*\* IS HERE!

WHAT BOOKS HAVE YOU GOT FOR US THIS TIME?

I HAVE A HUGE COLLECTION FOR YOU! BUT REMEMBER, KEEP THE BOOKS SAFE AND RETURN THEM TO ME WHEN I COME NEXT TIME.

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, 200 VOLUNTEERS COLLECTED OVER 40,000 BOOKS FOR SANDEEP'S CAUSE.



WITH THE HELP OF KIND PEOPLE, WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION. I WISH ONE DAY ALL CHILDREN CAN ENJOY READING, REGARDLESS OF THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION.

SANDEEP'S WORK FOUND SPECIAL MENTION IN PM MODI'S RADIO PROGRAMME, MANN KI BAAT.

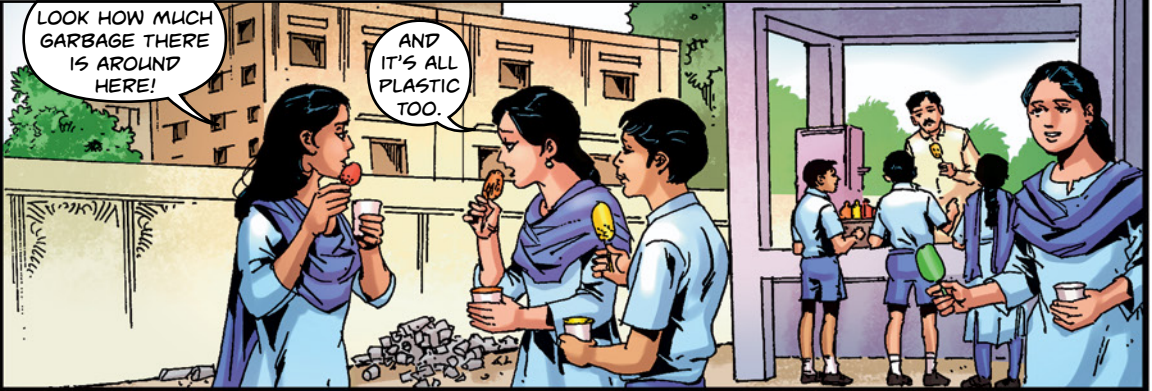
\*SISTER-IN-LAW IN HINDI

\*\*UNCLE IN HINDI



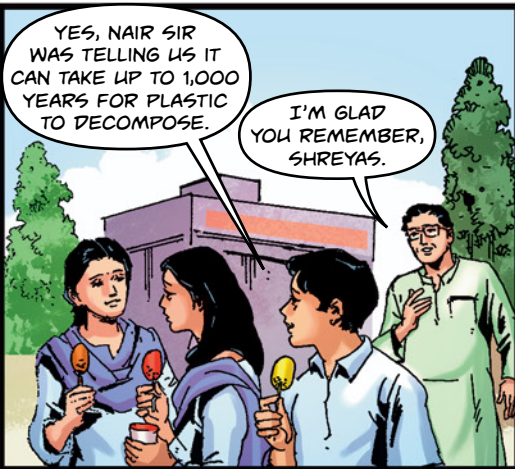
# SURESH AND MAITHILI

IT WAS A HOT AFTERNOON AND THE STUDENTS WERE ENJOYING ICE GOLAS\* OUTSIDE THEIR SCHOOL.



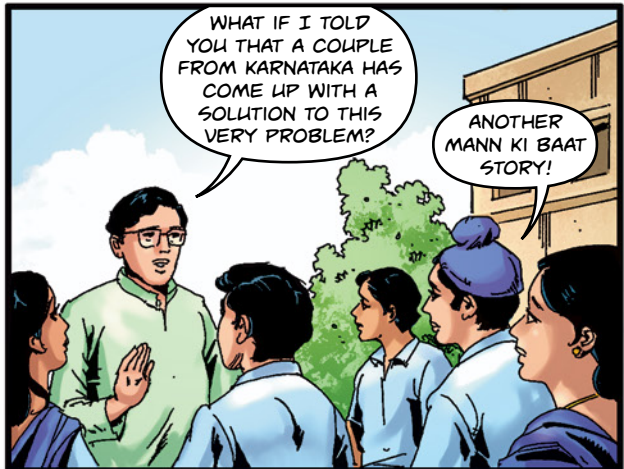
LOOK HOW MUCH GARBAGE THERE IS AROUND HERE!

AND IT'S ALL PLASTIC TOO.



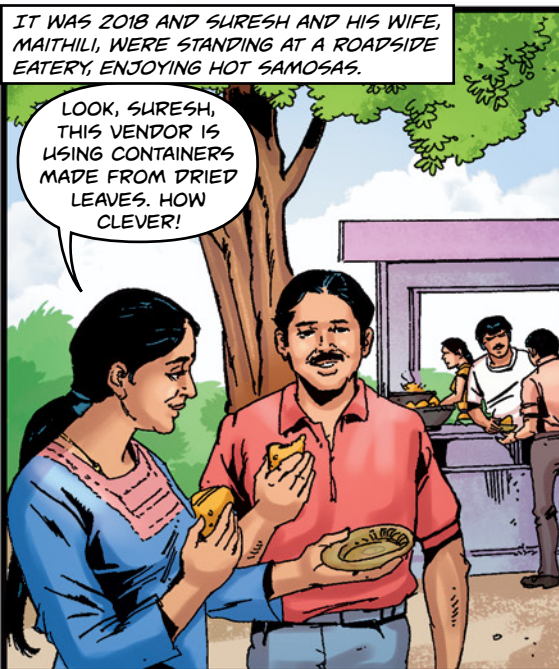
YES, NAIR SIR WAS TELLING US IT CAN TAKE UP TO 1,000 YEARS FOR PLASTIC TO DECOMPOSE.

I'M GLAD YOU REMEMBER, SHREYAS.



WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT A COUPLE FROM KARNATAKA HAS COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO THIS VERY PROBLEM?

ANOTHER MANN KI BAAT STORY!



IT WAS 2018 AND SURESH AND HIS WIFE, MAITHILI, WERE STANDING AT A ROADSIDE EATERY, ENJOYING HOT SAMOSAS.

LOOK, SURESH, THIS VENDOR IS USING CONTAINERS MADE FROM DRIED LEAVES. HOW CLEVER!



THE CONTAINER SEEMS STRONG TOO.

YES, THIS REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING I READ THE OTHER DAY, ABOUT ECO-FRIENDLY PLATES MADE IN THE NETHERLANDS.

\*CRUSHED ICE FLAVOURED WITH SYRUP

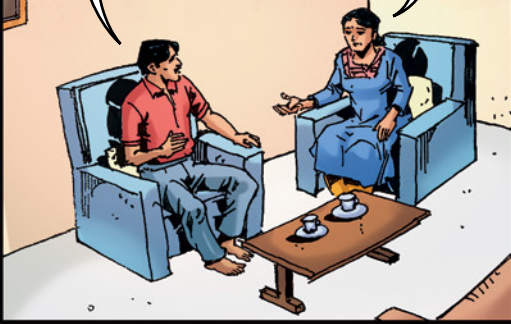




SURESH, WHO HAD GROWN UP TAKING CARE OF A GROUNDNUT PLANTATION, COULD NOT STOP THINKING ABOUT THE VENDOR'S IDEA.

IF WE CAN COLLECT AND PROCESS THE DRY LEAVES FROM ARECA PALMS, WE COULD MAKE A SUBSTITUTE FOR PLASTIC PLATES AND CUPS.

IT WOULD CREATE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT TOO.



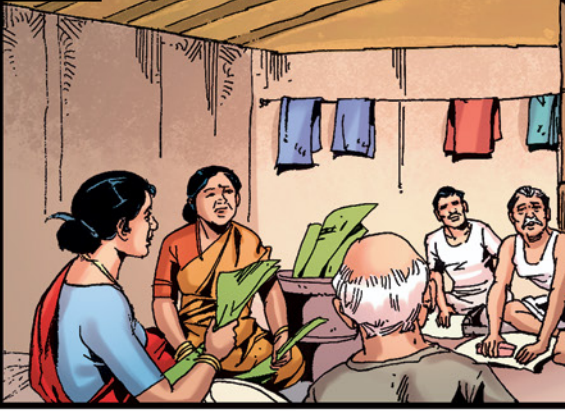
THEY DECIDED TO USE THE STURDY LEAVES OF ARECA PALMS FOUND IN THE AREA AND REACHED OUT TO LOCAL FARMERS.

I NEED THE FALLEN PALM LEAVES TO MAKE PALM LEATHER\*. WILL YOU SELL THEM TO ME?

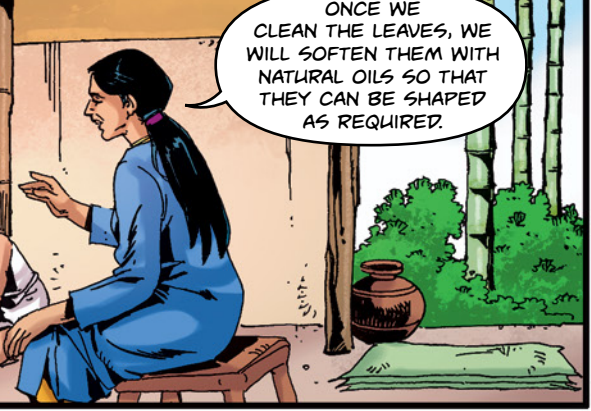
OF COURSE. MY BROTHER WILL BE HAPPY TO DO SO TOO.



SOON —



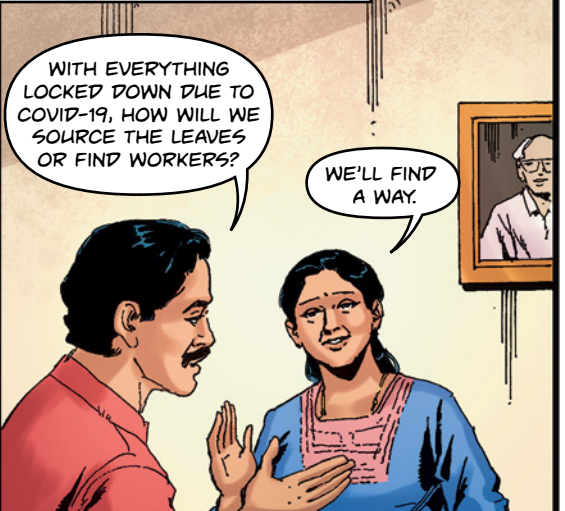
ONCE WE CLEAN THE LEAVES, WE WILL SOFTEN THEM WITH NATURAL OILS SO THAT THEY CAN BE SHAPED AS REQUIRED.



HOWEVER, THE TWO WERE FACED WITH ANOTHER CHALLENGE.

WITH EVERYTHING LOCKED DOWN DUE TO COVID-19, HOW WILL WE SOURCE THE LEAVES OR FIND WORKERS?

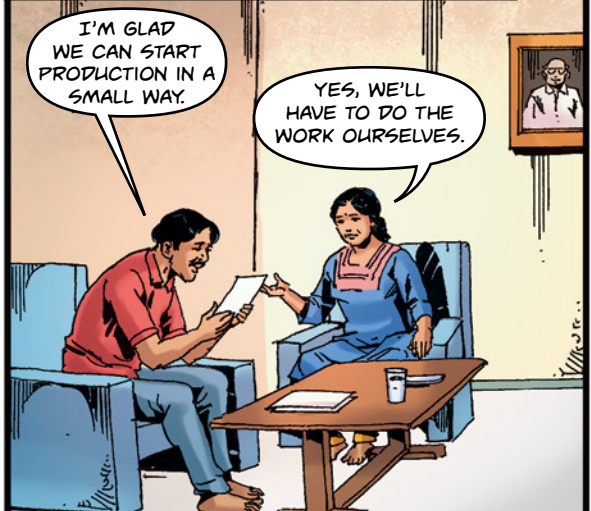
WE'LL FIND A WAY.



THEY FOUND HELP IN THE FORM OF A GRANT THROUGH THE RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA\*.

I'M GLAD WE CAN START PRODUCTION IN A SMALL WAY.

YES, WE'LL HAVE TO DO THE WORK OURSELVES.



\*TERM USED FOR THE PRODUCT

\*A GOVERNMENT SCHEME TO DEVELOP FARMING



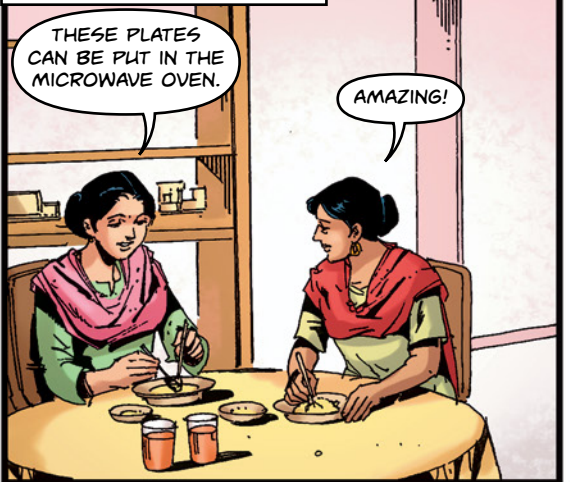
SURESH AND MAITHILI STARTED A SMALL VENTURE NAMED BHOOMI AGRO VENTURES.



SOON, A FEW WORKERS CAME IN. THEY COULD START MAKING ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS.



THE UNIQUE PRODUCTS WERE SOON IN HIGH DEMAND.



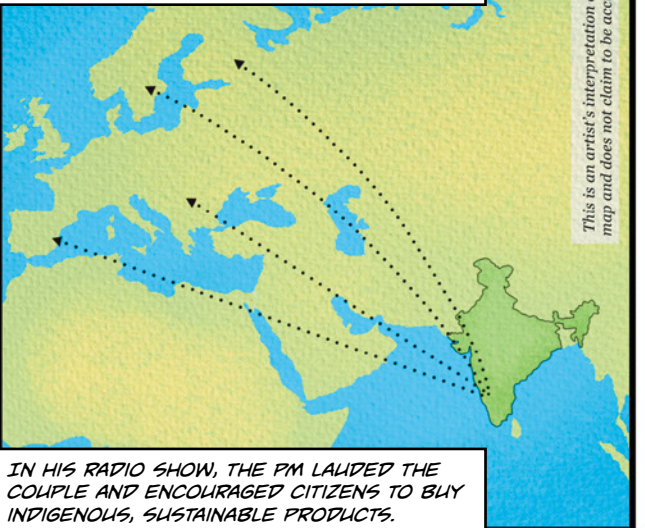
THESE PLATES CAN BE PUT IN THE MICROWAVE OVEN.

AMAZING!



I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE SANDALS ARE FULLY BIODEGRADABLE. WHAT A WONDERFUL ALTERNATIVE TO PLASTIC AND LEATHER!

TODAY, SURESH AND MAITHILI'S VENTURE IS A BOOMING SUCCESS, WITH PRODUCTS BEING EXPORTED INTERNATIONALLY.

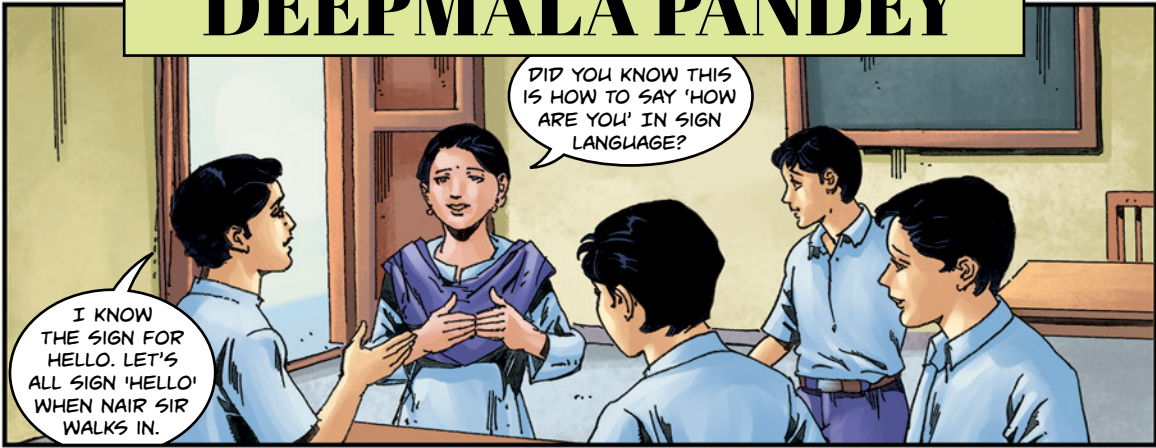


This is an artist's interpretation of the map and does not claim to be accurate.

IN HIS RADIO SHOW, THE PM LAUDED THE COUPLE AND ENCOURAGED CITIZENS TO BUY INDIGENOUS, SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS.

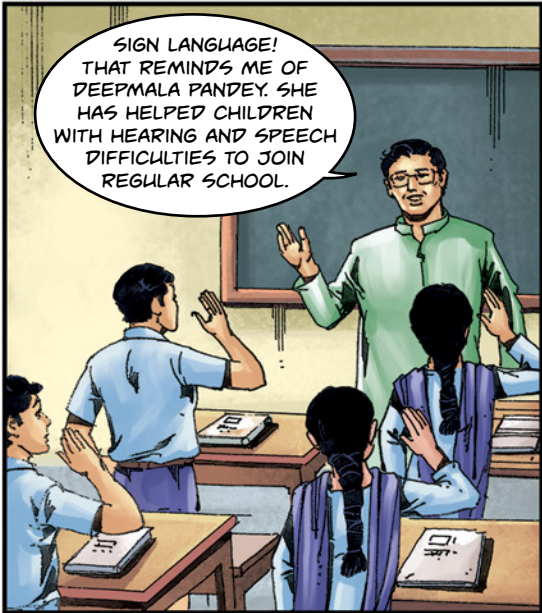


# DEEPMALA PANDEY

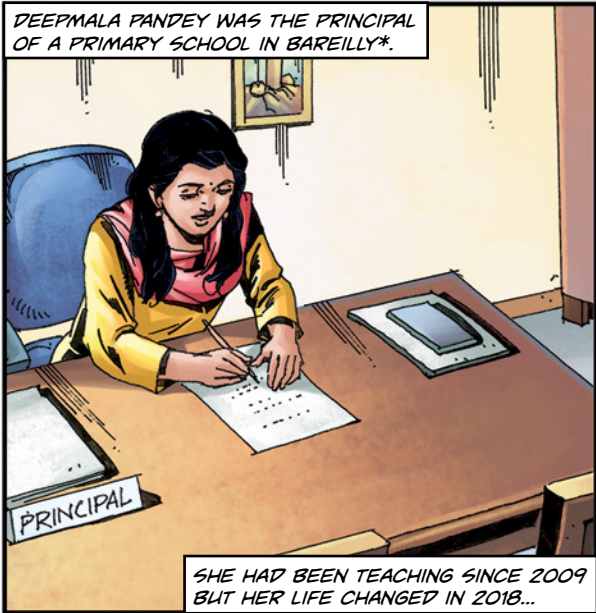


DID YOU KNOW THIS IS HOW TO SAY 'HOW ARE YOU' IN SIGN LANGUAGE?

I KNOW THE SIGN FOR HELLO. LET'S ALL SIGN 'HELLO' WHEN NAIR SIR WALKS IN.



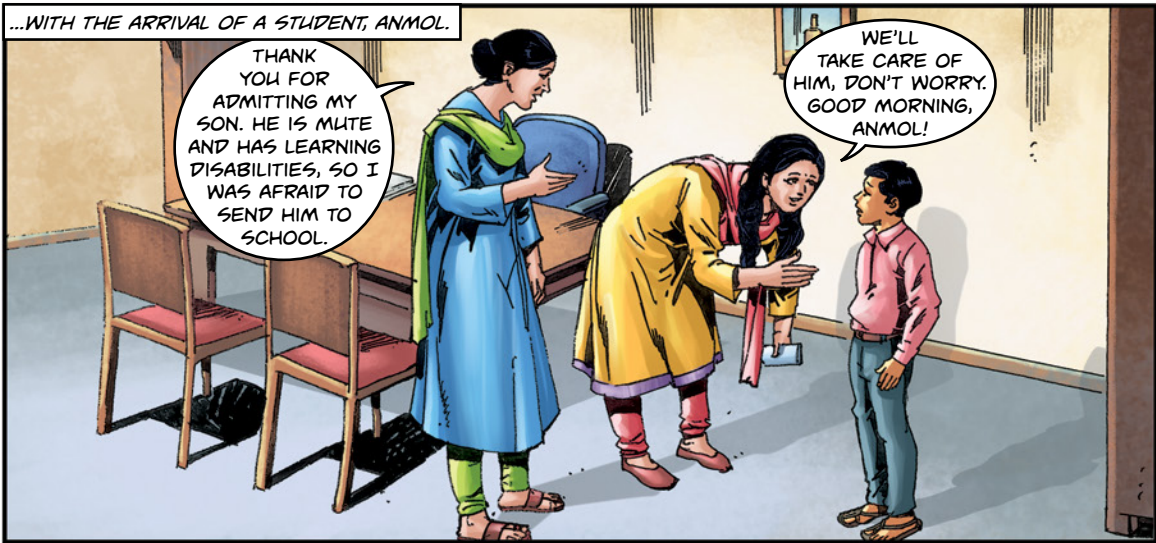
SIGN LANGUAGE! THAT REMINDS ME OF DEEPMALA PANDEY. SHE HAS HELPED CHILDREN WITH HEARING AND SPEECH DIFFICULTIES TO JOIN REGULAR SCHOOL.



DEEPMALA PANDEY WAS THE PRINCIPAL OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BAREILLY\*.

SHE HAD BEEN TEACHING SINCE 2009 BUT HER LIFE CHANGED IN 2018...

...WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A STUDENT, ANMOL.



THANK YOU FOR ADMITTING MY SON. HE IS MUTE AND HAS LEARNING DISABILITIES, SO I WAS AFRAID TO SEND HIM TO SCHOOL.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM, DON'T WORRY. GOOD MORNING, ANMOL!

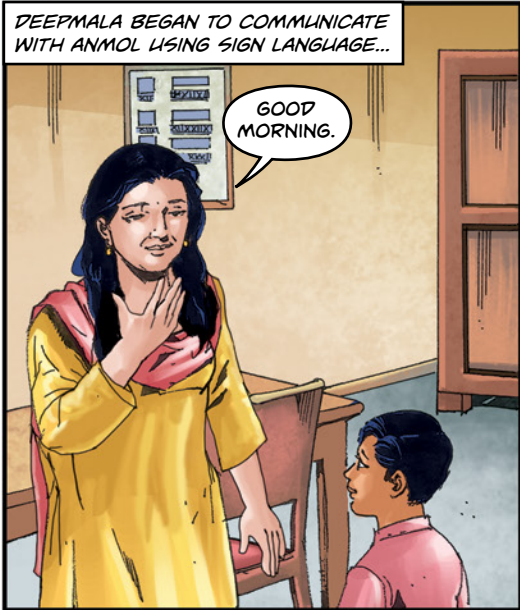
\*CITY IN UTTAR PRADESH



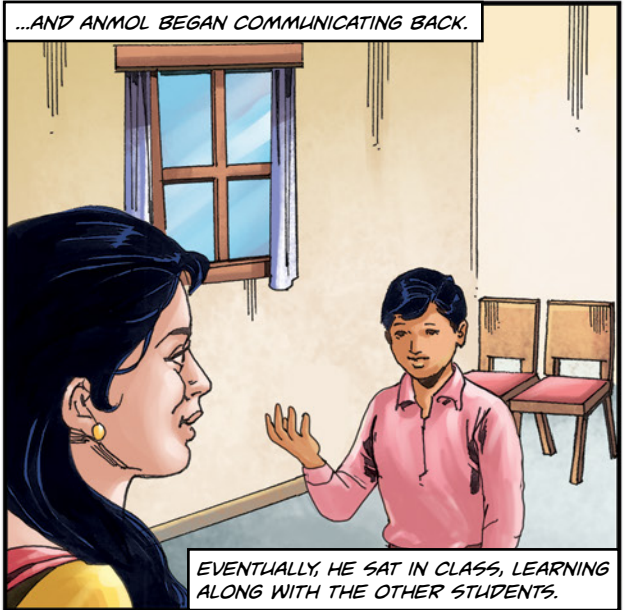


WHY IS THIS CHILD ALWAYS WITH YOU? SHOULDN'T HE BE IN CLASS?

HE'S STILL GETTING USED TO THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT. WE MUST BE PATIENT.

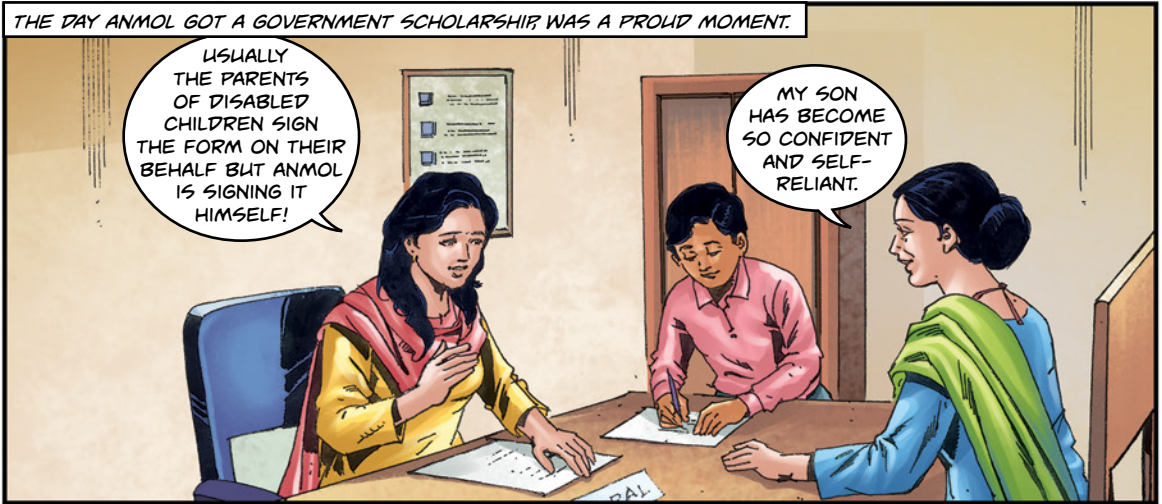


GOOD MORNING.



...AND ANMOL BEGAN COMMUNICATING BACK.

EVENTUALLY, HE SAT IN CLASS, LEARNING ALONG WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS.



THE DAY ANMOL GOT A GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP, WAS A PROUD MOMENT.

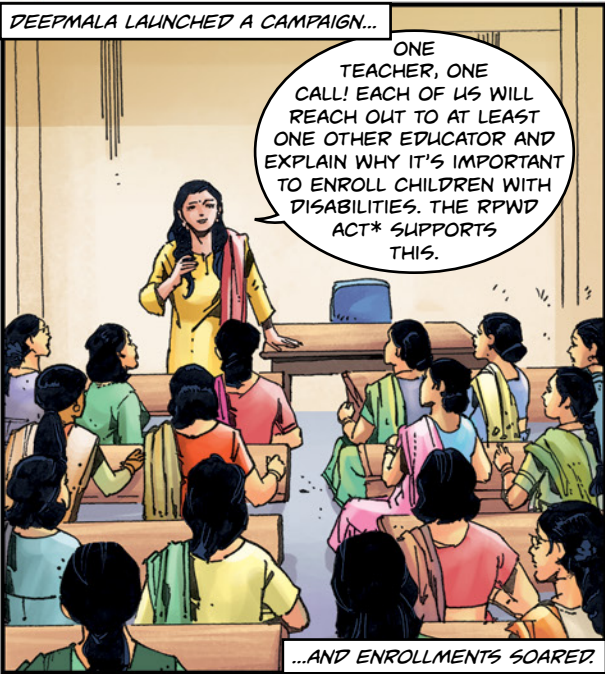
USUALLY THE PARENTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN SIGN THE FORM ON THEIR BEHALF BUT ANMOL IS SIGNING IT HIMSELF!

MY SON HAS BECOME SO CONFIDENT AND SELF-RELIANT.





HOW MANY MORE ANMOLS MUST THERE BE, EAGER TO LEARN BUT DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY?

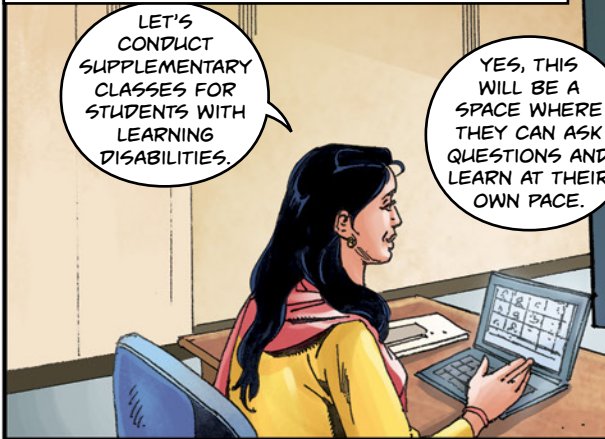


DEEPMALA LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN...

ONE TEACHER, ONE CALL! EACH OF US WILL REACH OUT TO AT LEAST ONE OTHER EDUCATOR AND EXPLAIN WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO ENROLL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES. THE RPWD ACT\* SUPPORTS THIS.

...AND ENROLLMENTS SOARED.

WHEN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC STRUCK, SCHOOLS SHUT DOWN, BUT THE TEACHERS DOUBLED THEIR EFFORTS.



LET'S CONDUCT SUPPLEMENTARY CLASSES FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES.

YES, THIS WILL BE A SPACE WHERE THEY CAN ASK QUESTIONS AND LEARN AT THEIR OWN PACE.

WE CAN DO SOCIALLY DISTANCED HOME TUTORING FOR THOSE WITHOUT A COMPUTER.

OVER 600 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES HAVE BEEN ENROLLED UNDER THE 'ONE TEACHER, ONE CALL' CAMPAIGN.



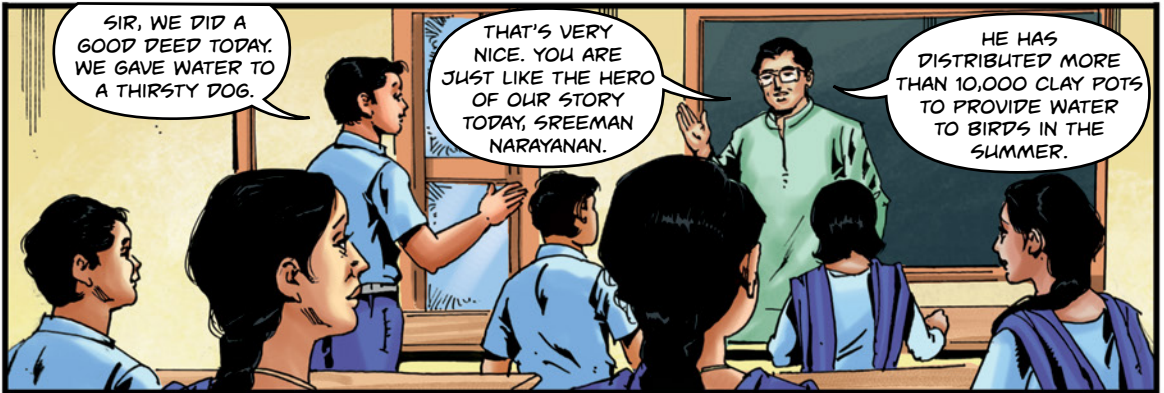
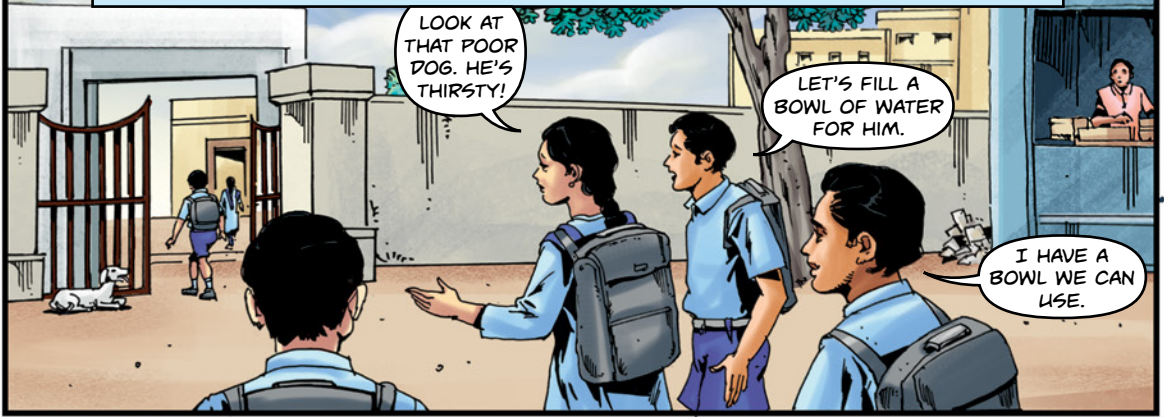
WE WILL UNDERGO SPECIAL TRAINING ON HOW TO TEACH DISABLED STUDENTS EFFECTIVELY. THEY DESERVE THE SAME QUALITY OF EDUCATION AS ANYONE ELSE.

DEEPMALA HOPES FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO HELP BETTER IMPLEMENT SUCH CHANGES.

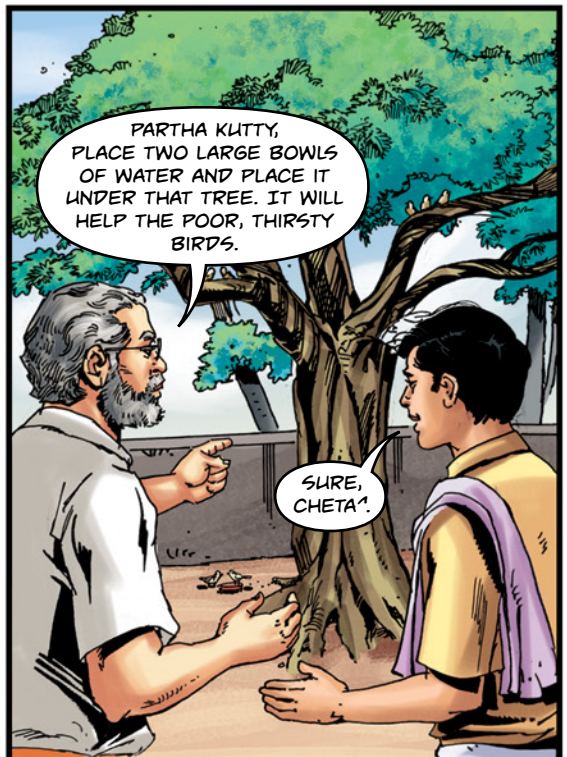
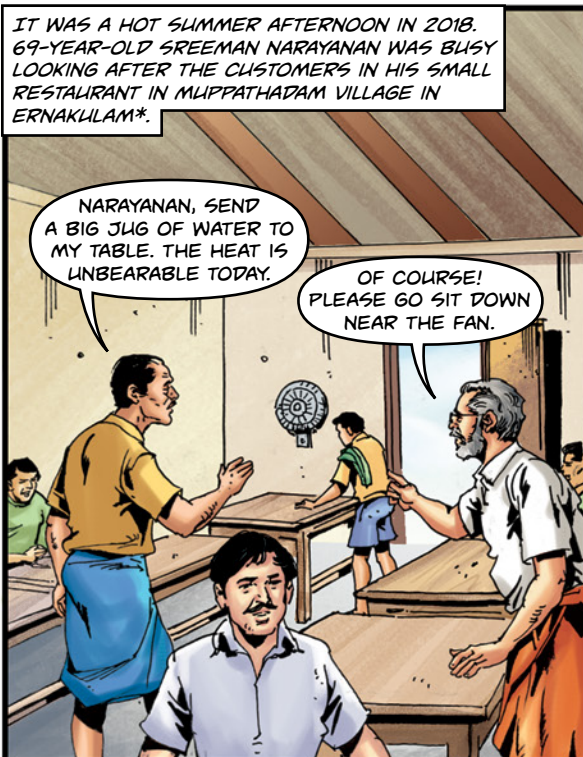
\*RIGHT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT



# SREEMAN NARAYANAN



IT WAS A HOT SUMMER AFTERNOON IN 2018. 69-YEAR-OLD SREEMAN NARAYANAN WAS BUSY LOOKING AFTER THE CUSTOMERS IN HIS SMALL RESTAURANT IN MUPPATHADAM VILLAGE IN ERNAKULAM\*.



\*DISTRICT IN KERALA

\*ELDER BROTHER IN MALAYALAM





THE NEXT DAY, NARAYANAN FOUND SOME POTS IN HIS HOUSE AND FILLED THEM WITH WATER.

I THINK THESE EARTHEN POTS CAN HOLD ENOUGH WATER FOR A HUNDRED BIRDS.

NARAYANAN BOUGHT MORE POTS AND BEGAN TO DISTRIBUTE THEM TO HIS NEIGHBOURS.

PLEASE FILL THESE UP AND KEEP THEM IN YOUR BACKYARD. MANY BIRDS CAN QUENCH THEIR THIRST.

WE WILL GLADLY DO IT.

SOON, MANY PEOPLE CAME TO KNOW ABOUT NARAYANAN'S WORK AND OFFERED TO KEEP THE POTS IN THEIR YARDS.

HOW MANY POTS CAN I TAKE?

AS MANY AS YOU CAN USE TO GIVE WATER TO THE BIRDS. WITH MOST WATER SOURCES DRYING UP THIS IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR THEM.

NARAYANAN NAMED HIS PROJECT, JEEVA JALATHINU ORU MANNU PATHRAM, WHICH MEANS 'AN EARTHEN POT FOR LIFE-SAVING WATER'.

A FEW WEEKS LATER —

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CHETA?

I'M PLANTING TREES, PARTHA. THE FRUITS THESE TREES BEAR WILL BE USEFUL TO US AND BIRDS ALIKE.

NARAYANAN, ALONG WITH A FEW OF HIS FRIENDS, ONCE AGAIN BEGAN TO VISIT THE HOMES IN HIS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

WE WANT YOUR PERMISSION TO PLANT FRUIT TREES IN YOUR COMPOUND BUT YOU MUST ASSURE ME THAT THE FRUITS OF ONE TREE WILL BE LEFT FOR THE BIRDS.

WE WILL, NARAYANAN SIR!

OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, NARAYANAN SUPERVISED THE PLANTATION OF OVER 10,000 TREES IN HIS VILLAGE.



HE ALSO BEGAN TO BUY HUNDREDS OF SAPLINGS AND —



SAROJINI AMMA, TAKE A FEW SAPLINGS AND PLANT THEM AROUND YOUR HOUSE.

CAN I TAKE A FEW TOO? I CAN SEE A SAPOTA SAPLING.

HE SOON WENT FROM ONE VILLAGE TO ANOTHER, DISTRIBUTING THE SAPLINGS.



NARAYANAN, YOU ARE TRULY A CRUSADER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. BUT HOW ARE YOU FUNDING ALL THESE SAPLINGS?

MY THREE CHILDREN ARE SETTLED AND HAPPY. NOW I DEDICATE ALL MY EARNINGS TO THIS CAUSE.

NARAYANAN SPENT OVER 15 LAKH RUPEES AND DISTRIBUTED 50,000 SAPLINGS IN HIS ENTIRE DISTRICT.

THE NEXT SUMMER —



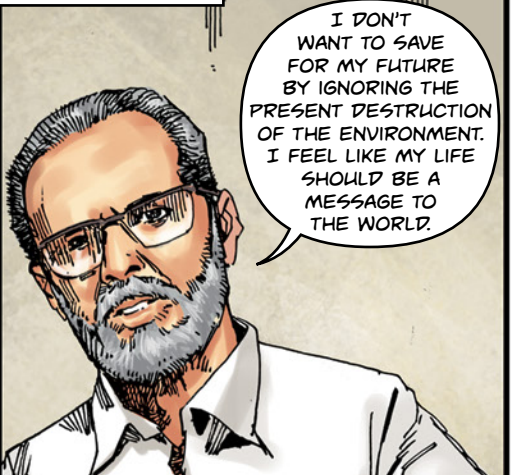
RESTARTING THE EARTHEN POT CAMPAIGN, EH?

YES, I HAVE ALREADY ORDERED 10,000 EARTHEN POTS. WILL YOU HELP ME DISTRIBUTE THEM?

OF COURSE! WE WILL DISTRIBUTE THEM IN RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES AS WELL.

WHEN THE POTS GOT OVER, NARAYANAN ORDERED FOR MORE.

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, NARAYANAN DISTRIBUTED NEARLY ONE LAKH EARTHEN VESSELS FOR FREE.



I DON'T WANT TO SAVE FOR MY FUTURE BY IGNORING THE PRESENT DESTRUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. I FEEL LIKE MY LIFE SHOULD BE A MESSAGE TO THE WORLD.

A FOLLOWER OF MAHATMA GANDHI'S IDEOLOGIES, NARAYANAN RECENTLY RECEIVED THE S.K. POTTEKATT AWARD AND THE VRIKSHA MITRA AWARD FOR HIS WORK. HE WAS ALSO PRAISED BY PM MODI ON MANN KI BAAT.



# DR KURELLA VITTALACHARYA

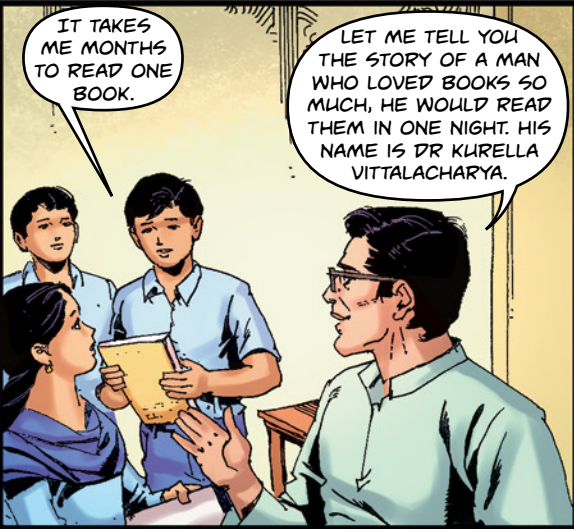
IT WAS THE LIBRARY PERIOD AT SCHOOL.



LOOK AT THIS BOOK ON INDIAN INDEPENDENCE.



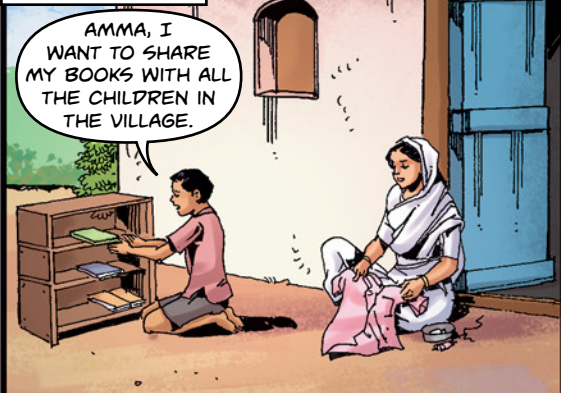
I'M REALLY FASCINATED BY OUR FREEDOM STRUGGLE.



IT TAKES ME MONTHS TO READ ONE BOOK.

LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY OF A MAN WHO LOVED BOOKS SO MUCH, HE WOULD READ THEM IN ONE NIGHT. HIS NAME IS DR KURELLA VITTALACHARYA.

IN 1948, 10-YEAR-OLD KURELLA VITTALACHARYA FROM THE VILLAGE OF YELLANKI\*, WAS BUILDING A SMALL LIBRARY.



AMMA, I WANT TO SHARE MY BOOKS WITH ALL THE CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE.

KURELLA LOVED BOOKS EVEN THOUGH HE DID NOT HAVE TOO MANY.

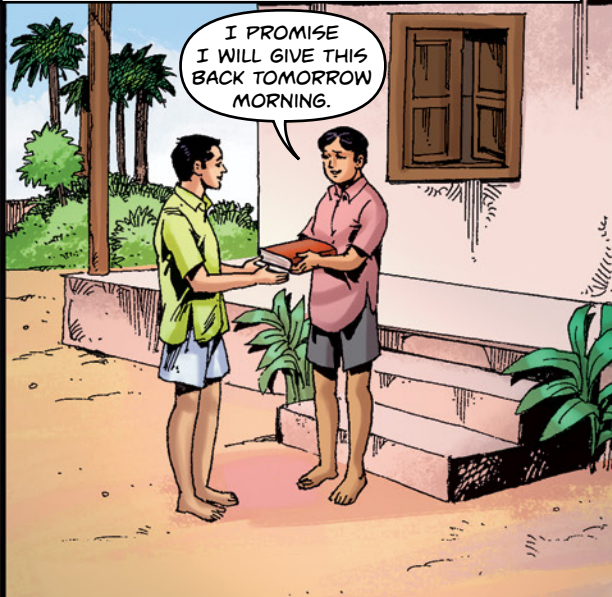
BUT VERY SOON —



BOOKS ARE NOT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!

THE ZAMINDARS<sup>1</sup> DISCOURAGED EDUCATION FOR THE POOR.

DESPITE HIS POVERTY AND CIRCUMSTANCES, KURELLA MANAGED TO KEEP READING AND KEEP LEARNING.



I PROMISE I WILL GIVE THIS BACK TOMORROW MORNING.

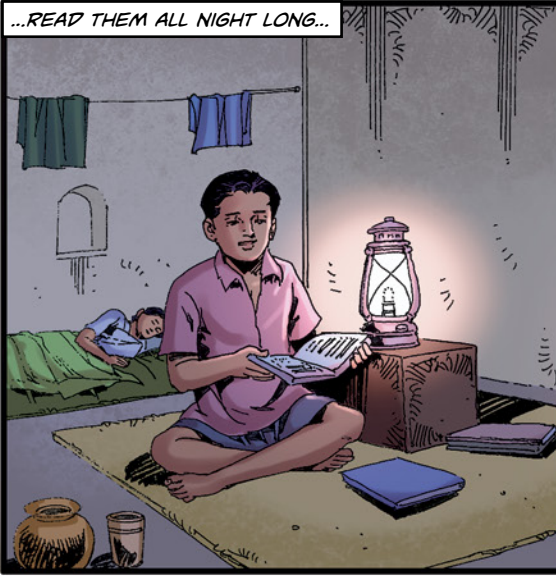
SUCH WAS HIS PASSION, THAT HE WOULD BORROW BOOKS FROM HIS FRIENDS...

\*IN TELANGANA

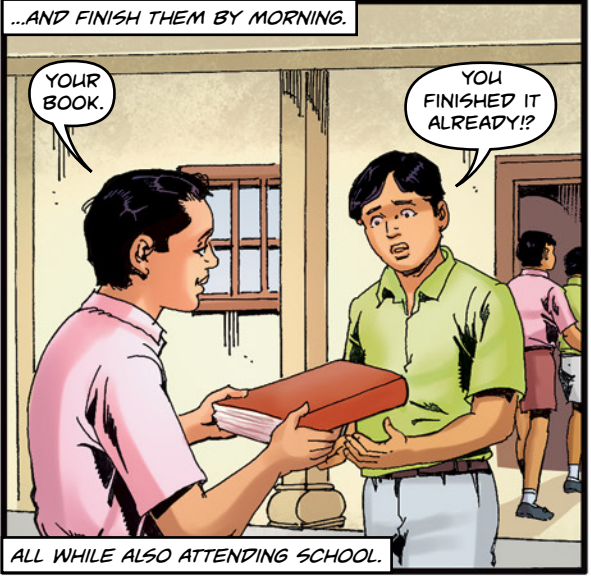
<sup>1</sup>LANDLORDS



...READ THEM ALL NIGHT LONG...



...AND FINISH THEM BY MORNING.

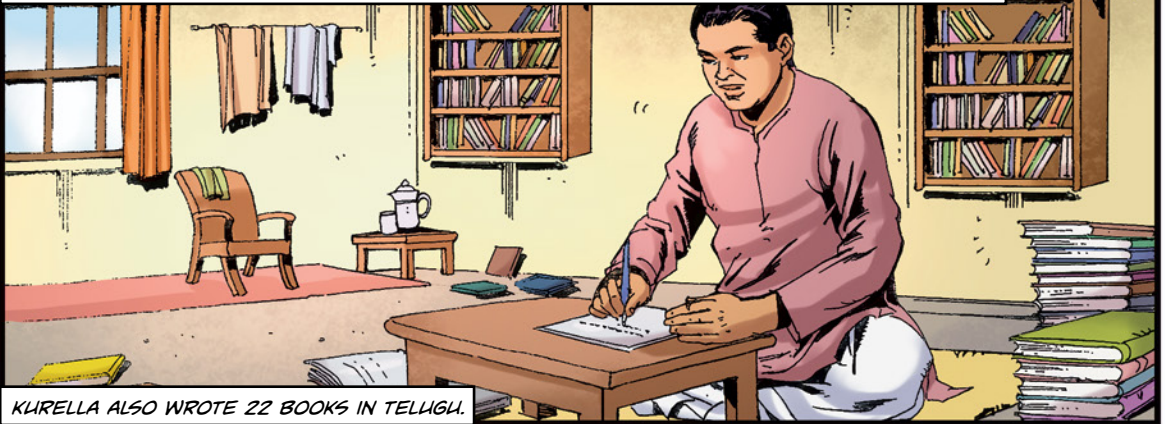


YOUR BOOK.

YOU FINISHED IT ALREADY!?

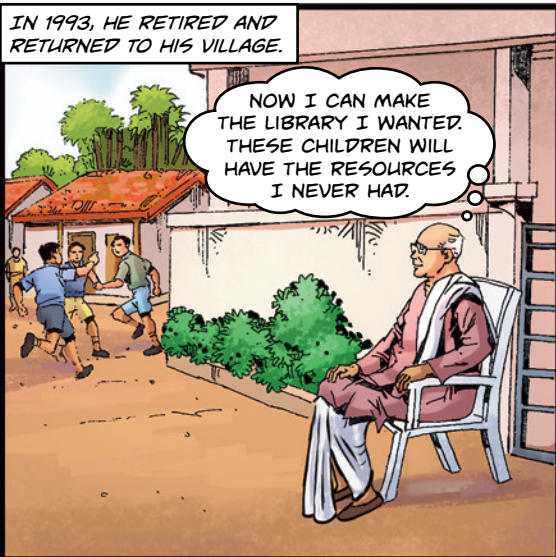
ALL WHILE ALSO ATTENDING SCHOOL.

SOON, HE FINISHED COLLEGE AND STARTED TEACHING TELUGU. HE LATER DID HIS PH.D AND BECAME THE PRINCIPAL OF A GOVERNMENT COLLEGE. HE WAS NOW ABLE TO BUY MANY BOOKS.



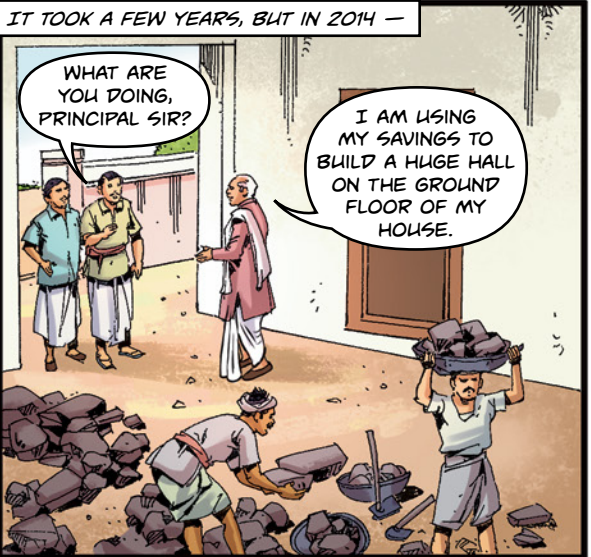
KURELLA ALSO WROTE 22 BOOKS IN TELUGU.

IN 1993, HE RETIRED AND RETURNED TO HIS VILLAGE.



NOW I CAN MAKE THE LIBRARY I WANTED. THESE CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE RESOURCES I NEVER HAD.

IT TOOK A FEW YEARS, BUT IN 2014 —



WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PRINCIPAL SIR?

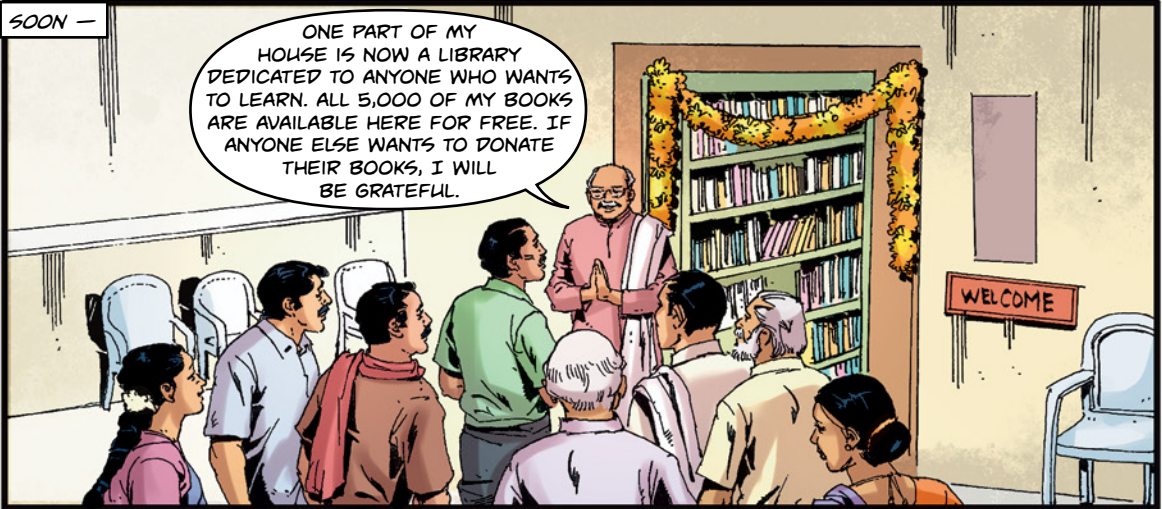
I AM USING MY SAVINGS TO BUILD A HUGE HALL ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF MY HOUSE.





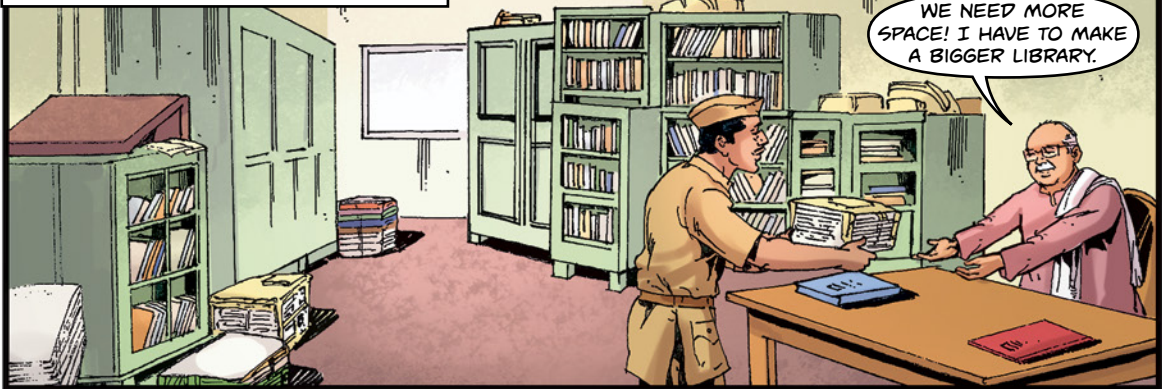
SOON —

ONE PART OF MY HOUSE IS NOW A LIBRARY DEDICATED TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO LEARN. ALL 5,000 OF MY BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE HERE FOR FREE. IF ANYONE ELSE WANTS TO DONATE THEIR BOOKS, I WILL BE GRATEFUL.



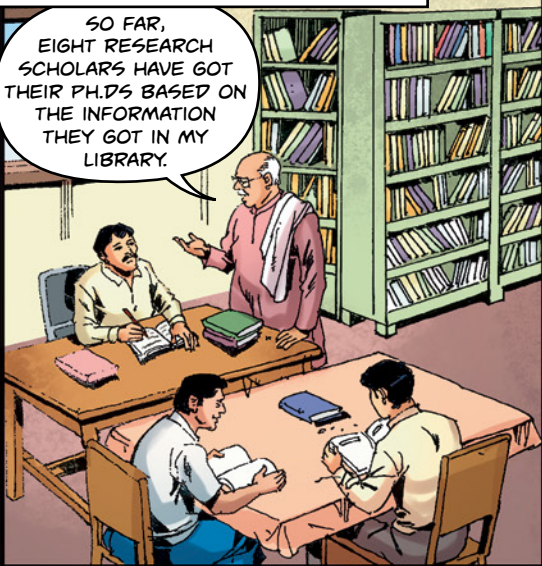
AUTHORS, POETS AND STUDENTS RESPONDED. SOON THE 5,000 BOOKS GREW TO 2,00,000! THESE INCLUDED SOME VERY RARE BOOKS TOO.

WE NEED MORE SPACE! I HAVE TO MAKE A BIGGER LIBRARY.



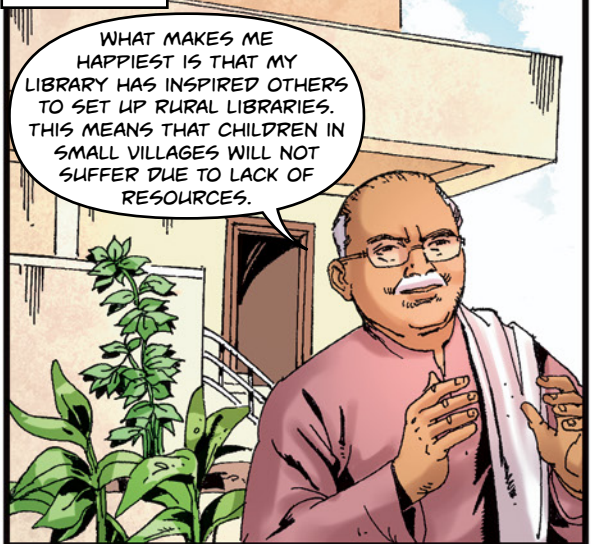
KURELLA CONVERTED THE FIRST FLOOR INTO A LIBRARY AS WELL. THE 'ACHARYA KURELLA GRANDHALAYAM' HAS NOW BECOME A TREASURY OF KNOWLEDGE.

SO FAR, EIGHT RESEARCH SCHOLARS HAVE GOT THEIR PH.DS BASED ON THE INFORMATION THEY GOT IN MY LIBRARY.



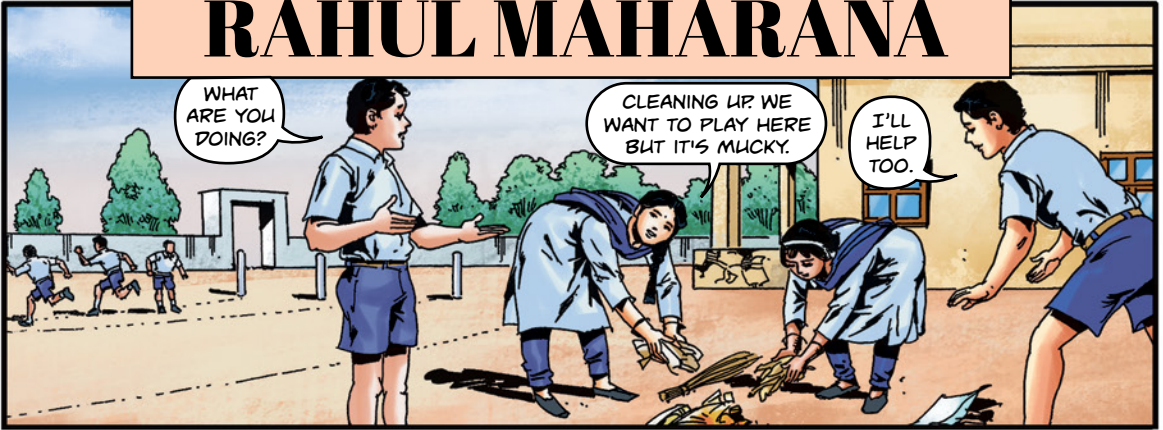
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE TELUGU LANGUAGE, DR KURELLA VITTALACHARYA WAS AWARDED THE DASARATHI AWARD IN 2019. PM MODI ALSO MENTIONED HIM IN MANN KI BAAT.

WHAT MAKES ME HAPPIEST IS THAT MY LIBRARY HAS INSPIRED OTHERS TO SET UP RURAL LIBRARIES. THIS MEANS THAT CHILDREN IN SMALL VILLAGES WILL NOT SUFFER DUE TO LACK OF RESOURCES.

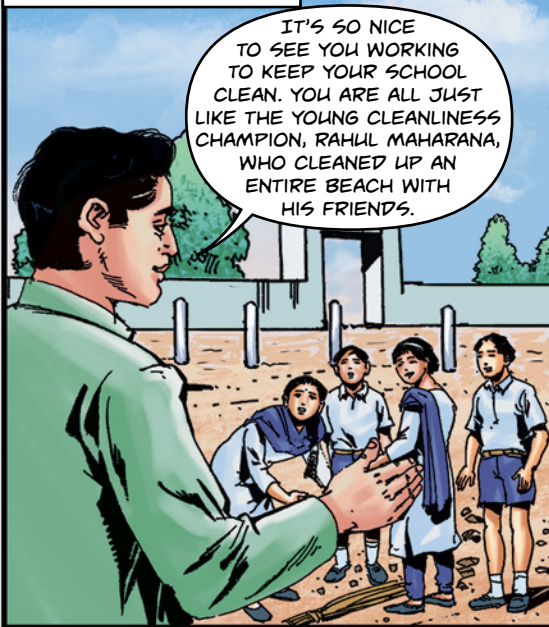




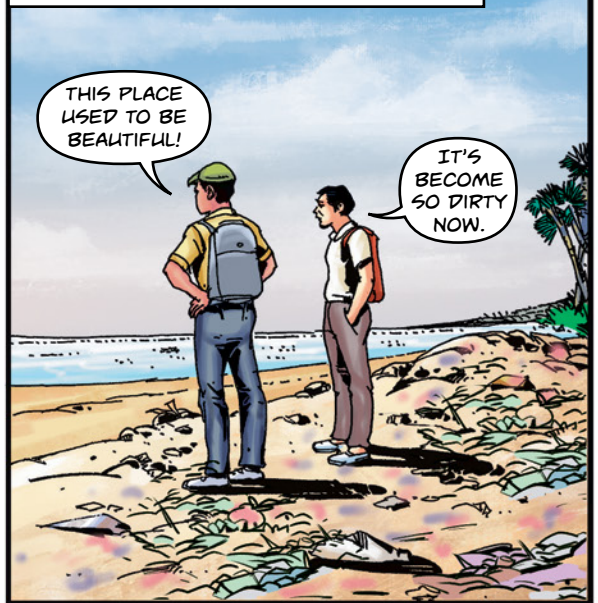
# RAHUL MAHARANA



A FEW MOMENTS LATER —



IT ALL STARTED WHEN 22-YEAR-OLD RAHUL MAHARANA VISITED ASTARANGA BEACH\*.



THE MANGROVE ADJOINING THE BEACH WAS IN WORSE CONDITION.



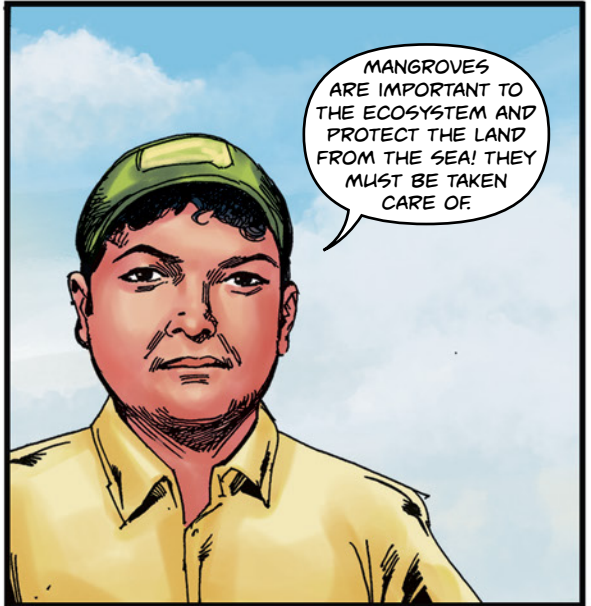




THIS BOTTLE IS COVERED IN SO MANY LAYERS OF MUD! THE WASTE MUST HAVE BEEN PILING UP FOR A LONG TIME.



IT GETS THROWN INTO THE RIVER BY THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE BANKS.



MANGROVES ARE IMPORTANT TO THE ECOSYSTEM AND PROTECT THE LAND FROM THE SEA! THEY MUST BE TAKEN CARE OF

ARMED WITH A GUNNY SACK AND A MISSION...



...RAHUL BEGAN SPENDING HIS SUNDAYS AT ASTARANGA.



HIS EFFORTS DREW PUBLIC NOTICE. ON 8 JANUARY, 2022, HE CONDUCTED HIS FIRST CLEAN-UP DRIVE, IN WHICH MANY VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED.



THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS, EVERYONE! WE'VE DONE A GOOD DAY'S WORK.

HOORAY!

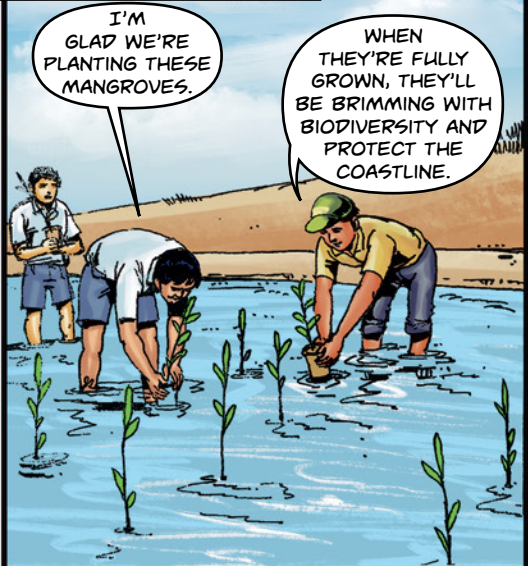
RAHUL, WHO NOW WORKS AS A SECURITY GUARD, IS STILL COMMITTED TO HIS GOAL.



ISN'T IT DIFFICULT TO FIND THE TIME AND MONEY TO DO THESE CLEAN-UP PROJECTS?

I SPEND MOST OF MY WAGES ON THEM. IT FEELS GOOD TO BE MAKING A DIFFERENCE. MY PARENTS ARE SUPPORTIVE TOO.

RAHUL IS ALSO AN ADVOCATE FOR WETLAND RESTORATION.



I'M GLAD WE'RE PLANTING THESE MANGROVES.

WHEN THEY'RE FULLY GROWN, THEY'LL BE BRIMMING WITH BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECT THE COASTLINE.

SO FAR, RAHUL HAS CLEARED 2,250 KGS OF WASTE.



THAT NUMBER WILL KEEP GROWING IF PEOPLE KEEP LITTERING. I WANT TO SENSITISE THEM TO THE DANGERS OF POLLUTION. IF EVERYONE DOES THEIR PART TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT, IT WILL SURELY THRIVE.









# MANN KI BAAT

VOL.4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's radio show, Mann ki Baat, champions the everyday heroes who live among us. Armed with big hearts and unwavering resolve, these are people who have made a difference.

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