

22 March 2020

Have you heard about the virus?

Will they shut everything?

Phullobai is a 43-year old Gond vegetable seller in Lalgarh.

Confusion and chaos fill the basti after the lockdown is announced on TV.

Phullo, how will we earn and eat during the lockdown?

Phullobai checks her savings.

We have Rs 4,000 but the ration is nearly over. They will allow vegetable selling, won't they?

Phullo, you can step out to sell vegetables. But how will I continue tailoring?

Saibu and I cannot survive if we do not work, Didi.

Saibu is Phullobai's husband. He works as a garbage collector for nearby apartments.

23 March

Ma, there are no buses so you take my cycle today.

I'll help Ma to the market.

Sanjay is Phullobai's 14 year old son.



Other sellers are here too. The temple and mosque are also open.

Only the big shops are closed.

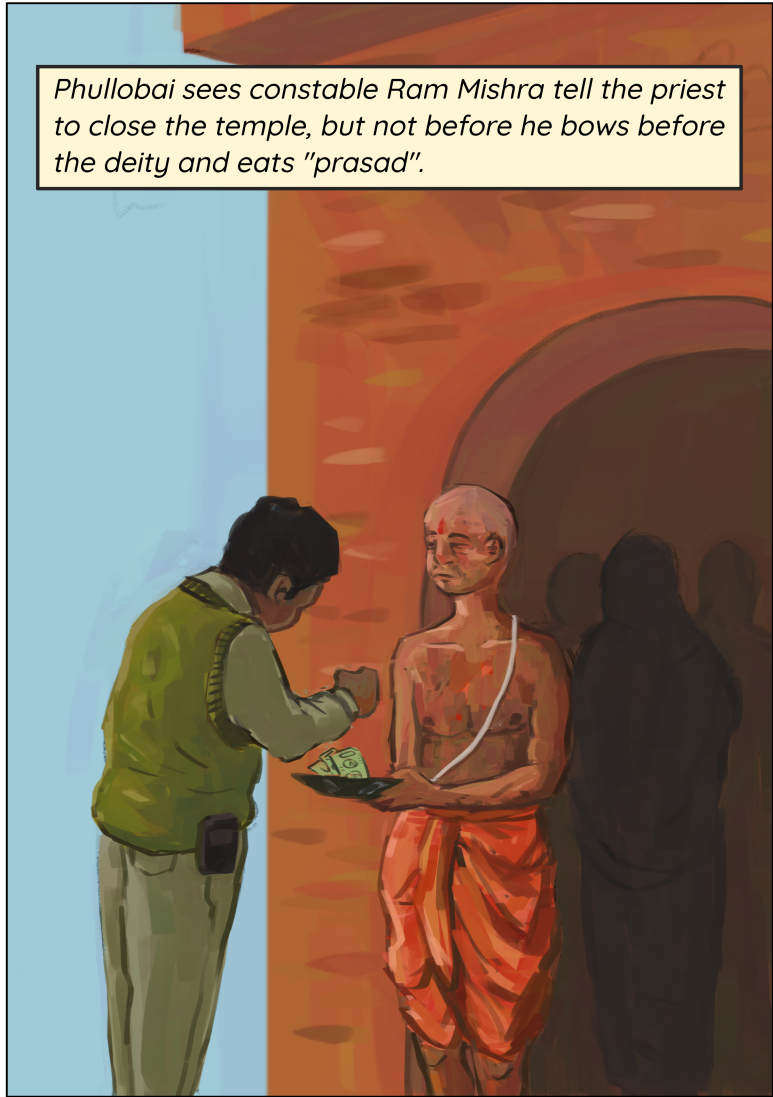
Phullobai is relieved to see some of her colleagues at the market square.



Phullobai sees 11 men get beaten up and arrested while leaving the mosque.



Phullobai sees constable Ram Mishra tell the priest to close the temple, but not before he bows before the deity and eats "prasad".



Nobody was arrested at the temple!

Ma, praying at the temple isn't wrong. Besides, there were more people inside the mosque.



The arrested Muslim men plead with the police to be let off and the police scold them for violating the lockdown.

More police arrive at the market to chase after the meat sellers and street vendors.



We've already arrested violators by the truckload.

Leave now, or we will use our danda and send you to the lock up.

As Phullobai and Sanjay hurriedly pack their vegetables, the police charge upon meat seller Akram.



Why are you arresting me?

Meat is an essential good under law!

The Collector has said only home delivery of essential goods is allowed.

How can I provide home delivery?!



Saab, please spare the goods.

We'll leave!



One constable begins destroying Phullobai's vegetables.

You're arrested! What reason do you have for violating the lockdown?

Please let him go, we're leaving.

Shut up, because I'll let you off with a warning.



You people never follow the rules!

We are forced to work for your safety, even when there is a **virus!**



What safety?! Who is safe from the police's violence?



Phullobai notices that Umakant, the tent shop owner has also been let off with a warning.



How are you under the essential goods category?!

I guess I'm lucky.

We are letting you off with a warning. Keep this slip, it is your notice.



Phullobai sees the police checking people on the main road. Some people are stopped and others are let off.

How is the police making these decisions?



The police drive off with all arrested persons.

Where are they taking Sanjay?! What does this notice mean?



Phullobai walks to the nearest police station to check if Sanjay is held there.



The police destroyed today's vegetables. With Rs 4,000 how will I afford to free Sanjay?

Phullobai is stopped by police at a checkpoint.

Saab I am out to buy medicines for my parents, please let me go.



Sirji, my husband beats me everyday. I will go to my parents' house in the neighbouring district, or I will *not* survive the lockdown.



The police issue notices to the man buying medicines and the woman leaving her husband's house.

Why are you out and not wearing masks?

We wanted to see the lockdown conditions.



The police issue notices to the three roaming youths.

Phullobai notices that a Honda car is allowed to drive by.

Let the car go, they're getting groceries!

Go straight home after, don't loiter!



The police question Phullobai and she shows them her notice.

My son has been arrested. Please, I need to go to the police station.



The police make everyone with notices do sit ups as punishment.

None of you have satisfactory reasons for violating the lockdown. Stay at home.



Phullobai manages to reach the nearest police station.

Get out! You son's not here and there is a lockdown, go home!



Outside the station, some constables are shooting dance videos about hand-washing.



Another take, the last few seconds are blurry.

Dejected and worried, Phullobai returns home.

Where is Sanjay?

He's been arrested.

The police arrested people at the basti too.

Saibu tells Phullobai that the police targeted Pardhi people's houses in the basti, ransacking homes for Mahua. Mahua is a traditional alcohol brewed by Pardhis for their livelihood.

Sir please, I stopped selling alcohol 2 months ago!


The police also arrested men playing cards under gambling laws.

Anybody who steps out of their house or the basti will be arrested!

Don't cry Phullo, Sanjay is a **Gondi**. This always happens to people of our jaat. I've been arrested trivially too, but I'm still here. He'll be alright.



Why is the fate of **Adivasis** so wretched? Why do the police target our communities? How will I **ever** free my son?



What is a **satisfactory** reason for violating the lockdown, according to the police?! Should we not work to **feed our families**?

20 May, 2020

Akram hasn't returned?

He is probably still in jail, with Phullobai's son.

I hope we all make enough money today so that our families eat a full meal tomorrow.

Phullobai returns to the market after the lockdown is lifted.

She continues to carry the notice slip, without understanding what it means.