



A GRAPHIC BOOK BY
CHINTAN & DAMAGECONTROL
SUPPORTED BY GIZ



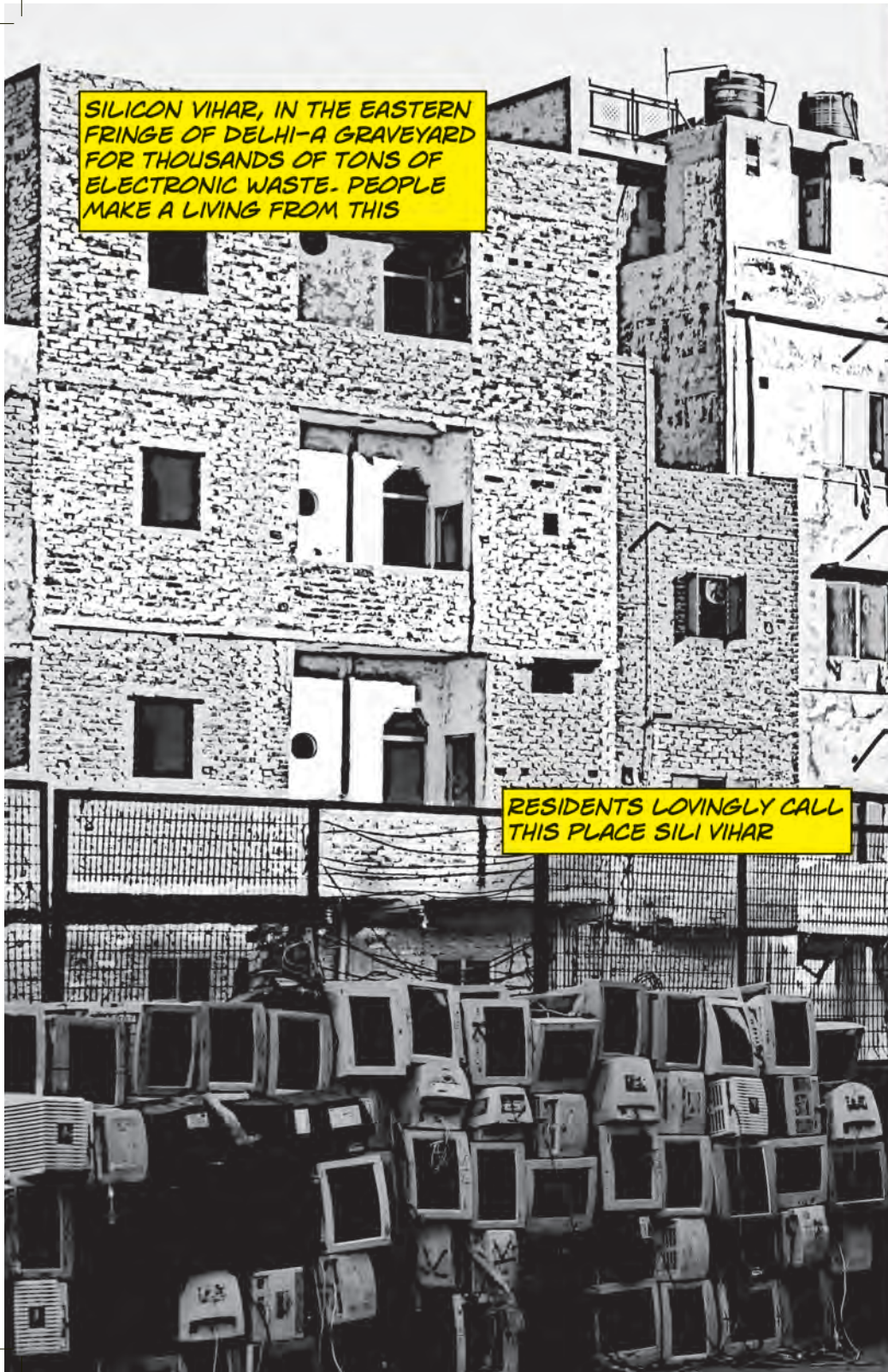
A NEW CONSIGNMENT ARRIVES...

WHERE ARE WE?

DON'T KNOW. MY GPS STOPPED WORKING LONG AGO

A FEW THOUSAND DEAD COMPUTERS, PRINTERS, GAMES AND MOBILE PHONES

DL13S
L5408



SILICON VIHAR, IN THE EASTERN FRINGE OF DELHI-A GRAVEYARD FOR THOUSANDS OF TONS OF ELECTRONIC WASTE- PEOPLE MAKE A LIVING FROM THIS

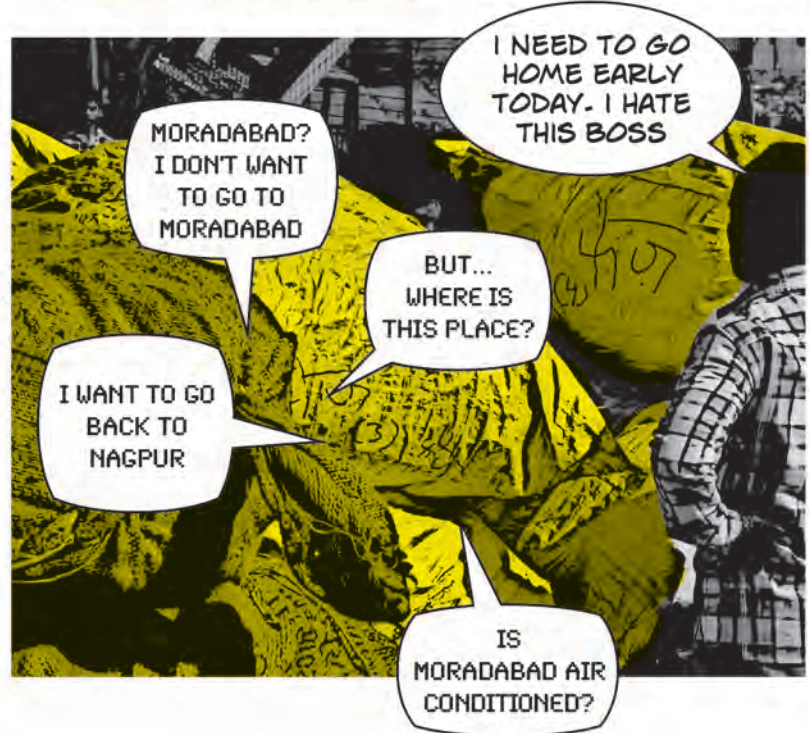
RESIDENTS LOVINGLY CALL THIS PLACE SILI VIHAR



ELECTRONIC TRASH IS SORTED IN ONE OF THE MANY GODDOWNS

HURRY UP! OR YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK ALL NIGHT. THE TRUCK HAS TO LEAVE FOR MORADABAD

YES BOSS



MORADABAD? I DONT WANT TO GO TO MORADABAD

I NEED TO GO HOME EARLY TODAY. I HATE THIS BOSS

BUT... WHERE IS THIS PLACE?

I WANT TO GO BACK TO NAGPUR

IS MORADABAD AIR CONDITIONED?

INSIDE THE SACK

WE ARE IN THE
ELECTRONIC WASTE
MARKET

I OVERHEARD
EARLIER... THEY ARE
GOING TO SKIN US

I FEEL HOLLOW
WITHOUT MY SIM

MY
KEYPAD
NEEDS TO BE
CHANGED

WHAT'S
UP?

HOW MANY
OF US ARE
ALIVE?

WHERE
ARE WE?

KEYPAD?
OLD STYLE...

I PROTEST

AS I SAID...
MY GPS IS
NOT WORKING

I'M NOT DEAD.
I REFUSE TO BE SKINNED.
I JUST WON'T GO TO
MORADABAD.

SOMEONE
CHARGE ME,
FAST

LOOK, WE DON'T HAVE
A CHOICE. WHY CAN'T WE
BE POSITIVE ABOUT OUR
AFTER-LIFE?

I'VE LOST MY 3G.
IT'S A SCAM

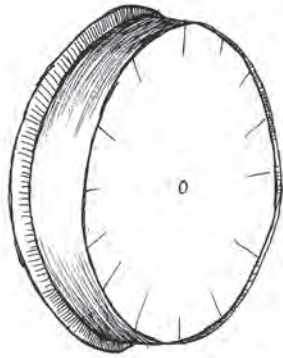
PROTEST!?!?
HERO...
WHO ARE YOU?



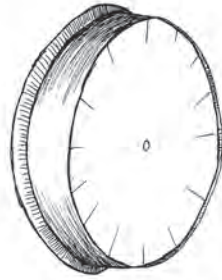
FAR AWAY, ON THE GLOBAL SHOPFLOOR, THE ASSEMBLY LINE

THE OWNER KEEPS ONE EYE ON THE CLOCK, THE OTHER ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE

THE WORKERS KEEP BOTH EYES AND HANDS ON THE ASSEMBLY LINE



BEIJING



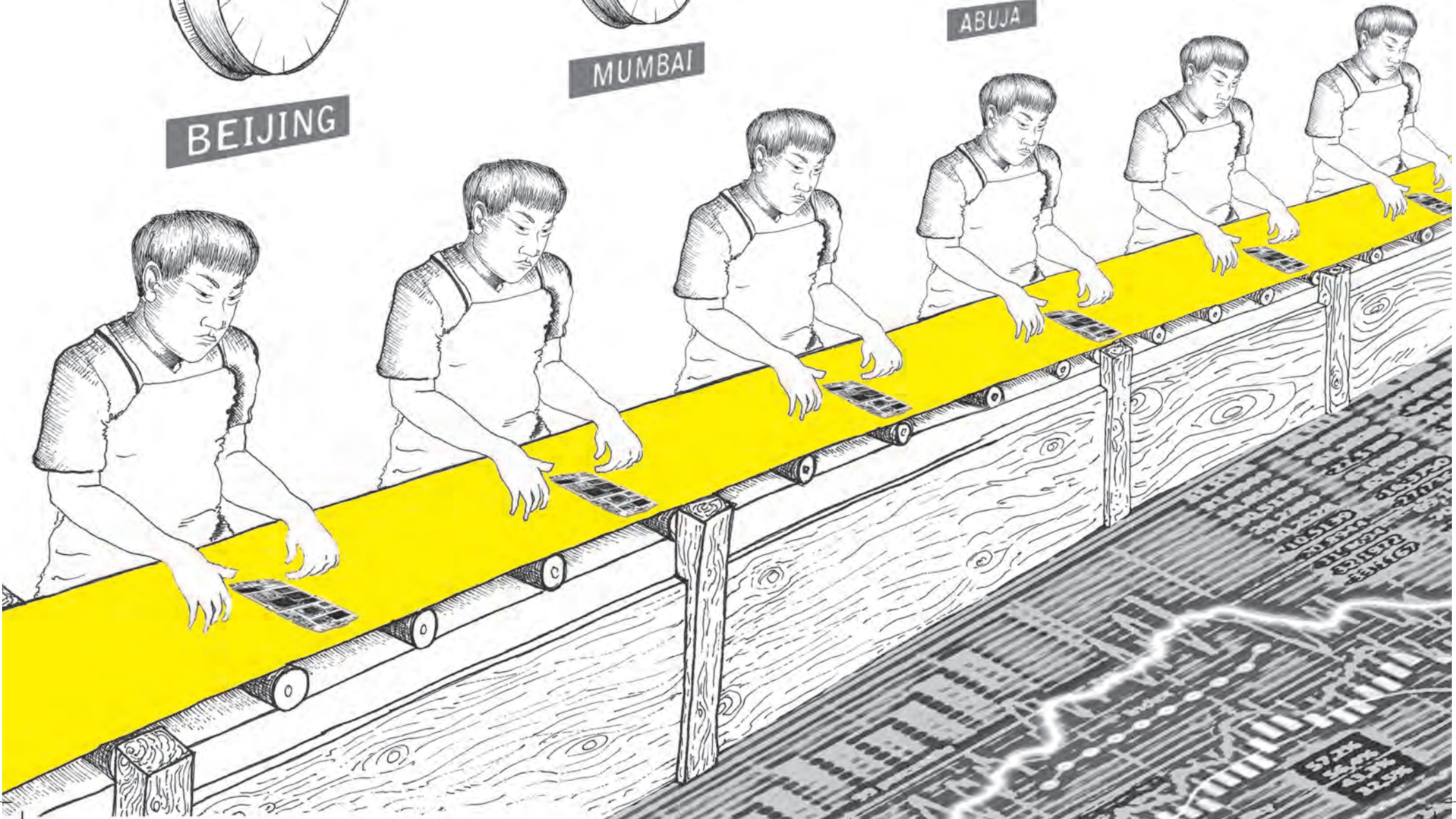
MUMBAI

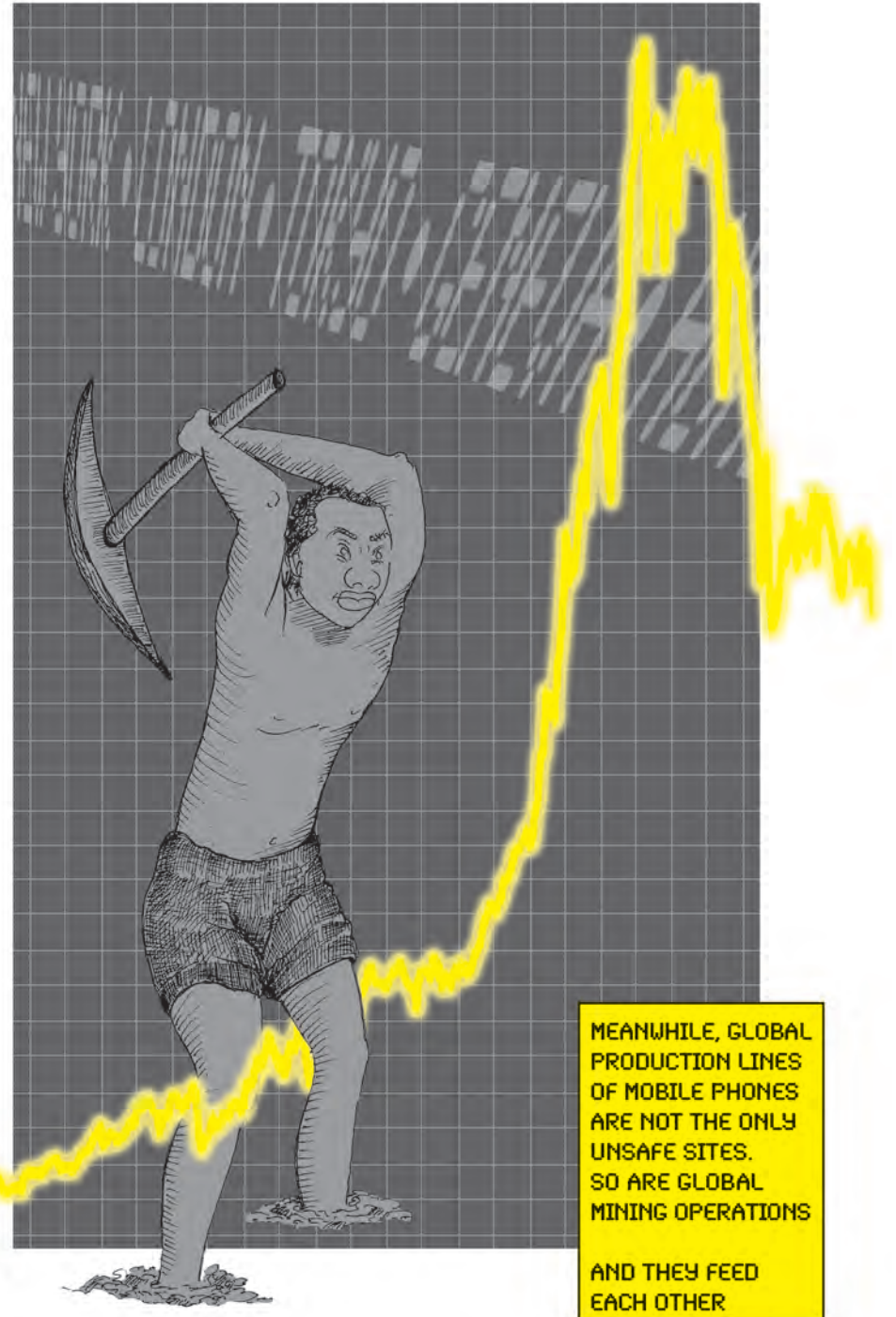
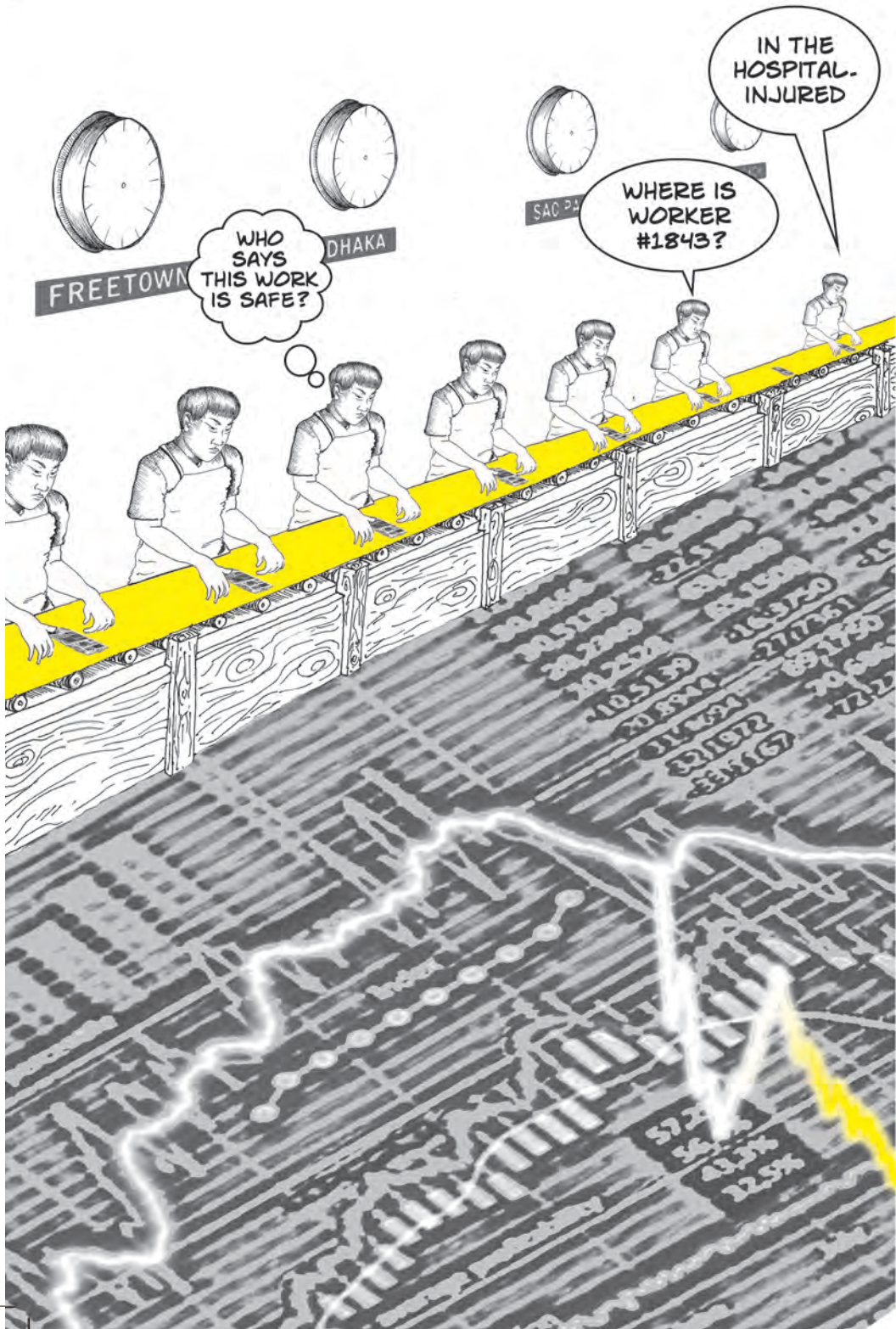


ABUJA



VENICE





MINING IS NOT HARMLESS. IT RAVAGES THE EARTH.
LEAVES POLLUTION AROUND THE MINES AND RIVERS.
MANY TIMES, MINES DEVASTATE COMMUNITIES

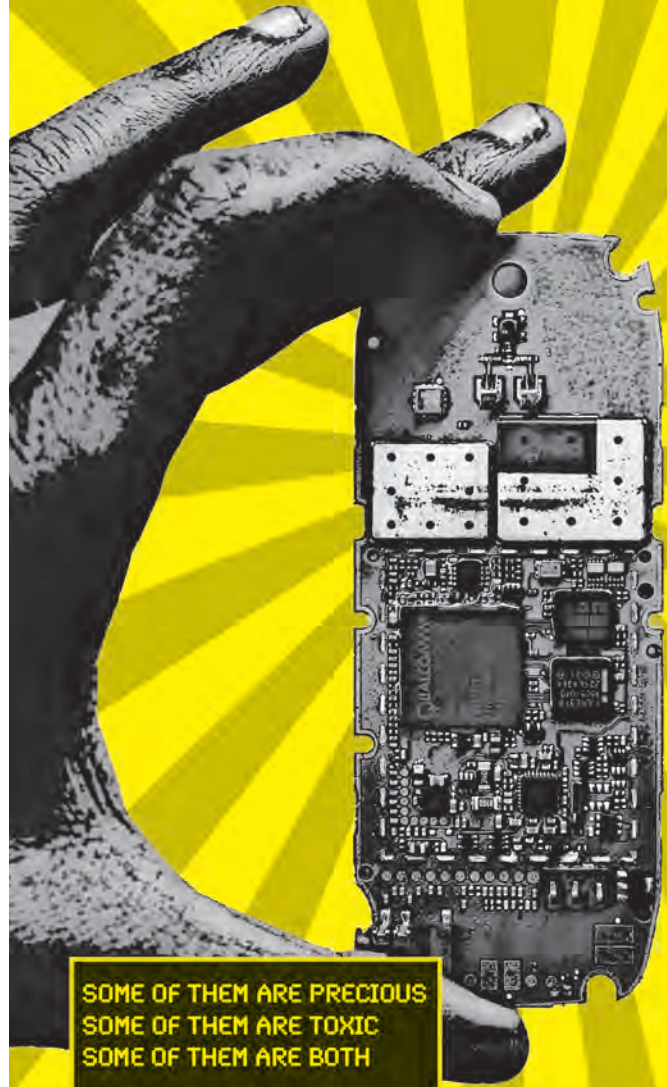


METALS FOR A PHONE OR
A COMPUTER CAN COME
FROM FAR AWAY PLACES.

NIOBIUM FROM BRAZIL,
PALLADIUM FROM RUSSIA,
ANTIMONY FROM CHINA,
PLATINUM FROM SOUTH
AFRICA...



IN THE END,
WE ARE LEFT WITH

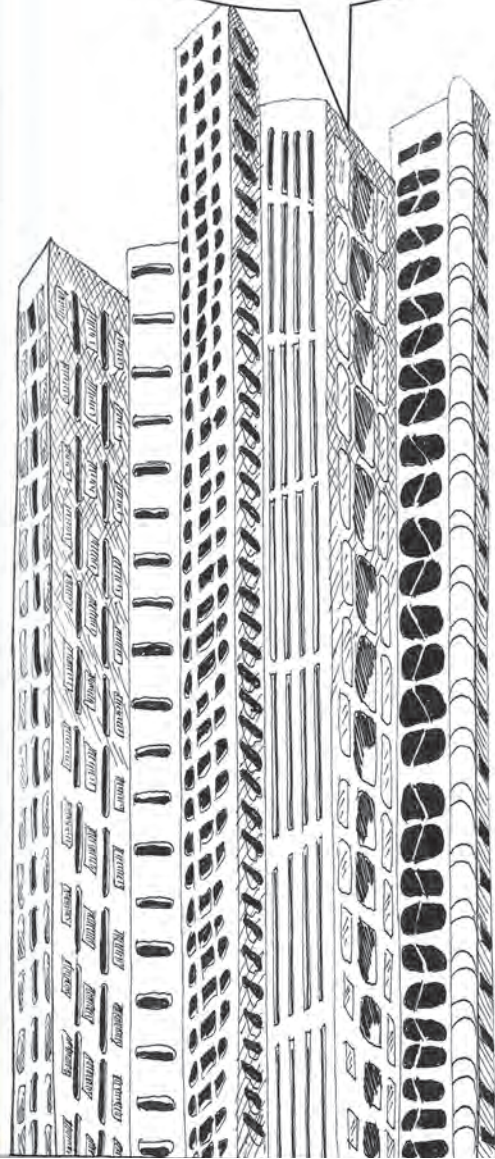


SOME OF THEM ARE PRECIOUS
SOME OF THEM ARE TOXIC
SOME OF THEM ARE BOTH

SO WHO WILL HANDLE THEM
IN THEIR AFTERLIFE?

ALUMINIUM
ANTIMONY
BERYLLIUM
COPPER
GALLIUM
GLASS
GOLD
INDIUM
IRON
LEAD
LITHIUM
MAGNESIUM
MANGANESE
NICKEL
NIOBIUM
PALLADIUM
PLASTICS
PLATINUM
RHODIUM
SILVER
TANTALUM
TIN
TITANIUM
VANADIUM

OF COURSE
WE CAN TAKE CARE
OF THIS STUFF. BUT NOT
HERE-WE'LL SEND IT TO ONE
OF OUR MANY RECYCLING
DESTINATIONS...INDIA,
BANGLADESH, ANYWHERE IN WEST
AFRICA. YOU'LL BE AMAZED HOW
CHEAP IT TO RECYCLE IT THERE.
AND THEY REALLY NEED OUR
WASTE-WE GIVE THEM
JOBS!

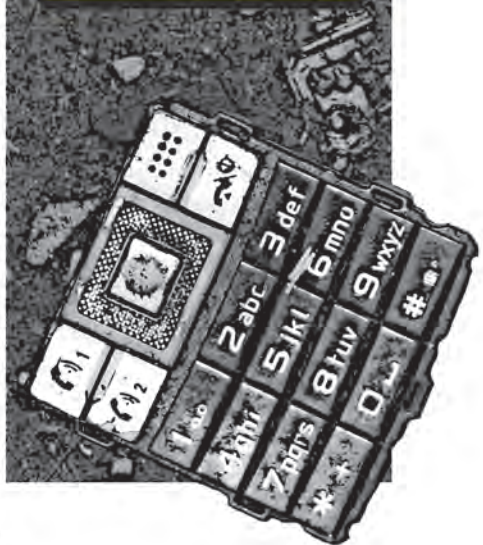


HENCE,
THEY ALL END UP IN
INDIA, GHANA,
CHINA,...

INDIA SUFFERS
800,000
TONS OF ELECTRONIC
WASTE EVERY YEAR.

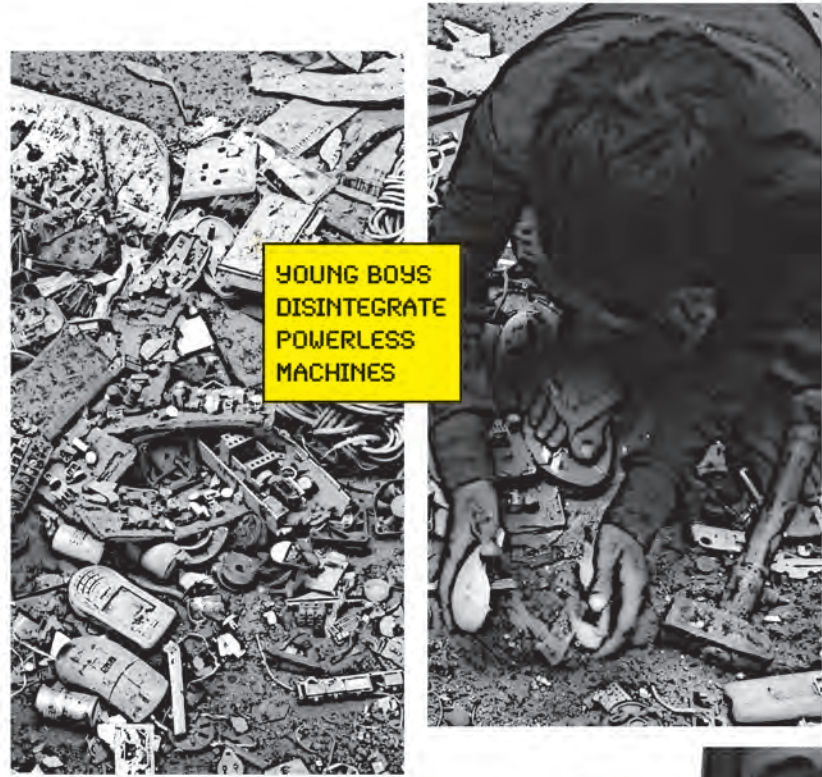
50,000
TONS IS IMPORTED
THE REST WE CREATE
OURSELVES.

SOME OF ALL THIS
E-WASTE ENDS UP
IN SILI VIHAR





SO SILI VIHAR IS A GLOBAL HOTSPOT



YOUNG BOYS DISINTEGRATE POWERLESS MACHINES

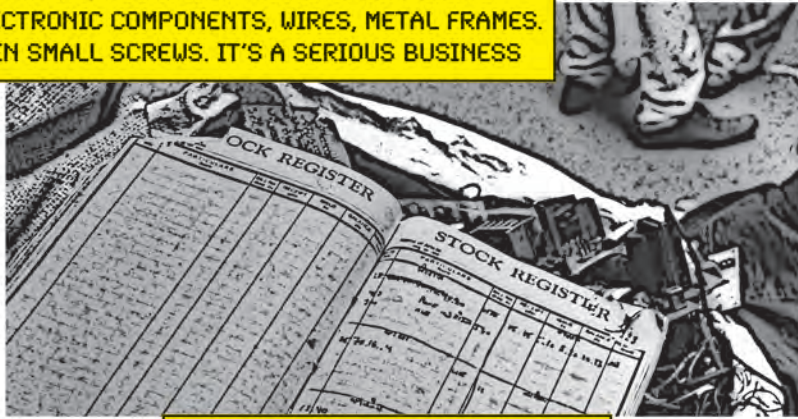


AND IT'S NOT JUST PHONES. YOU CAN FIND COMPUTERS, TELEVISIONS, PRINTERS, AND ALL KINDS OF ACCESSORIES

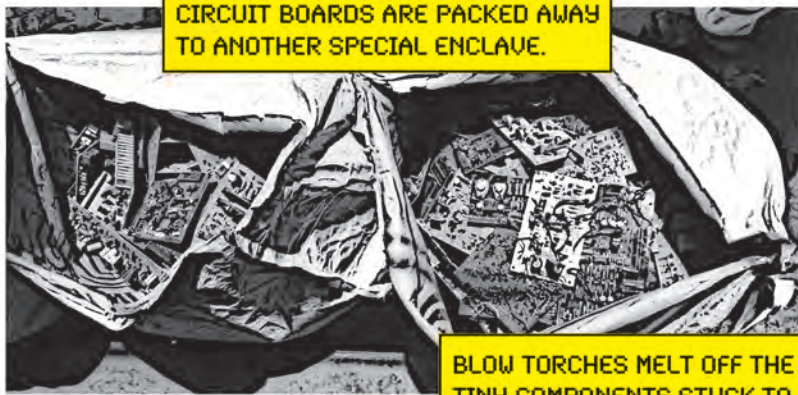


WOMEN USE MAGNETS TO PULL OUT ANY IRON COMPONENTS

IN THE END, NOTHING REMAINS AT SILI VIHAR. ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS, WIRES, METAL FRAMES. EVEN SMALL SCREWS. IT'S A SERIOUS BUSINESS



CIRCUIT BOARDS ARE PACKED AWAY TO ANOTHER SPECIAL ENCLAVE.



BLOW TORCHES MELT OFF THE TINY COMPONENTS STUCK TO CIRCUIT BOARDS, FLATTENING AND SMOOTHING THEIR SURFACE



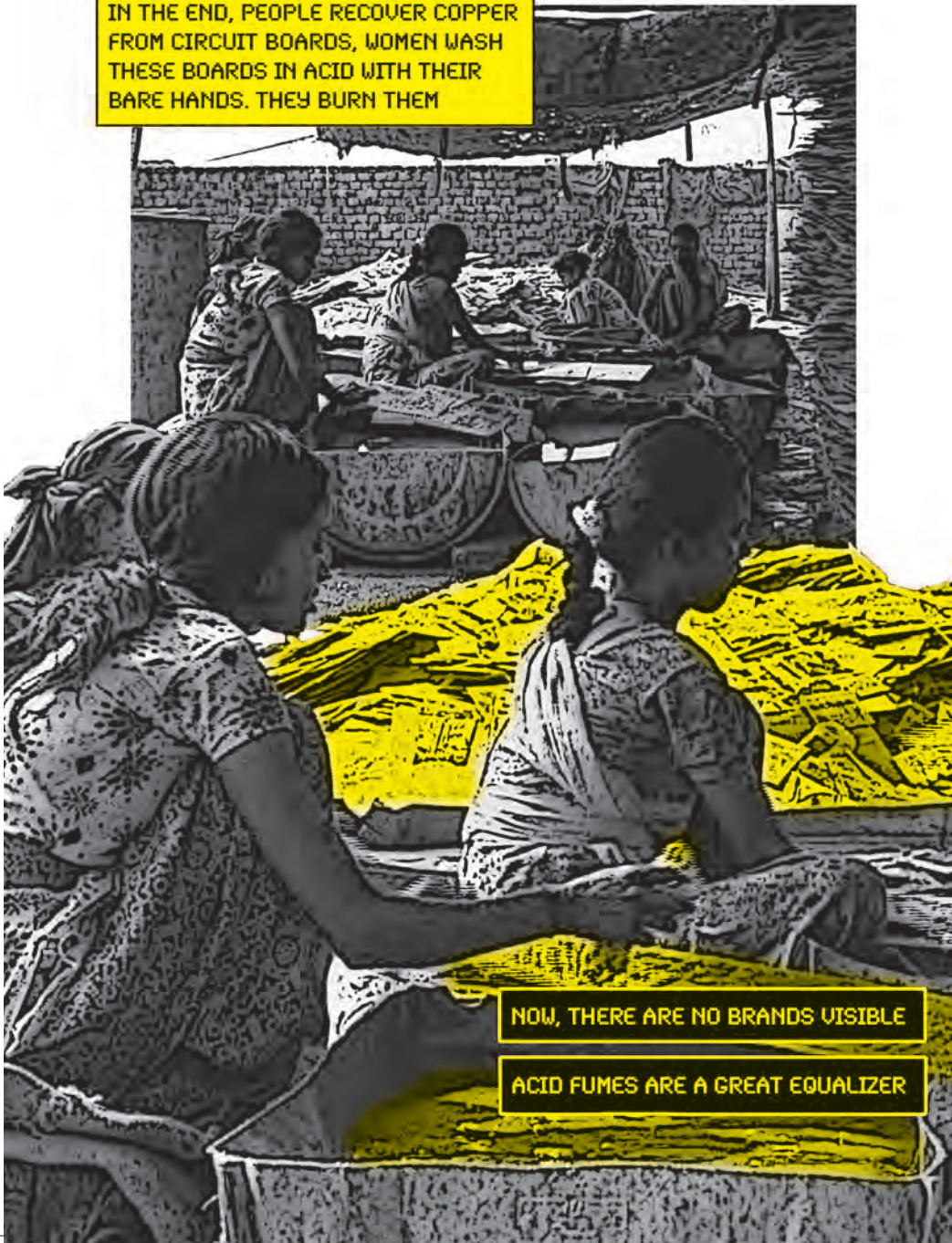
THIS IS A NEW TRIBE IN OUR CITIES. THE URBAN GOLD DIGGERS.

BARE HANDS, HIGH TEMPERATURE, NAKED EYES.

HANDLING THE WORLD'S BRANDED TRASH WITH JUST INTUITION AND EXPERIENCE

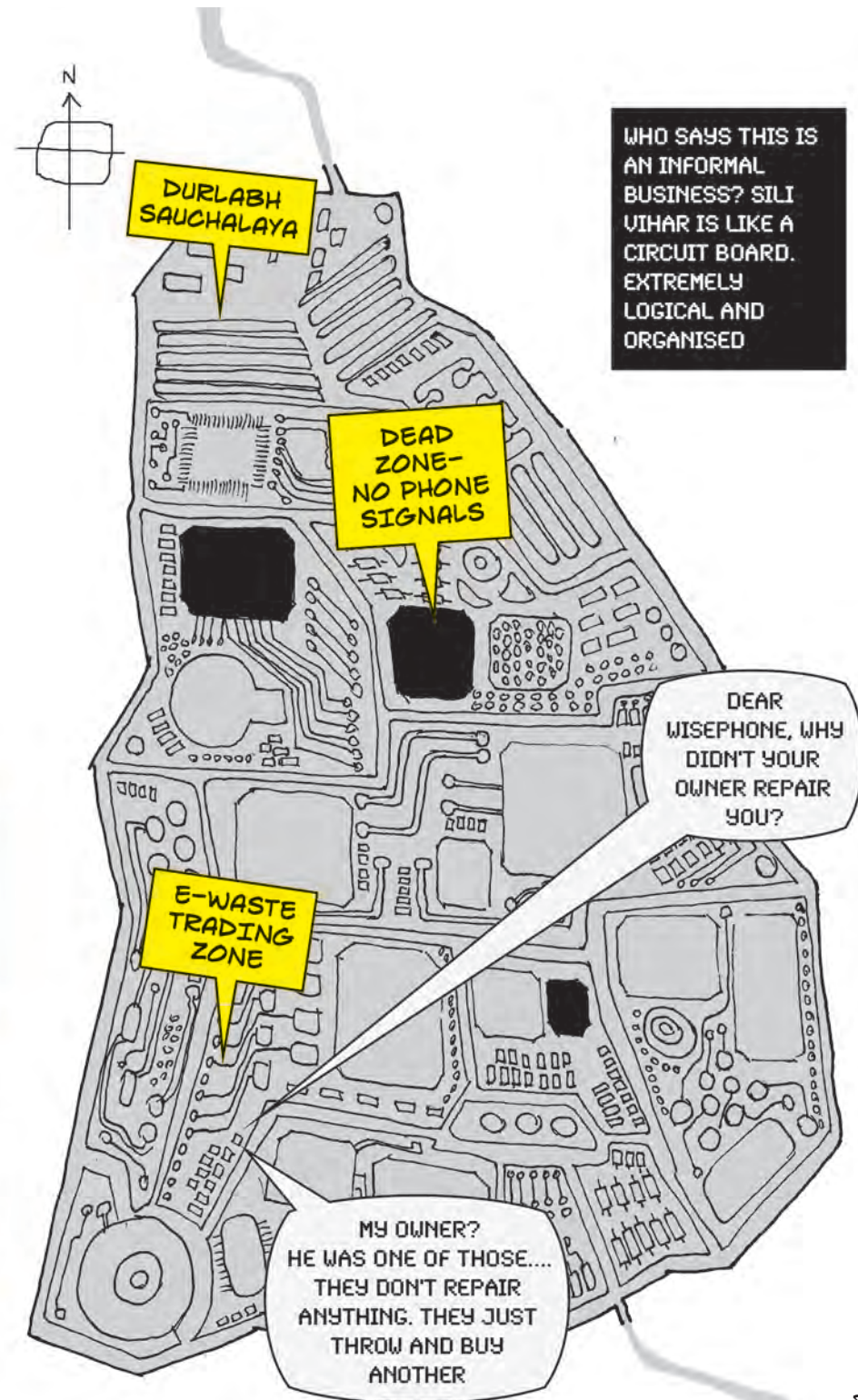
THE DON'T ENJOY THE COMFORT OF AN ELECTRONICS SHOWROOM

IN THE END, PEOPLE RECOVER COPPER FROM CIRCUIT BOARDS, WOMEN WASH THESE BOARDS IN ACID WITH THEIR BARE HANDS. THEY BURN THEM



NOW, THERE ARE NO BRANDS VISIBLE

ACID FUMES ARE A GREAT EQUALIZER



WHO SAYS THIS IS AN INFORMAL BUSINESS? SILI VIHAR IS LIKE A CIRCUIT BOARD. EXTREMELY LOGICAL AND ORGANISED

ON THE SAME PLANET, IN THE SAME CITY...

AAK,
WHERE ARE
YOU?

I'M IN THE
MALL

WHAT'S
UP?

WAITING
FOR RANA

THE MALL

THE BRAND

THE BRAND

I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME WITH
AAKIL IN MALLS. BUT ISN'T SAFE
HERE. HE CAN EASILY FALL IN
LOVE WITH ANOTHER PHONE

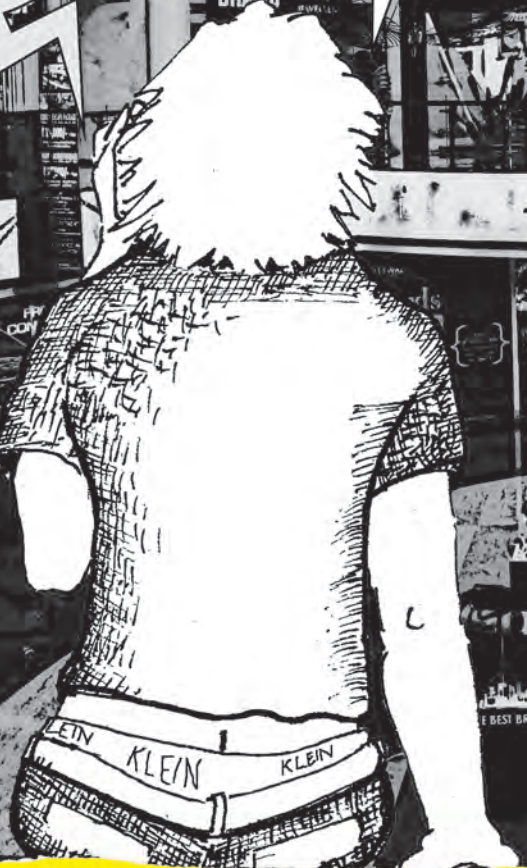
THE MALL

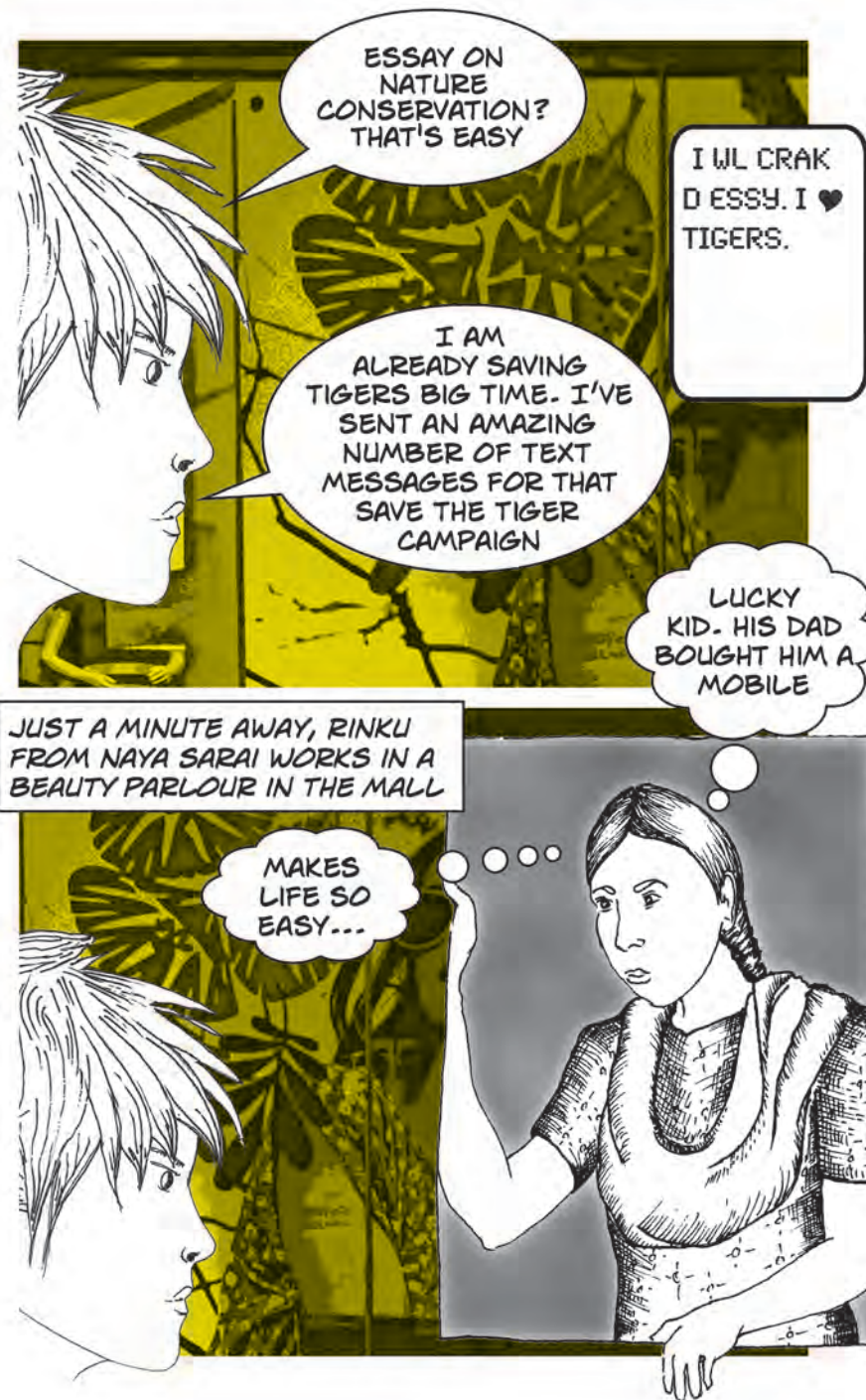
LE BRAND

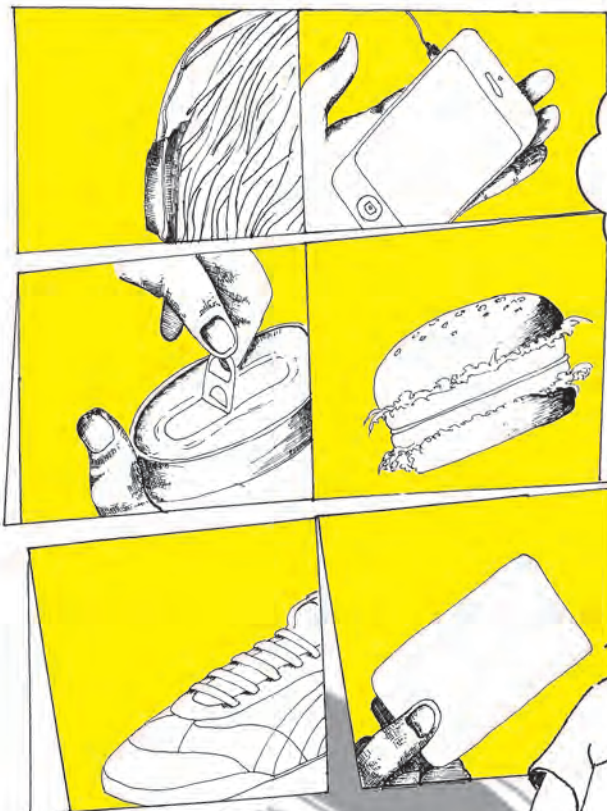
BRAND

THE BRAND

THE BRAND



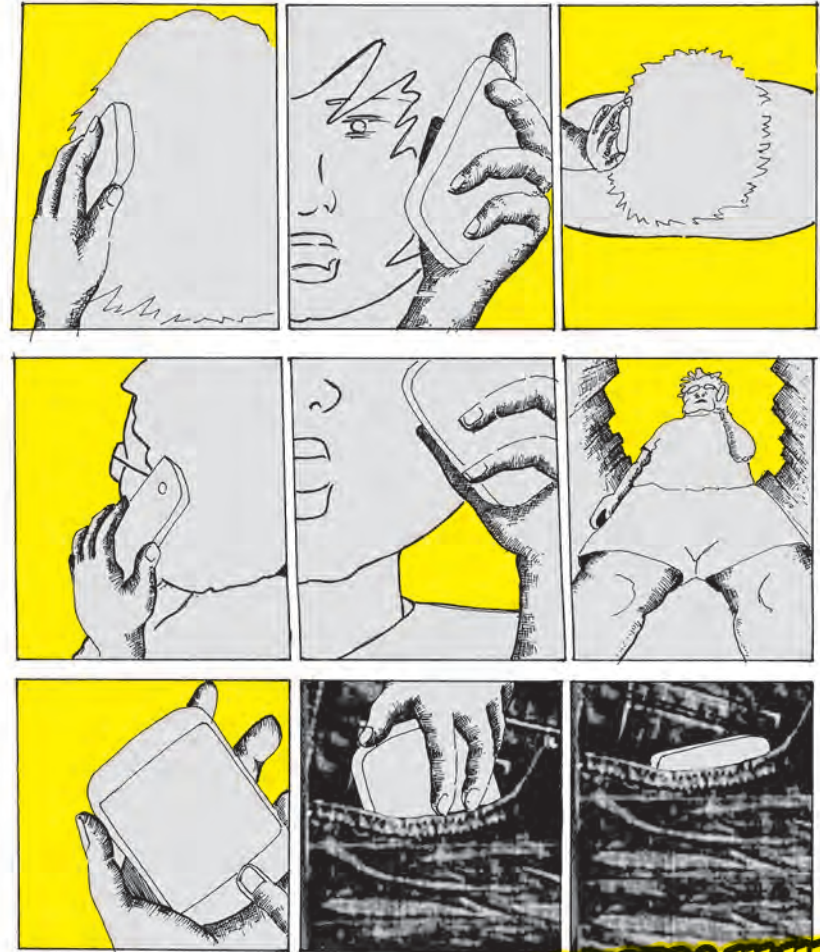
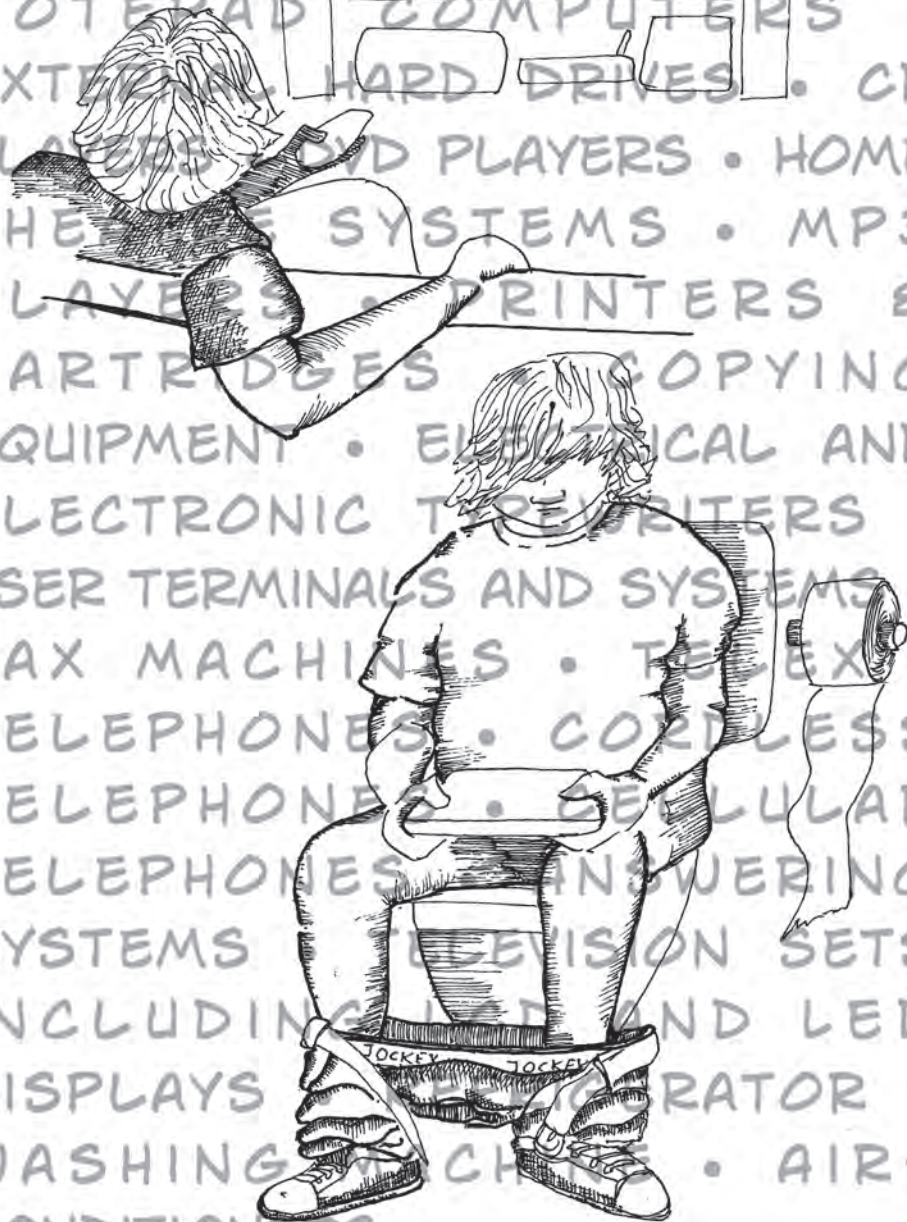




I
NEED TO
GET MORE
STUFF.
MORE NEW
STUFF



MAINFRAMES • MINICOMPUTERS •
 PERSONAL COMPUTERS •
 LAPTOPS • NOTEBOOKS •
 NOTEPAD COMPUTERS •
 EXTENDED HARD DRIVES • CD
 PLAYERS • DVD PLAYERS • HOME
 THEATRE SYSTEMS • MP3
 PLAYERS • PRINTERS &
 CARTRIDGES • COPYING
 EQUIPMENT • ELECTRICAL AND
 ELECTRONIC TELEWRITERS •
 USER TERMINALS AND SYSTEMS •
 FAX MACHINES • TELEEX •
 TELEPHONES • CORDLESS
 TELEPHONE • CELLULAR
 TELEPHONES • ANSWERING
 SYSTEMS • TELEVISION SETS
 INCLUDING LCD AND LED
 DISPLAYS • GENERATOR •
 WASHING MACHINES • AIR-
 CONDITIONERS



900 MILLION MOBILE SUBSCRIBERS IN INDIA
OVER 148 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS WITH TV

AAKIL, AND MILLIONS OF OTHER USERS, ARE CROWDING UP THE INFRASTRUCTURE EVERY MINUTE. CELL PHONES AND TABLETS ARE AN EXTENSION OF THEIR BODIES AND MINDS.

GIVE ME A MISSED CALL

KUCH BOL, NA

HAVE YOU TRIED THEIR CHILLI GARLIC PRAWN?

YOU'RE FIRED

YOU ARE MY HUNNY BUNNY

HELLO

MUAH!

BAD SIGNAL

WRONG NUMBER

I HATE YOU



REACHING IN 5 MINUTES

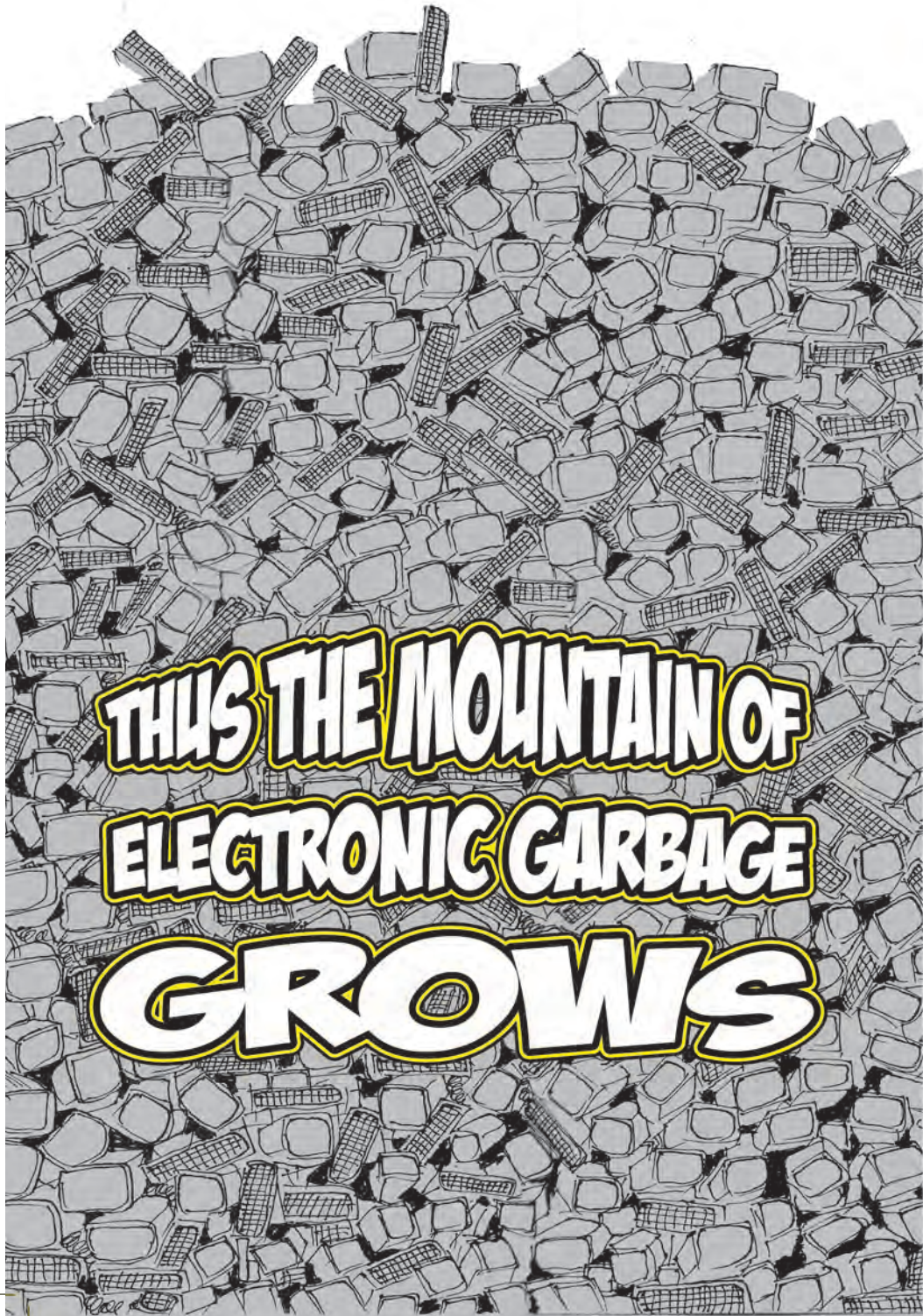
HELLO

WHICH HANDSET ARE YOU USING?

AAJ KIS TIME?

I LOVE YOU

SIR, DO YOU NEED CAR LOAN?



THUS THE MOUNTAIN OF ELECTRONIC GARBAGE GROWS

PUBLIC OUTRAGE GROWS TOO

TV HIDES
MORE THAN IT
SHOWS: NEW
STUDY ON
E-WASTE

AAB AAPKA
PHONE
CHARGER MAUT
KA PHANDA

DO THESE
COMPANIES
CARE ABOUT
THE PLANET?

POISON IN
YOUR LAP
(TOP)

"NO
COMMENTS"-
SENIOR EXTRA
SECRETARY

INDIA
DROWNS IN
E-WASTE

KYA AAPKE
HAATH MAIN
ZEHR HAI?

THE COUNTRY
WANTS TO KNOW
WHAT THE
GOVERNMENT IS
DOING ABOUT
E-WASTE



BY 2005, E-WASTE HAD BECOME AN ISSUE. BY 2008, IT COULD NOT BE IGNORED ANYMORE. THERE WAS PRESSURE FROM ENVIRONMENTALISTS.

THE PARLIAMENT HAD TO TAKE NOTE OF THIS GROWING MENACE. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAD TO BRING IN NEW RULES.

THEY DEFINED E-WASTE. THEY DEFINED THE DUTY OF THE PRODUCER. THEY DEFINED THE DUTY OF THE CONSUMER. EVERYBODY WAS EXPECTED TO USE ELECTRONIC GOODS RESPONSIBLY

WHO'S RUNNING THE COUNTRY? SOME NGO? OR US?

WE CANNOT IGNORE THE DADLANI COMMITTEE REPORT

WHAT IS THE HONORABLE MINISTER MR. JAIMESH DOING ABOUT THIS?

NO. NO

I AM PLEASED TO TABLE THE DRAFT E-WASTE (MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING) RULES

OUR PARTY WAS NOT CONSULTED. WE REJECT IT

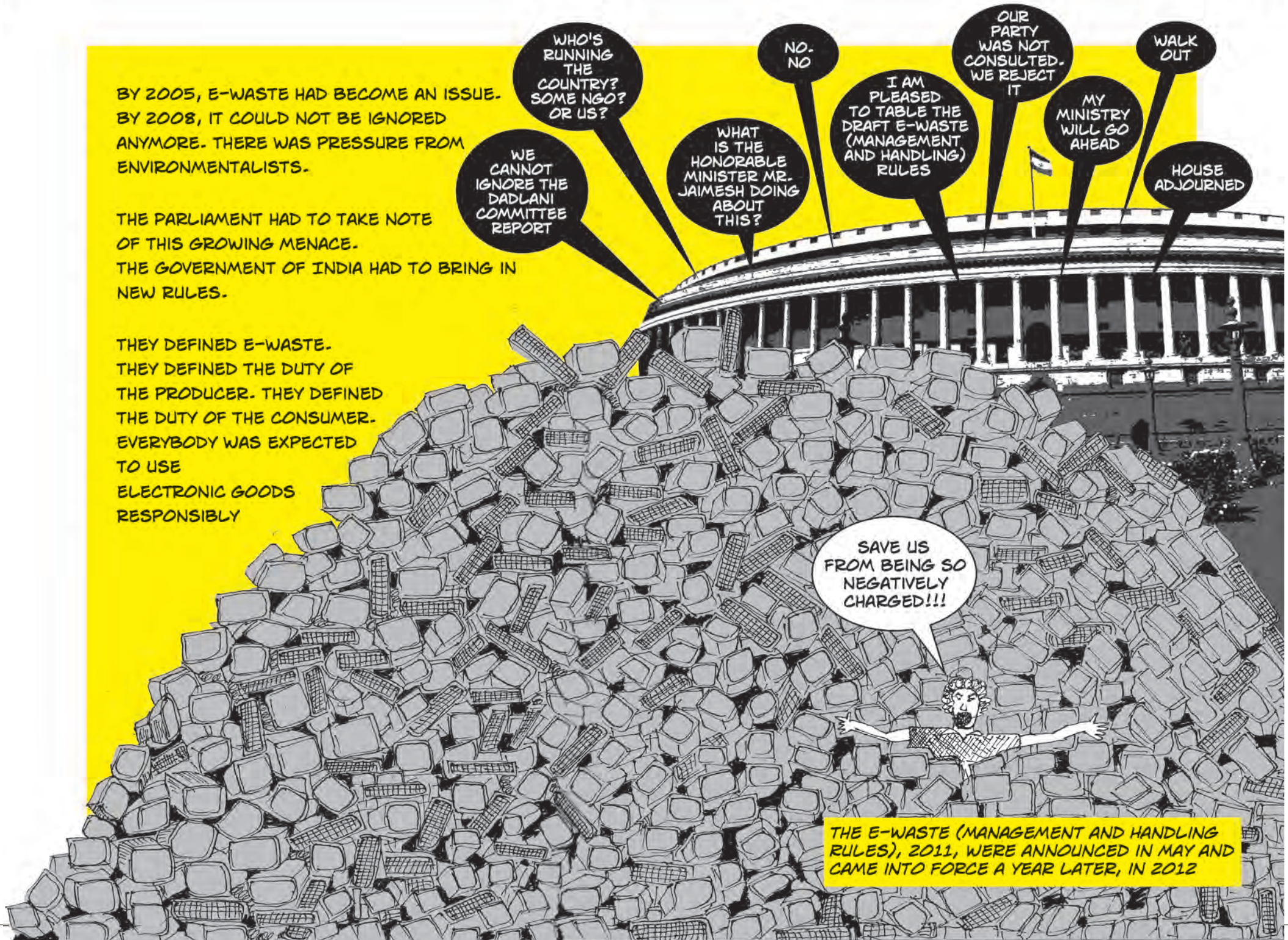
MY MINISTRY WILL GO AHEAD

WALK OUT

HOUSE ADJOURNED

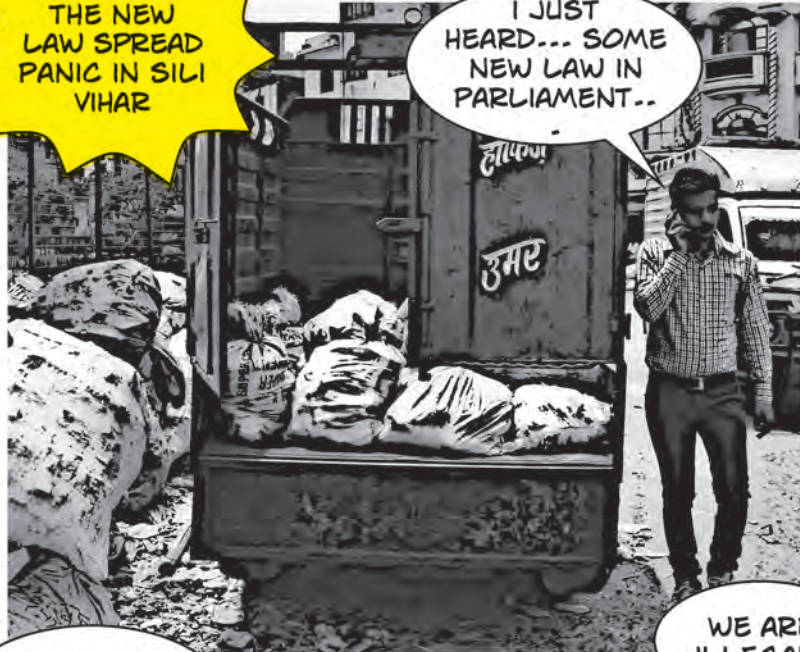
SAVE US FROM BEING SO NEGATIVELY CHARGED!!!

THE E-WASTE (MANAGEMENT AND HANDLING RULES), 2011, WERE ANNOUNCED IN MAY AND CAME INTO FORCE A YEAR LATER, IN 2012



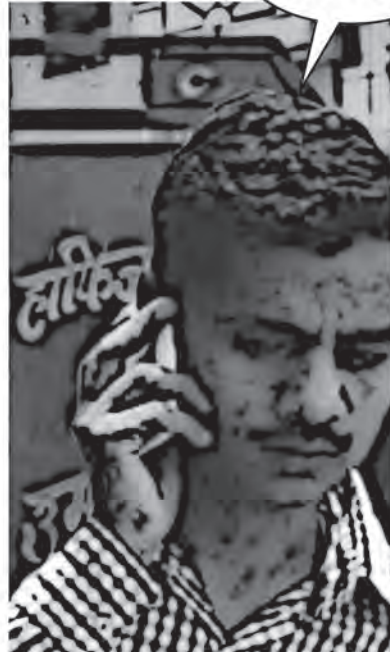
THE NEW LAW SPREAD PANIC IN SILI VIHAR

I JUST HEARD... SOME NEW LAW IN PARLIAMEN..



WE ARE ILLEGAL!

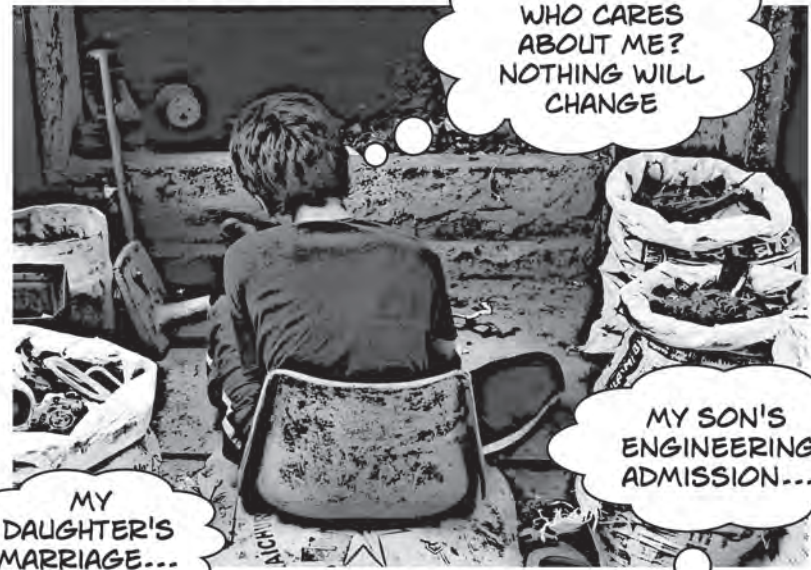
THEY WANT EVERYTHING TO BE SCIENTIFIC



ILLEGAL? BUT HOW DOES ONE BECOME LEGAL?



WHO CARES? WHO CARES ABOUT ME? NOTHING WILL CHANGE



MY DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE...

MY SON'S ENGINEERING ADMISSION...





WHEN THE BIG GUYS SENSE A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, WE BECOME ILLEGAL

HOW DO I GO SCIENTIFIC? BANKS WON'T GIVE ME A PAISA!

EVENING COMES TO SILI VIHAR



IT'S FUNNY. NOW THE AUTHORITIES ARE WORRIED ABOUT OUR HEALTH!!!

LET'S PLAY. I'LL BE A CONDUCTOR

MA, OUR TV IS NOT WORKING

I'LL BE A SEMICONDUCTOR

MEANWHILE IN NAVI MUMBAI---



SIR. THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A DATABASE!!!

BUT WE HAVE TO NETWORK WITH THOSE GUYS

CAN'T WE GET SOME NGO PEOPLE TO CONNECT US TO THE INFORMAL SECTOR?

PRESS RELEASE
THE WAY E-WASTE IS BEING MANAGED IN SILI VIHAR IS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE. THIS TRADE IS OUTSIDE THE FORMAL ECONOMY AND THERE IS NO PROPER ACCOUNTING. THE TRADE IS UNSCIENTIFIC, HAZARDOUS AND POLLUTING. MOREOVER, IT POSES A MAJOR HEALTH THREAT TO THE WORKERS ENGAGED. THIS HAS TO STOP

OUR BUSINESS MODEL IS SOLID

SENSING THE PANIC, SOME YOUNG PEOPLE FROM SILI VIHAR TRIED TO DIVERSIFY. SHAMSHER STOPPED WORKING IN HIS DAD'S DISMANTLING BUSINESS. HE LEARNED MOBILE REPAIRING AND SET UP A SECOND HAND MOBILE STORE IN NAYA SARAI

FIRST WE BUY, THEN WE DISMANTLE, THEN BLOW TORCH, THEN USE ACID TO RECOVER METALS AND RESELL

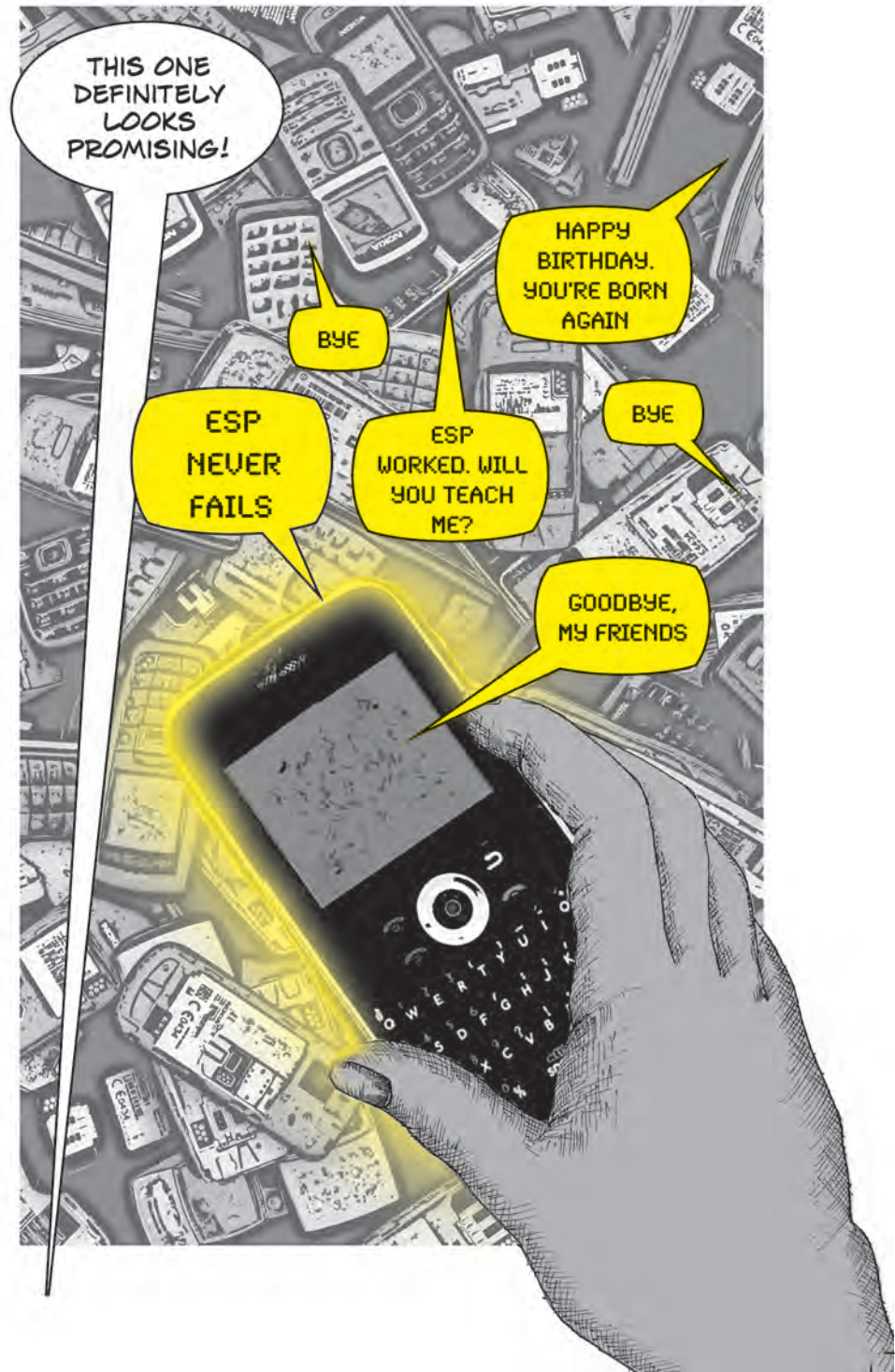
WHY SHOULDN'T I JUST REPAIR AND SELL STUFF?



SHAMSHER LOOKED AT HIS OWN BACKYARD...
OF COURSE SILI VIHAR

THIS PLACE IS A GOLD MINE. HOPE NO ONE ELSE KNOWS





WISEPHONE ESCAPED. BUT ALL THE OTHER MOBILES WERE OUTRAGED. THEY DID NOT WANT TO BE VICTIMS OF 'PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE'

TOTALLY GHASTLY 1932 CONCEPT

THIS STUPID PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE... IT IS ITSELF OBSOLETE

DO WE ALL HAVE PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE?

MEANING WHAT? WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE ARE OUTDATED?

IS THAT THE NAME OF THE NEW VIRAL FEVER?

NO YOU ILLITERATE. IF YOU WERE A SMART PHONE YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN. IT'S WHEN PEOPLE DESIGN THINGS IN A WAY THAT THEY DEFINITELY BECOME OUTDATED

CAN'T BE. I AM FULL OF IDEAS- NOBODY HAS EVEN TRIED ME OUT FULLY

TOO BAD. YOU ARE OUTDATED AND OBSOLETE. WE ALL ARE. ITS WHAT THE MARKET THINKS NOT WHAT YOU THINK

NONE OF YOU KNOW THE FULL STORY. PLANNED OBSOLESCENCE WAS A WAY TO BOOST THE ECONOMY. THEY THOUGHT- WE NEED TO PRODUCE MORE AND SELL MORE

THE NEW ECONOMY MUST BE BUILT THROUGH A GREAT SERVICE INDUSTRY. THE EARTH CANNOT HANDLE ANYMORE DIGGING.

RINKU'S CLIENTS ARE MOSTLY WEALTHY. TALKING TO THEM MAKES RINKU REALIZE SHE CAN EARN MORE TOO

WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME SOMETIME? YOU KNOW.. MY MOTHER CAN'T CLIMB STAIRS. GIVE ME YOUR NUMBER.

DON'T WORRY.. I WON'T TELL YOUR BOSS

I AM LOSING OUT ON ALL THESE CHANCES...I MUST BUY A MOBILE

I CAN EARN SO MUCH MORE IF I HAVE A MOBILE

BUT I NEED TO EARN SOME EXTRA FIRST TO BUY A MOBILE

MA'AM, I DON'T HAVE A MOBILE

RINKU SAVES ALL HER TIPS TO BUY A MOBILE. AFTER A FEW WEEKS, SHE GOES OUT TO SEE WHAT SHE CAN FIND.

IT WILL BE HER FIRST MOBILE PHONE BUT THE MOBILE'S SECOND LIFE

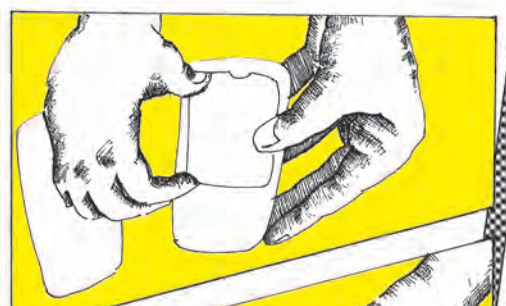
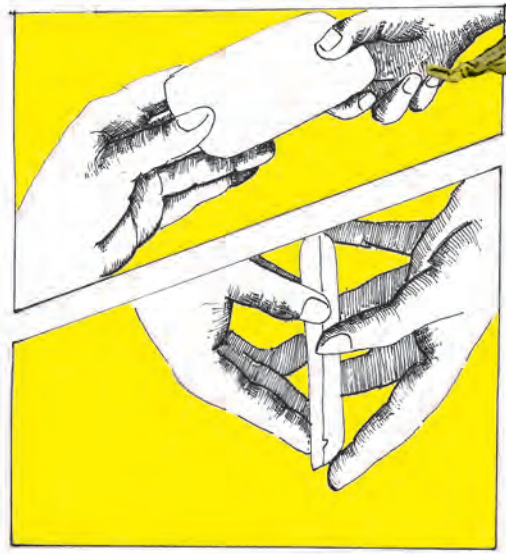
SHAMSHER'S MAGIC



WISEPHONE



LIFE!



THE SPOT REPAIRS
 10,000 PARTS Available

Phone

WINDOW MOBILE

Hardware Spare parts Accessories

PRICE SHOP Dealers Welcome

Software upgrade



IT'S NOT
 STOLEN.
 GUARANTEE, DIDI.
 ANYTHING GOES
 WRONG, BRING
 IT BACK

MY
 FIRST
 MOBILE!



MORNINGS ARE A BIT CHAOTIC IN NAYA SARAI. THERE IS NO WATER. AND LONG QUEUES FOR THE TOILET

RINKU, YOU HAVE TO START REACHING BY 10

WHY IS SHE TAKING SO LONG?

I'M NOT MARRYING HIM IF THEY DON'T HAVE A TOILET

I CAN'T KEEP CONTROLLING IT EVERY DAY LIKE THIS

DIDI. I'LL BE A BIT LATE

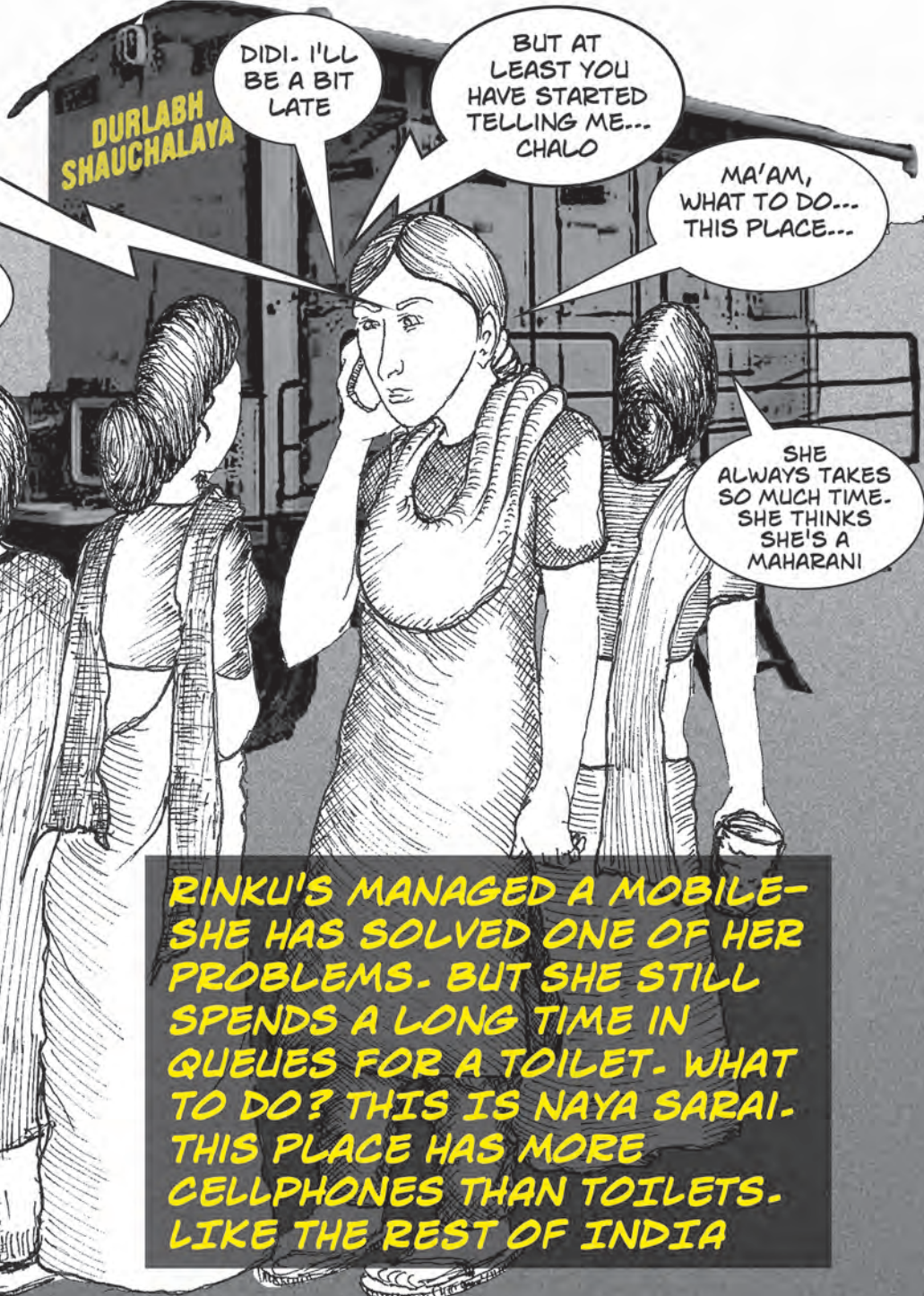
BUT AT LEAST YOU HAVE STARTED TELLING ME... CHALO

MA'AM, WHAT TO DO... THIS PLACE...

SHE ALWAYS TAKES SO MUCH TIME. SHE THINKS SHE'S A MAHARANI

I'LL MISS THE BUS AGAIN

THAT'S MY BUCKET. DON'T YOU TOUCH IT



RINKU'S MANAGED A MOBILE- SHE HAS SOLVED ONE OF HER PROBLEMS. BUT SHE STILL SPENDS A LONG TIME IN QUEUES FOR A TOILET. WHAT TO DO? THIS IS NAYA SARAI. THIS PLACE HAS MORE CELLPHONES THAN TOILETS. LIKE THE REST OF INDIA

STORY & CONCEPT

BHARATI CHATURVEDI
PRADIP SAHA

ILLUSTRATION

BHAGWATI PRASAD

PHOTOGRAPHY

SAYANTONI PALCHOUDHURI

ARTWORK & PRODUCTION

DAMAGECONTROL

RESEARCH & OTHER CONTRIBUTION

IMRAN KHAN, SHAKIR SAIFI, VANDANA SINGH,
CHITRA MUKHERJEE, SUPRIYA BHARDWAJ,
SANJAY TIWARI, PRACHI RATHURI.

IF YOU WANT YOUR E-WASTE DISPOSED OFF SAFELY, YOU CAN TURN TO CHINTAN. DON'T HESITATE TO DROP OFF YOUR E-WASTE AT CHINTAN'S E-WASTE COLLECTION CENTRE. CHINTAN IS THE ONLY NGO AUTHORIZED AS AN E-WASTE COLLECTION CENTRE BY THE DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE.

A GRAPHIC BOOK BY
CHINTAN
DAMAGECONTROL

SUPPORTED BY
GIZ

PRINTED BY PRINTWORKS
ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER



CHINTAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND ACTION GROUP

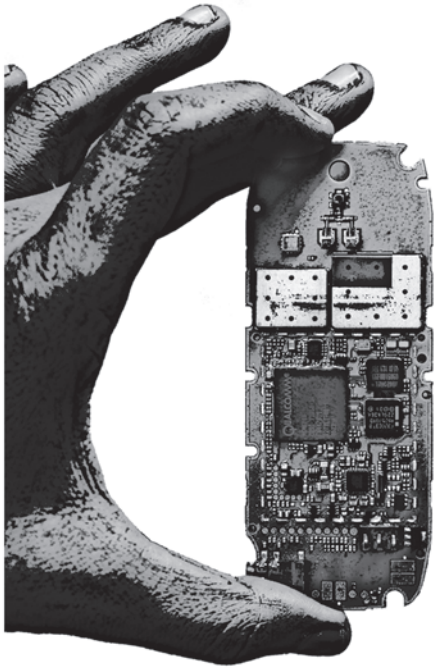
CHINTAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND ACTION GROUP IS A NON-PROFIT, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN DECEMBER 1999 AS A MEANS OF ADDRESSING ISSUES OF SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. CHINTAN WORKS FOR SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMICAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. CHINTAN ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADULT WASTEPICKERS, PROMOTES PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION CONSCIOUSNESS, AND LIVELIHOOD FOR WASTEPICKERS, AND THEIR KEY ROLE IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT.

DAMAGE CONTROL CONSULTANCY PRIVATE LIMITED

DAMAGECONTROL IS A RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION CONSULTANCY FOCUSING ON SOCIAL AND BUSINESS ISSUES AROUND SUSTAINABILITY.

ABOUT GIZ

THE SERVICES DELIVERED BY THE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH DRAWS ON A WEALTH OF REGIONAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND TRIED AND TESTED MANAGEMENT KNOW-HOW. AS A FEDERAL ENTERPRISE, WE SUPPORT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE INDO-GERMAN ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP (IGEP) IS A JOINT PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (MOEF) GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE GERMAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (GIZ) ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, GERMANY, FOCUSING ON URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN INDIA.



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AND ACTION GROUP

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giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH
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