



British Deputy
High Commission
Kolkata



A CLIMATE OF CHANGE

TOWARDS A GREENER KOLKATA

Title

A Climate of Change

Prepared under the UK-KMC MoU on Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Kolkata signed on 14 November 2013

Implementation partner

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia

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Team

From ICLEI South Asia:
Emani Kumar, Sunandan Tiwari, Bedoshruiti Sadhukhan, Sujit Mridha

From Bee Ideas

Ajoy John, Sarbajit Sen

From ICF

Rupayan Dutta

Design: Bee Ideas

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Mr. Stephen Brice, Deputy Head of Mission, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata

Mr. Simon Petrie, First Secretary--Low Carbon Growth – Energy, Climate and Growth Unit, British High Commission – DFID INDIA

Ms. Haimanti Poddar, Senior Regional Adviser – Energy, Climate and Growth Unit, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata

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Contact

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, South Asia

Ground Floor, NSIC-STP Complex, NSIC Bhawan, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi - 110 020, India

Tel: +91-11-4106 7220; E-mail: iclei-southasia@iclei.org;

British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata

1A Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata 700 071, India

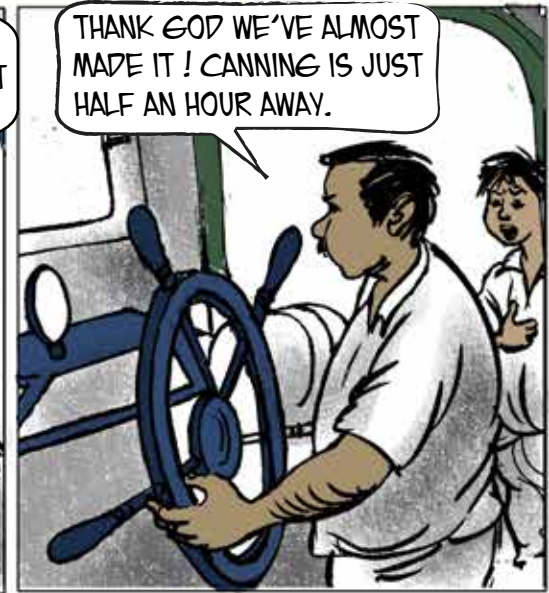
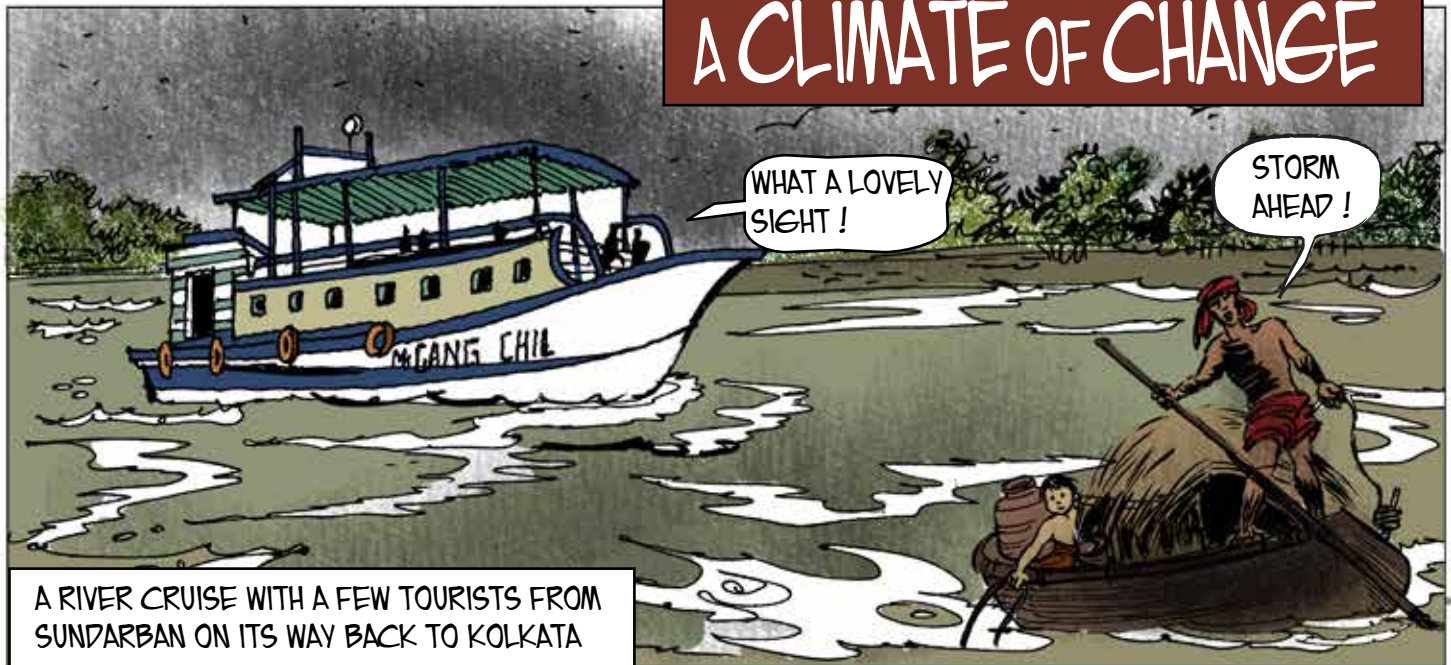
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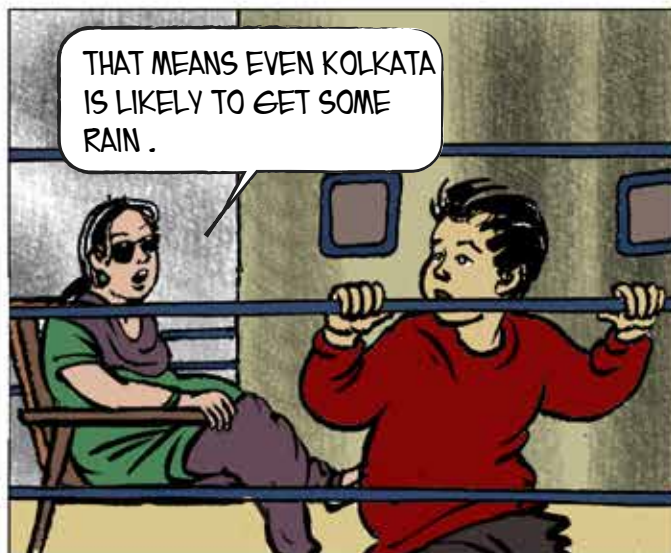
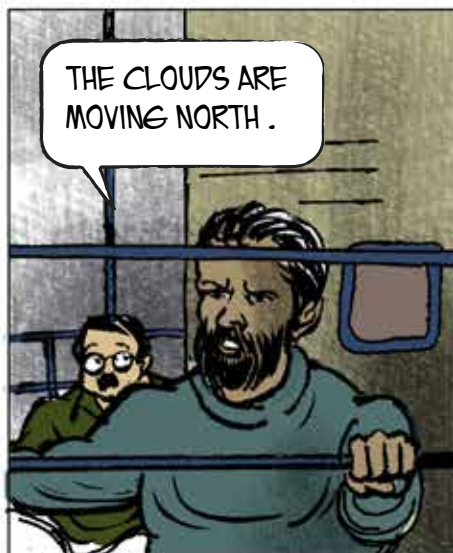
UK Aid

British High Commission, Shantipath, Chankayapuri, New Delhi 110 021, India

Tel: +91-11-2419 2100

A CLIMATE OF CHANGE





BUT THE CREW WASN'T HALF AS OPTIMISTIC . THE SKY CHANGING COLOUR THIS FAST MEANT ONLY ONE THING ... TROUBLE !

CLEAR THE DECK, BOYS!
THE WIND IS STRONG !



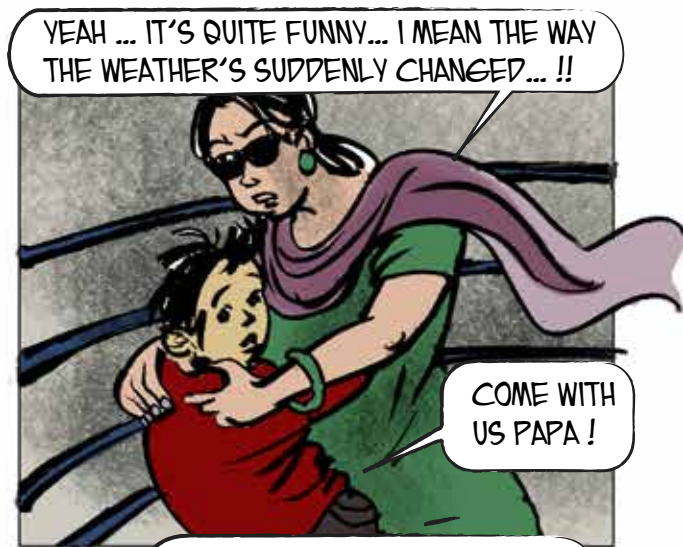
BY NOW, EVEN THE PASSENGERS BEGIN TO FEEL A LITTLE ANXIOUS .

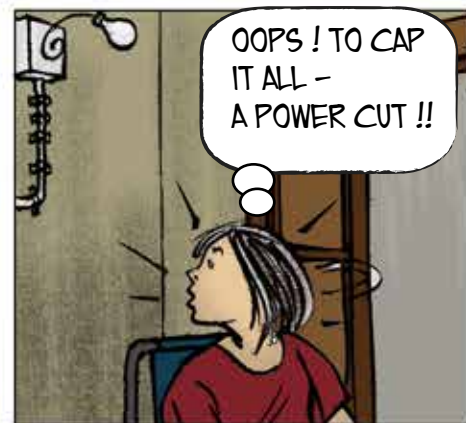
MY GOODNESS!
IT WAS SO SUNNY
JUST AN HOUR AGO!

ISN'T IT
DEPRESSING?

BACK TO YOUR MOM
IN THE CABIN ! OR
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD !







AFTER SOME TIME, NEAR CANNING -

REACHED AT LAST ! MAY
I ASK YOU SOMETHING ,
MR . ROY ?

OF COURSE ,
MR . BOSE .

HOW COULD YOU
PREDICT THE
FREAK STORM ?

WELL ... IN A WAY,
IT'S MY JOB ...

I'M AN ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENTIST .

OH ! THAT'S
INTERESTING !



AND YOU, MR BOSE,
WHAT DO YOU DO ?

I AM AN ELECTED
COUNCILLOR OF THE
KOLKATA MUNICIPAL
CORPORATION .



I AM AN ELECTED
COUNCILLOR OF THE
KOLKATA MUNICIPAL
CORPORATION .



BEEN PLANNING THIS
TRIP FOR LONG .
WORK KEEPS ME SO
BUSY THESE DAYS ...



I UNDERSTAND . IT WAS A
GOOD TRIP . I ENJOYED
YOUR COMPANY, MR BOSE !

YES. AND
THANK
YOU !!



TRAVELLING ALWAYS
BRINGS PEOPLE
CLOSE TO EACH OTHER .



THAT'S RIGHT !



SOME 60 KM AWAY , THE PICTURE IN KOLKATA IS WORSE .



AFTER A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS DRIVE -



AT THIS SPEED IT'LL BE MIDNIGHT BEFORE WE REACH HOME ... !



I HOPE SCHOOL'S CLOSED TOMORROW !



IT IS NOT THAT EVERYBODY IS GRUMBLING OR COMPLAINING ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CITY



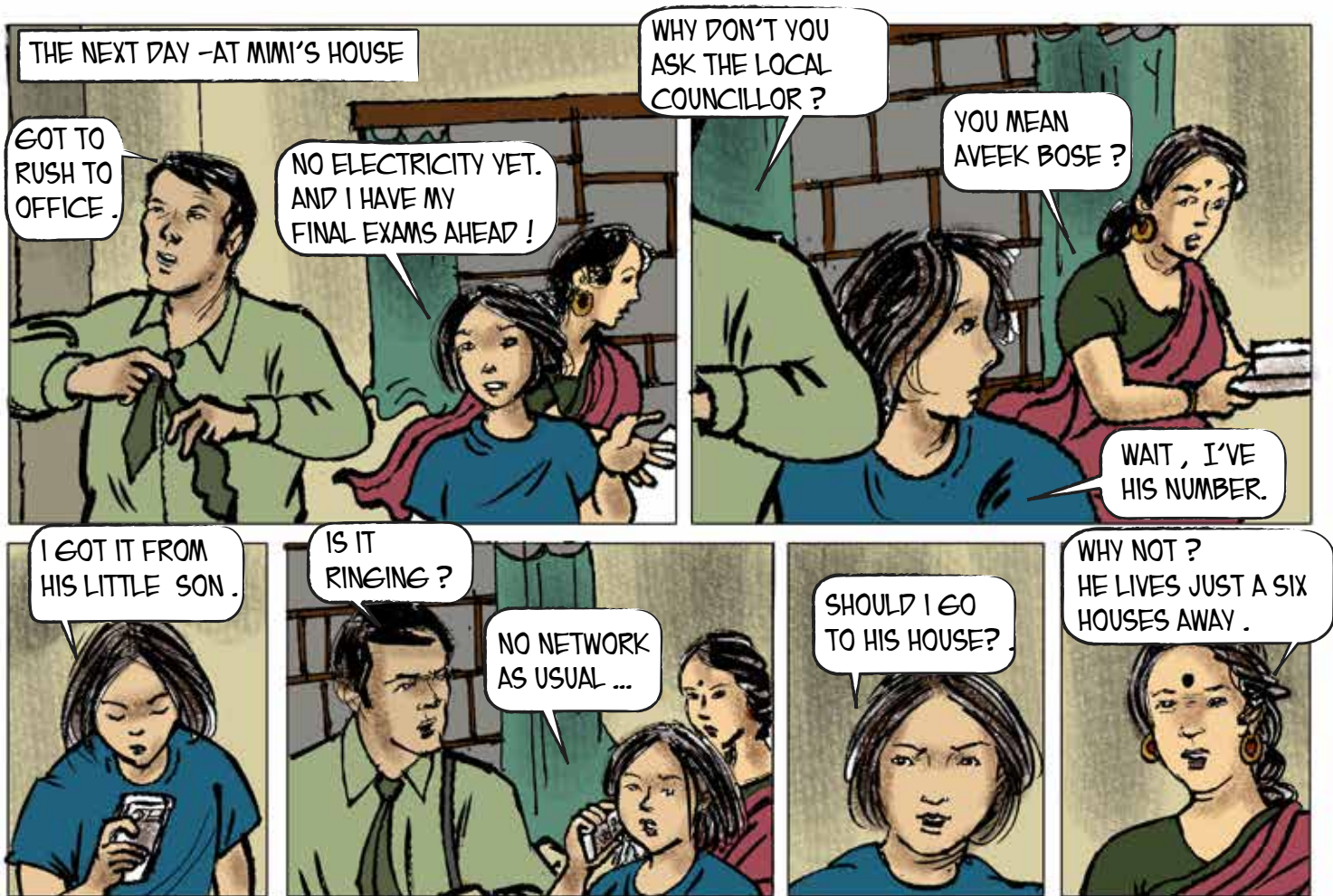
I HOPE MY ASSISTANT HAS BEEN ABLE TO
MANAGE MY OFFICE WHILE I WAS AWAY!

BUT MATTERS WEREN'T HALF AS GOOD AS MR BOSE HOPED .



IN AVEEK'S CHAMBER -





WELL ... MA WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE POWER CUT AND THE WATER SUPPLY .

PLEASE TELL YOUR PARENTS THAT MY PEOPLE ARE WORKING HARD, DAY AND NIGHT.

I AM VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE POWER CUT . EXAMS ARE NEXT WEEK !

AREN'T WE ALL ? THERE IS A MAJOR BREAKDOWN IN THE TRANSFORMER . BUT HEY ... !

I'M ALREADY LATE FOR OFFICE .

WE'RE HELPLESS IN THE FACE OF SUCH NATURAL CALAMITIES !!

IN FACT THE ENTIRE CITY IS REELING UNDER A POWER CUT.

WATER SUPPLY WILL HOPEFULLY BE RESTORED IN A DAY OR TWO .

I AM DOING MY BEST IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES!



MIMI WATCHES AVEEK'S CAR DISAPPEAR DOWN A WATERLOGGED LANE AS PEOPLE WADE THROUGH THE MURKY WATER .

LATER AT AVEEK'S OFFICE

THERE ARE COMPLAINTS ABOUT WATER SUPPLY IN THIS BLOCK .

WHAT ARE THE LATEST REPORTS ?

SOME ADJACENT BLOCKS HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM !

IT'S TIME WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH HQ .

THE SITUATION IS BAD . PEOPLE ARE ANGRY

NO ONE HAS ANY PATIENCE THESE DAYS ! (SIGH)

THE PHONE AGAIN ! WHAT'S THE NEW COMPLAINT THIS TIME !!

BRRING

YES ... THE LOCAL COUNCILLOR HERE ...

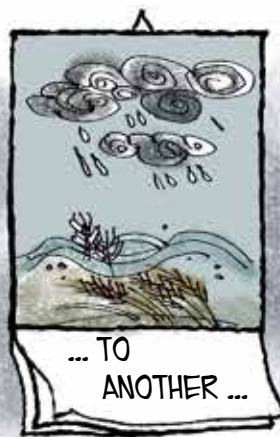
WHAT ?! AN OLD HOUSE HAS COLLAPSED IN YOUR WARD ?!

THANK GOD NO ONE'S HURT ! BUT WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

HERE , A MAP OF THE AREA . TAKE A LOOK .

OH I SEE ! IT'S JUST TWO BLOCKS AWAY ! I'M AT MY WIT'S END ...

WE NEED LABOURERS TO GET RID OF THE DEBRIS . WHERE DO WE FIND THEM IN THIS POURING RAIN ? WE SHOULD ALSO INFORM THE LOCAL POLICE STATION !



AT MIMI'S HOUSE



THE SEVERE HEAT WAVE IN THE STATE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR A FEW MORE DAYS .



OH NO ! THERE GOES THE POWER AGAIN ! I'M GOING TO MELT !



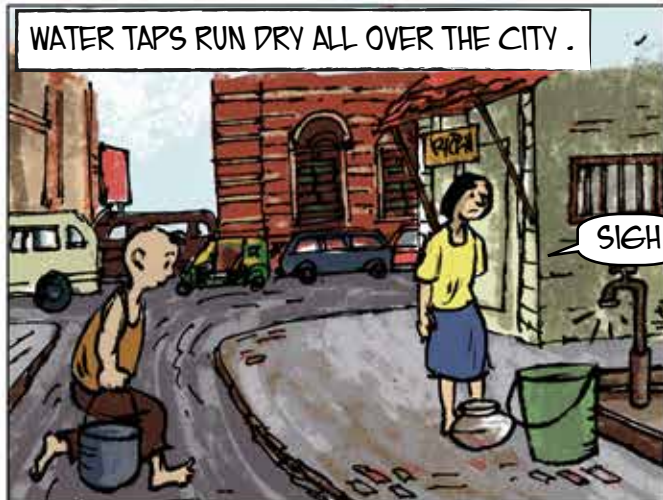
THIS HEAT IS UNBEARABLE. IT SEEMS NATURE HAS GONE MAD ! THE GODS ARE PUNISHING US FOR OUR SINS !

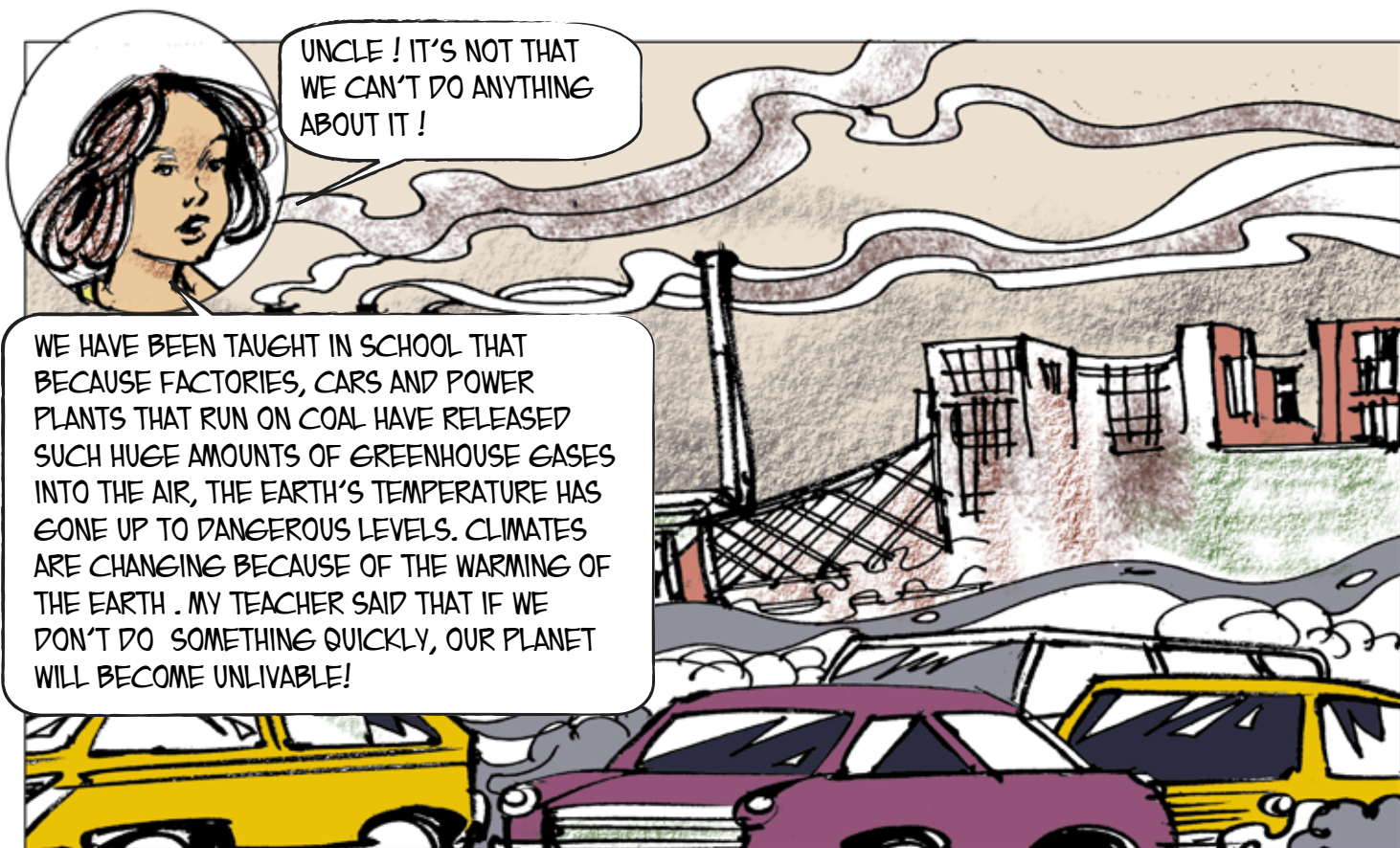
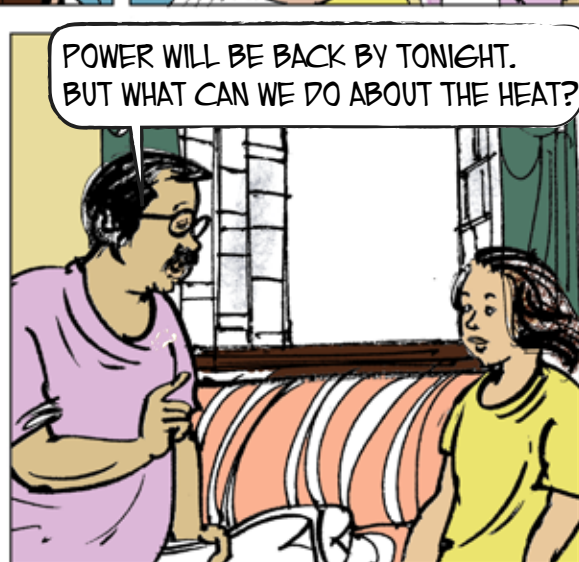
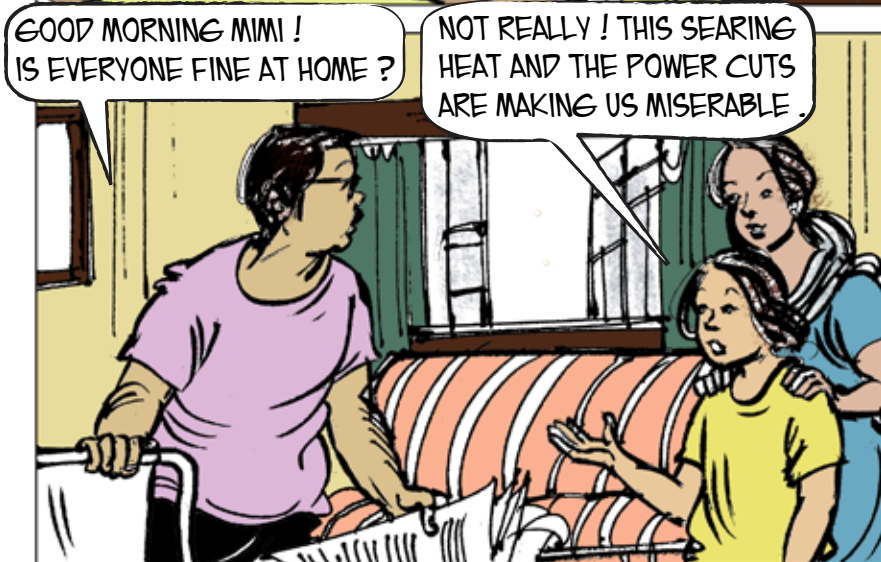
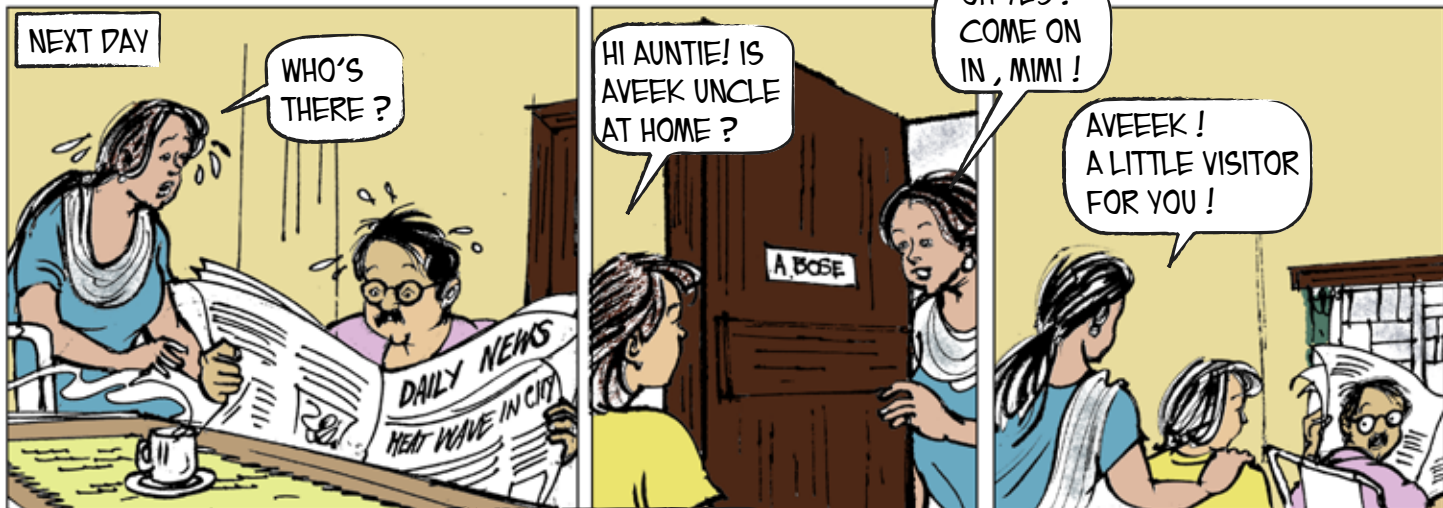


OUTSIDE, PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE SUN'S HEAT . MOST WERE OBLIVIOUS OF THE FACT THAT THE POWER GRID HAD COLLAPSED BECAUSE OF THE OVERDRAWING OF POWER DURING SUMMER .



AS A MERCILESS SUN BEATS DOWN, LIFE IN THE CITY IS IN DISARRAY . PEOPLE ARE RUSHING TO BUY AIR-CONDITIONERS AND COOLERS, NOT KNOWING THAT MORE OF SUCH GADGETS PUTS EVEN MORE PRESSURE ON THE ELECTRICITY GENERATING SYSTEM MAKING THE SITUATION WORSE .







SOMEHOW WE'VE MANAGED TO DESTROY MOST OF OUR BEAUTIFUL PLANET. IT'S HIGH TIME WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT



BUT THE GASES ARE EMITTED BY BIG INDUSTRIES. WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THAT ?

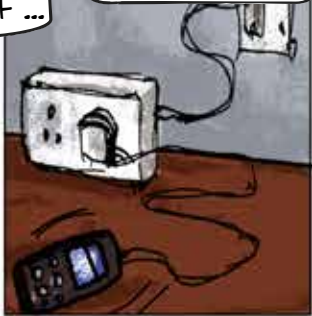


EACH ONE OF US CAN DO SOMETHING TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE .

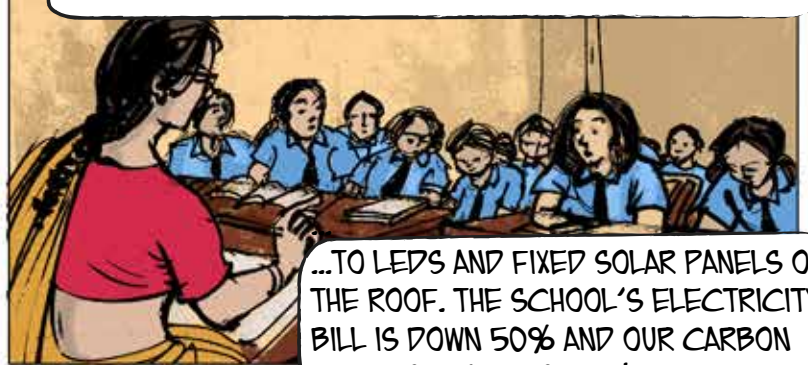
WE MUST SAVE ENERGY. DID YOU KNOW THAT SOME APPLIANCES USE POWER EVEN WHEN SWITCHED OFF ...



... LIKE CELL PHONE CHARGERS !



MY SCHOOL HAS ALREADY STARTED AN ENERGY SAVING CAMPAIGN .IT HAS CHANGED ALL ITS ORDINARY BULBS...



...TO LEDS AND FIXED SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF. THE SCHOOL'S ELECTRICITY BILL IS DOWN 50% AND OUR CARBON EMISSIONS ARE LOWER !

WE'VE BEEN TOLD TO SAVE WATER AT HOME AND SCHOOL . I TURN OFF THE TAP WHEN I'M BRUSHING MY TEETH ...



AND WHEN I SEE A LEAKING TAP IN SCHOOL, I REPORT IT RIGHTAWAY .



I'VE TOLD OUR MAID NOT TO WASTE WATER AND ASKED MAMA TO BUY AN ENERGY EFFICIENT WASHING MACHINE .



MY TEACHER SAYS THAT WHENEVER POSSIBLE, BUY ECO-FRIENDLY AND REUSABLE PRODUCTS, USE ONLY STAR-RATED APPLIANCES ...



... AND NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS FOR HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE .



THE NEXT DAY, WHILE ON HIS WAY TO OFFICE ,
MANY THOUGHTS CROSS AVEEK'S MIND.



MIMI IS SUCH A SMART GIRL ! SHE'S SO
YOUNG AND YET SHE KNOWS SO MUCH !

YES, I KNOW WE MUST PROTECT
TREES, OUR FORESTS AND OUR
HILLS . BUT WHAT HAS THAT GOT
TO DO WITH THIS HEAT?



HELLO ... YES ...
YES I KNOW !

WE HAVE ALSO INFORMED THE
ELECTRICITY COMPANY . IT'S NOT
YOUR LOCALITY ALONE ! THE WHOLE
CITY IS WITHOUT POWER...



I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE OF THIS !
ALMOST THE ENTIRE STATE HAS
BEEN HIT BY POWER CUTS ! AND
ALL THAT I CAN DO IS TO TAKE...



... COMPLAINTS !
I'M HELPLESS !
TWO MAJOR
GRIDS HAVE
GONE DOWN !
IMPOSSIBLE !



THE CITY HAS NOW BECOME AS HOT AS AN OVEN .



EVEN THE BIRDS SEEM TO HAVE FALLEN SILENT .





HELLO PROF. ROY ! THIS IS BOSE HERE . REMEMBER ?



BOSE WHO ?



WE MET ON THE BOAT FROM THE SUNDARBANS ! REMEMBER ME ?!



OH ! HI ! WHAT A SURPRISE !



MAY I SEE YOU TOMORROW FOR A CHAT IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY...



OF COURSE YOU CAN ! IT WOULD BE A PLEASURE .



I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE . PLEASE HOLD THE FORT TILL I'M BACK .



WELCOME MR . BOSE !



WHAT A PRETTY OLD HOUSE MR. ROY !

YES ! MY ANCESTRAL HOUSE ... PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE .

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU TAKE SUCH A KEEN INTEREST IN CLIMATE CHANGE. CLIMATE CHANGE IS CAUSED BY THE ...

... EMISSION OF CARBON DIOXIDE, METHANE, WATER VAPOUR, NITROUS OXIDE, CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS, ETC.

INDUSTRIALISATION KICKED OFF A FRENZY FOR FOSSIL FUELS.

ALL THE NEW MACHINES RAN ON COAL, OIL OR GAS. THEY BECAME THE 'GOLD' OF THE MODERN ERA. THERE WAS A SCRAMBLE TO FIND NEWER AND NEWER DEPOSITS OF FOSSIL FUELS.



POWER PLANTS, FACTORIES, CARS AND MODERN LIVING NEEDED MORE ENERGY WHICH CAME FROM THE BURNING OF MORE OIL, COAL AND GAS. MORE AND MORE OF THE GREENHOUSE GASES (GHG) - CARBON DIOXIDE, METHANE AND NITROUS OXIDE -- STARTED BUILDING UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

THE EARTH RADIATES MOST OF THE HEAT THAT IT ABSORBS DURING THE DAY. THE 'GHG SHIELD' PREVENTS THE RADIATED HEAT FROM ESCAPING INTO SPACE. THE EARTH STARTS TO HEAT UP.



CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) IS THE MAIN CULPRIT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 365 BILLION TONS OF CO₂ HAS BEEN RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE BECAUSE OF THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS !!



BUT NOW, ANY MITIGATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE WILL HINGE ON HOW WE MANAGE OUR URBAN GROWTH.

THE UN SAYS THAT THE GLOBAL URBAN POPULATION WOULD BE 5 BILLION IN 2030 FROM THE PRESENT 2.9 BILLION. IN INDIA, 600 MILLION OF ITS 1.5 BILLION WILL BE LIVING IN CITIES.

THE EFFECTS OF URBANISATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ARE CONVERGING IN DANGEROUS WAYS WHICH THREATEN UNPRECEDENTED NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. CITIES GENERATE AT LEAST 60-80 % OF GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS. MORE URBANISATION MEANS NEW DEMANDS ON TRANSPORT, WATER SUPPLY, POWER ... WHICH MEANS MORE GHGS!

ALL THIS IS BUILDING UP INTO DISASTERS WAITING TO HAPPEN !!

DISASTERS?!
WHAT DISASTERS?!

ONE OF THE MOST PRONOUNCED EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING WILL BE THE RISING OF SEA LEVELS.

THE WARMING WILL HEAT SEAWATER AND MAKE IT EXPAND ...

... GLACIERS AND THE POLAR ICE SHEETS THAT COVER GREENLAND AND ANTARCTICA WILL MELT, FORCING SEA LEVELS TO RISE RAPIDLY AND FLOOD INLAND AREAS CAUSING DESTRUCTIVE EROSION, FLOODING OF WETLANDS ...

... CONTAMINATION OF AQUIFERS AND AGRICULTURAL SOIL AND LOSS OF HABITAT FOR BIRDS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

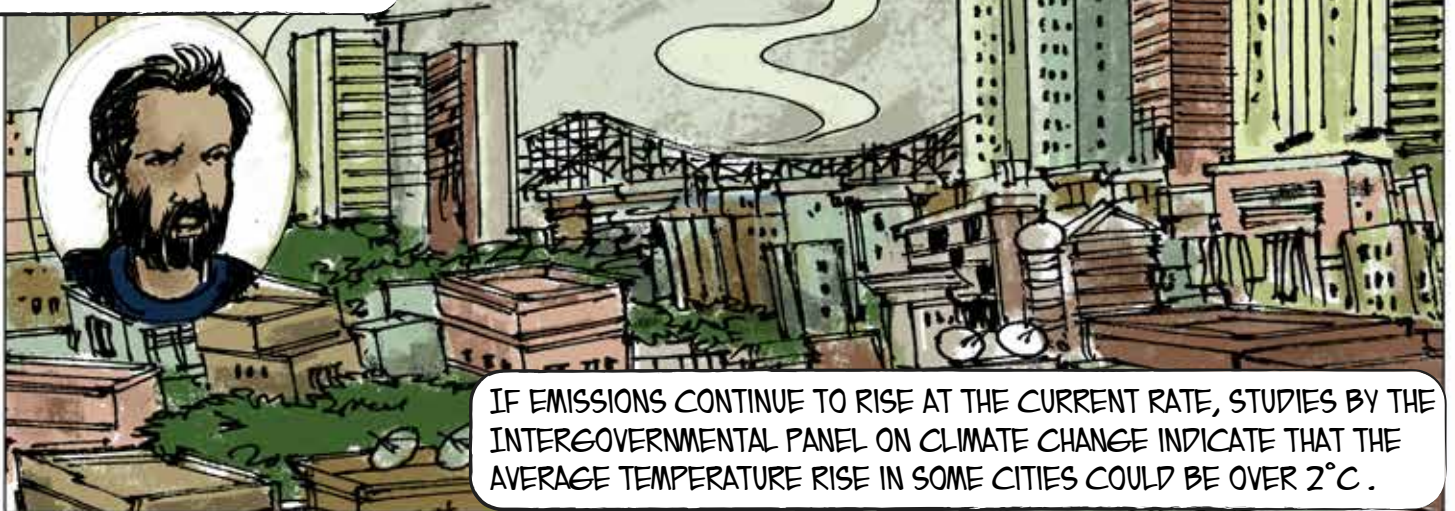
THE WEATHER WILL CHANGE UNEXPECTEDLY ! DO YOU REMEMBER THE FLASH FLOODS IN KASHMIR ?



OR THE HEAT WAVE IN NEW YORK THAT SET RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES ?



SINCE THE 1950S, THE RATE OF GLOBAL WARMING HAS GROWN AT AN UNPRECEDENTED RATE COMPARED TO THE DECADES BEFORE IT .



IF EMISSIONS CONTINUE TO RISE AT THE CURRENT RATE, STUDIES BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATE THAT THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE RISE IN SOME CITIES COULD BE OVER 2°C .

RAINFALL TRENDS HAVE BEEN CHARACTERISED BY STRONG VARIATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA . IF THERE ARE MAJOR CHANGES IN MONSOON CYCLES , THE LIFE OF FARMING COMMUNITIES AND FOOD OUTPUT WILL BE DISRUPTED !



THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF TROPICAL STORMS . AND THOUGH WE ARE ABLE TO PREDICT STORMS AND THEIR INTENSITY WITH SOME ACCURACY...



... IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO STOP THE WIDESPREAD DESTRUCTION THAT THESE TYPHOONS WREAK .

EXPERTS PREDICT THAT 1/4TH OF THE EARTH'S SPECIES WILL BE HEADED FOR EXTINCTION BY 2050 IF THE WARMING TREND CONTINUES AT ITS CURRENT RATE .



AS TEMPERATURES RISE GLOBALLY, DROUGHTS WILL BECOME MORE FREQUENT AND MORE SEVERE ...

... WITH POTENTIALLY DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES FOR AGRICULTURE, WATER SUPPLY AND HUMAN HEALTH.



HOT TEMPERATURES AND DRY CONDITIONS WILL ALSO INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF FOREST FIRES .



THE ECONOMIC DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANES, FLOODS, DROUGHT AND DECLINING CROP YIELDS COULD DRIVE MILLIONS TO STARVATION .



WHAT A SCARY PICTURE ?



IT TOOK MILLIONS OF YEARS FOR OUR PLANET TO EVOLVE . IT TOOK MAN HARDLY 300 YEARS TO BRING IT TO THE BRINK OF DISASTER !



I'VE READ ABOUT HOW COUNTRIES ARE UNITEDLY TRYING TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE ! BUT HAS THERE BEEN ANY PROGRESS ?



IN 1992, COUNTRIES JOINED AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY, THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, TO CONSIDER ...



... WHAT THEY COULD DO TO LIMIT AVERAGE GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INCREASES AND THE RESULTING CLIMATE CHANGE.

... TO CLIMATE CHANGE, HOWEVER, LIES THE NEED TO REDUCE EMISSIONS. IN 2010, GOVERNMENTS AGREED THAT EMISSIONS NEED TO BE REDUCED SO THAT GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INCREASES ARE LIMITED TO BELOW 2 DEGREES CELSIUS.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A COMPLEX PROBLEM, WHICH, ALTHOUGH ENVIRONMENTAL IN NATURE, HAS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL SPHERES OF EXISTENCE ON OUR PLANET. BUT AT THE VERY HEART OF THE RESPONSE ...



LATER THAT DAY -



IT WAS GOOD TALKING TO YOU !
COME AGAIN PLEASE .

SURE



WHAT MR. ROY SAID IS
SO UNNERVING ! BUT
WE CAN'T SIT BACK
AND WAIT FOR
COUNTRIES TO SOLVE
THE PROBLEM . WE ALL
MUST DO SOMETHING .

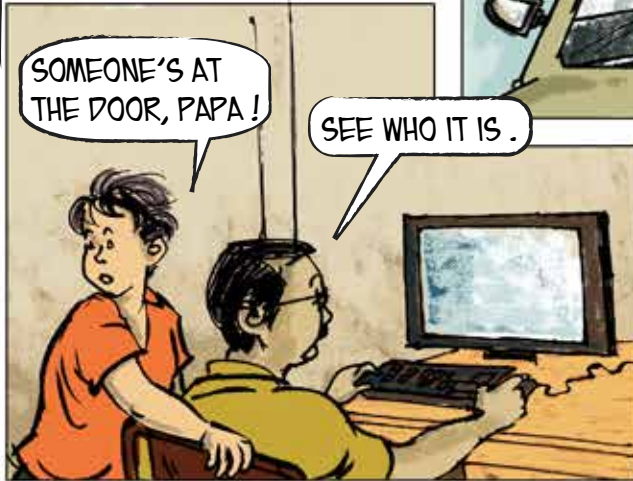
I THINK I SHOULD RAISE
ALL THIS AT THE
COMING MEETING
AT THE KMC
HEADQUARTERS .

THE DOORBELL RINGS AGAIN
THAT EVENING



SOMEONE'S AT
THE DOOR, PAPA !

SEE WHO IT IS .



IT WOULD
BE GREAT
IF IT'S
MIMI DID !



HEY ! SO IT'S
MIMI AGAIN !

NO COMPLAINTS THIS
TIME . JUST FELT LIKE
COMING BY ...



ALL THESE DAYS, YOUR WORDS
WERE PLAYING IN MY MIND .



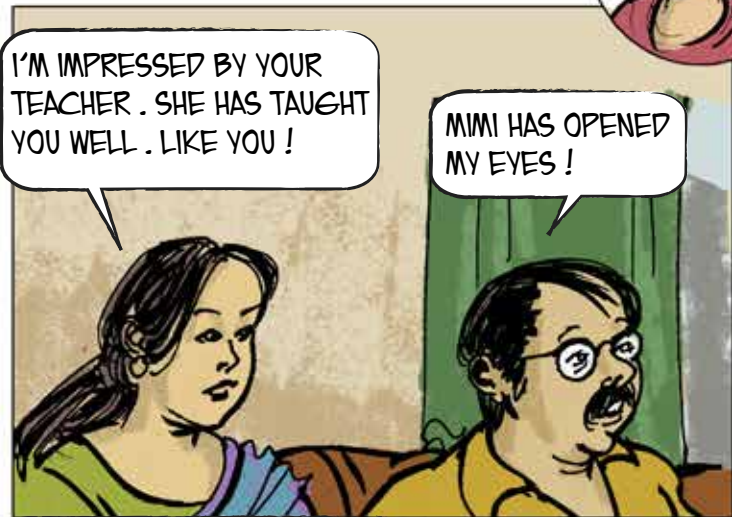
ABOUT CLIMATE
CHANGE ?!

YOU WERE RIGHT. IT'S NOT
THAT WE DON'T KNOW ...

... BUT WE HARDLY
DO ANYTHING
TO FIGHT IT.

YOU CAN DO A LOT FROM
YOUR OFFICE, UNCLE .

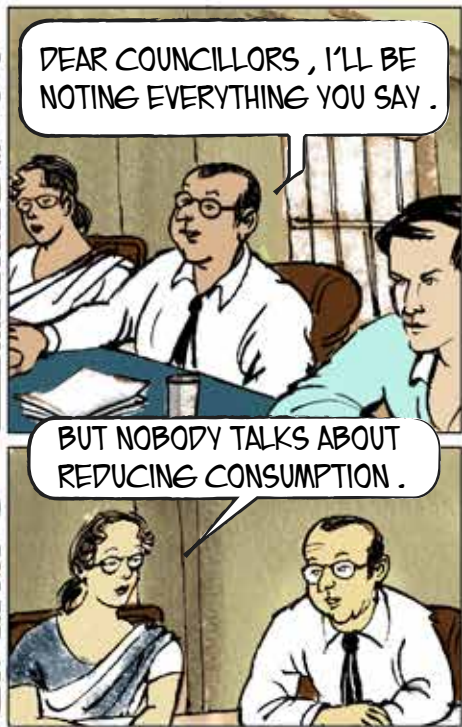






THAT DAY, KMC HQ IS ABUZZ , MOST TALKING ABOUT HE SUFFERING AND THE RESENTMENT OF THE PEOPLE .

POWER CRISIS OR WATER SHORTAGE IN SUMMER IS DUE TO MORE CONSUMPTION .



DEAR COUNCILLORS , I'LL BE NOTING EVERYTHING YOU SAY .

BUT NOBODY TALKS ABOUT REDUCING CONSUMPTION .



EXCUSE ME, SIR ? I HAVE A FEW POINTS TO SAY .

YES, MR. BOSE ?



ALL SUCH CRISES ARE RELATED IN SOME WAY TO ...



... A MUCH BIGGER ISSUE CALLED CLIMATE CHANGE WHICH IS CHANGING NATURE IN UNSEEN BUT POWERFUL WAYS .



REALLY ?! PLEASE EXPLAIN . I'M ALL EARS !

... AND THE MEETING TAKES A NEW TURN ...

WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A CRISIS THAT WILL OVERTAKE ALL OF US IN THE COMING YEARS. WE HAVE BEEN 'LIVING IT UP'



.... WITHOUT ANY CONCERN ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES . WE HAVE IGNORED ALL THE WARNING SIGNS ... CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND WE MAY HAVE TO PAY A HEAVY PRICE !!

CITIES MUST BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE . AND KOLKATA MUST SET EXAMPLES IN MANY AREAS ...



FANTASTIC !! BUT IT'S A FIGHT WHERE WE ALL HAVE TO JOIN HANDS .



WE MUST RESTORE OUR WATERBODIES !!

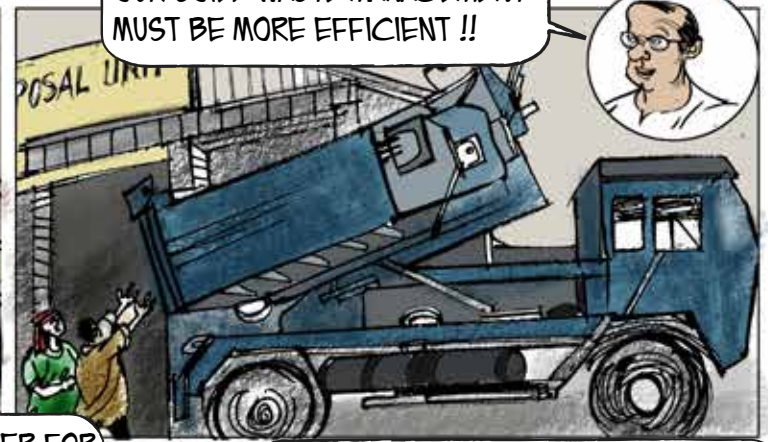
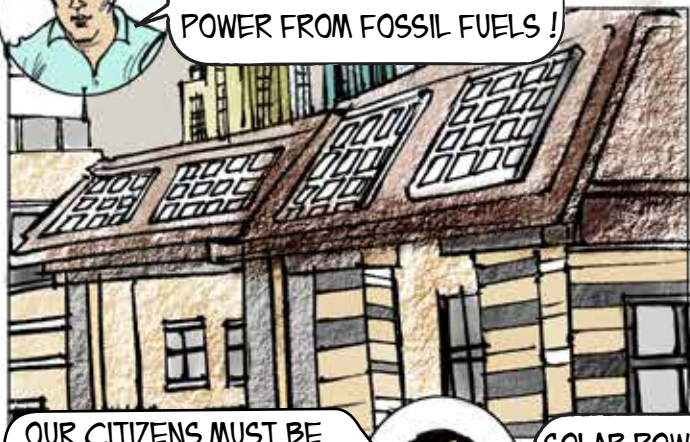


I HAVE A SUGGESTION ...

WE MUST USE SOLAR POWER TO REDUCE THE USE OF POWER FROM FOSSIL FUELS !



OUR SOILD WASTE MANAGEMENT MUST BE MORE EFFICIENT !!



OUR CITIZENS MUST BE MADE AWARE OF RAINWATER HARVESTING AND ITS BENEFITS !!



SOLAR POWER FOR STREET LIGHTING



WHAT ABOUT ROOF-TOP GARDENS TO REDUCE THE HEAT ISLAND EFFECT ?!



WHAT'S YOUR SUGGESTION, MR BOSE ?

YOU ARE RIGHT, MR BOSE . ALSO, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PRESENTS A NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES, SUCH AS ENSURING ...

THE FUNCTIONALITY OF URBAN SYSTEMS IN THE LIGHT OF A CHANGING CLIMATE AND ITS IMPACTS ; IT IMPROVES DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT,

ENSURES SUSTAINABILITY OF DEVELOPMENT; AND SAFEGUARDS THE PRESENT AND FUTURE WELL-BEING OF ALL SOCIAL GROUPS .

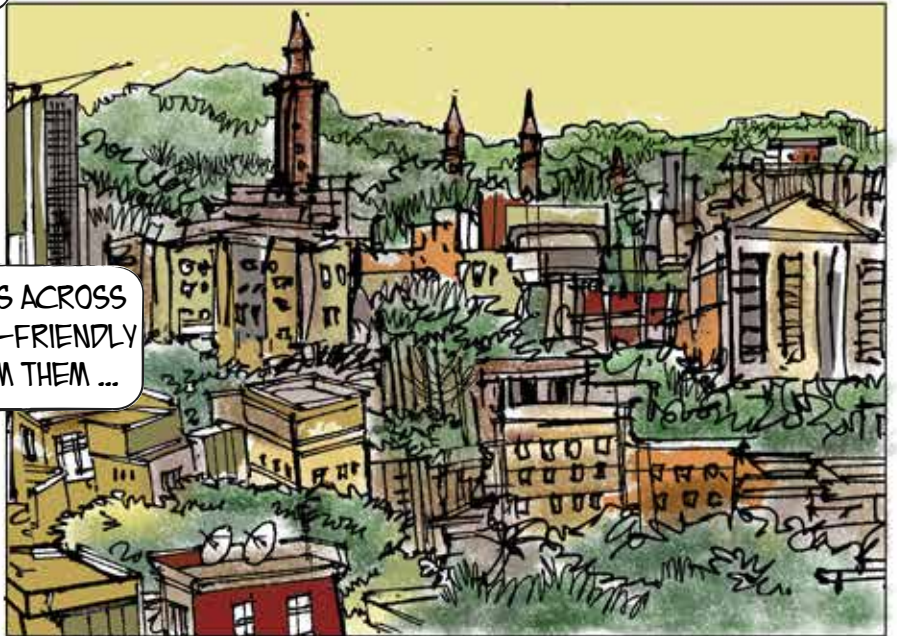
...THAT WE MUST TAKE AND SENSITISE OUR COUNCILLORS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE . WHY DON'T WE OFFER AN AWARD TO THE 'GREENEST WARD' ?!

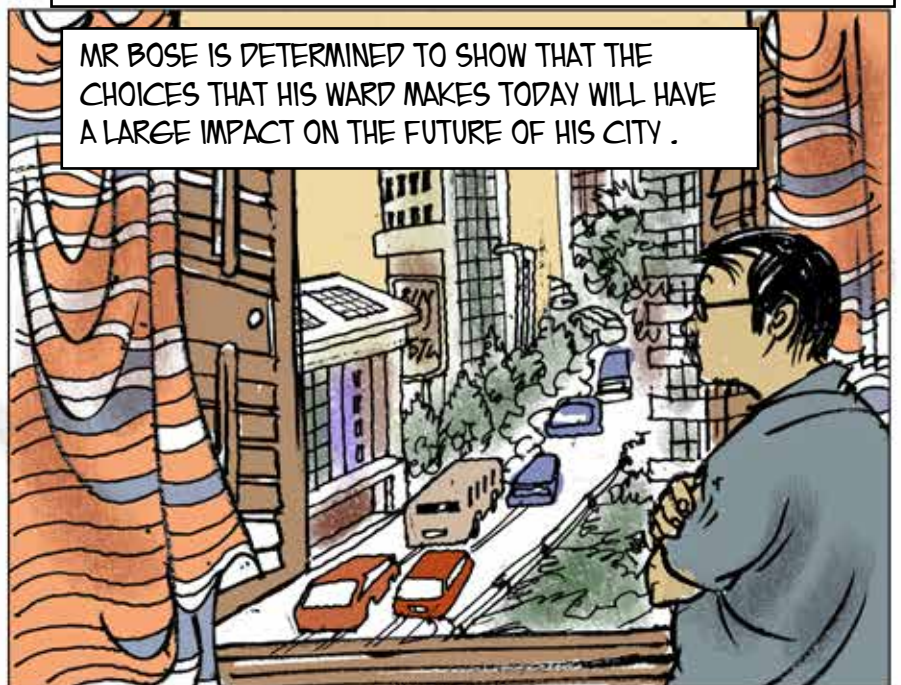
WE HAVE EXAMPLES OF CITIES ACROSS THE GLOBE TAKING CLIMATE-FRIENDLY ACTION . WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM ...

SIR, ANY ACTION TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING CANNOT BE DONE JUST BY US. IT MUST BE A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS .



WE MUST DRAW UP A ROADMAP ON THE ACTION ...





... A CITY WITH MORE GREEN COVER ... WITH CARS THAT USE CLEANER FUELS
... BETTER WASTE MANAGEMENT ... SOLAR POWER PANELS ON ROOFTOPS
... MORE ROOM FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS ... VERTICAL GARDENING ...
ENERGY-SAVING BULBS ... RAINWATER HARVESTING ... A NEW KOLKATA !!





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