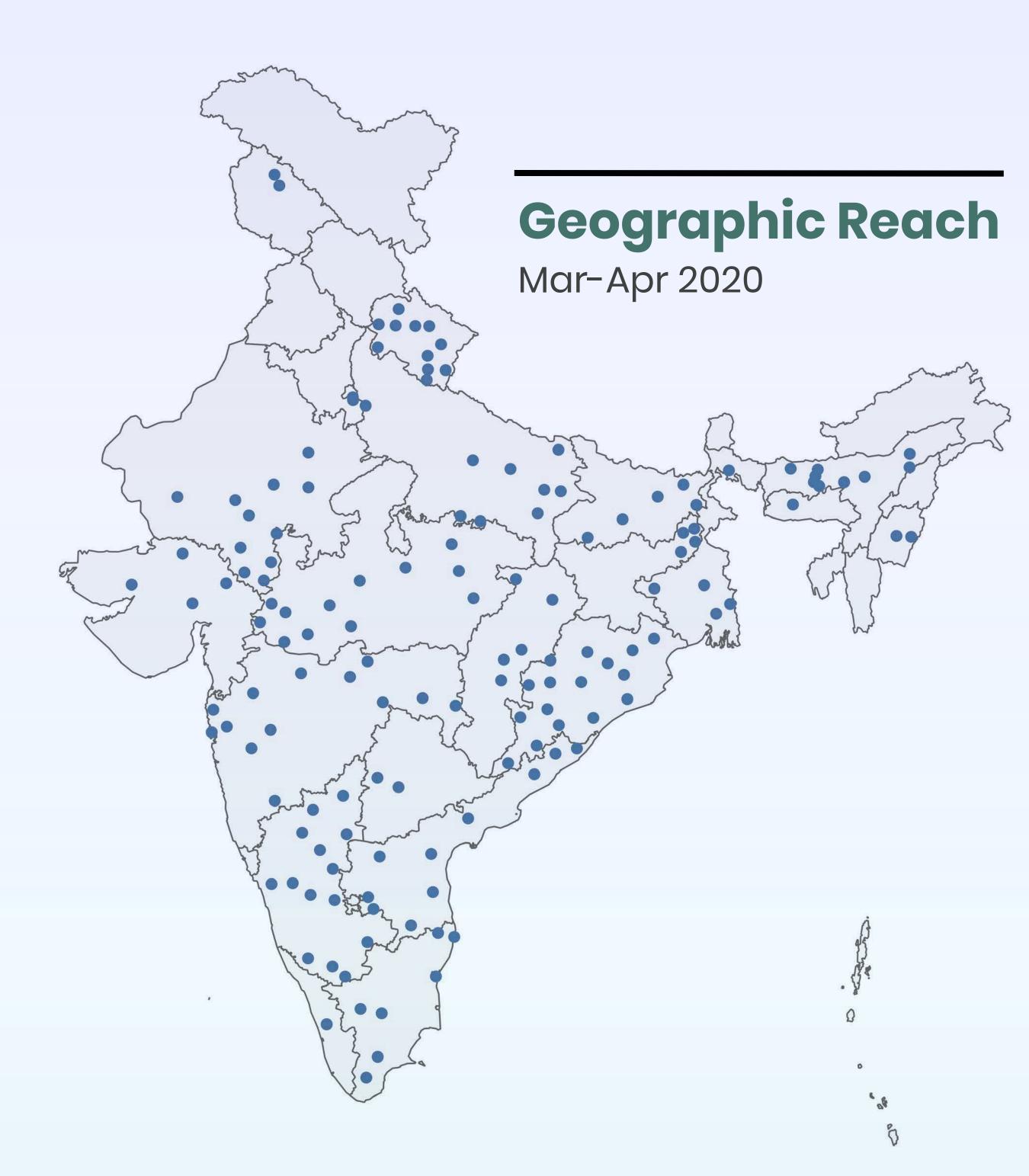


22 States and UTs 300+ Partners partner profiles- Jan Sahas in Dewas, MP and Hasiru Dala in 190+ Districts It is equal parts information, reality, stories and anecdotes. It

Cover Image: "Exodus" - recognises the millions of our suffering brethren and pays homage to everyone at the frontlines of this battle.



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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Bangalore.

is the story of us in an unprecedented time.

Chronicling what happened in 2020, this is The Dispatch.

Jan Sahas

Jan Sahas has put all their energies in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are working with migrants and other vulnerable communities in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. Their forms of support include a free helpline where stranded migrants can reach out for help, distributing ration kits, food packets and ensuring access to entitlements.

Official reports state that about 144 migrants have died while walking back to their villages after the lockdown was announced. Jan Sahas recently spoke to about 3200 migrants over phone. The report based on these conversations titled "Voices of Invisible Citizens" states that 42% of these people did not have rations for the next day, 90% of them did not have a "building or construction work" card and 15% of them did not have a ration card.

A 28-member team takes calls on the helpline number 24X7. They speak to migrants who are worried that they will never see their families again. Many worry that instead

of the virus, the hunger will kill them first. They request Paytm / cash transfer / mobile recharge for buying food and reaching out to their families. The operators who take these calls talk to nearby shopkeepers and transfer money directly to their accounts. The number of people calling the helpline with mental health issues has seen a recent spurt.

Till date Jan Sahas has reached 20000 people with ration/food packets. They have spoken to 22000 people through their helpline. They have made cash transfers and mobile recharges to more than 3000 people. They have also managed to collect bank account details of 9000 migrants. Ashif Shaikh, the founder of Jan Sahas, is clear that this strategy will continue for two more months. Post that Jan Sahas will focus on strengthening the govt efforts Ashif feels that it will take more than 2 years for these people to recover from the emotional and economic toll of the lockdown. There are people who called the helpline and said they have no other option but to commit suicide.

A few of them have not been answering their phones after that.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Hasiru Dala



Hasiru Dala was one of the first organisations to act on the day that the lockdown was announced. They started with distributing ration kits that would last families of waste pickers for 15 days. "Credible intelligence from the ground helped us a lot. We knew the community- which families have lactating mothers, who had children, who needed medicines, families who would be hit the hardest", says Nalini, the chief functionary of Hasiru Dala.

They set up a relief operation at St Joseph's college helped by Pricol logistics. They were able to send out 2500 packets of dry ration every day. "We decided to procure from the Agricultural Produce Market Committee for two reasons-better prices and being supportive of local farmers". This is what they did for 21 days- procured, packed and distributed relief.

"Since we were able to make this model work for our community of waste pickers, we were approached by the citizens group in Bangalore and they asked us to lead the combined efforts of several NGOs/forums/individuals in the city."

In 21 days, Hasiru Dala distributed ration kits to 22,000 families. They have spearheaded relief work in the city and have decided to work with the government for strengthening the delivery of essential services to the vulnerable.

They have been trying to maintain the practice of segregation of waste and raising funds for paying daily wages to waste pickers. "We toiled for 10 years to bring in solid waste management in Bangalore. We cannot let the virus stop that now". They are working relentlessly to revive the recycling industry and the solid waste management services with different stakeholders.

She signs off saying "We have to open the Nayandahalli market with its 500 shops (the centre of all recycling efforts in Bangalore), catering to 6000 waste pickers."

contract the COVID-19 virus

As an asthmatic and a fifty-seven year old, Dr. Johnny is

And yet he's forced to put himself in the frontline every

day. Because the alternative is far scarier.

Dr. Johnny worked with the community tirelessly, and within a few

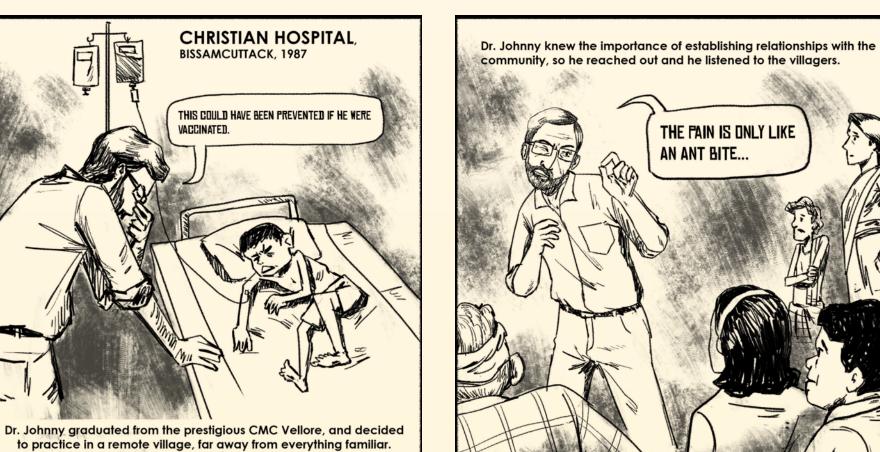
years, their village had a school, clean water supply, and roads.

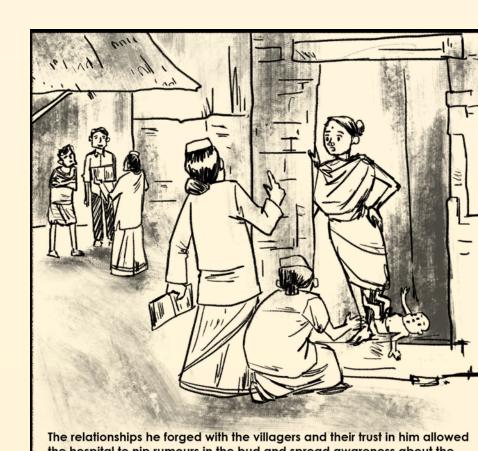
Featuring Dr. Johnny

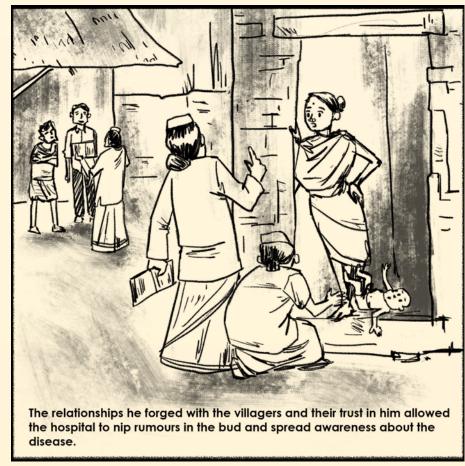


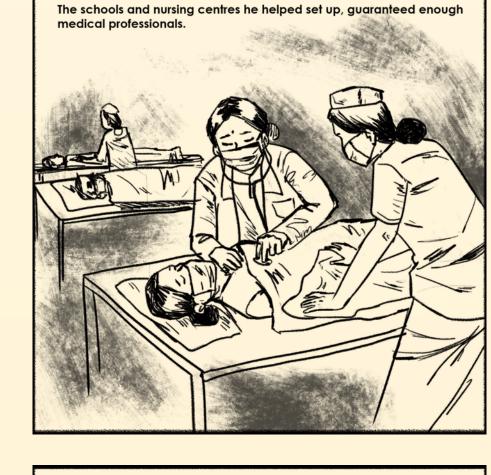
Everything that Dr. Johnny did, the seeds he sowed years ago, would

play an integral role in fighting the novel coronavirus





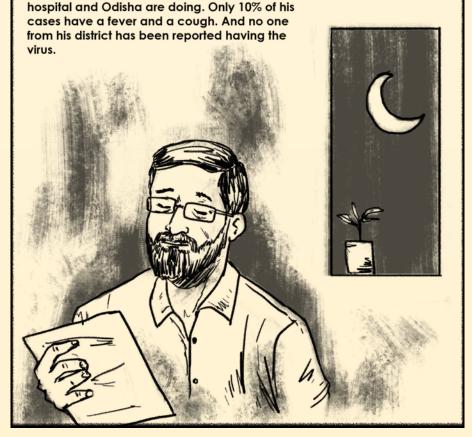


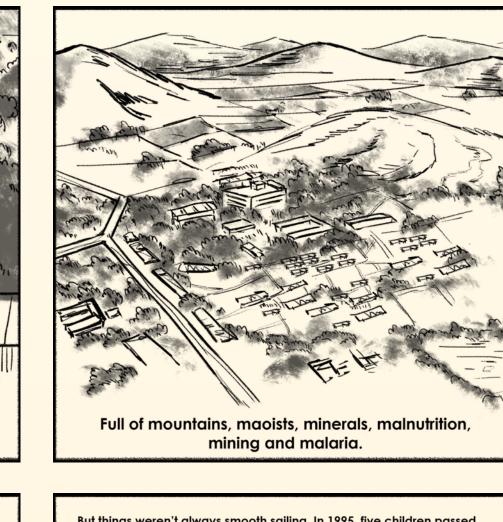


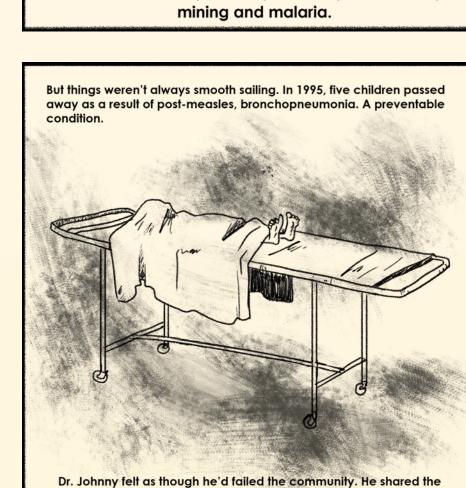
Dr. Johnny calls Bissamcuttack the "M" area.

His work paid off, and soon enough children who would have otherwise

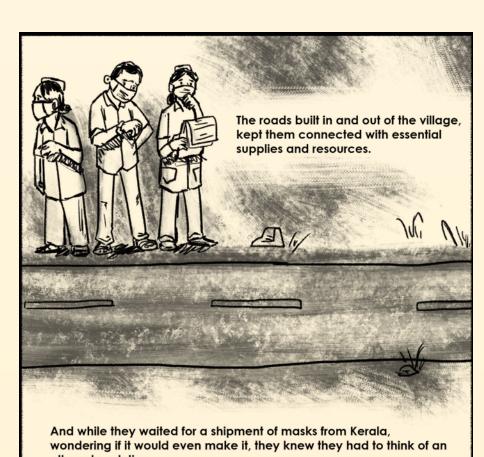
run away from the sight of a syringe, started lining up for their vaccines.







pain of the villagers, and he asked them about their needs.

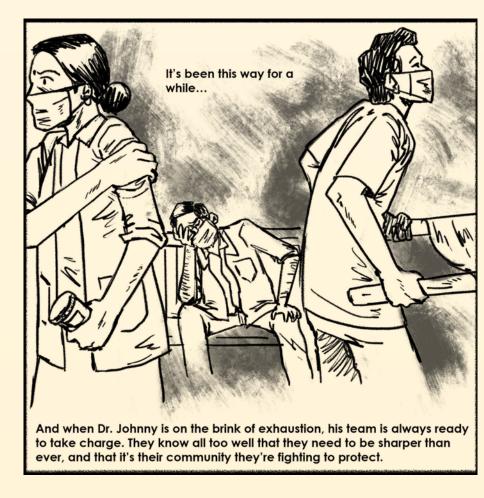


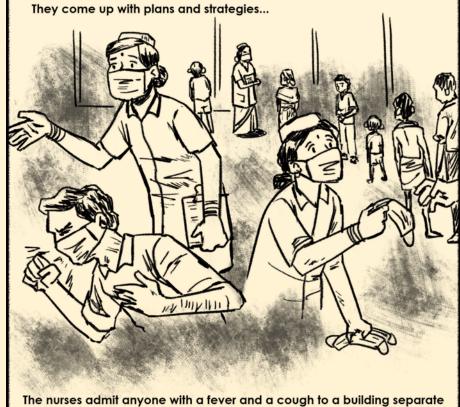


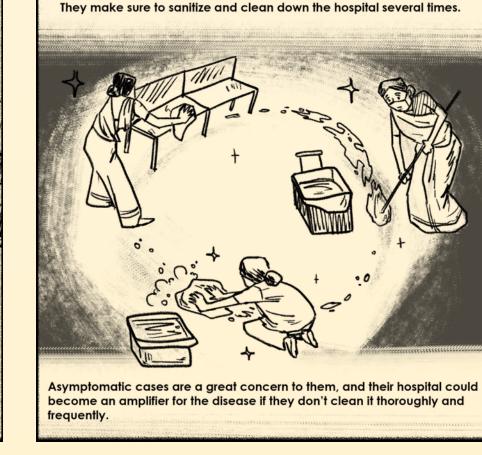
But perhaps the most worrisome thing about the "M" area is that it's 200

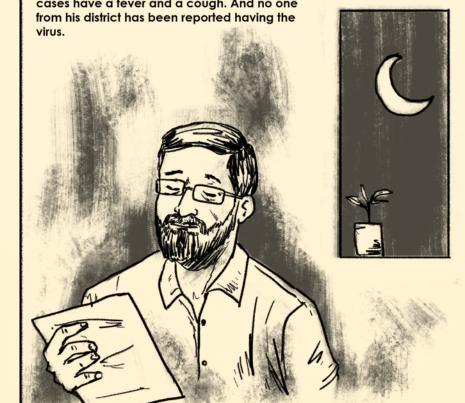
kms away from the closest ICU and 400 kms away from the only COVID-19 testing center in Odisha.



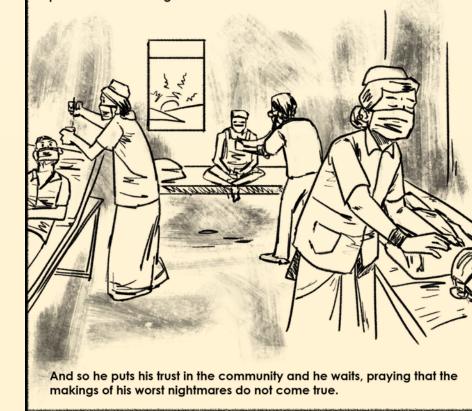






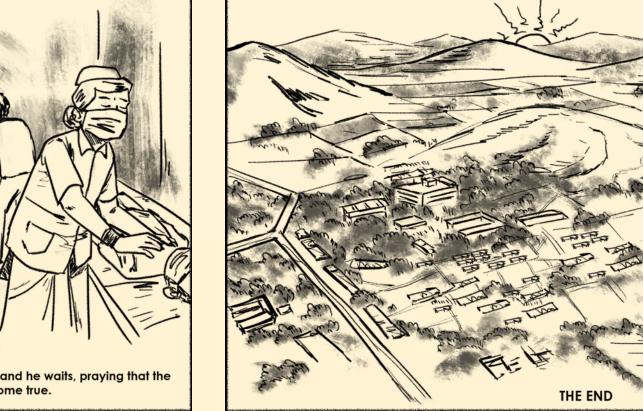


Dr. Johnny is momentarily relieved by how his



FOR INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

But at the same time, he knows that testing has hardly taker



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