



# TRAVELS THROUGH TIME

THE STORY OF INDIA AND INDONESIA



**AD**



**Embassy of India**  
Jakarta, Indonesia

An initiative of  
**Gurjit Singh, Ambassador of India,**  
and **Tamalia Alisjahbana**

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# TRAVELS THROUGH TIME

A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
INDIAN-INDONESIAN EXCHANGES

"I CAME  
AS YOUR GUEST,

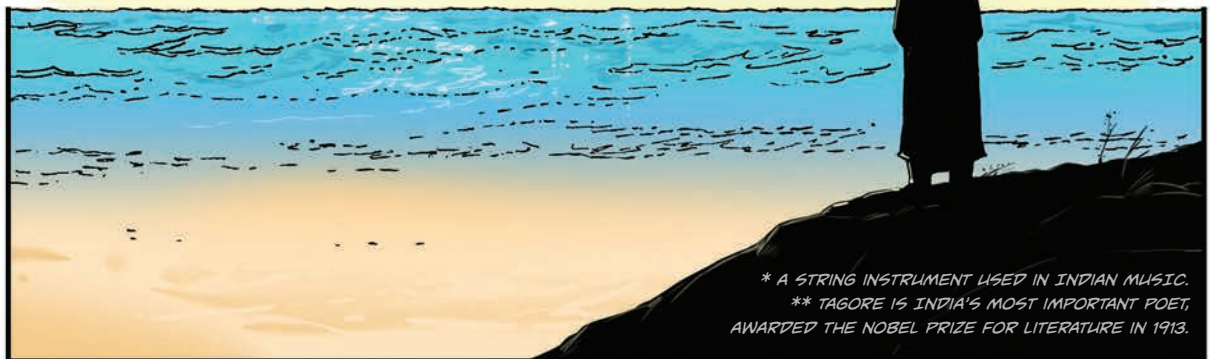
I SAID...  
IN YOUR WOODS  
BY THE SEA

WHERE THE  
SOUTH WIND BLOWS.

MY VEENA\* IS ALL  
I HAVE WITH ME.

LOOK AT ME,  
SEE IF YOU  
RECOGNIZE ME!"

- RABINDRANATH TAGORE\*\*,  
'SAGARIKA', A POEM WRITTEN ON  
HIS JOURNEYS TO INDONESIA



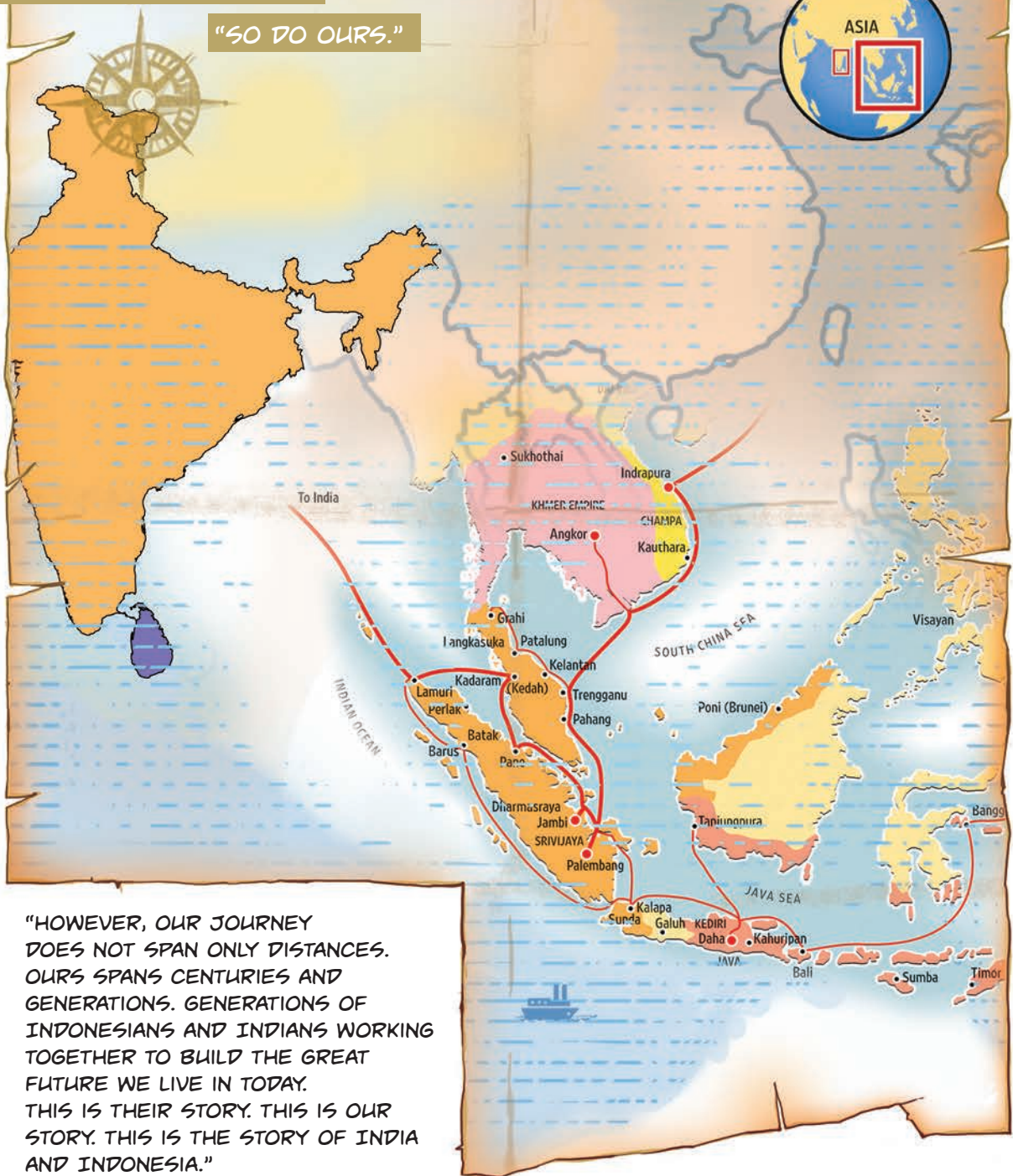
\* A STRING INSTRUMENT USED IN INDIAN MUSIC.

\*\* TAGORE IS INDIA'S MOST IMPORTANT POET,  
AWARDED THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE IN 1913.



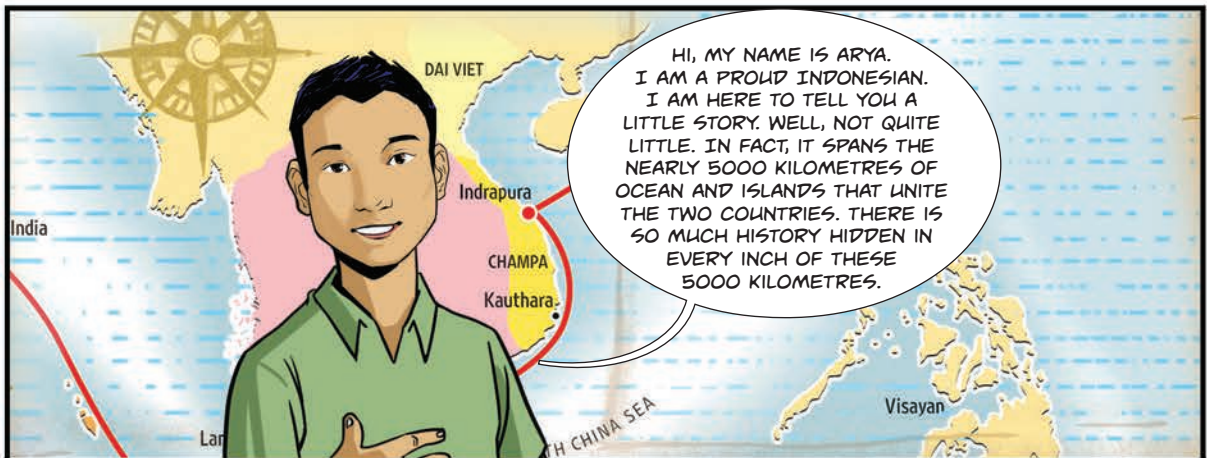
"MOST GREAT JOURNEYS  
BEGIN WITH A MAP."

"SO DO OURS."

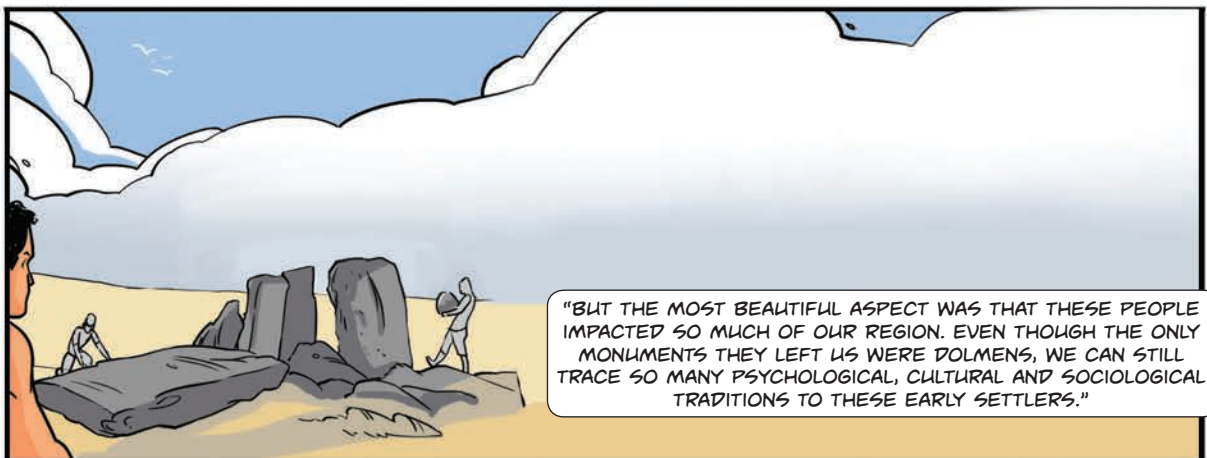
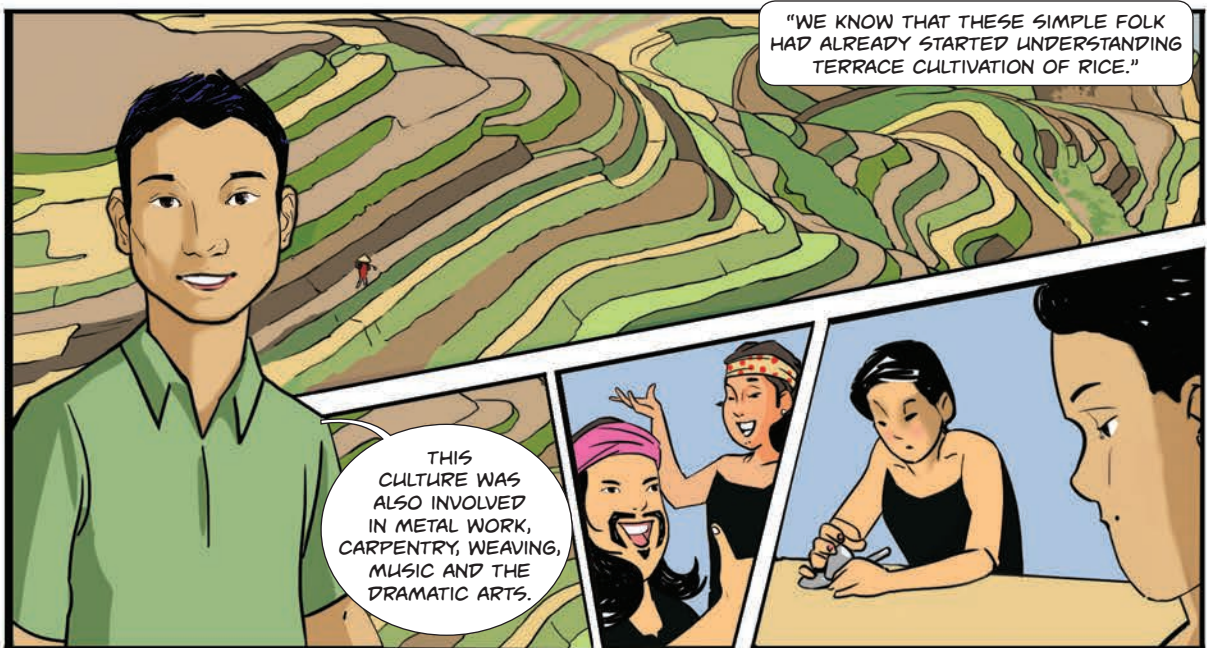
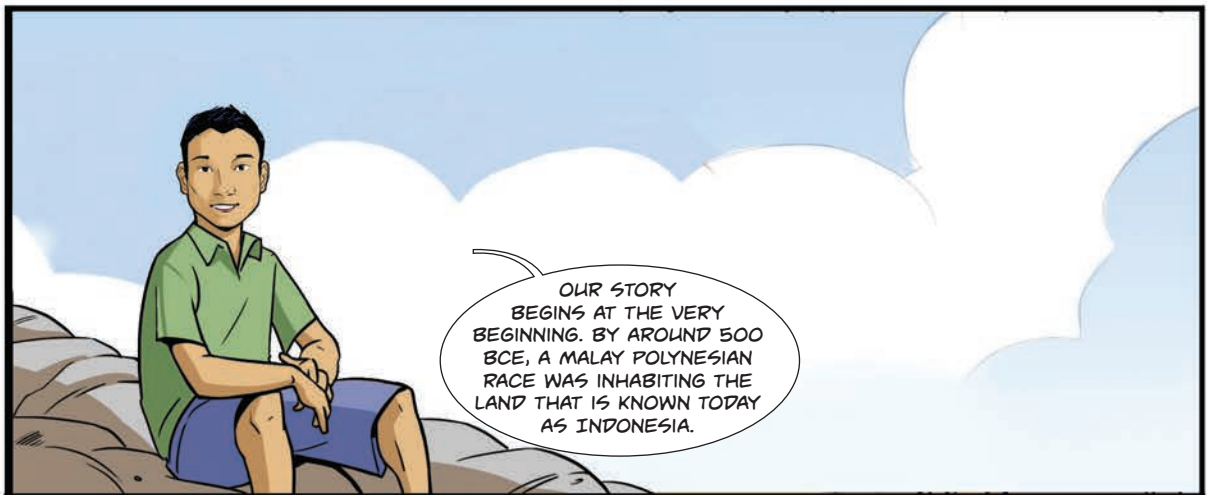


"HOWEVER, OUR JOURNEY  
DOES NOT SPAN ONLY DISTANCES.  
OURS SPANS CENTURIES AND  
GENERATIONS. GENERATIONS OF  
INDONESIANS AND INDIANS WORKING  
TOGETHER TO BUILD THE GREAT  
FUTURE WE LIVE IN TODAY.  
THIS IS THEIR STORY. THIS IS OUR  
STORY. THIS IS THE STORY OF INDIA  
AND INDONESIA."

TRADE ROUTES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA  
SRIVIJAYA, KEDIRI, KHMER AND CHAMPA  
AROUND XII TO EARLY XIII CENTURY









THE MILLENNIA-OLD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA IS EVIDENT IN THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE ISLAND NATION ITSELF. THE INDONESIAN BAHASA CONTAINS MORE THAN 750 LOAN WORDS FROM THE SANSKRIT LANGUAGE!

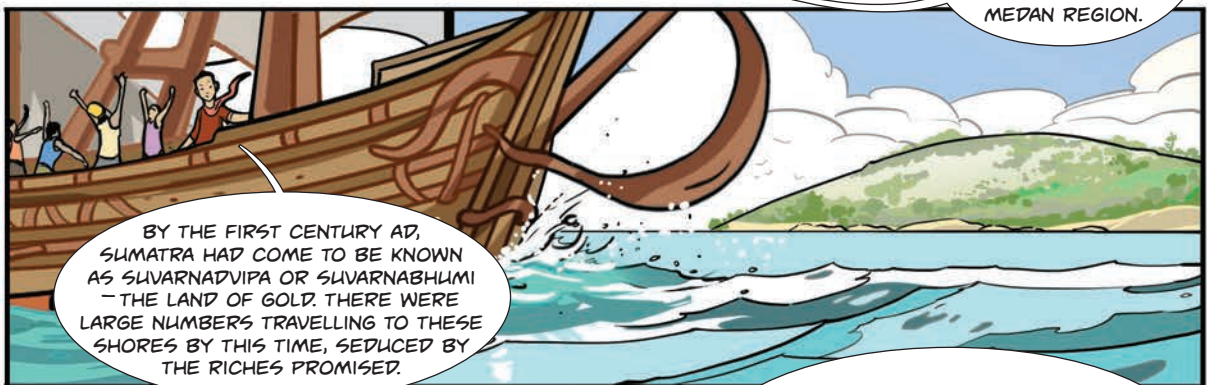


HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT SURE WHO THE FIRST INDIANS TO VISIT THE LAND WE NOW CALL INDONESIA WERE. THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN FROM KALINGA IN PRESENT DAY ODISHA, OR FROM THE VENGU REGION IN ANDHRA PRADESH.

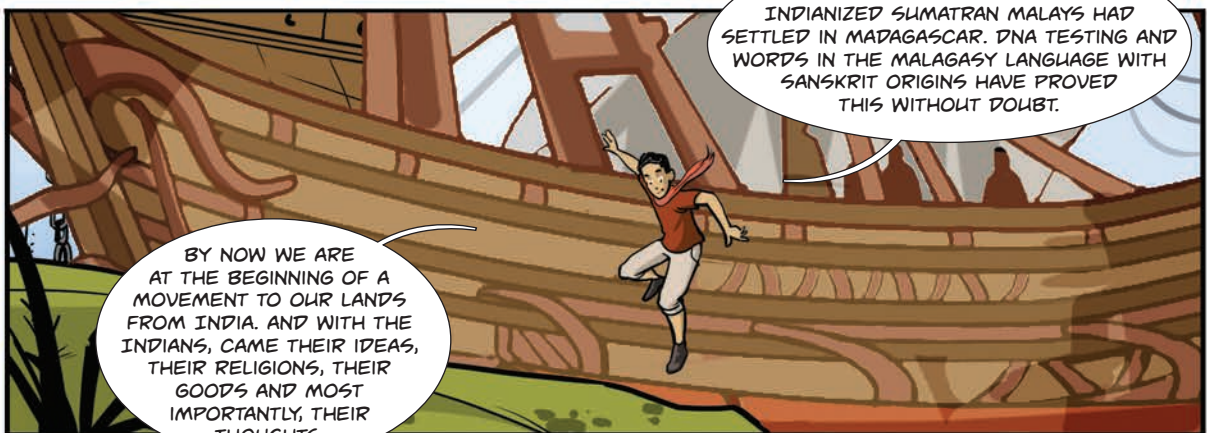


WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT, IN ODISHA, THERE IS STILL A FESTIVAL KNOWN AS BALI JATRA, COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ORIYA MARINERS TO SET SAIL FOR INDONESIA.

TILL DATE, INDIAN IMMIGRANTS ARE KNOWN AS KALINGS IN THE MALAY ARCHIPELAGO, SPECIALLY THE MEDAN REGION.



BY THE FIRST CENTURY AD, SUMATRA HAD COME TO BE KNOWN AS SUVARNADVIPA OR SUVARNABHUMI – THE LAND OF GOLD. THERE WERE LARGE NUMBERS TRAVELLING TO THESE SHORES BY THIS TIME, SEDUCED BY THE RICHES PROMISED.



BY THE EIGHTH CENTURY, INDIANIZED SUMATRAN MALAYS HAD SETTLED IN MADAGASCAR. DNA TESTING AND WORDS IN THE MALAGASY LANGUAGE WITH SANSKRIT ORIGINS HAVE PROVED THIS WITHOUT DOUBT.

BY NOW WE ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF A MOVEMENT TO OUR LANDS FROM INDIA. AND WITH THE INDIANS, CAME THEIR IDEAS, THEIR RELIGIONS, THEIR GOODS AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEIR THOUGHTS.



IN THE FIFTH CENTURY AD, GUNAVARMAN OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF KASHMIR ARRIVED ON SUMATRAN SHORES. HIS FIRST MEETING WITH A QUEEN FROM THE REGION WOULD GREATLY IMPACT THE WAY THE FUTURE WOULD SHAPE UP



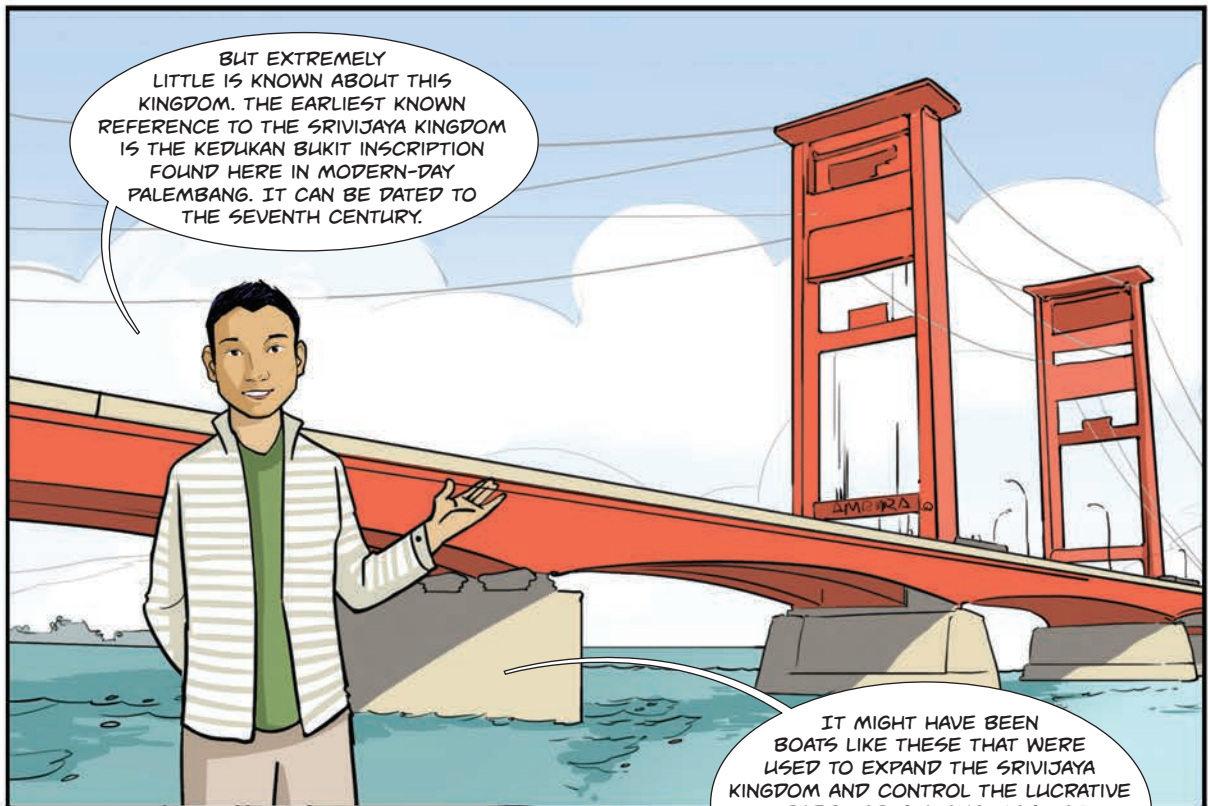
JUST FOLLOW THIS NOBLE EIGHTFOLD PATH: RIGHT VIEW, RIGHT ASPIRATION, RIGHT SPEECH, RIGHT ACTION, RIGHT LIVELIHOOD, RIGHT EFFORT, RIGHT MINDFULNESS, RIGHT CONCENTRATION...

"GUNAVARMAN SPENT TIME WITH THE QUEEN AND HER FAMILY, EVENTUALLY CONVERTING HER AND, LATER, HER SON TO MAHAYANA BUDDHISM."



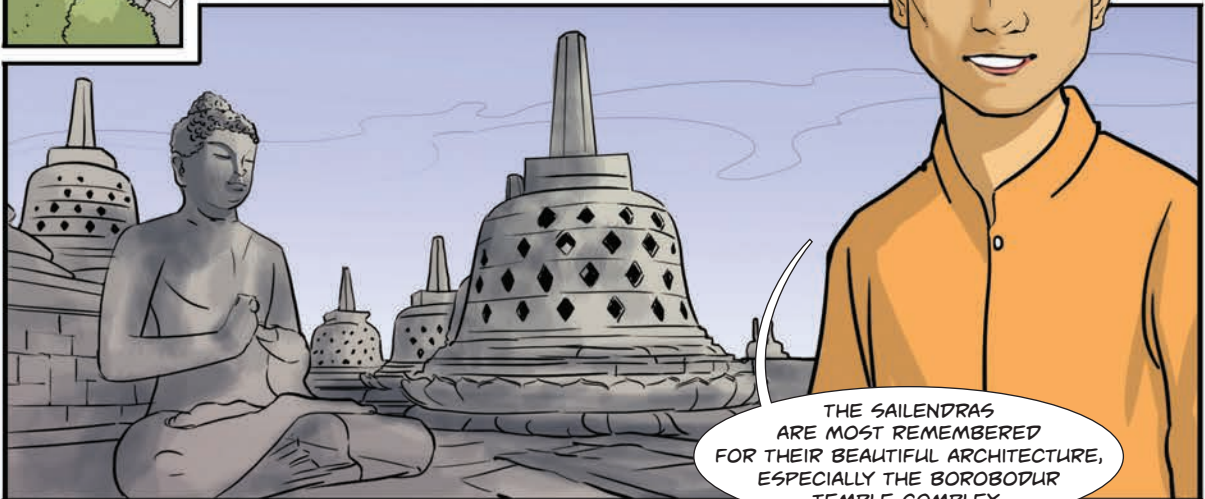
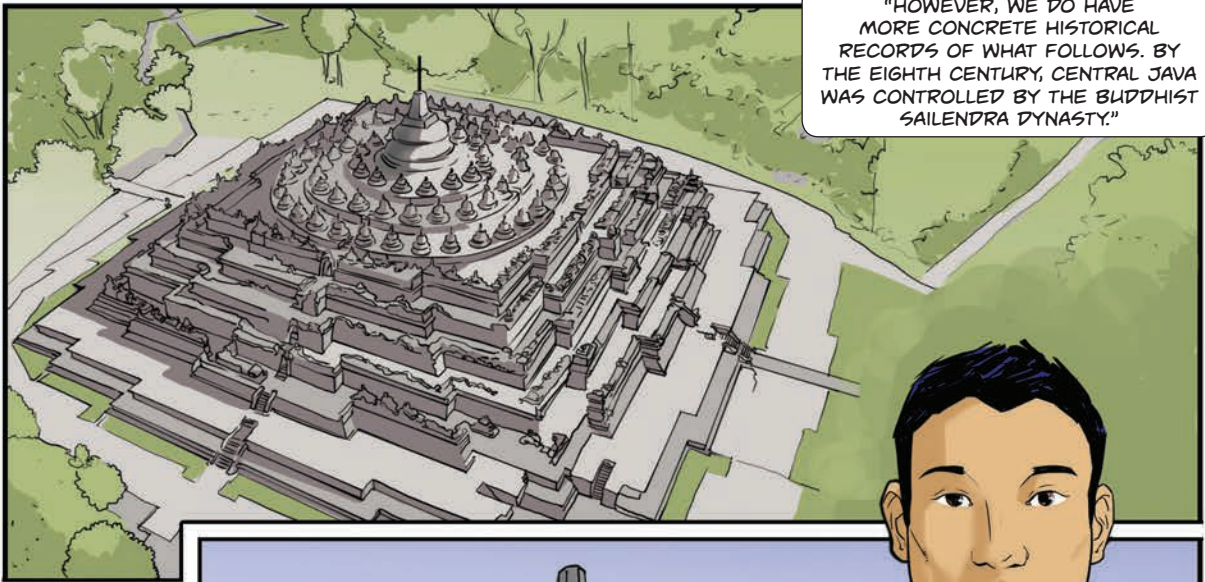
IT IS THOUGHT BY MANY THAT THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE SRIVIJAYA KINGDOM.



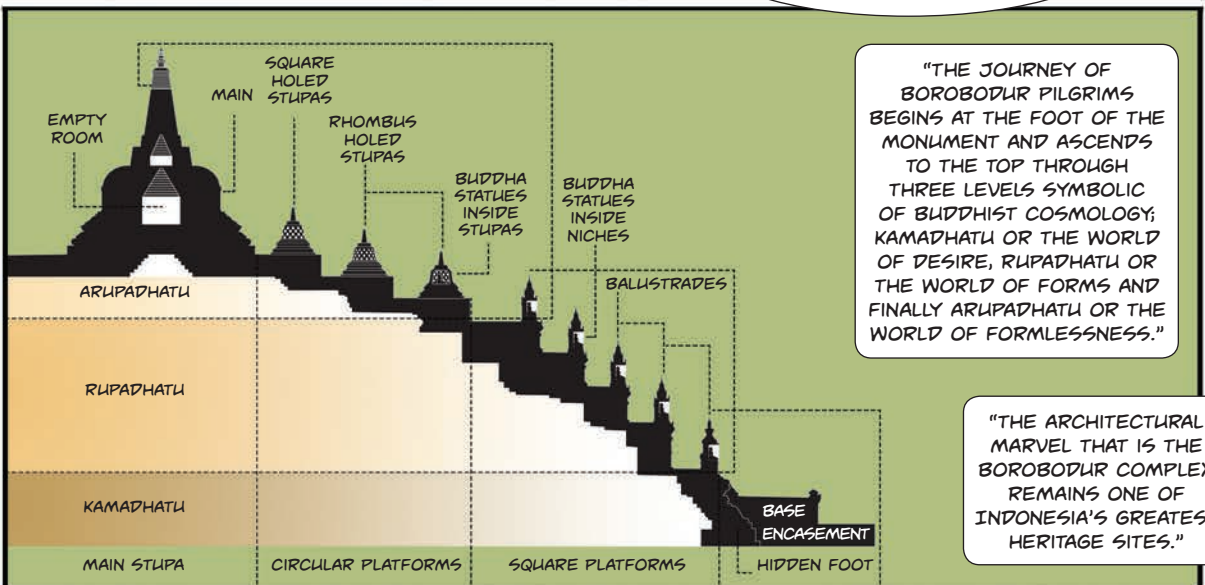




"HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE MORE CONCRETE HISTORICAL RECORDS OF WHAT FOLLOWS. BY THE EIGHTH CENTURY, CENTRAL JAVA WAS CONTROLLED BY THE BUDDHIST SAILENDRA DYNASTY."



THE SAILENDRAS ARE MOST REMEMBERED FOR THEIR BEAUTIFUL ARCHITECTURE, ESPECIALLY THE BOROBODUR TEMPLE COMPLEX.



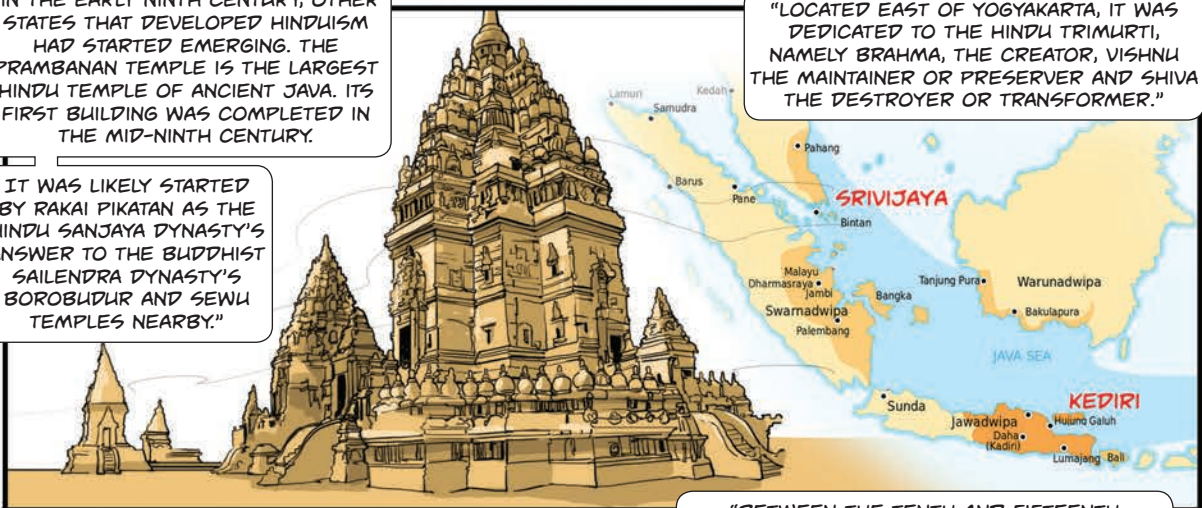
"THE JOURNEY OF BOROBODUR PILGRIMS BEGINS AT THE FOOT OF THE MONUMENT AND ASCENDS TO THE TOP THROUGH THREE LEVELS SYMBOLIC OF BUDDHIST COSMOLOGY; KAMADHATU OR THE WORLD OF DESIRE, RUPADHATU OR THE WORLD OF FORMS AND FINALLY ARUPADHATU OR THE WORLD OF FORMLESSNESS."

"THE ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL THAT IS THE BOROBODUR COMPLEX REMAINS ONE OF INDONESIA'S GREATEST HERITAGE SITES."

"IN THE EARLY NINTH CENTURY, OTHER STATES THAT DEVELOPED HINDUISM HAD STARTED EMERGING. THE PRAMBANAN TEMPLE IS THE LARGEST HINDU TEMPLE OF ANCIENT JAVA. ITS FIRST BUILDING WAS COMPLETED IN THE MID-NINTH CENTURY."

IT WAS LIKELY STARTED BY RAKAI PIKATAN AS THE HINDU SANJAYA DYNASTY'S ANSWER TO THE BUDDHIST SAILENDRA DYNASTY'S BOROBUDUR AND SEWU TEMPLES NEARBY."

"LOCATED EAST OF YOGYAKARTA, IT WAS DEDICATED TO THE HINDU TRIMURTI, NAMELY BRAHMA, THE CREATOR, VISHNU THE MAINTAINER OR PRESERVER AND SHIVA THE DESTROYER OR TRANSFORMER."



"BETWEEN THE TENTH AND FIFTEENTH CENTURIES, EASTERN JAVA WOULD WITNESS THE EMERGENCE OF MANY KINGDOMS TRYING TO RIVAL THE SRIVIJAYA EMPIRE. CHIEF AMONGST THESE WAS THE HINDU BUDDHIST KINGDOM OF MAJAPAHIT."

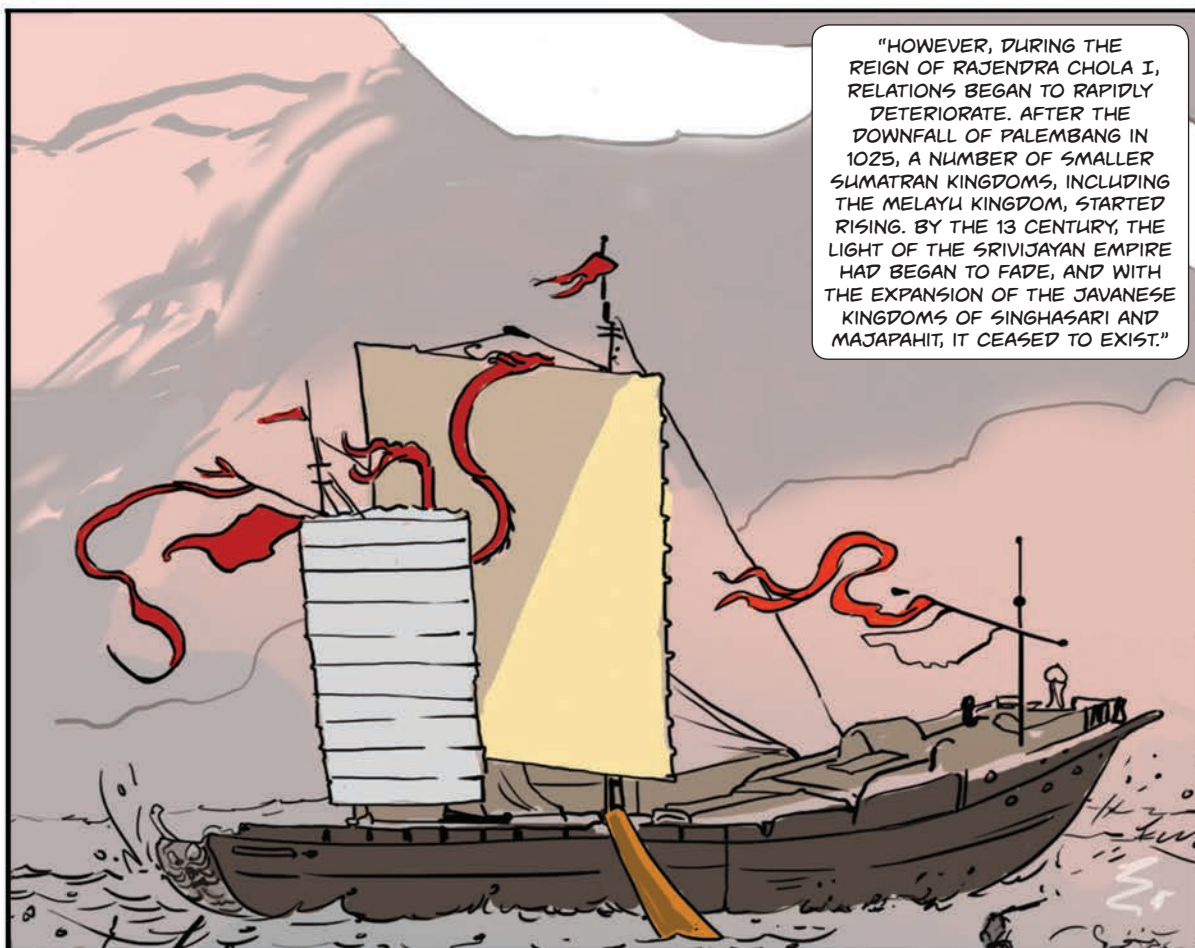
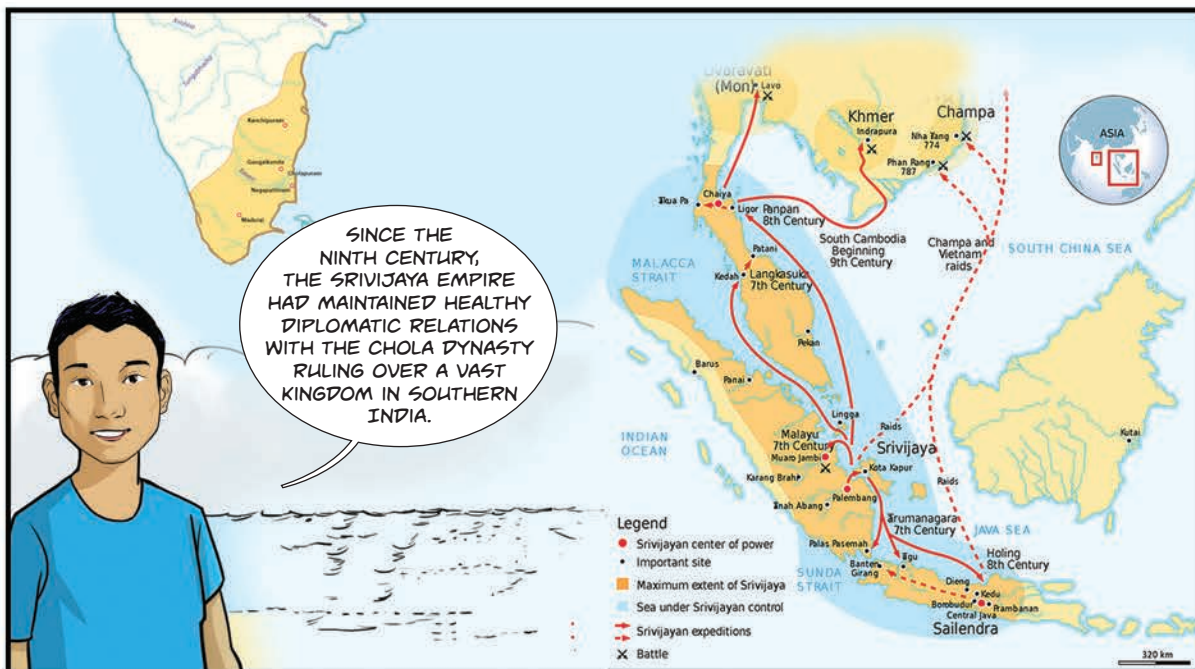
ONE OF THE KINGDOMS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE LATER KINGDOM OF MAJAPAHIT WAS THE KINGDOM OF KEDIRI WHOSE ECONOMY CENTERED AROUND AGRICULTURE AND THE SPICE TRADE. THEY COLLECTED SPICES FROM THEIR TRIBUTARIES IN KALIMANTAN AND THE MOLUCCAS WHICH WERE THEN TRANSPORTED TO THE MEDITERRANEAN BY INDIAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN MERCHANTS. KEDIRI WAS ALSO CLOSE TO INDIA CULTURALLY AS MANY OF ITS POETS AND SCHOLARS WROTE LITERARY WORKS INSPIRED BY HINDU MYTHOLOGY, BELIEFS AS WELL AS THE GREAT MAHABHARATA AND RAMAYANA EPICS.

ANOTHER GREAT TEMPLE COMPLEX BUILT IN THIS PERIOD OF INDONESIAN HISTORY WAS THE MUARA JAMBI COMPLEX. BUILT BETWEEN THE SEVENTH AND THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY ALONG THE BATANG HARI RIVER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT CONSTRUCTION WAS BEGUN BY THE SRIVIJAYA EMPIRE AND FINISHED BY THE MELAYU KINGDOM. AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST TEMPLE COMPLEXES THAT HAVE STILL REMAINED IN USE, IT IS RUMOURED TO HAVE SERVED AS THE CAPITAL OF THE MELAYU KINGDOM IN JAMBI.

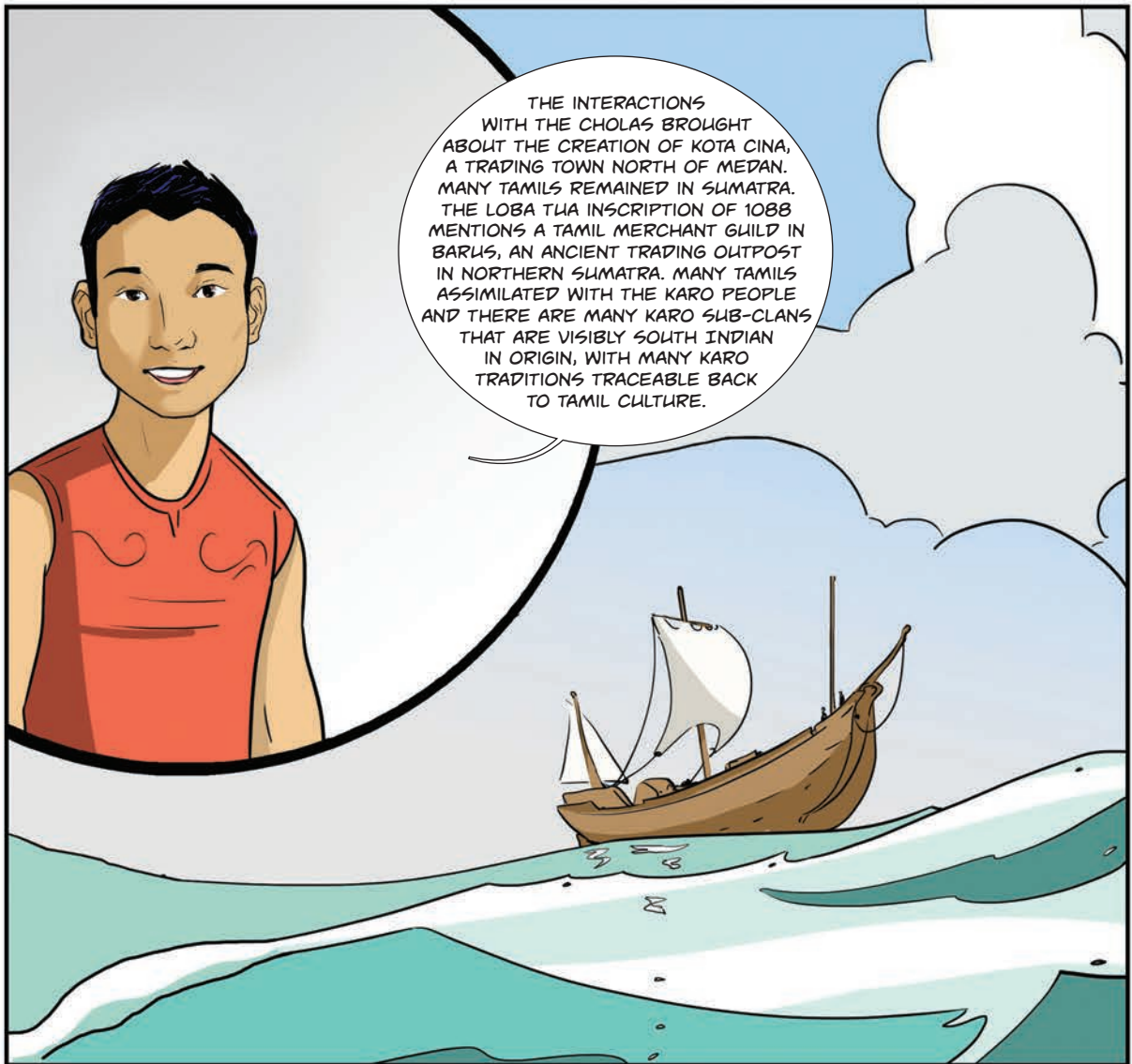
"THE SRIVIJAYA EMPIRE HAD STRONG CONNECTIONS WITH THE PALA EMPIRE OF BENAL, AND THE MUARA JAMBI TEMPLE WAS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NALANDA, ONE OF INDIA'S OLDEST BUDDHIST SCHOOLS OF HIGHER KNOWLEDGE. THERE EXISTS A COPPER PLATE INSCRIPTION FROM NALANDA THAT HIGHLIGHTS KING DEVAPALA OF THE PALA EMPIRE BUILDING A BUDDHIST MONASTERY AND GRANTING VILLAGES ON BEHALF OF MAHARAJA BALAPUTRADEVA OF SRIVIJAYA. THE INSCRIPTION IS CURRENTLY HOUSED AT THE INDIAN MUSEUM IN KOLKATA."



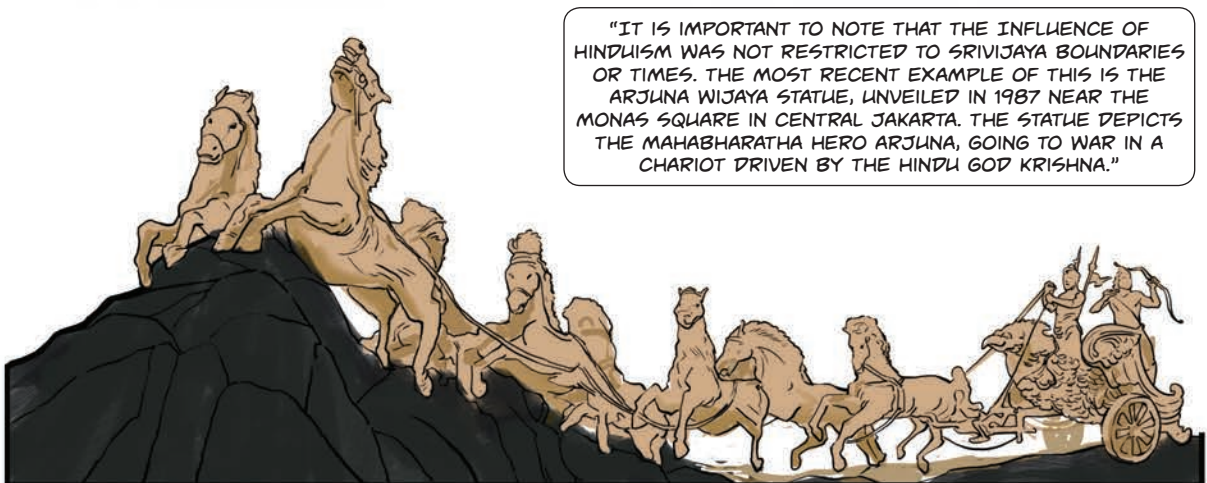






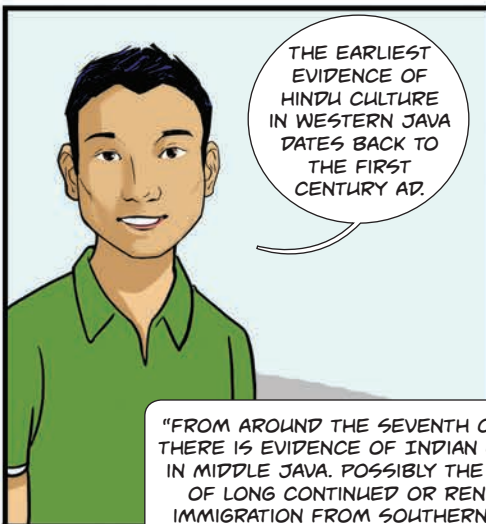


THE INTERACTIONS WITH THE CHOLAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE CREATION OF KOTA CINA, A TRADING TOWN NORTH OF MEDAN. MANY TAMILS REMAINED IN SUMATRA. THE LOBA TUA INSCRIPTION OF 1088 MENTIONS A TAMIL MERCHANT GUILD IN BARUS, AN ANCIENT TRADING OUTPOST IN NORTHERN SUMATRA. MANY TAMILS ASSIMILATED WITH THE KARO PEOPLE AND THERE ARE MANY KARO SUB-CLANS THAT ARE VISIBLY SOUTH INDIAN IN ORIGIN, WITH MANY KARO TRADITIONS TRACEABLE BACK TO TAMIL CULTURE.



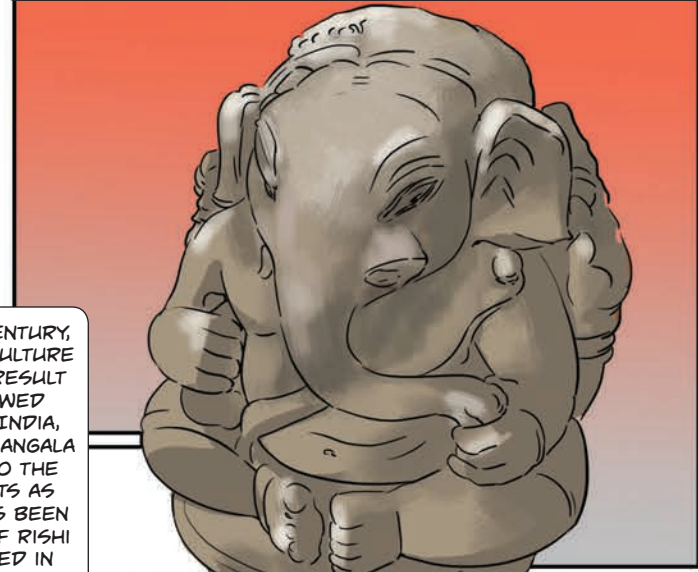
"IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE INFLUENCE OF HINDUISM WAS NOT RESTRICTED TO SRIVIJAYA BOUNDARIES OR TIMES. THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE ARJUNA WIJAYA STATUE, UNVEILED IN 1987 NEAR THE MONAS SQUARE IN CENTRAL JAKARTA. THE STATUE DEPICTS THE MAHABHARATHA HERO ARJUNA, GOING TO WAR IN A CHARIOT DRIVEN BY THE HINDU GOD KRISHNA."

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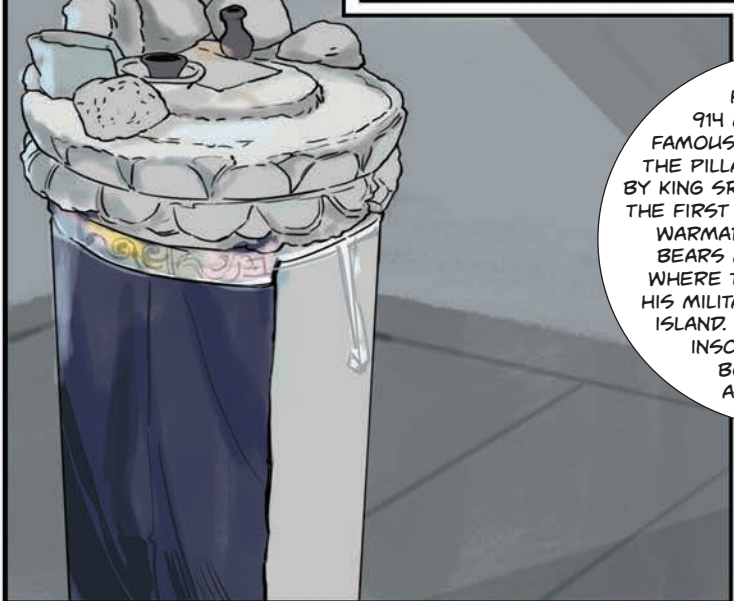
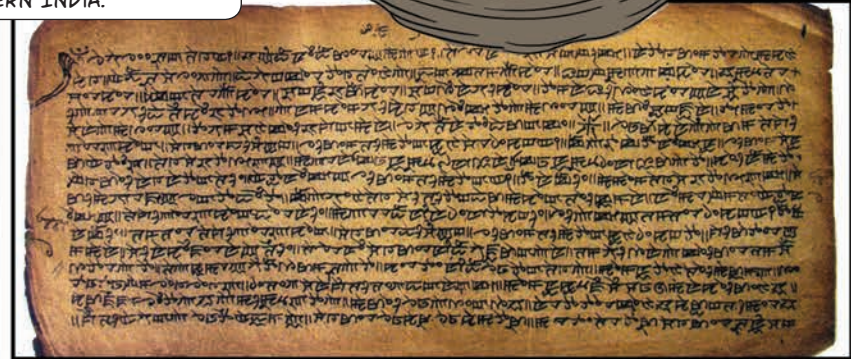


THE EARLIEST EVIDENCE OF HINDU CULTURE IN WESTERN JAVA DATES BACK TO THE FIRST CENTURY AD.

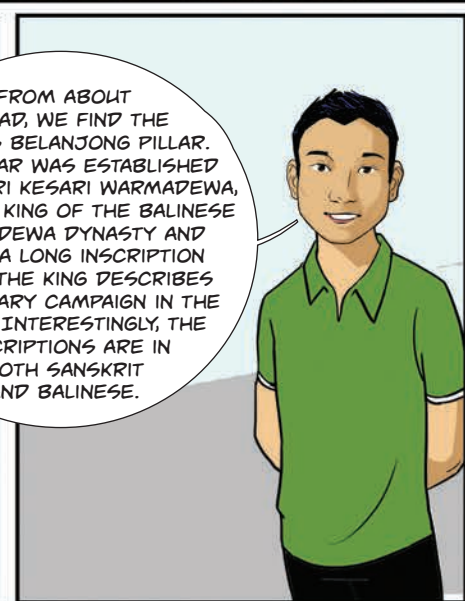
"IN TODAY'S UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK, STANDS A RELIC OF A GANESHA STATUE ON MOUNT RAKSA. BETWEEN THE FIRST CENTURY AD TILL ABOUT THE SIXTH CENTURY, THIS REGION WAS RULED BY INDIANS, TILL POWER CHANGED HANDS TO SUMATRAN RULERS."



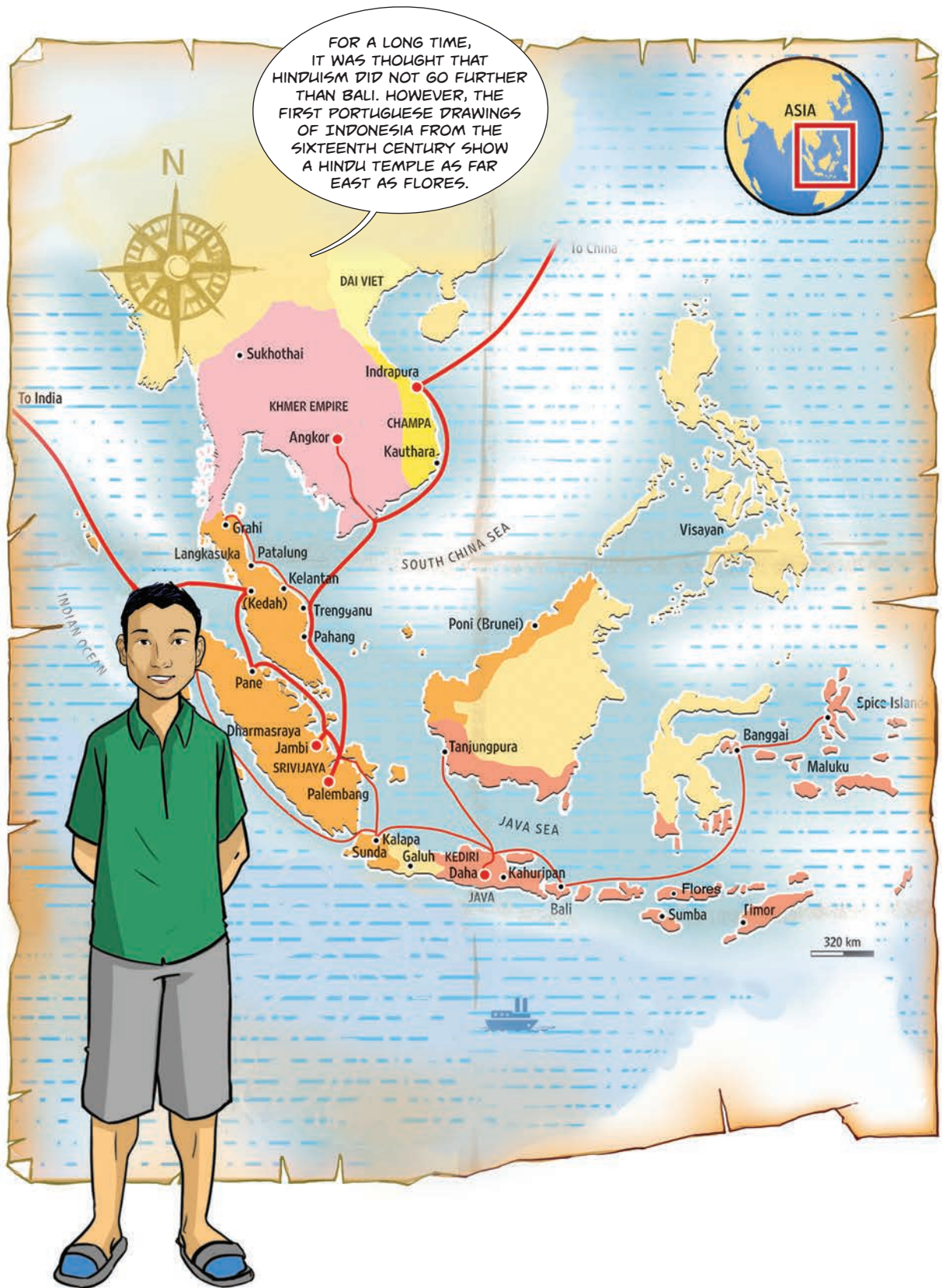
"FROM AROUND THE SEVENTH CENTURY, THERE IS EVIDENCE OF INDIAN CULTURE IN MIDDLE JAVA. POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF LONG CONTINUED OR RENEWED IMMIGRATION FROM SOUTHERN INDIA, THE OLDEST INSCRIPTION IS OF CANGALA IN KEDU (732 AD). IT REFERS TO THE HOME OF THE HINDU IMMIGRANTS AS KUNJARAKUNJA-DESA WHICH HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE HERMITAGE OF RISHI AGASTYA, A HINDU SAGE REVERED IN SOUTHERN INDIA."



FROM ABOUT 914 AD, WE FIND THE FAMOUS BELANJONG PILLAR. THE PILLAR WAS ESTABLISHED BY KING SRI KESARI WARMADDEWA, THE FIRST KING OF THE BALINESE WARMADDEWA DYNASTY AND BEARS A LONG INSCRIPTION WHERE THE KING DESCRIBES HIS MILITARY CAMPAIGN IN THE ISLAND. INTERESTINGLY, THE INSCRIPTIONS ARE IN BOTH SANSKRIT AND BALINESE.

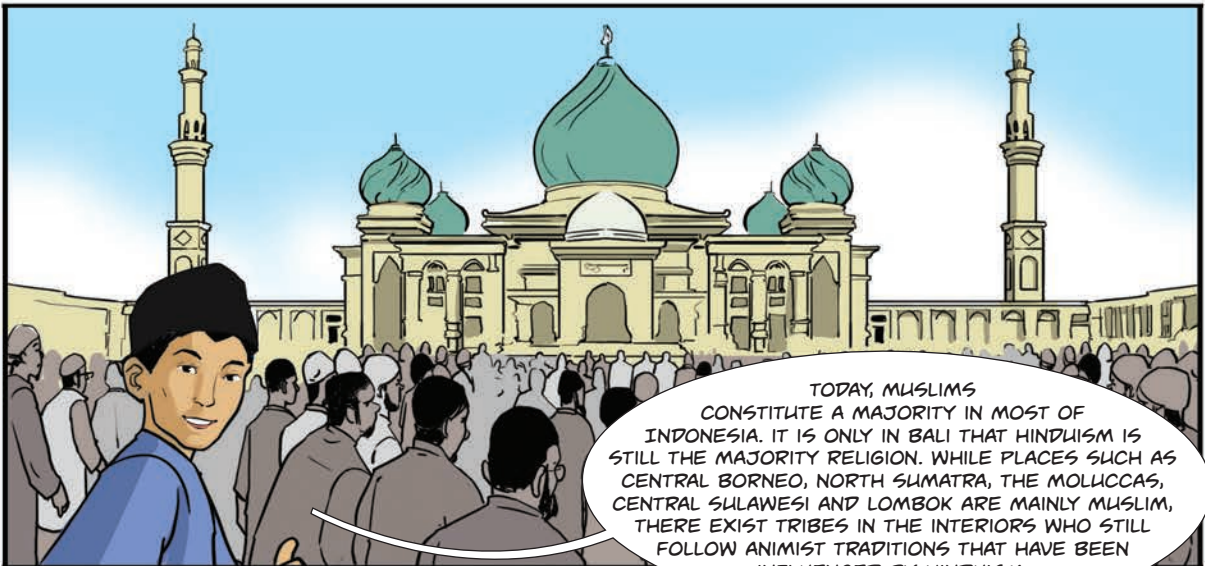






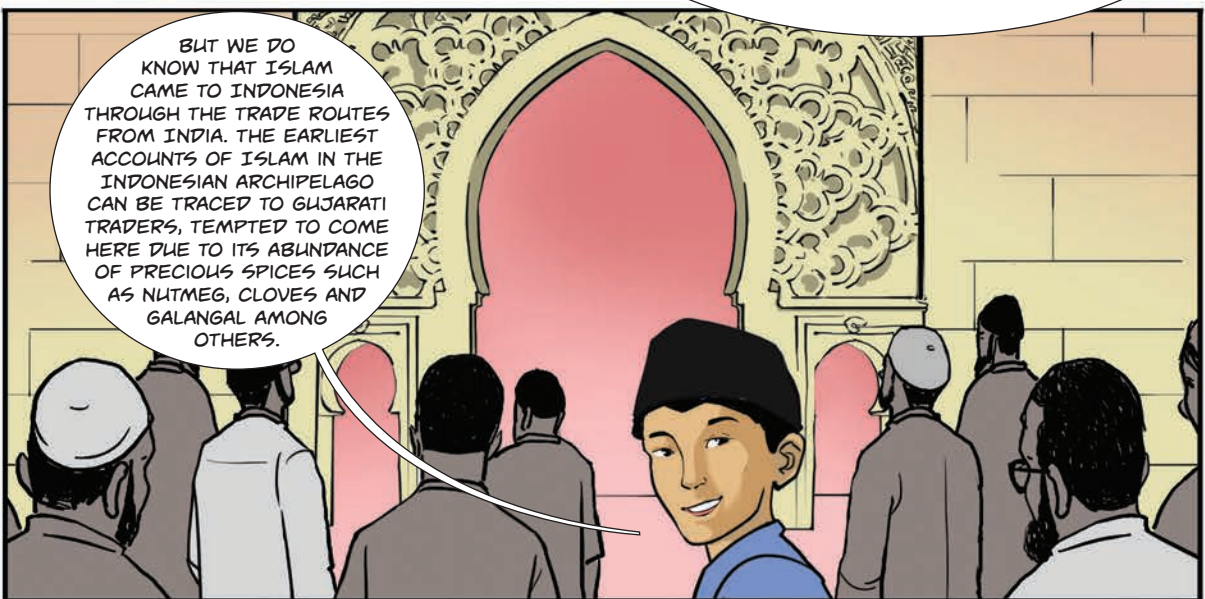
LET US NOW  
LOOK AT ANOTHER  
EPOCH-MAKING JOURNEY.  
A RELIGION THAT FIRST  
TRAVELLED FROM THE  
COAST OF GUJARAT  
IN INDIA...

...TO THE SHORES  
OF INDONESIA. I SPEAK  
OF ISLAM, INDONESIA'S  
MOST DOMINANT  
RELIGION.

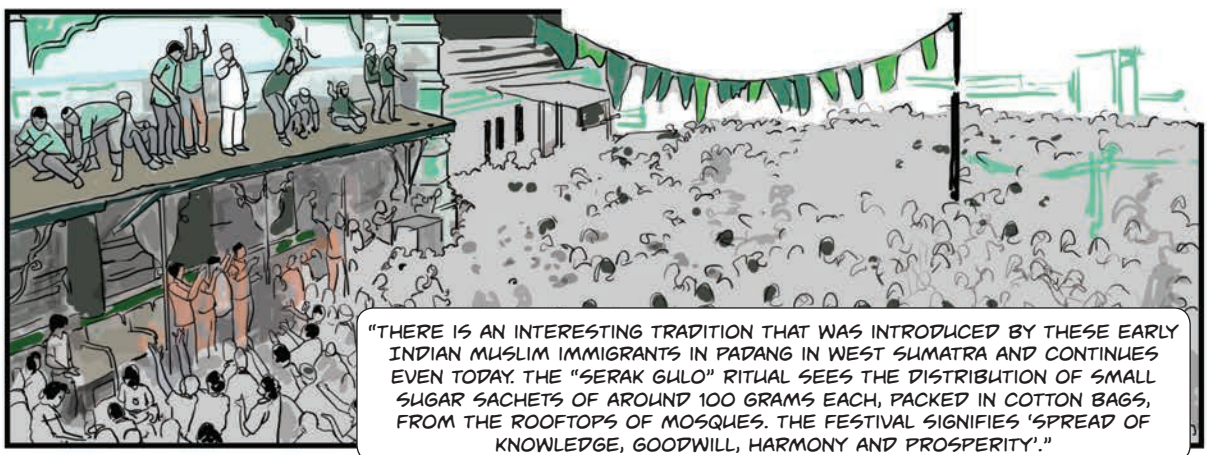


TODAY, MUSLIMS  
CONSTITUTE A MAJORITY IN MOST OF  
INDONESIA. IT IS ONLY IN BALI THAT HINDUISM IS  
STILL THE MAJORITY RELIGION. WHILE PLACES SUCH AS  
CENTRAL BORNEO, NORTH SUMATRA, THE MOLUCCAS,  
CENTRAL SULAWESI AND LOMBOK ARE MAINLY MUSLIM,  
THERE EXIST TRIBES IN THE INTERIORS WHO STILL  
FOLLOW ANIMIST TRADITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN  
INFLUENCED BY HINDUISM.

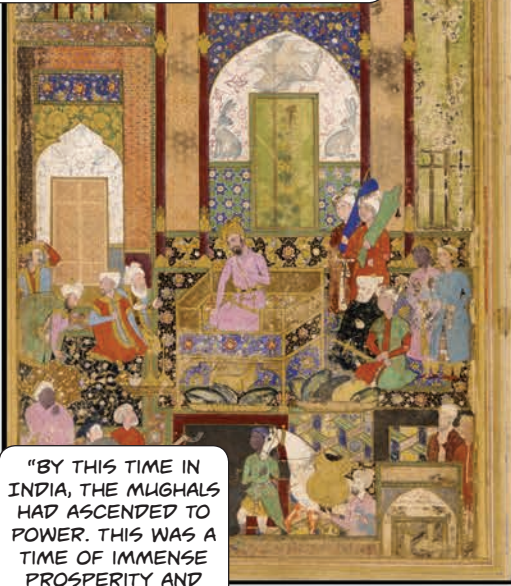
BUT WE DO  
KNOW THAT ISLAM  
CAME TO INDONESIA  
THROUGH THE TRADE ROUTES  
FROM INDIA. THE EARLIEST  
ACCOUNTS OF ISLAM IN THE  
INDONESIAN ARCHIPELAGO  
CAN BE TRACED TO GUJARATI  
TRADERS, TEMPTED TO COME  
HERE DUE TO ITS ABUNDANCE  
OF PRECIOUS SPICES SUCH  
AS NUTMEG, CLOVES AND  
GALANGAL AMONG  
OTHERS.



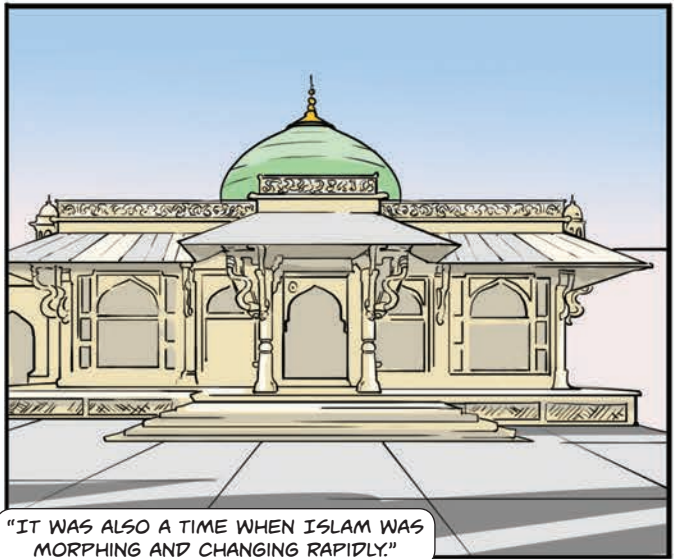




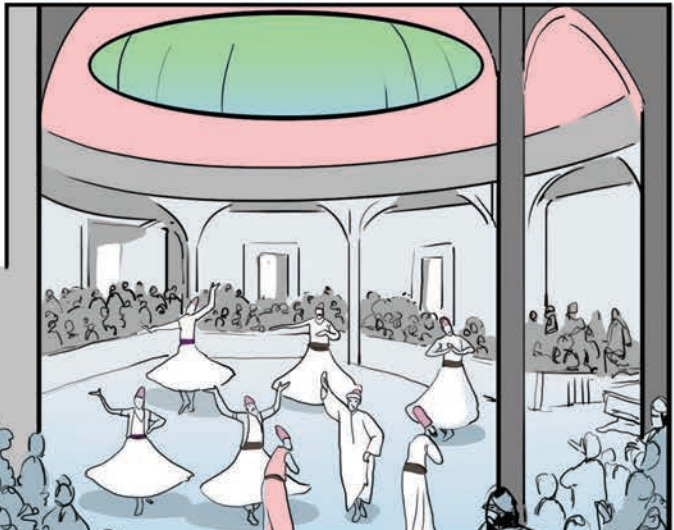
"BY THE END OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTURY, ISLAM HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN NORTHERN SUMATRA AND, BY THE FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH CENTURIES, AMONG SOME COURTS OF COASTAL EAST AND CENTRAL JAVA. BY THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, THE FOLLOWERS OF HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM WERE CONTINUING TO DEVELOP THEIR CULTURES IN BALI."



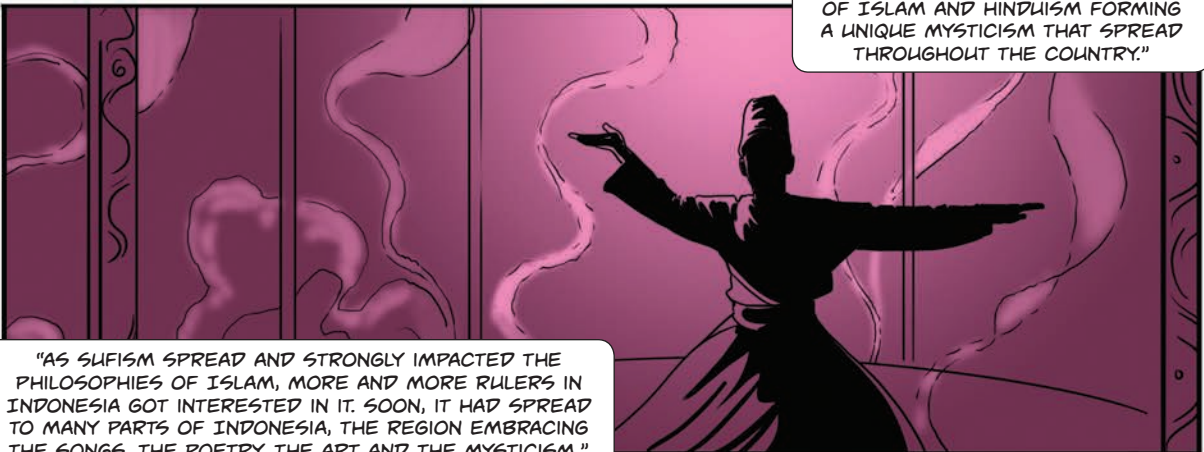
"BY THIS TIME IN INDIA, THE MUGHALS HAD ASCENDED TO POWER. THIS WAS A TIME OF IMMENSE PROSPERITY AND HIGH TRADE ACROSS THE WORLD."



"IT WAS ALSO A TIME WHEN ISLAM WAS MORPHING AND CHANGING RAPIDLY."



"SUFI TRADITIONS HAD STARTED TO FORM ALL OVER INDIA A FASCINATING TRADITION THAT MIXED ELEMENTS OF ISLAM AND HINDUISM FORMING A UNIQUE MYSTICISM THAT SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY."



"AS SUFISM SPREAD AND STRONGLY IMPACTED THE PHILOSOPHIES OF ISLAM, MORE AND MORE RULERS IN INDONESIA GOT INTERESTED IN IT. SOON, IT HAD SPREAD TO MANY PARTS OF INDONESIA, THE REGION EMBRACING THE SONGS, THE POETRY, THE ART AND THE MYSTICISM."





THIS IS THE KUDUS MOSQUE, ONE OF THE OLDEST MUSLIM MONUMENTS IN INDONESIA.

WHAT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IS THE USE OF OLDER INDONESIAN ARCHITECTURE FUSED WITH ISLAMIC TRADITIONS – ONLY AS FAR AS THE FAITH DEMANDED. THIS CAN BE SEEN IN GUJARAT'S ISLAMIC TRADITIONS AS WELL.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT, WHILE POPULATED BY THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD, THE INDONESIAN CONSTITUTION PROVIDES "ALL PERSONS THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN RELIGION OR BELIEF". THIS IS ANOTHER THING WE HAVE IN COMMON WITH INDIA!

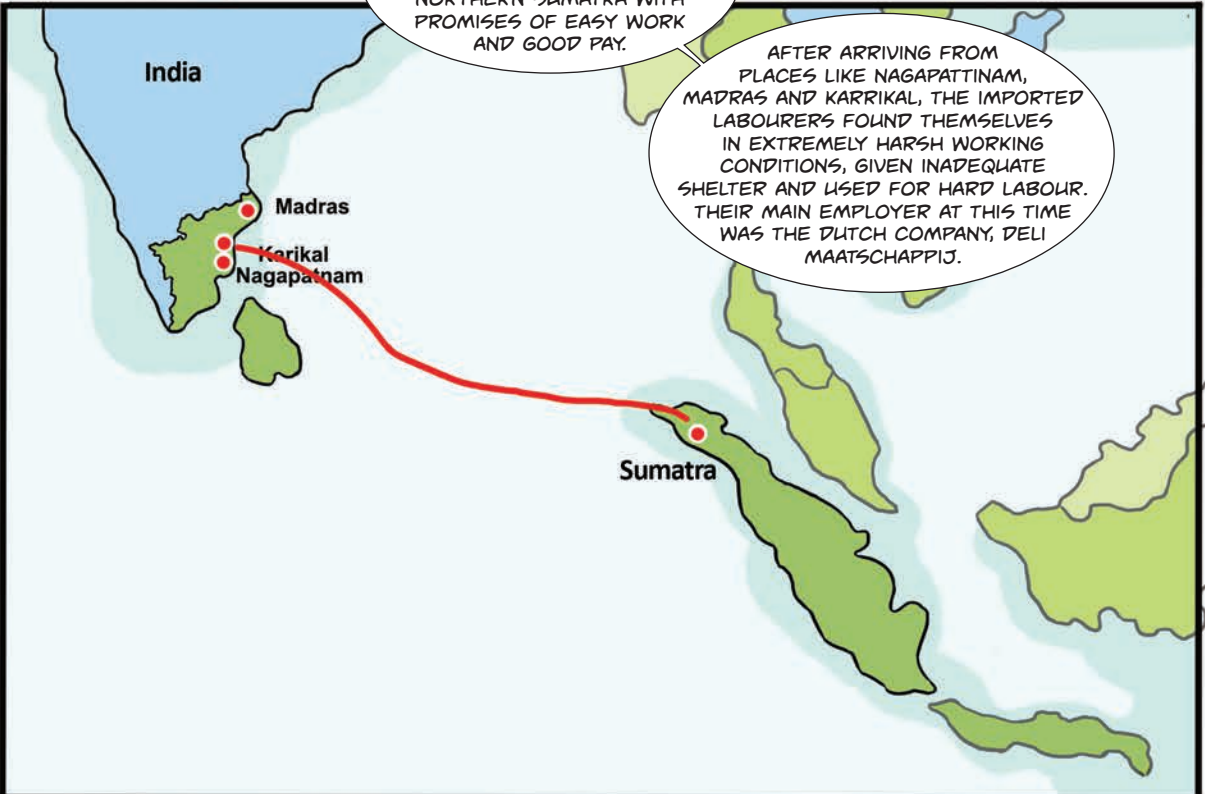
**AD**



"LET'S CUT FORWARD TO THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY ..."



IN THE 1870S, THE DUTCH BEGAN BRINGING TAMIL LABOURERS TO THEIR TOBACCO PLANTATIONS IN NORTHERN SUMATRA WITH PROMISES OF EASY WORK AND GOOD PAY.



AFTER ARRIVING FROM PLACES LIKE NAGAPATTINAM, MADRAS AND KARRIKAL, THE IMPORTED LABOURERS FOUND THEMSELVES IN EXTREMELY HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS, GIVEN INADEQUATE SHELTER AND USED FOR HARD LABOUR. THEIR MAIN EMPLOYER AT THIS TIME WAS THE DUTCH COMPANY, DELI MAATSCHAPPIJ.





OVER THE YEARS, A LOT OF THESE WORKERS MANAGED TO GET BACK TO INDIA AFTER THEIR CONTRACTS EXPIRED. LATER, THE DUTCH SUMATRAN PLANTERS BEGAN USING JAVANESE INDENTURED LABOURERS AND STOPPED IMPORTING FOREIGN LABOUR.



DURING THE SAME TIME, EAST SUMATRA SAW A HEAVY INFLUX OF SIKHS AND BENGALI MUSLIMS, MOSTLY AS TRADERS AND GUARDS. BY THE END OF THE 1940S, BETWEEN 5000 TO 10,000 TAMILS HAD MADE TANAH DELI (SUMATRA) THEIR PERMANENT HOME, STAYING AROUND MEDAN, LUBUK PAKAM, TEBING TINGGI AND BINJAI WHILE MORE THAN 5000 PUNJABI SIKHS WERE INVOLVED IN MILK PRODUCTION IN SUMATRA.



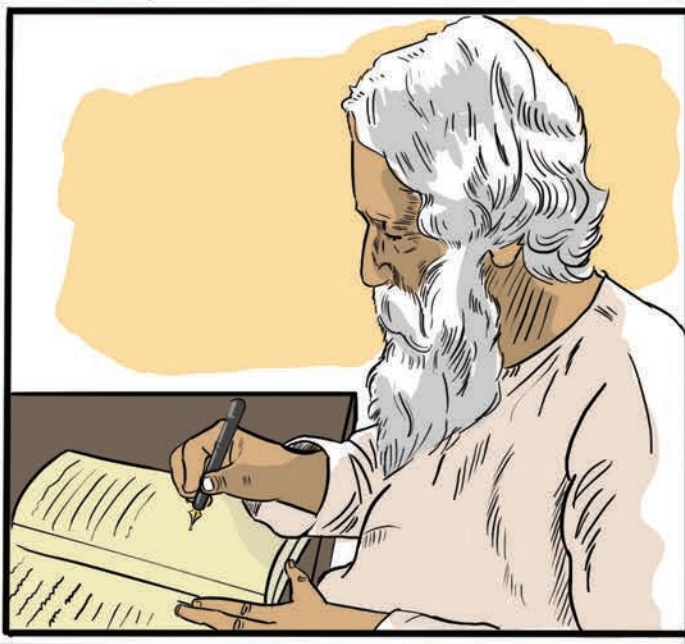


"REMEMBER THE QUOTE ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THIS BOOK?"

"THAT WAS FROM THE LEGENDARY BENGALI WRITER AND POET, NOBEL LAUREATE RABINDRANATH TAGORE."



"1927 SAW THE BEGINNING OF HIS LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE INDONESIAN ISLANDS."



IT WAS IN AUGUST THAT YEAR THAT TAGORE FIRST VISITED INDONESIA, LANDING IN BATAVIA. IT WAS HERE THAT HE PENNED HIS ODE TO THE ISLAND NATION, ENTITLED 'TO JAVA'. IT COMMEMORATED THE GOLDEN KINSHIP OF INDIA AND INDONESIA, ENDING WITH A CALL TO REVIVE THIS RELATIONSHIP OF SHARING AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

"TAGORE'S JOURNEY WAS PART OF HIS ONGOING DISCOVERY OF AN ASIAN IDENTITY THAT STEMMED FROM BELONGING TO A COMMON CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION."

"IN THE PROCESS, THE CULTURAL ICON DISCOVERED MANY ART FORMS, LIKE BATIK MAKING AND JAVANESE DANCE, THAT HE BROUGHT BACK AND INCORPORATED INTO HIS SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM AT VISHWA BHARATHI UNIVERSITY."

"ELEMENTS FROM THE TRADITIONAL JAVANESE DANCE-DRAMA ARTFORM HAVE A HUGE ROLE TO PLAY IN MODERNIZING INDIAN DANCE FORMS."





"DURING THE SAME TRIP TAGORE VISITED KI HADJWAR DEWANTARA'S TAMAN SISWA SCHOOL WHERE HIS HOST HUNG HIS PORTRAIT IN THE MAIN FOYER OR PENDOPO. TAGORE AND DEWANTARA ARE BOTH CONSIDERED THE FATHERS OF MODERN EDUCATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND BOTH PROMOTED EDUCATION AS THE PRIMARY INSTRUMENT TO OBTAINING INDEPENDENCE FROM COLONIAL FORCES."

"TAGORE'S VISWA BHARATI UNIVERSITY AT SHANTINIKETAN IN BOLPOUR AND DEWANTORO'S TAMAN SISWA SCHOOLS ACTED LIKE SISTER SCHOOLS, FACILITATING EXCHANGE PROGRAMS. IN FACT, TAGORE ESTABLISHED A DEDICATED CENTER TO STUDY JAVANESE CULTURE AT SHANTINIKETAN, POST HIS VISIT."

"TAGORE'S VISIT WAS RECIPROCATED BY DEWANTARA IN 1932 WHEN HE VISITED SHANTINIKETAN ALONG WITH FAMOUS INDONESIAN PAINTER, AFFANDI, AND DR. IGA BAGUS MANTRA. TODAY, IF YOU VISIT THE BOROBUDUR MUSEUM, YOU WILL SEE THE BUST OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE, INSTALLED HERE TO MARK HIS 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY."



"AROUND WORLD WAR II (1939 - 1945), THE ALLIES DECIDED TO RESTRICT SUMATRAN PLANTATIONS FROM EXPORTING THEIR COMMODITIES TO JAPAN, REROUTING THEM TO THE USA AND BRITAIN. RETALIATION CAME IN THE FORM OF THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF INDONESIA IN 1942. "



ON ONE HAND, THIS HELPED THE NATIONALIST CAUSE OF INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE FROM THE DUTCH, BUT ON THE OTHER, IT MEANT HARDSHIPS FOR THE LOCALS AT THE HANDS OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS.



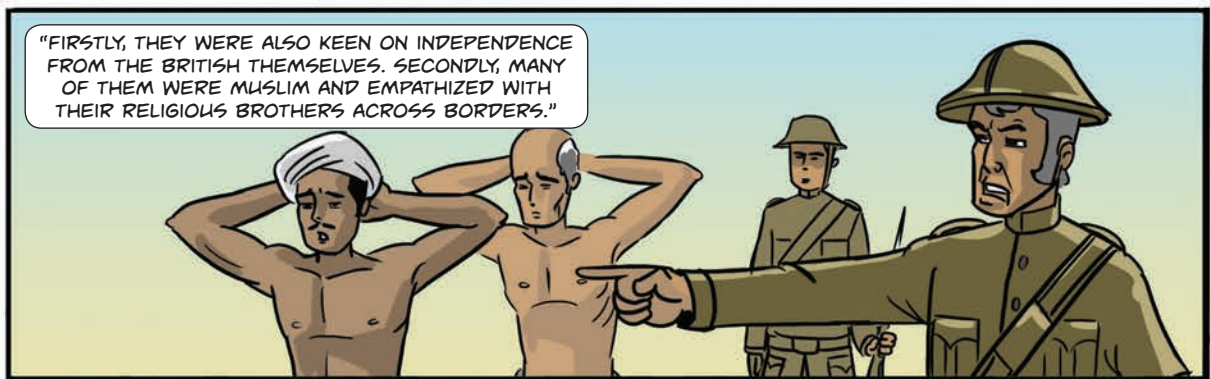
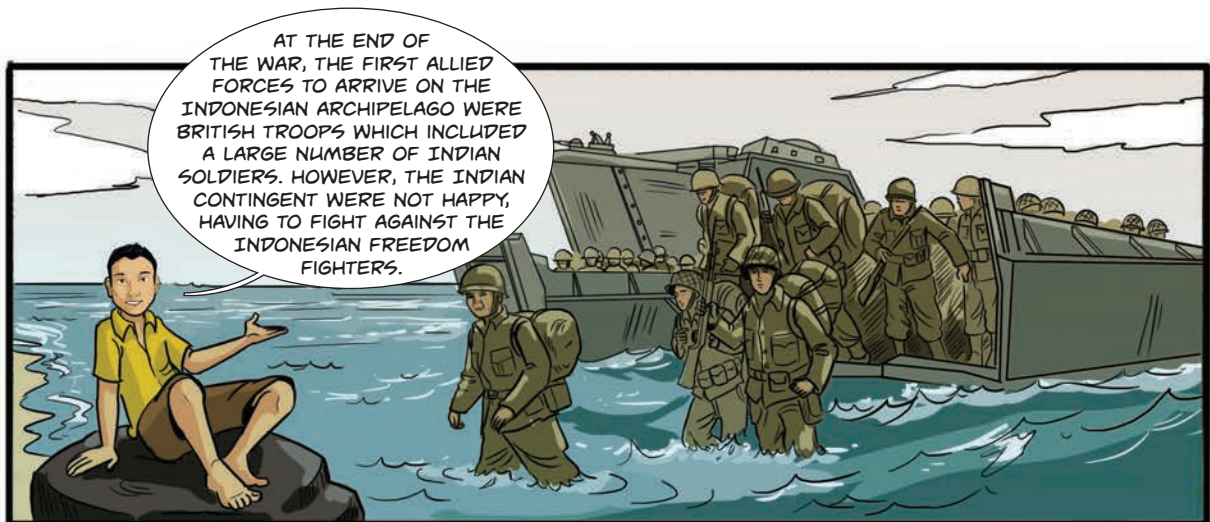


"AROUND THIS TIME, SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE'S INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY BEGAN GAINING MOMENTUM ON AN INTERNATIONAL SCALE, BACKED BY THE JAPANESE."



"MANY INDIANS FROM MEDAN AND EAST SUMATRA SIGNED UP AND WERE SENT TO THE ASSAM-BURMA FRONT IN INDIA. THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED."

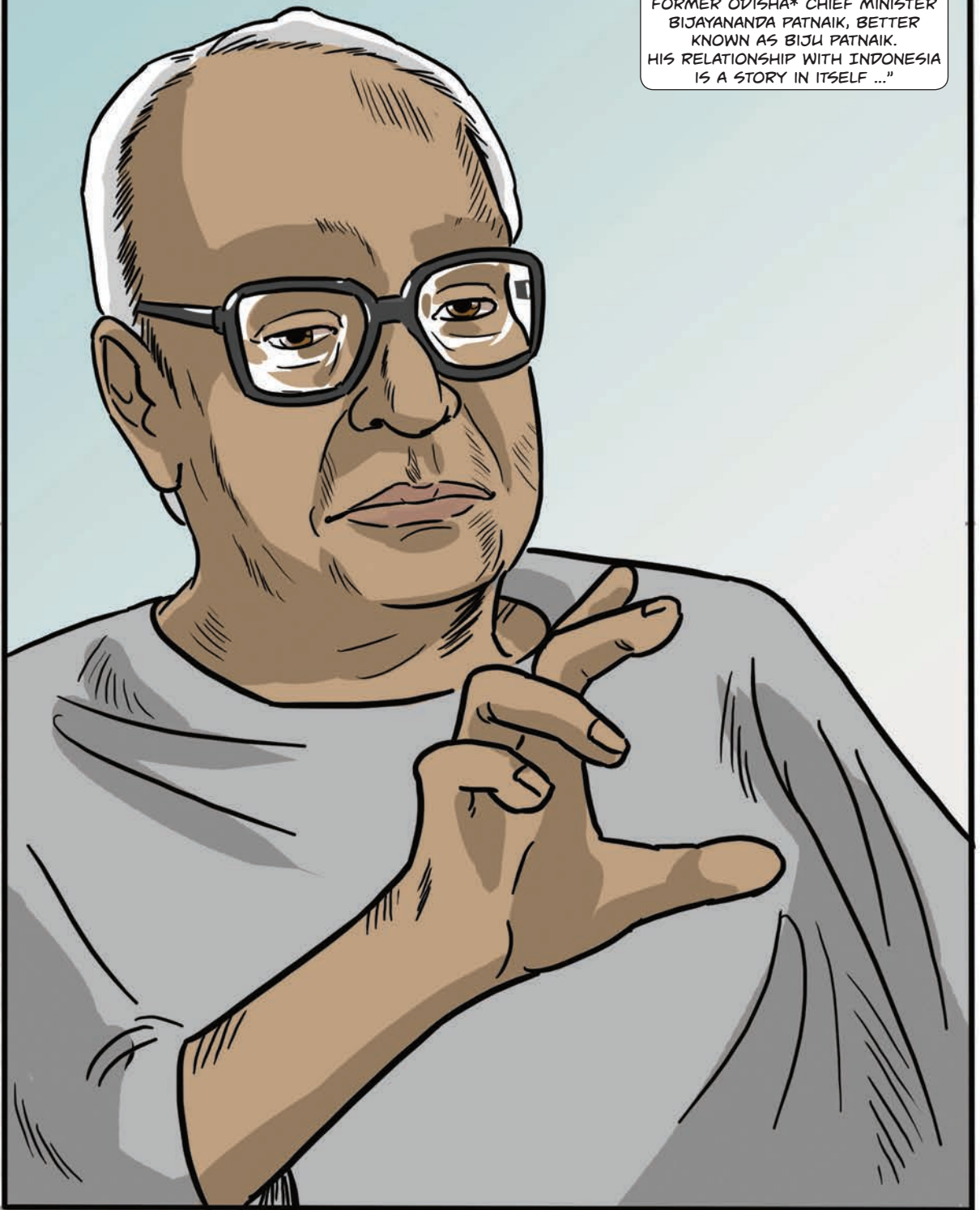






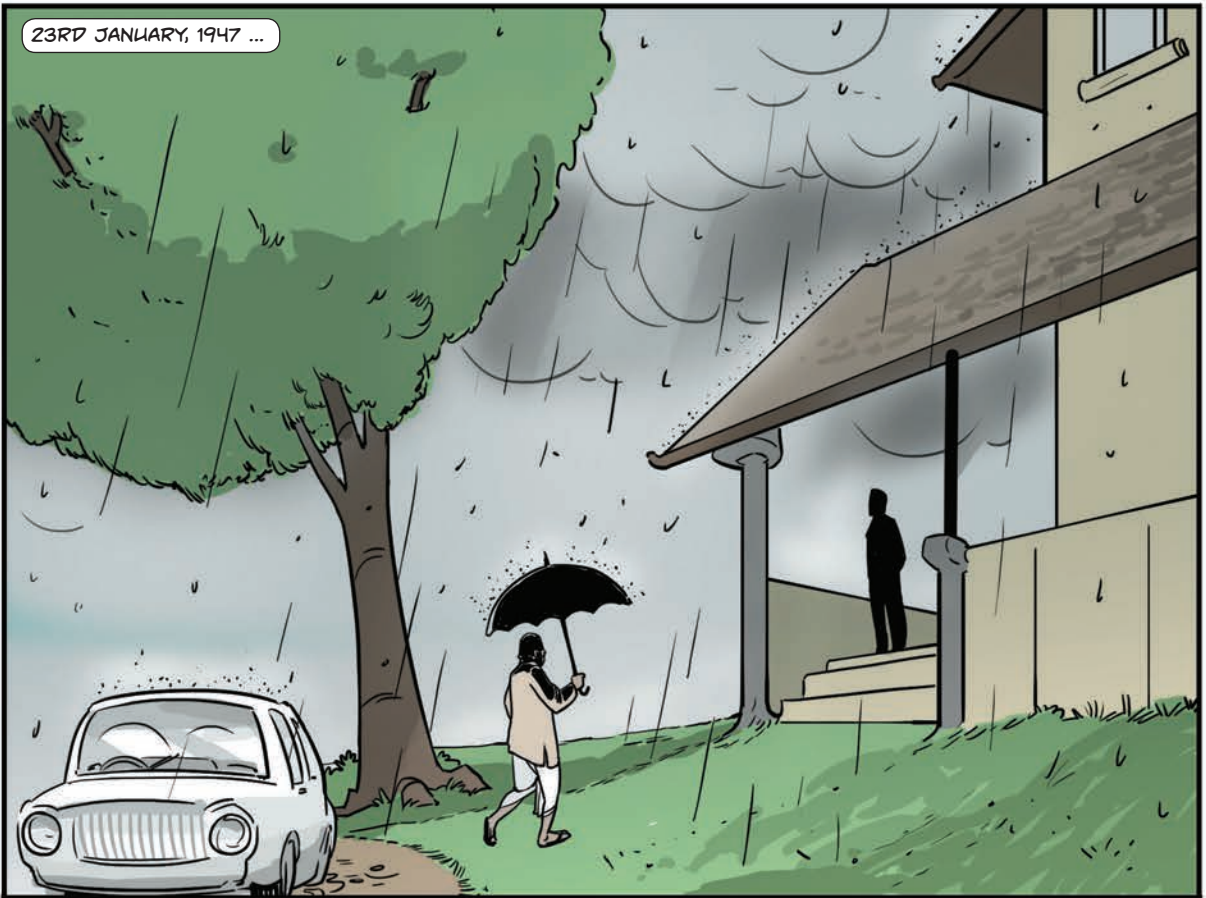
**AD**

"THERE WAS ANOTHER INDIAN  
FIGURE WHO PLAYED A KEY ROLE  
IN HELPING SUKARNO ACHIEVE  
INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE -  
FORMER ODISHA\* CHIEF MINISTER  
BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK, BETTER  
KNOWN AS BIJU PATNAIK.  
HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA  
IS A STORY IN ITSELF ..."





23RD JANUARY, 1947 ...



YOU'RE A FATHER,  
BUNG\* KARNO!  
CONGRATULATIONS!

YOUR TIMING  
COULD NOT HAVE  
BEEN MORE  
AUSPICIOUS,  
MR. PATNAIK.

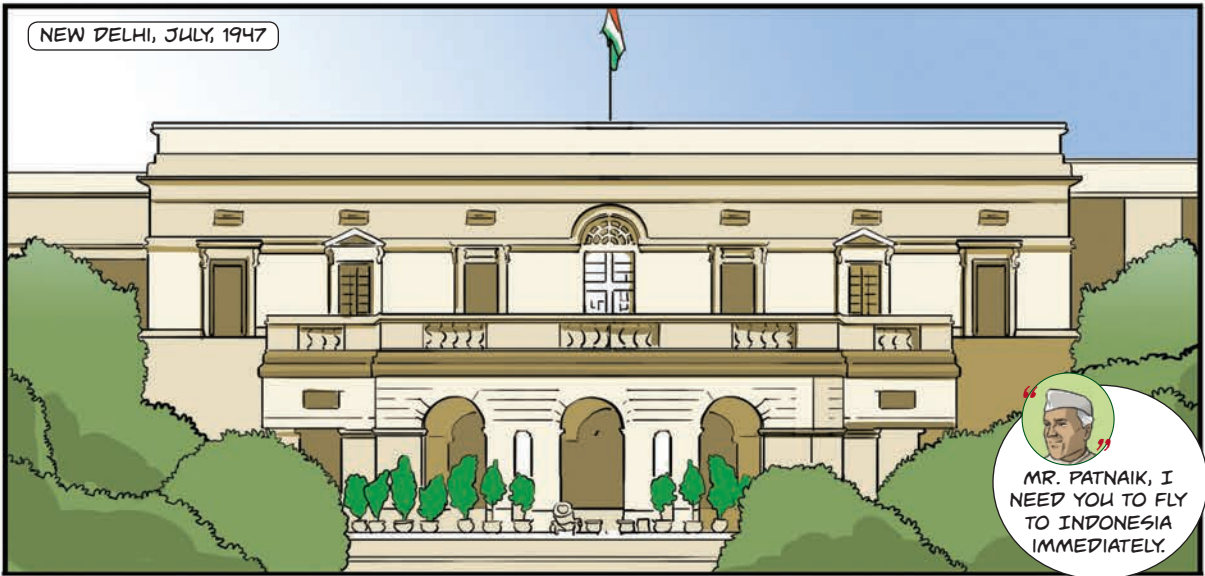
\*BROTHER



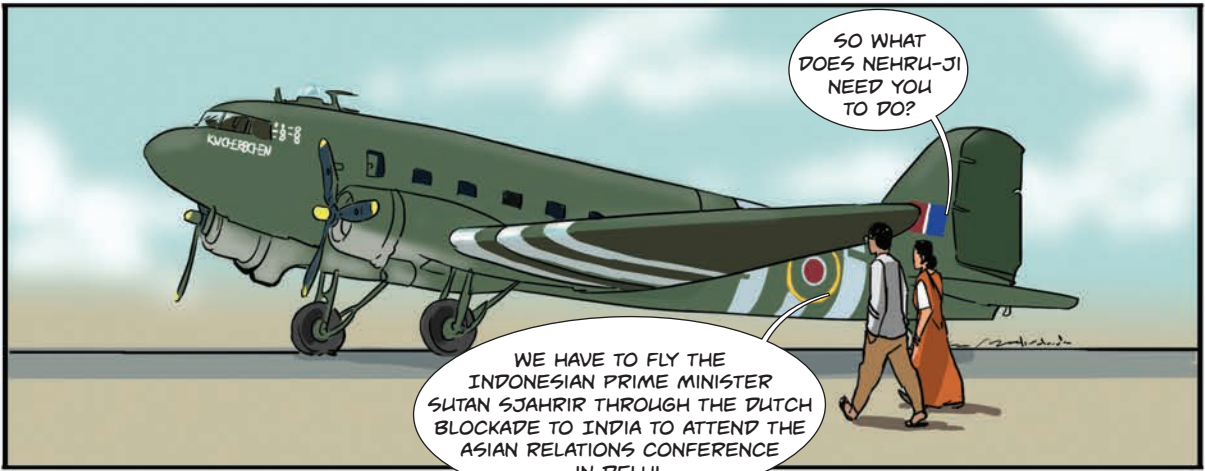
\*ORIGINALLY, THE NAME GIVEN WAS THE ORIGINAL PRONUNCIATION. THIS WAS LATER CHANGED TO 'MEGAWATI'.



NEW DELHI, JULY, 1947



MR. PATNAIK, I  
NEED YOU TO FLY  
TO INDONESIA  
IMMEDIATELY.



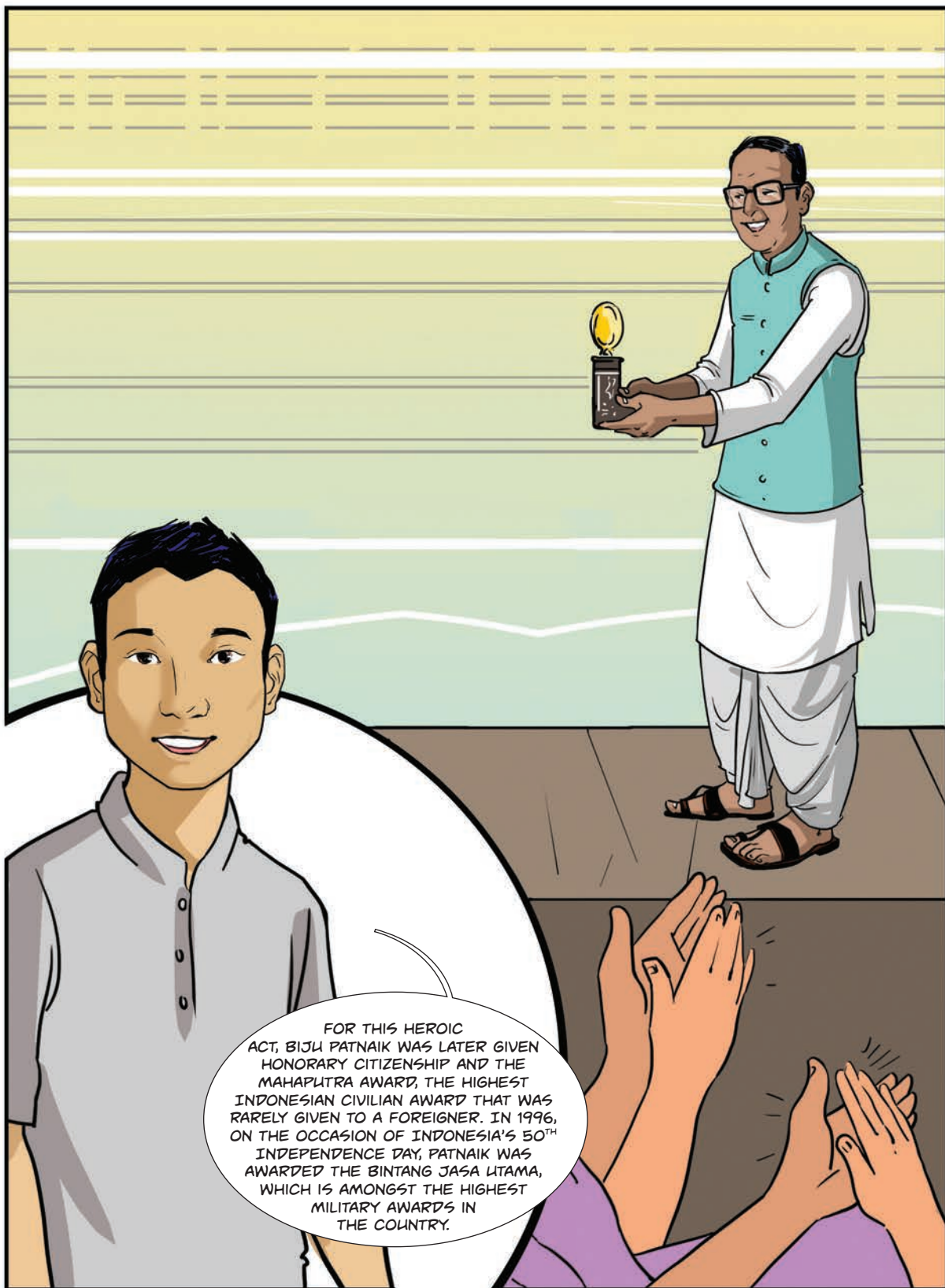
SO WHAT  
DOES NEHRU-JI  
NEED YOU  
TO DO?

WE HAVE TO FLY THE  
INDONESIAN PRIME MINISTER  
SUTAN SJAHRIR THROUGH THE DUTCH  
BLOCKADE TO INDIA TO ATTEND THE  
ASIAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE  
IN DELHI.

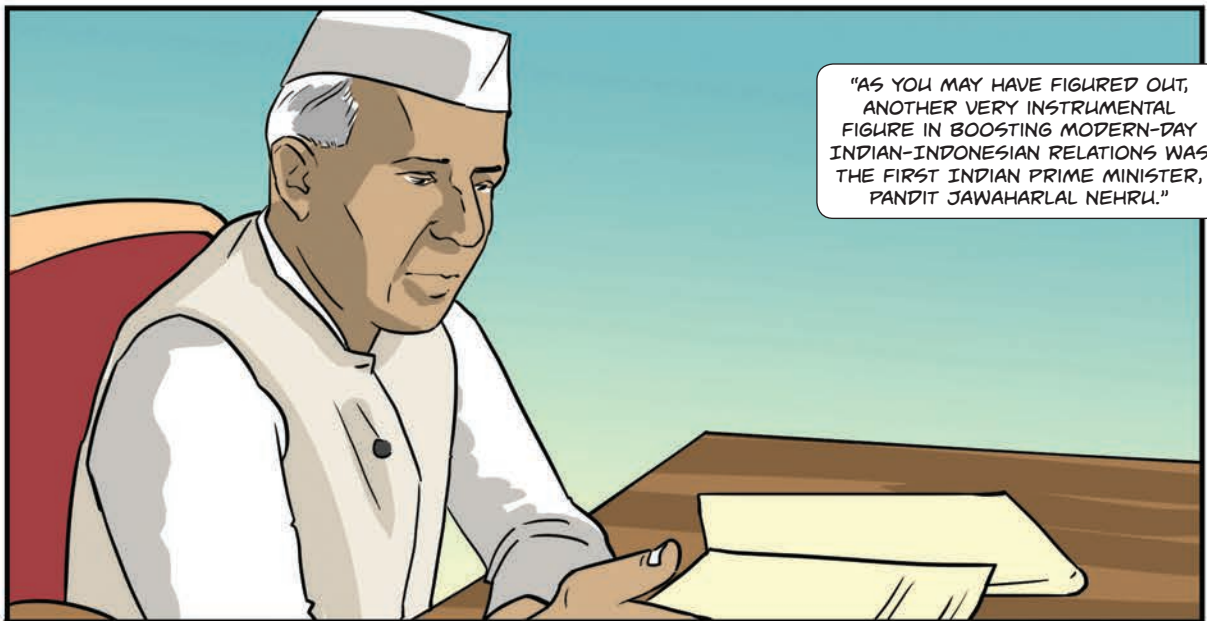
LATER...



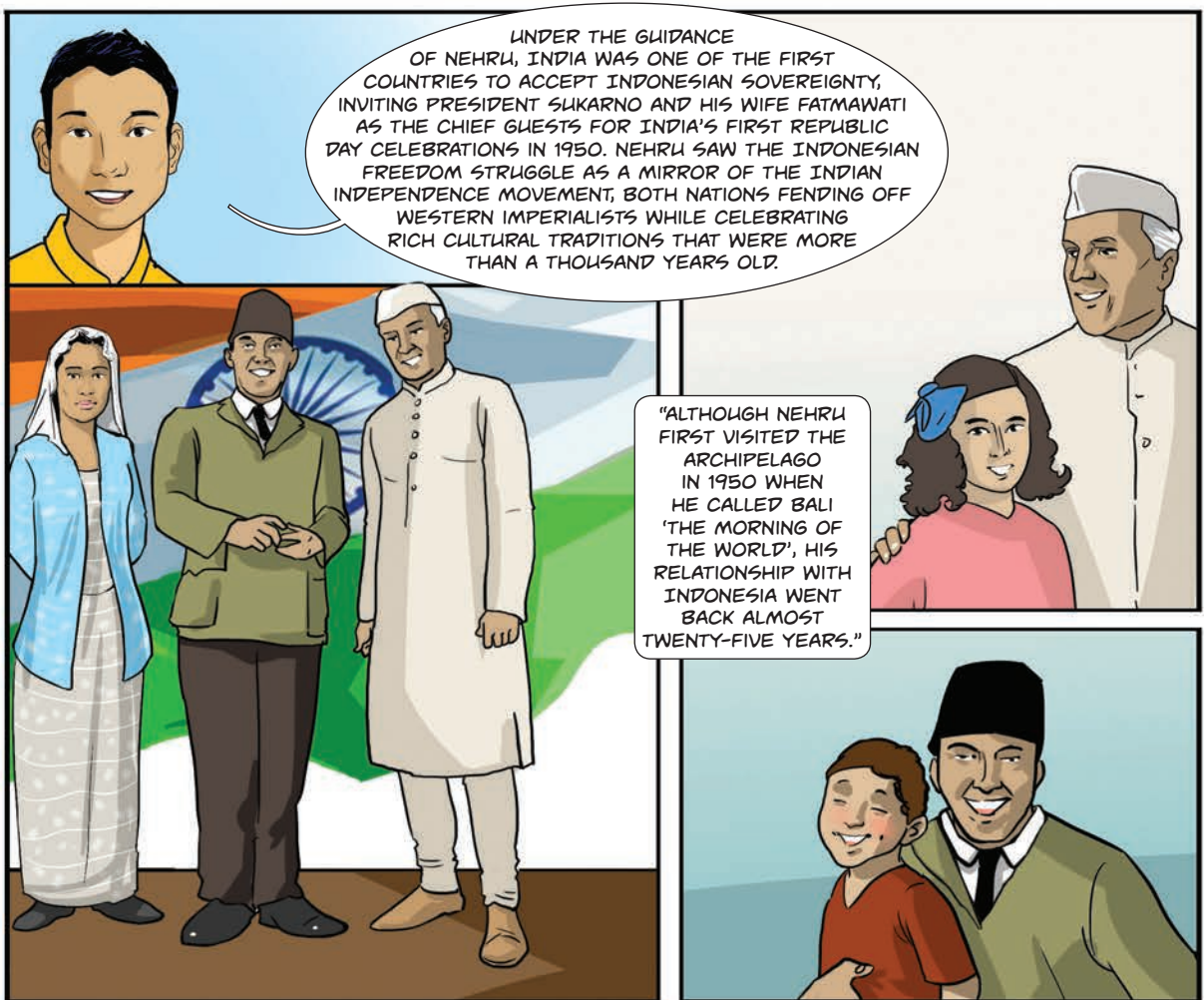
I WOULD LIKE TO  
THANK THE PEOPLE OF  
INDIA FOR HOSTING THIS  
CONFERENCE AND LETTING  
THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT  
WHAT THE DUTCH ARE DOING IN  
INDONESIA RIGHT NOW. IF IT  
WASN'T FOR PANDIT NEHRU'S  
COMMITMENT TO OUR CAUSE  
AND MR. PATNAIK'S BRAVERY, I  
WOULD STILL BE IN  
INDONESIA UNDER THE  
DUTCH BLOCKADE.







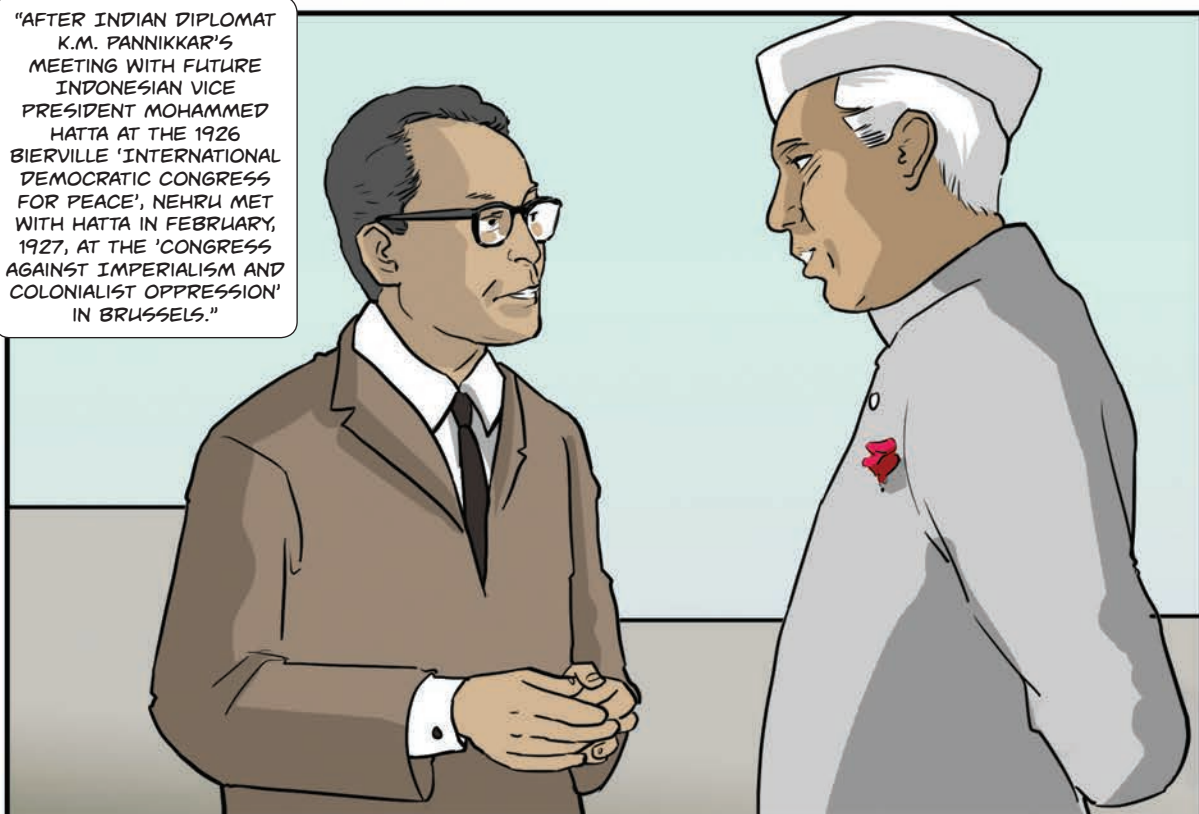
"AS YOU MAY HAVE FIGURED OUT, ANOTHER VERY INSTRUMENTAL FIGURE IN BOOSTING MODERN-DAY INDIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS WAS THE FIRST INDIAN PRIME MINISTER, PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU."



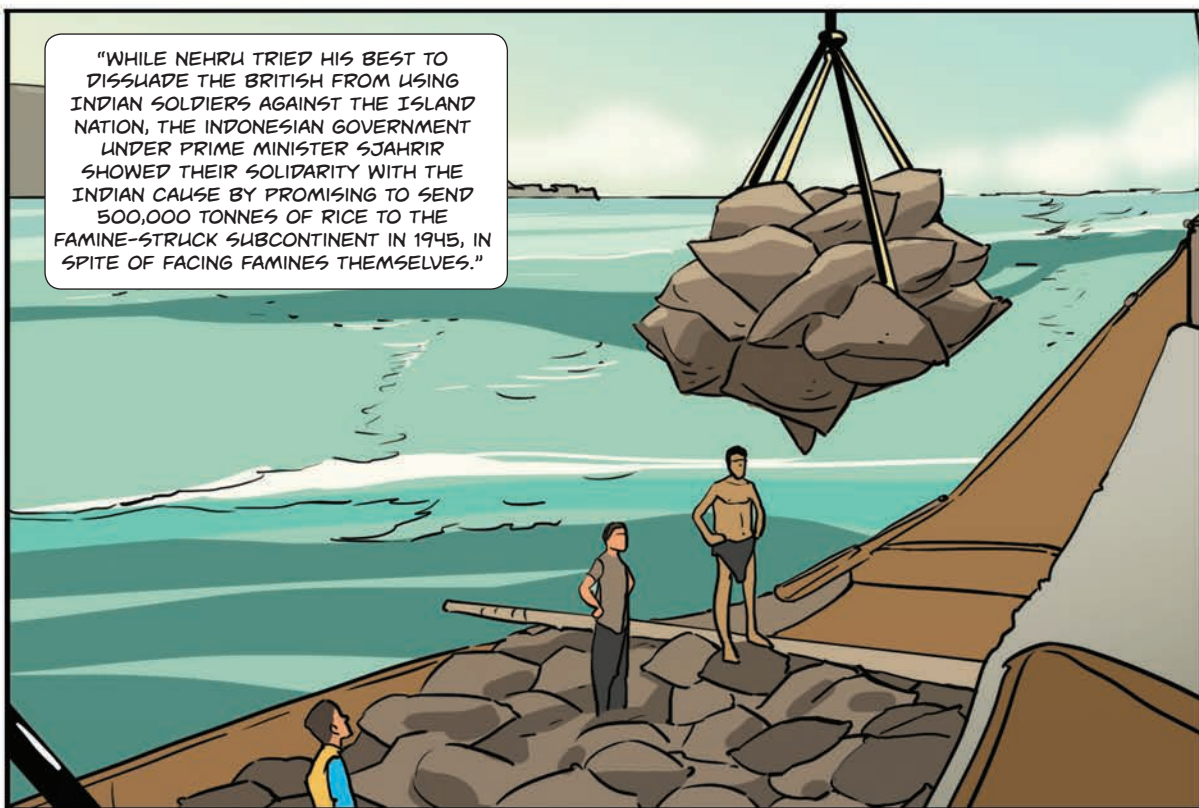
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF NEHRU, INDIA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY, INVITING PRESIDENT SUKARNO AND HIS WIFE FATMAWATI AS THE CHIEF GUESTS FOR INDIA'S FIRST REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS IN 1950. NEHRU SAW THE INDONESIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE AS A MIRROR OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, BOTH NATIONS FENDING OFF WESTERN IMPERIALISTS WHILE CELEBRATING RICH CULTURAL TRADITIONS THAT WERE MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

"ALTHOUGH NEHRU FIRST VISITED THE ARCHIPELAGO IN 1950 WHEN HE CALLED BALI 'THE MORNING OF THE WORLD', HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA WENT BACK ALMOST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS."

"AFTER INDIAN DIPLOMAT K.M. PANNIKKAR'S MEETING WITH FUTURE INDONESIAN VICE PRESIDENT MOHAMMED HATTA AT THE 1926 BIERVILLE 'INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS FOR PEACE', NEHRU MET WITH HATTA IN FEBRUARY, 1927, AT THE 'CONGRESS AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND COLONIAL OPPRESSION' IN BRUSSELS."

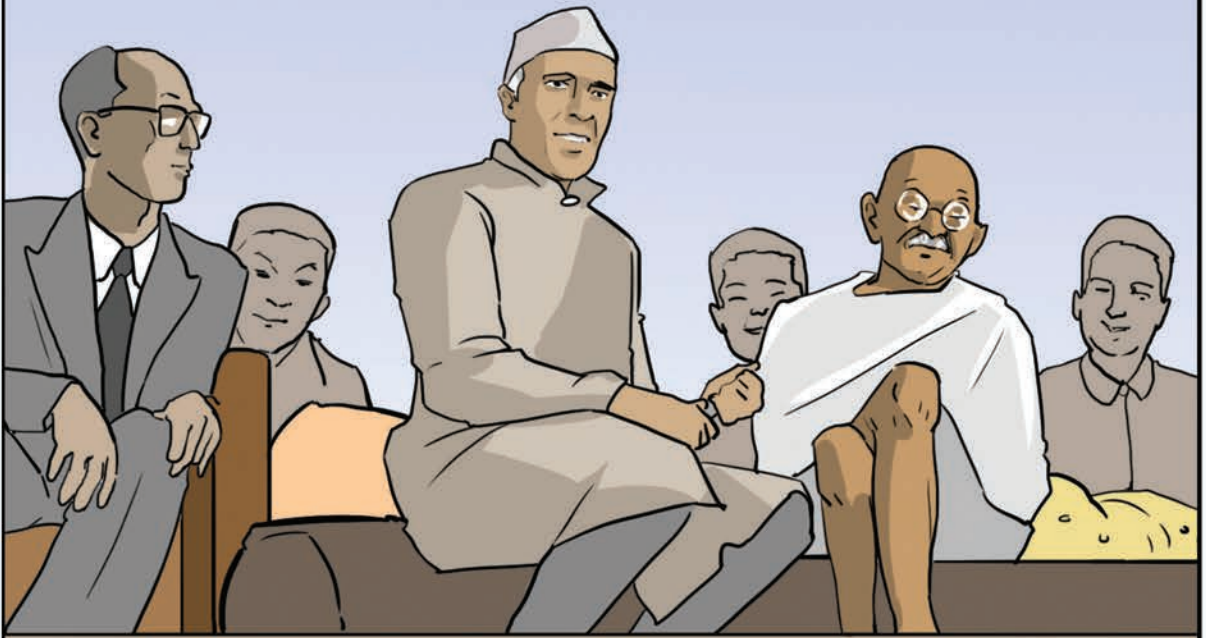


"WHILE NEHRU TRIED HIS BEST TO DISSUADE THE BRITISH FROM USING INDIAN SOLDIERS AGAINST THE ISLAND NATION, THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER PRIME MINISTER SJAHRIR SHOWED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE INDIAN CAUSE BY PROMISING TO SEND 500,000 TONNES OF RICE TO THE FAMINE-STUCK SUBCONTINENT IN 1945, IN SPITE OF FACING FAMINES THEMSELVES."

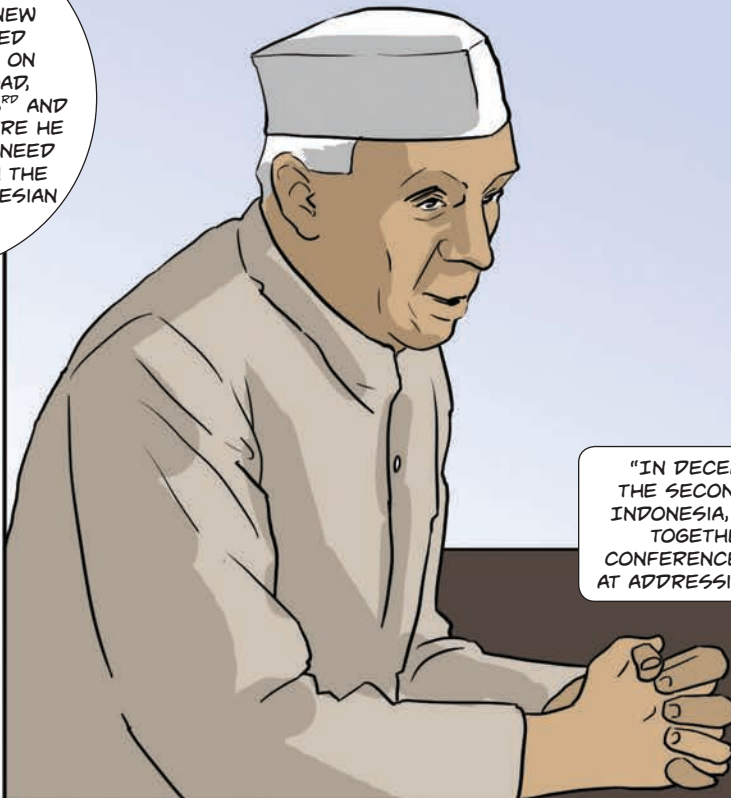




ASIAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE, 1947

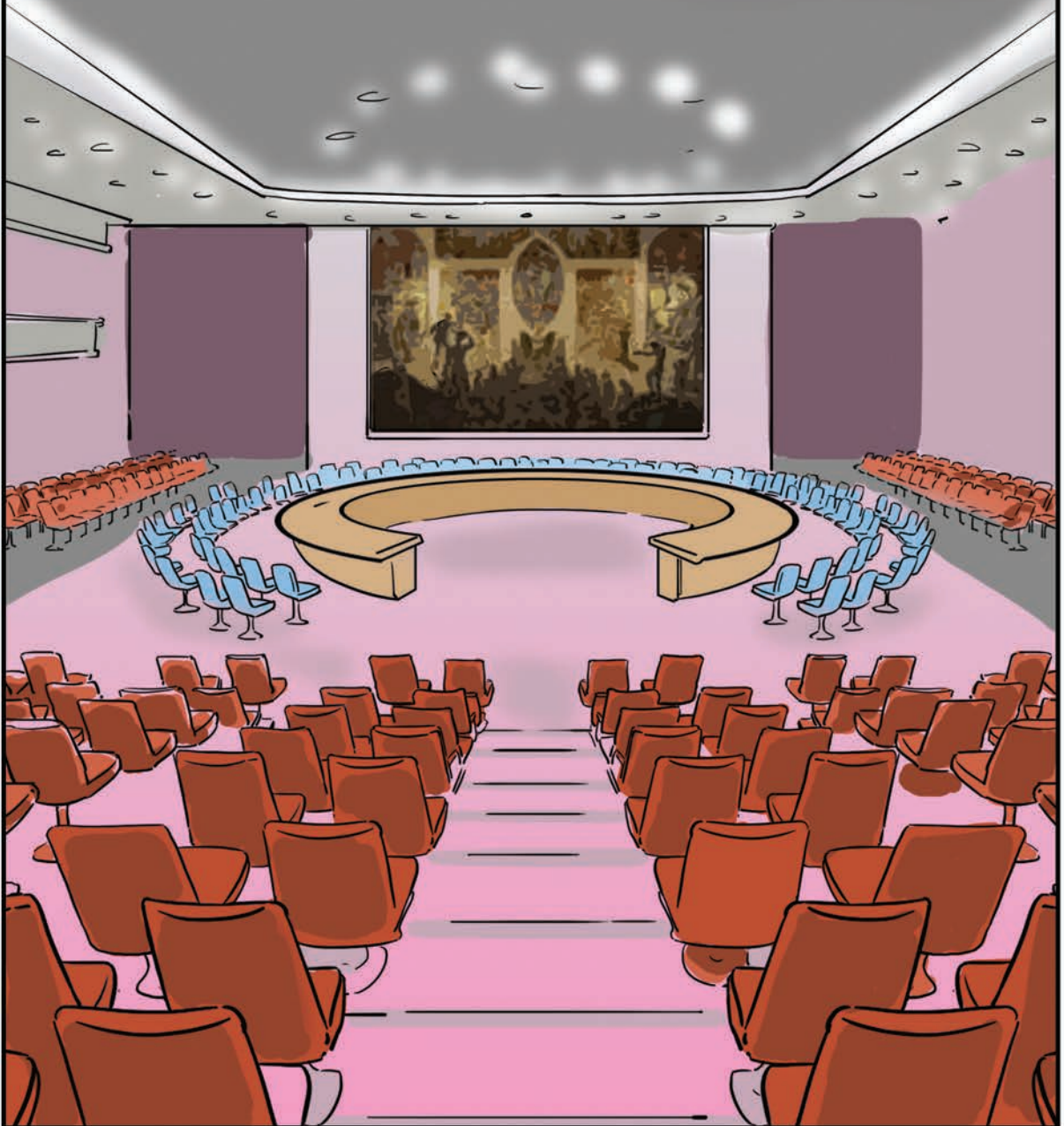


NEHRU ORGANISED THE ASIAN RELATIONS CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI, CONDUCTED AT SAPRU HOUSE ON BARAKHAMBA ROAD, BETWEEN MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> AND APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, 1947, WHERE HE SPOKE ABOUT THE NEED TO ENDORSE BOTH THE INDIAN AND INDONESIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLES.



"IN DECEMBER 1949, FOLLOWING THE SECOND DUTCH OFFENSIVE ON INDONESIA, AN ENRAGED NEHRU PUT TOGETHER AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AT ADDRESSING THE DUTCH PROBLEM."

"THE CONFERENCE RESOLVED TO DENY ALL FACILITIES TO DUTCH SHIPPING, AND SENT ITS RESOLUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS. WITHIN A WEEK, THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT A CEASEFIRE BE DECLARED, AND THE INDONESIAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BE RESTORED. THIS WAS A HUGE STEP IN SECURING INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE PERMANENTLY AND GIVING THE CAUSE LEGITIMACY ON A GLOBAL SCALE."

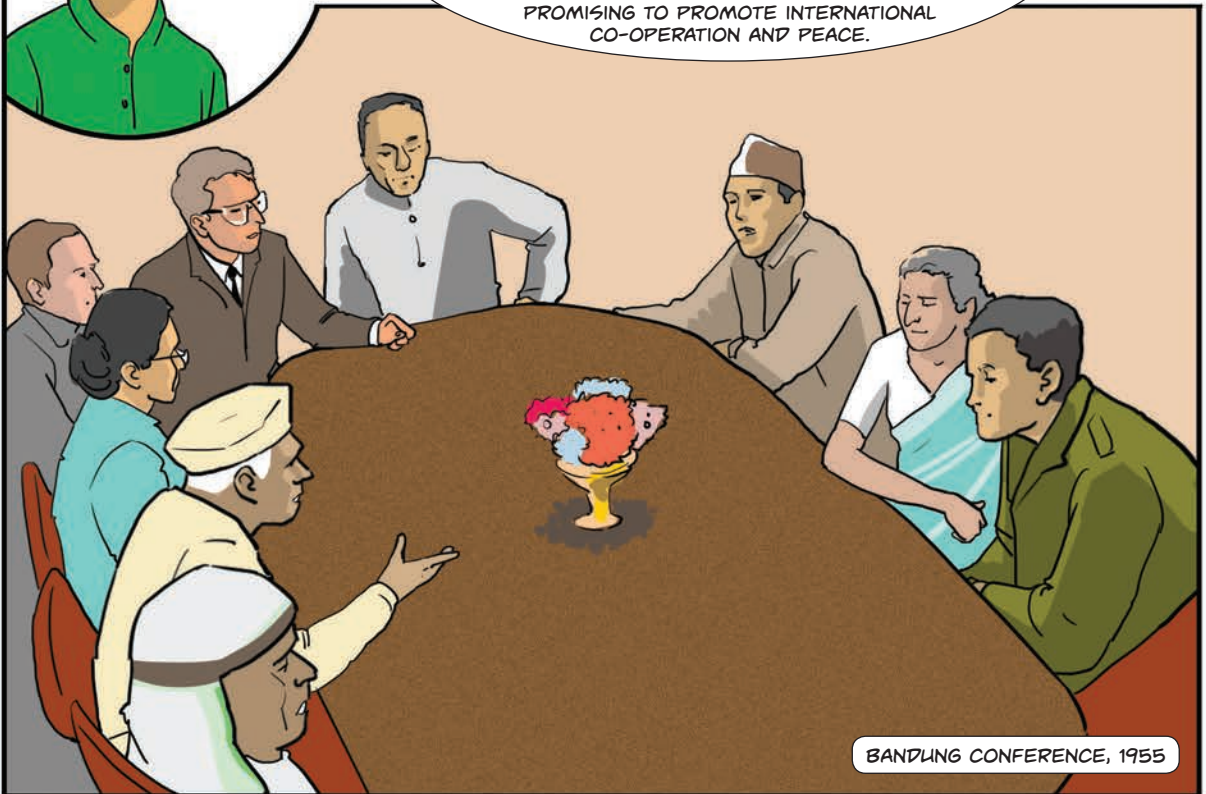




"THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATIONS OF INDIA AND INDONESIA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF NEHRU AND SUKARNO, WERE DETERMINED TO NEVER AGAIN BE PAWNS IN THE CONSTANT BATTLING BETWEEN THE LARGER WESTERN AND EASTERN BLOCS."



IN A BID TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE BANDUNG CONFERENCE WAS HOSTED BY SUKARNO IN 1955. HERE, THE LEADERS OF EGYPT, CHINA, VIETNAM, BURMA, CAMBODIA, YUGOSLAVIA AND GHANA JOINED THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER AND THE INDONESIAN PRESIDENT, DECLARING THEMSELVES NEUTRAL IN THE ONGOING COLD WAR AND PROMISING TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND PEACE.



BANDUNG CONFERENCE, 1955

"IN 1961, THE 'CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENTS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES' WAS CONDUCTED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FOLLOWING..."

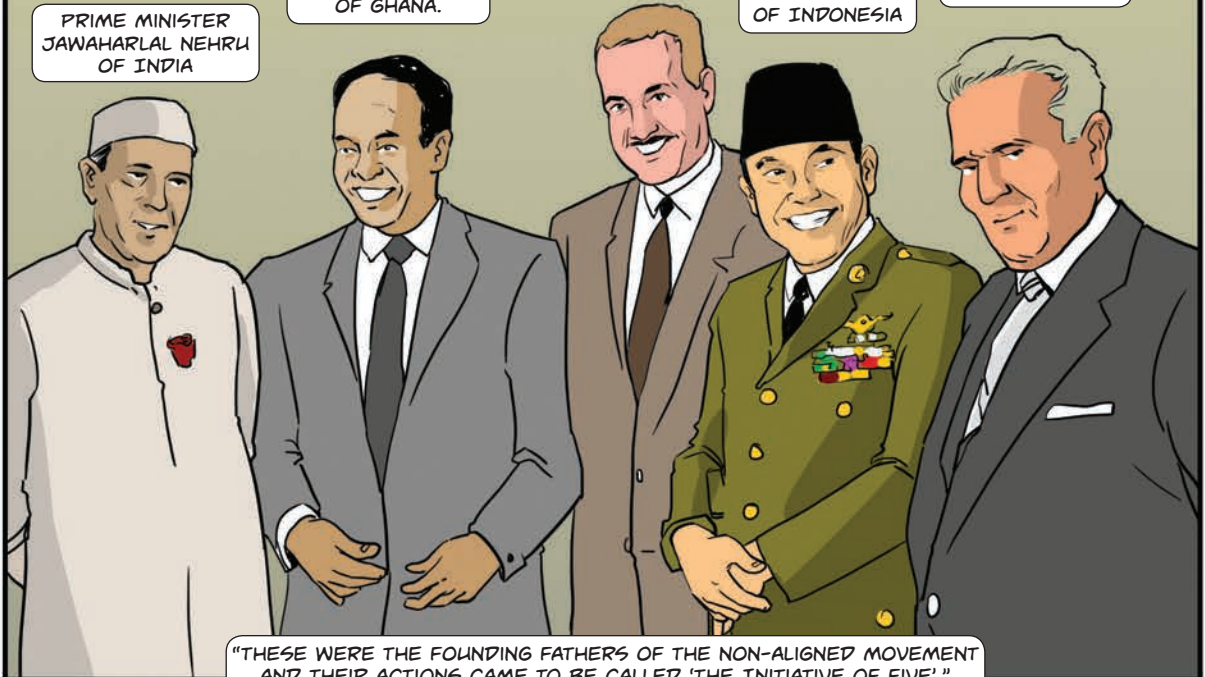
PRIME MINISTER  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU  
OF INDIA

PRESIDENT  
KWAME NKRUMAH  
OF GHANA.

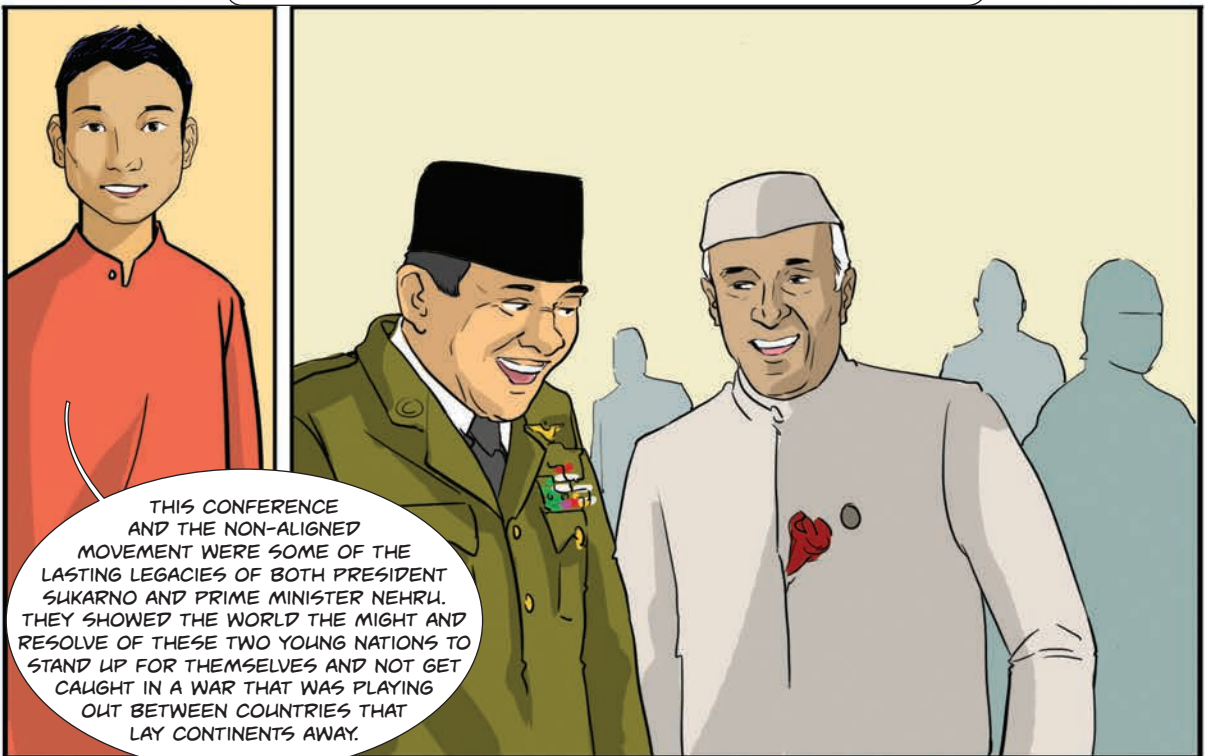
PRESIDENT  
GAMAL ABDEL  
NASSER  
OF EGYPT

PRESIDENT  
SUKARNO  
OF INDONESIA

PRESIDENT  
JOSIP BROZ TITO  
OF YUGOSLAVIA



"THESE WERE THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND THEIR ACTIONS CAME TO BE CALLED 'THE INITIATIVE OF FIVE'."



THIS CONFERENCE AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WERE SOME OF THE LASTING LEGACIES OF BOTH PRESIDENT SUKARNO AND PRIME MINISTER NEHRU. THEY SHOWED THE WORLD THE MIGHT AND RESOLVE OF THESE TWO YOUNG NATIONS TO STAND UP FOR THEMSELVES AND NOT GET CAUGHT IN A WAR THAT WAS PLAYING OUT BETWEEN COUNTRIES THAT LAY CONTINENTS AWAY.



**AD**

WHICH  
BRINGS US TO THE  
FINAL PART OF OUR  
JOURNEY, WHERE  
WE STAND NOW.

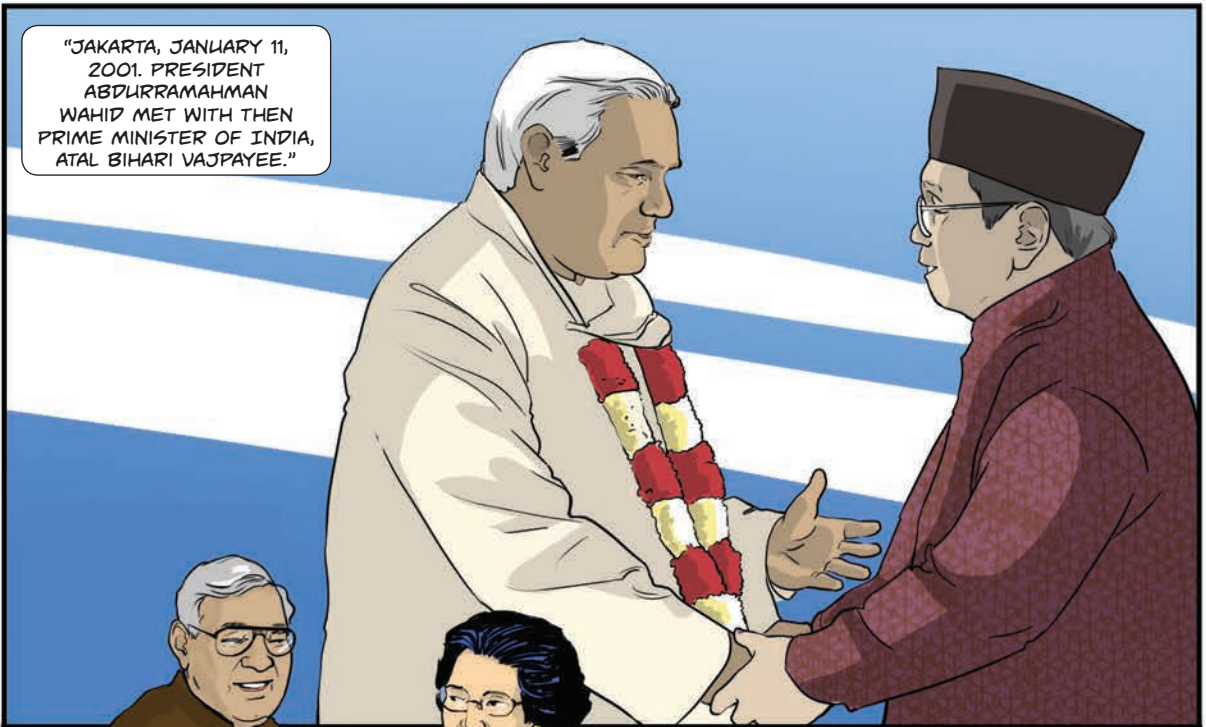
IN 1949, WHEN  
THE CAPITAL WAS STILL IN  
YOGYAKARTA, INDIA WAS ONE OF  
THE EARLIEST COUNTRIES TO SET  
UP A DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE.  
IN FACT, INDIA WAS THE VERY  
FIRST COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE  
INDEPENDENT INDONESIA.

THIS SPIRIT  
HAS TRANSCENDED  
THE DECADES THAT HAVE  
PASSED BETWEEN THEN  
AND NOW. INDONESIA AND  
INDIA HAVE METICULOUSLY  
BUILT A STRATEGIC  
PARTNERSHIP AND GOOD  
WILL THAT HAS BENEFITED  
BOTH COUNTRIES  
IMMENSELY.

IN FACT, SINCE THE  
YEAR 2000, THERE HAVE BEEN AS  
MANY AS TEN BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN  
INDIAN AND INDONESIAN HEADS OF STATE  
TO DISCUSS TIES BETWEEN THE  
TWO NATIONS.



"JAKARTA, JANUARY 11, 2001. PRESIDENT ABDURRAHMAN WAHID MET WITH THEN PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE."



"PRESIDENT MEGAWATI SUKARNOPUTRI WITH PRIME MINISTER VAJPAYEE AT THE ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT AT BALI, INDONESIA, ON OCTOBER 8, 2003"



"POST THE TERRIBLE TSUNAMI IN 2004, INDIA WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE IN BANDA ACEH WITH RELIEF MEASURES. AS PART OF THE INDIAN NAVY'S INDONESIAN RESCUE MISSION 'OPERATION GAMBHIR', TWO INDIAN NAVY WARSHIPS WERE DEPLOYED OF WHICH ONE WAS CONVERTED INTO A MAKESHIFT HOSPITAL AND THE OTHER USED FOR CARRYING SUPPLIES AND HOUSING RELIEF CAMPS."

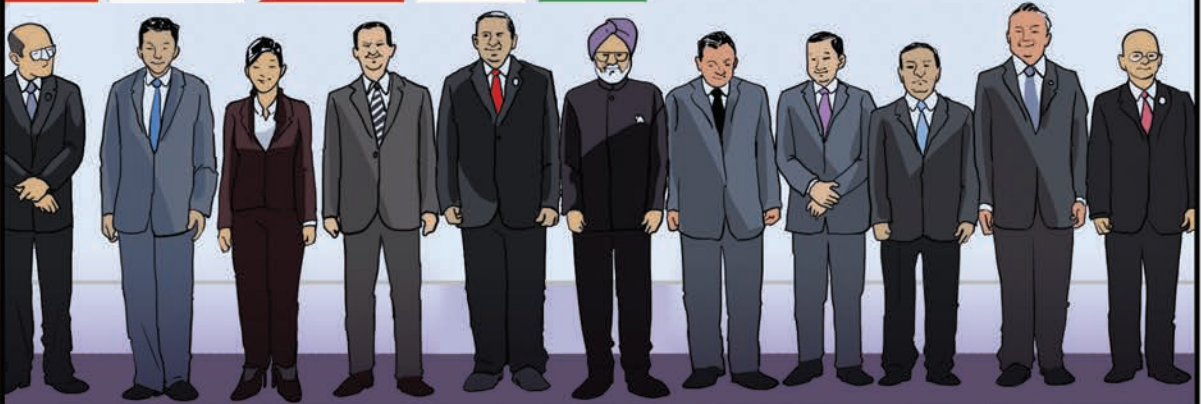


"IN 2005, DURING HIS VISIT TO INDIA, PRESIDENT YUDHOYONO AND PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH ANNOUNCED A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA. AGAIN, IN 2011, WHEN PRESIDENT YUDHOYONO WAS CHIEF GUEST AT THE INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY PARADE, OUR PARTNERSHIP WAS BROADENED IN AREAS SUCH AS ECONOMY, POLITICAL, DEFENCE, PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONTACTS AND FACING COMMON CHALLENGES. THE TWO LEADERS MET AGAIN IN 2013, REAFFIRMING THE PARTNERSHIP."

"WE KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ASEAN IN OUR REGION. HOWEVER, IT IS OF INTEREST THAT INDIA IS ONE OF THE STRONGEST PARTNERS TO THE GROUP. INDONESIA HAS ALWAYS PLAYED A STRONG ROLE IN FOSTERING THIS. TO MARK THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASEAN-INDIA DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP AND THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT-LEVEL PARTNERSHIP, INDIA HOSTED A SPECIAL CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT YUDHOYONO."



**asean india**  
PROGRESS & PROSPERITY



"ON 13 NOVEMBER, 2014, ON THE SIDELINES OF THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT IN NAY PYI TAW, MYANMAR, PRESIDENT JOKO WIDODO MET PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI."



WE ARE TWO COUNTRIES WITH LARGE YOUNG POPULATIONS. WE SHARE A COMMON VIEW OF OUR CHALLENGES. WE HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN PEACE AND STABILITY IN OUR REGION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PEOPLE.

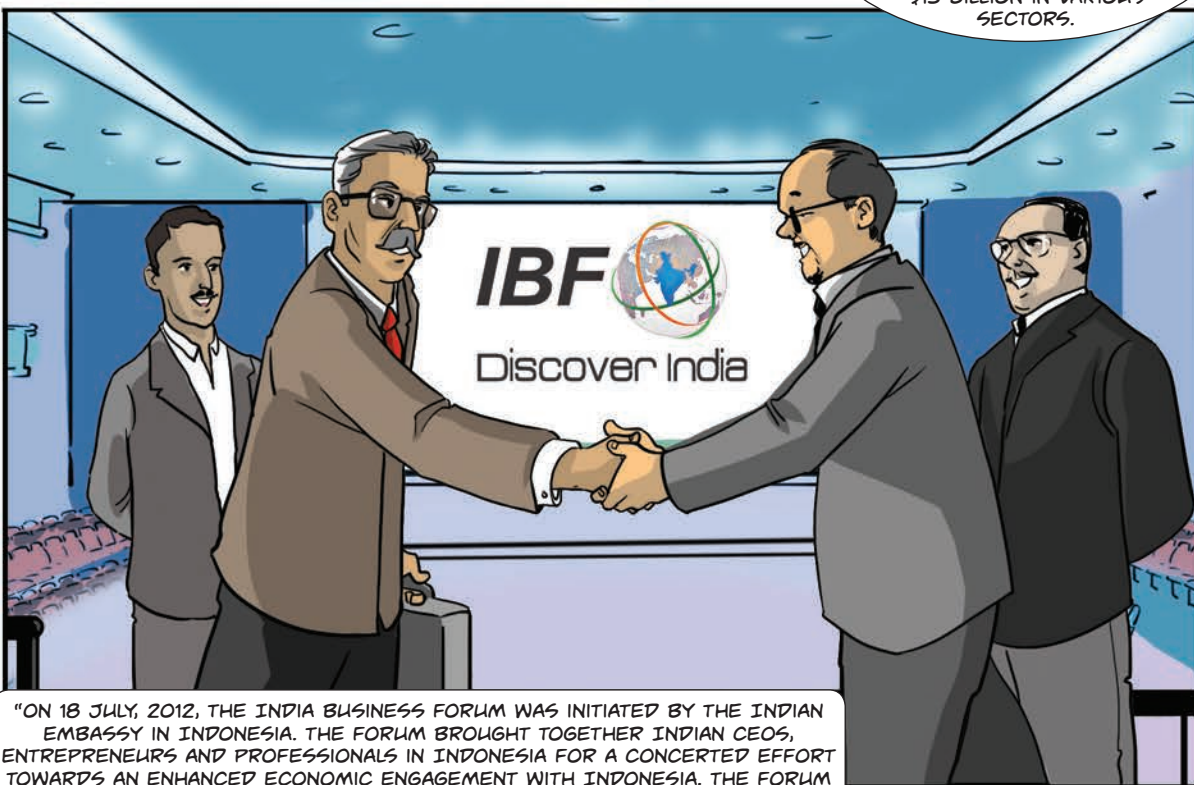
INDONESIA-INDIA TRADE AND INVESTMENT TIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STRONG.



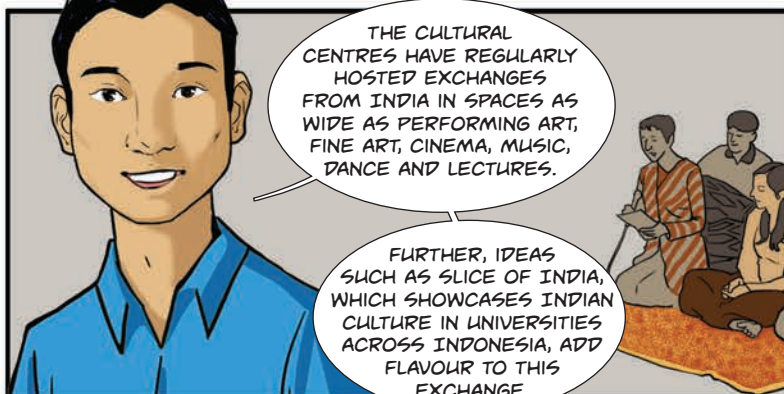
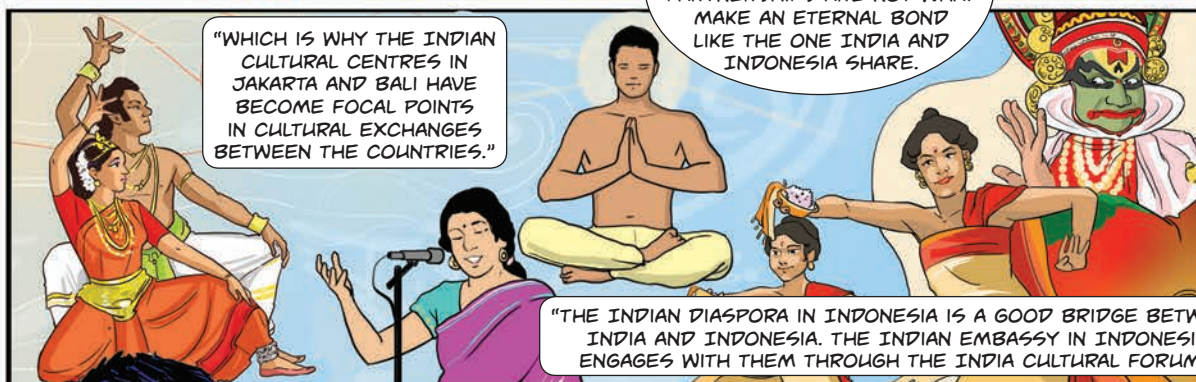
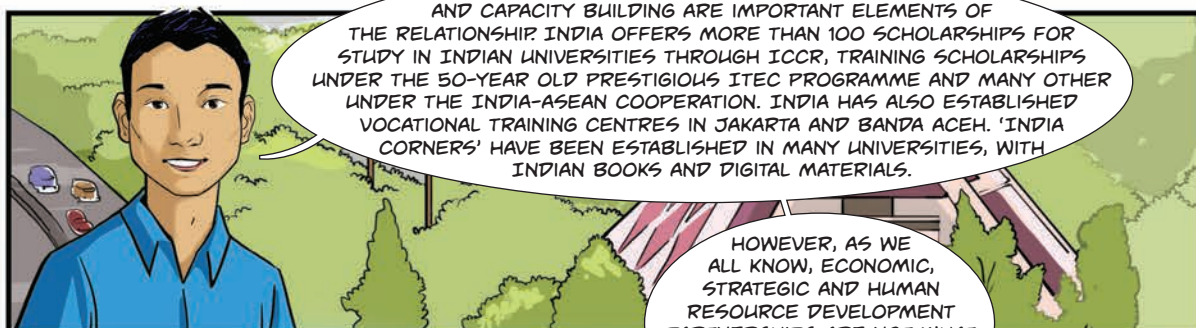
IN 2013-14, INDIA-INDONESIA TRADE WAS VALUED AT A RECORD \$20.10 BILLION. INDIA IMPORTS THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF PALM OIL FROM INDONESIA, AND BUYS MANY OTHER PRODUCTS IN COAL, MINERALS, RUBBER, PULP AND PAPER AND HYDROCARBONS RESERVES. INDIA, IN TURN, EXPORTS PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, MAIZE, COMMERCIAL VEHICLES, TELECOMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, OIL SEEDS, ANIMAL FEED, COTTON, STEEL PRODUCTS AND PLASTICS TO INDONESIA. THE TARGET FOR BILATERAL TRADE IS TO REACH \$25 BILLION SOON.



INDIAN COMPANIES, LIKE GODREJ INDONESIA, HAVE MADE STRONG FORAYS INTO THE INDONESIAN MARKETS AND HAVE BECOME A PART OF THE INDONESIAN STORY. IN FACT, INDIAN COMPANIES HAVE INVESTMENTS OF ABOUT \$15 BILLION IN VARIOUS SECTORS.



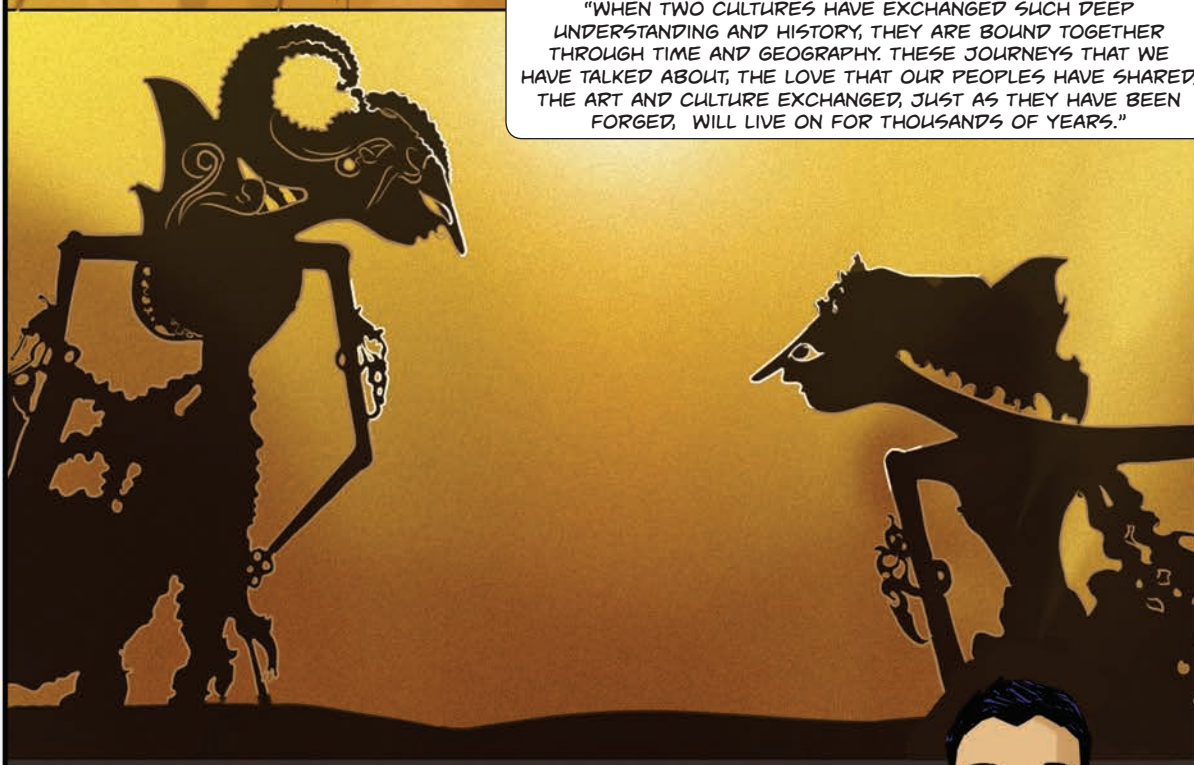
"ON 18 JULY, 2012, THE INDIA BUSINESS FORUM WAS INITIATED BY THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN INDONESIA. THE FORUM BROUGHT TOGETHER INDIAN CEOs, ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS IN INDONESIA FOR A CONCERTED EFFORT TOWARDS AN ENHANCED ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT WITH INDONESIA. THE FORUM ALSO VISITS INDONESIAN PROVINCES TO ENHANCE TRADE & INVESTMENTS"







"WHEN TWO CULTURES HAVE EXCHANGED SUCH DEEP UNDERSTANDING AND HISTORY, THEY ARE BOUND TOGETHER THROUGH TIME AND GEOGRAPHY. THESE JOURNEYS THAT WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT, THE LOVE THAT OUR PEOPLES HAVE SHARED, THE ART AND CULTURE EXCHANGED, JUST AS THEY HAVE BEEN FORGED, WILL LIVE ON FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS."



JUST LIKE THE RAMAYANA AND THE MAHABHARATA HAVE LIVED ON IN WAYANG OR SHADOW THEATRE – EVEN THOUGH THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE EPICS HAVE SLOWLY ERODED – THE CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA WILL CONTINUE. BOTH THESE GREAT CULTURES WILL HAVE A DEEP EFFECT ON EACH OTHERS FUTURE, JUST AS THEY HAVE HAD IN THEIR PAST.



"AS OUR SHORES BECOME CLOSER WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS, WE MUST REMEMBER ALL THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS AND OUR JOINT HISTORIES. WE MUST CELEBRATE THE LOVE OUR PEOPLES HAVE FOR EACH OTHER AND ALL THE BOATS THAT HAVE SAILED FROM SHORE TO SHORE..."



"AS ALL GREAT JOURNEYS DO, OURS CONTINUES... INTO A GLORIOUS FUTURE. INDIA AND INDONESIA, HAND IN HAND."



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