

Dr. B. C. Roy Birth Anniversary Celebrated



Newsdesk- Sib Shankar Guha – National Doctor's Day on 1st July is celebrated every year in the country in commemoration of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy on his birth day. On this auspicious occasion Aghore Prakash Shishu Sadan (APSS) and Bengali Association, Bihar (BAB), jointly celebrated 136th birth anniversary at Dr. Roy's parental house and his birth place at Khazanchi Road, Patna, at serene ambience with gaiety. Aghore Prakash Shishu Sadan is located in this campus. Two Doctors – Dr. S. S. Jha and Dr. B. C. Kar were honoured with memento for their untiring services to the needy and ailing humanity of the state of Bihar and outside. It was handed over to them by the Chief Guest Shri Abhijit Dutta, General Manager in

Local Head Office of State Bank of India. The celebration began with garlanding on the statue of Dr. B. C. Roy by the guests, members of the School Managing Committee and members of BAB, and then with the welcome song by some students of the school. The President of APSS and BAB Dr. (Capt.) D. K. Sinha introduced the guests and spoke on the contributions of Dr. Roy. The Secretary of APSS and Working President of BAB Professor B. B. Mandal outlined the historicity of the school and highlighted on the excellent result done by the students in Secondary School Examination, the credit for which was bestowed upon selfless services of the teachers. The Chief Guest Shri Abhijit Dutta

gave a set of 16 laptop bags to those students who had obtained first division in S. S. Examination. The souvenir of the school was released by the chief guest and the guest doctors. The winners in different sports organized by the school and those secured 1st Division in S.S. Exam this year were given prizes by the Chief Guest. The President of the School honoured the chief guest Shri Abhijit Dutta with a memento. The guest doctors and the chief guests expressed their good wishes and encouraged the students to make great stride in achieving their ambition in life. The audience was regaled with songs and dance by the school students. The vote of thanks was proposed by the Principal of the School Ms Nupur Gupta.



Bhikhari Thakur

Born : December 1887, Kutubpur, Saran (Bihar)
 Died : July 10, 1971

"He was a man from 'little tradition', with no formal education, but emerged as the most powerful playwright, lyricist, actor, folk dancer, social activist and voice of the masses of his time and was popularly known as the 'Shakespeare of Bhojpur literature'.

Bhikhari Thakur, through his artistic talents and bitter experiences, developed his own dance-drama style by picking up elements from Ramlila, Rasliha, Birha yatra, Bengali Jatra forms and other performative elements and moulded them into a totally new and wonderful style now known as - 'bidesiya'. Bidesiya means migrated people, who left their home in search of livelihood, but in the larger context Bhikhari's 'Bidesiya' not only migrated from the lands but from their culture also. Though his plays were having themes from his contemporary society but it was moulded by bhikhari's new progressive and revolutionary style in the form of strong message to one and all. Hence the cry and urge of Bhikhari's 'Bidesiya' merges with the pathos and tragedies of displaced communities and exploited people throughout the world..... And 'Bhikhari Thakur's urge and expressions become part of the world culture." [Collected]

Medical Education or Medical Business

Newsdesk - India is world-famous for its doctors. In comparison to any other country, India has highest number of medical colleges, 579 to be exact. The reputed institutions of our country produce some of the world's best Doctors. Producing research papers is one of the indicators of the quality of education given in these institutions and indirectly shows the health care that might be provided there. But one of the studies showed that more than half of these 579 institutions didn't produce any research paper for over a decade (2005-2014). Most of the papers were contributed by just 25 of those institutions. Couples of recent studies have cast serious doubts on the quality and ethics of the country's vast medical schooling system. Samiran Nundy, a Delhi-based

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Behar Herald and Bengalee Association, Bihar are shocked by the news by terrorist attacks on the bus carrying pilgrims to Amarnath. 7 persons were killed, many more injured. Behar Herald and Bengalee Association, Bihar strongly condemn this heinous act of desperation and cowardice. Strong actions against the terrorists are demanded. Behar Herald and Bengalee Association, Bihar also hail the courage of the bus driver Salim who continued driving braving the spray of bullets and thus could save the lives of scores of pilgrims, and also of the bus owner's son who encouraged Salim to drive the bus bravely.

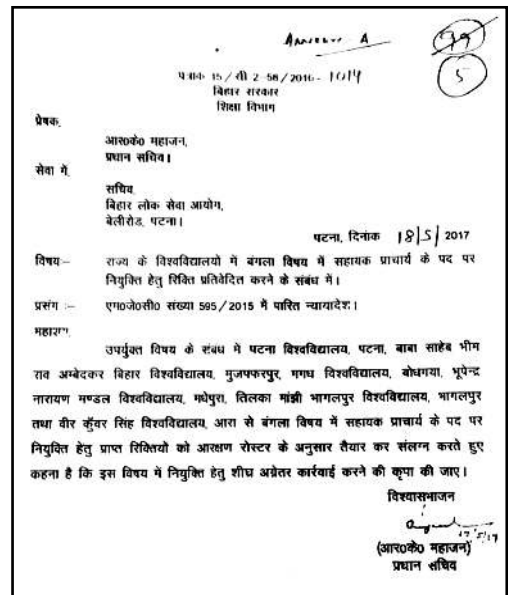
Reducing the 'Akash' of Akashvani Delhi

All India Radio, Delhi, has closed the broadcast of news in regional (sic) languages from 8th July 2017. The sting of nostalgic pain must have pierced the hearts of other linguistic communities also, but near home we could see the sting felt by Bengalee newspapers, individuals and users of social media. This was to come. After President of India gave his assent to the new set of rules about languages, framed by the Central Government and passed by the Parliament, this was to come. The new rules have expelled the use of languages in the Eighth Schedule from the functioning, even from discussions, speeches by individual MPs, of both the houses of the Parliament, of course except the Official Language of the union i.e. Hindi. The languages have been shown their area of operation within the states only. Rather, as they say in Hindi, the languages were shown their 'aukaat'. We don't know, what compelled the President, himself a Bengalee, to give assent to these rules, 'bring this file on his table and clear it' in a hurry. He could have returned the file. The rules are not 'against the Constitution' perhaps, but against the spirit of the Constitution. The parliament could have sounded like a gorgeous symphony that is India! Now it will sound like a repetitive sonata of the Mid-Gangetic plains only. So far as Akashvani or All India Radio is concerned, languages of the Schedule were shown their state or regional centres. Akashvani Kolkata will have its national news in Bengali. But Akashvani Delhi, loaded with decades of memory of association with Bengali and other linguistic people all over India, loaded with stupendous moments of history shared with them till the advent and popularization of TV, has closed its doors for them.

EDITORIAL

Victory came to the organisation which fought

Newsdesk – Leadership of Bengalee Association, Bihar was surprised when some time ago Bihar Public Service Commission initiated recruitment process for the vacancies of lecturers, asst. professors etc. in various subjects lying in the universities of Bihar. Bengali was not amongst those subjects! Bengali Association filed RTI application to all the universities for the sanctioned post and vacant post of Bangla Language. It was found that there were more than four dozen posts of teachers of Bengali in various grades lying vacant in the universities of Bihar. Association, as usual after failed persuasions with the concerned department of the government, was constrained to file a case in Honorable Patna High Court. In a funny, offhand reply, just to shake off the responsibility, government submitted to the court that there are not many vacancies available in for Bangla teachers and 'unimportant' subjects will be taken up in the next phase! Along with the vacancies declared by different universities in response to RTI, Court asked that why a language, in which the National Anthem is written and which is the mother tongue of lakhs of Biharis and further Govt. of Bihar has accepted Bangla as the minority language then on what ground the same language is now considered unimportant by the same government? This very question was enough to make the, till then unyielding, department succumb. The Chief Secretary, on 18.5.17 issued a letter to BPSB (facsimile



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'Environmental protection must for human rights'

Supreme Court too plays a vital role in the matter : Justice Joseph

Supreme Court Judge Kurian Joseph said environmental protection had become a matter of great concern for human rights and the right to live with dignity. Addressing a gathering of corporate delegates at the 19th Annual World Congress on Environment Management here on Friday, Justice Joseph enunciated various constitutional provisions towards protection of the environment, forest and wildlife, and the state's responsibility to safeguard the same for public good.

Article 48(a) would mandate the State to endeavour to protect the environment and safeguard forests and wildlife, and the fundamental duties as laid forth in Article 51(a) enjoined the citizens to protect the environment.

The Supreme Court too played a vital role in protection of the environment, Justice Joseph said, citing various judgments by the apex court where it had recognised the relation between Article 21, pertaining to the right to life, and the environment. Article 47 further imposed the responsibility of public health on the State, which was closely linked to the environment.

Wide ambit

The word, environment, was a broad spectrum in nature, which included in its ambit hygiene and ecological balance too, hence the State had the duty to maintain hygienic environment to ensure public health.

Any act causing environmental, ecological, water, and air pollution

should be regarded as violation of the right to life with dignity set forth by Article 21. It was impossible to live with dignity without hygienic environment, Justice Joseph said. Hence, it should be considered constitutional imperative of state governments and municipal authorities to protect and safeguard the environment.

Citing cases where the Supreme Court refuted the opposition between development and ecology and stressed sustainable development, Justice Joseph said the National Green Tribunal was set up for this very purpose of effective and expeditious disposal of cases related to the environment and forests. Yet, the purpose of the NGT was not punitive measures for polluters.

Green Tribunal

"The tribunal helps you to acknowledge your duties," he said to the heads of companies.

The cardinal principles guiding the tribunal were sustainable development, principle of natural justice and the stipulation of 'polluter pays'.

Speaking of Paris Agreement, and its aim of bringing down global temperatures to pre-industrialisation levels, Justice Joseph said climate justice was the need of the hour, as climate change played into existing inequalities. He lauded the initiatives such as Swachh Bharat, which were important for sustainable development goals.

(Abridged)

PUBLISHED: HYDERABAD, JULY 08, 2017

Courtesy: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/environmental-protection-must-for-human-rights/article19236003.ece>

Rabindra Jayanti by Bhagalpur branch



Indranil Lahiri - On the occasion of Rabindra Jayanti, the Bengali association Bihar, Bhagalpur branch performed a programme at Kala Kendra, Bhagalpur on 10th May 2017. Different songs of Rabindranath were sung in different way and the little touch of modern style attracted the

people. Arup Karmakar, Nilanshu Banerjee, Chandan Kumar Roy, Sarbani Guha, Ravi Prakash, Chinmoy Mukherjee, Ganesh Mandal have performed in chorus which was very much extraordinary to the audience. Besides that Arup Karmakar and Sarbani Guha and

Nilanshu Banerjee with Sarbani Guha sang duet songs. Dr. Amita Moitra presented recitals. The secretary of the Bhagalpur branch was also present and controlled the stage as an announcer. The programme was very much successful

[Newsdesk regrets that this piece of news was lost in emails. Indranil had to resend it.]

Speaking the language of change?

- Nissim Mannathukkaren

The World Bank's reports show that social movements may be shaping the bank's language

Democratic Centralism entails popular participation in formulating the plan at the enterprise level. — World Bank Romania country report, 1979

The World Bank's 'World Development Report 2017: Governance and the Law' is a remarkable document.

Remarkable, because it is hard to believe that the World Bank authored this document. When the report cites Michel Foucault — that incandescent French thinker, who showed us how supposedly free and rational institutions of modernity are indissolubly linked with power and social control — it is time to pay attention.

Politics and power

The report focuses on politics and power in development policy, and endeavors to move them "from the margins to the core of development thinking and action". Essentially, this goes against the soul of seven decades of development thinking — technocracy: reliance on capital, technology and (Western) experts and supposedly above politics and power — perpetrated by international financial institutions (IFIs)/development agencies controlled by the Global North.

Contrast the report with scholar Bruce Rich's assessment of the World Bank during the presidency of Robert McNamara when the bank expanded phenomenally: "McNamara's grandiose vision involved a wager that was indeed Faustian — a risky experiment with life and nature, using simplistic technologies, and a fatal hubris about the bank's ability to know, plan and direct the evolution of human societies and the natural systems they depend on." This Faustian notion informed development projects in the Third World, whether inspired by the imagination of American economist W.W. Rostow in the 1960s, or that of neoliberal capitalist policy prescriptions of the Washington Consensus from the 1980s.

Reading the report in this context is like reading a treasure trove of ironies. There is a lot in it for those who oppose development as technical fixes and as Northern imperialism. The report, remarkably, emphasises public goods and public spending on health, education and infrastructure. It expresses concern that inequalities are growing, that inequality has a multiplier effect, and stresses that "ultimately, growth and inequality are jointly determined".

For the report, development is not the expansion of economic freedom, but following Amartya Sen, is the removal of all kinds of "unfreedoms" so that governance delivers the three goals of security, growth and equity achieved in ecologically sustainable ways. The report also gives a nuanced account of the democratisation processes. It has a useful survey of elites from 12 countries. The report's comparative scope is one of its strengths, giving interesting facts such as how multi-party elections led to the reduction of infant

Association had to move to High Court on the issues of Bengali education — once for text books, once for school teachers, once for the affairs of Academy and now for university teachers. Cases for other rights of Bengalee people, particularly of settled refugee

mortality rates in Sub-Saharan Africa!

This reinforces what critics of the World Bank and other IFIs have always argued — that there is no solution to problems of development but substantive democracy. But the most important question is what has changed since the days when the bank, as Rich documents, applauded the Communist dictator Ceau escu's centralised economic control and state planning and helped Romania become one of its largest borrowers.

As a social document

The answer lies in reading the World Bank report as a social document. It is not just about the World Bank studying society, but turning the lens back on the World Bank. The bank is not detached from but is a part of the same social processes that it describes. Ironically, then, we have to follow the report's prescriptions: "taking politics seriously in development points directly to the need to challenge the interests of the power holders that control institutions — something that many development organizations have not yet decided they are willing to do".

What is different from four decades ago is that the bank is also responding to multifarious challenges to the development hegemony of the North (secured also by the participation of Southern elites). This hegemony ensured that the bank has always been headed by white American males (until the current president) when the planet is virtually kept alive by women who constitute 60% of the agriculture force in Asia and Africa. Unsurprisingly, many World Bank presidents previously worked in defence departments and private corporations.

The resistances by social movements have led the bank to speak the language of the people. Hence, the increasing focus on issues such as gender rights, equity (the 2006 report was titled 'Equity and Development'), etc. Besides, the rise of China and India and their decreasing reliance on the bank makes the latter less powerful than before. Thus, acknowledging politics and power relations is one way to defuse the challenges to the bank's dominance.

There is a telling statement in the report: "The development community is talking the talk of politics. How much it will walk the walk is not yet clear." Ultimately, the question is whether the World Bank itself is willing to walk the walk. A 2015 United Nations Report called the World Bank as a "human rights-free zone" and that its policies consider "human rights more like an infectious disease than universal values and obligations".

Perhaps, it is time for those who control the World Bank to read its own 'World Development Report 2017'.

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Courtesy: <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/speaking-the-language-of-change/article19218383.ece>

population of Bengalees in various districts, apart. And without exception, every time the Association's point was vindicated by the honorable court — victory was with the Association. Mail Unity and Co-ordination, the motto of Bengalee Association, Bihar.

Dilip Chakraborty

Behar Herald mourns the sad demise of Dilip Kumar Chakraborty, Editor of Gana Chabuk, a news weekly and Ishan, a multilingual annual anthology of poetry. He was an advocate by profession. He was a Bengali poet and did journalism both in Assamese and Bengali. He lived in Dhubri, Assam and his literary endeavors and annual functions, mostly in December was a rallying point of poets, writers and litterateurs of Bengali, Assamese, Bodo, Goalpariya, Toto and other languages of Assam and North East. People from faraway Nagaland, Tripura, Jaigaon (Assam), Bengal and Bihar reached his functions. With strong secular and democratic credentials he impressed all the people around him. During last two years he was ailing and had undergone an operation which, however was successful. Editor, Behar Herald met him in Dinhat (WB) this February. His demise came most untimely in these critical times for his state. We pay our respects to him and express sincere condolences to the bereaved family.



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Medical Education

senior gastrointestinal surgeon who authored one of the studies strengthened a strong suspicion that for many private colleges in the country, medical education is just a business. In a country with the world's heaviest health burden, and highest rates of death from treatable diseases like diarrhoea, tuberculosis, and pneumonia, corruption at medical training institutions is a serious issue. The Indian Medical Association estimates that nearly half of those practising medicine in the country do not have any formal training and many of those who claim to be qualified are not. A four-month-long probe by Reuters found that "at least 69 Indian medical colleges and teaching hospitals have been accused of such transgressions or other significant failings, including rigging entrance exams or accepting bribes to admit students", and that "one out of every six of the country's 398 medical training institutions has been accused of cheating, according to Indian government records and court filings. "One person admitted in the court that he has issued more than 50,000 fake medical degrees at around \$100 apiece from his home, saying that each of the recipients had "some medical experience" and that he was doing it in service to a country that desperately needs more doctors. Private medical colleges have proliferated rapidly in India. When in 1980 there were around 100 public colleges and 11 private, the latter now equals the former. Most are run by businessmen with no medical experience. Last January, the British Medical Journal found that many private medical colleges charged "capitation" fees, which are essentially compulsory donations required for admission. Jeetha

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70 years back Behar Herald

Vol. 73, No. 48, Sept 13, 1947 Editor - M. C. Samaddar

The wealth of Ind

"Stocks of diamond in Antwerp (in Belgium; the chief diamond mart of the world) have been depleted by the heavy increase in diamond buying in which Indians are reported to have taken the lead, buying on an extensive scale recently, in the expectation of an embargo on the import of luxury articles." (Time)

We are glad to learn that our rich men have been able to defeat the American millionaires. We may not get rice to eat but we are rich enough to cause a diamond famine in the world.

From page-1 Victory came to the ... (published) asking to initiate recruitment process to fulfill 44 vacancies of asst. professors in Bengali in various universities of the state. Honorable court delivered a copy of the letter to the lawyer of the association.

Had Association not taken these timely steps, all these vacancies would have vanished permanently from these universities and the faculties would be treated as closed after some time!

To remind the readers, since the year 2006, at least four times the

PATNA - A GREAT CITY OF GARDENS, GROVES, ORCHARDS AND... DUDHIYA LANGRA

- Prabuddha Biswas

Peeping into history of 18th and 19th century Patna

The walled city of Patna got a great boost-up after the appointment of Azim-us-Shan as the Governor of the Province in 1697; as he tried to make Patna, a great City; next to Delhi. He improved the fortifications of Patna City and renovated various quarters with a planned approach. He renamed Patna in his own name as 'Azimabad'.

In that period, Delhi had lost its sheen as Emperor Aurangzeb was camping in the Deccan, with all leading men of his Durbar. As a result, many nobles had shifted from Delhi and started living in Patna and other places. Prince Azim had allotted various quarters for nobles, as per the rank, in the Patna town.

As a result the Darbari Culture crept in among elites of Patna. Many of the nobles used to keep 'recreational residential houses (or alternative garden houses)' in the west of the then 'Patna city' (along with the residence in the 'Patna city-proper') in the midst of scattered villages, here and there.

After the death of Aurangzeb, in 1707

After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, Delhi started languishing as its links with Gujarati port towns became tenuous on account of uprisings on the Surat-Delhi route. Delhi's loss was Patna's gain. Traders from north-west India had earlier frequented Delhi to secure European goods. As this became difficult, North Indian traders travelled to Patna, as it maintained a steady link with the port of Calcutta, which had gradually replaced Surat as a centre of European trade. European goods are being brought from Calcutta ports to Patna (through River Ganges) for 'upcountry traders'; which further boosted the stature of Patna as the most important 'entrepot', in the country, till the advent of Railways during 1860s. Patna's importance in Eastern India was next to Calcutta as it surpassed, even Murshidabad and Dacca at one point of time.

By 1741, the city had already extended beyond the walls, towards the west of the 'Old Patna City' and localities of Alamganj, Sultanganj, Mahendru, and Bhiknapahari were getting populated in between Patna city and Bankipur.

The influx of diverse gentry and increased urbanisation further boosted the recreational activity and Darbari Culture of Patna-elites as more 'recreational residential houses (or alternative garden houses)' emerged further west in scattered areas of the present day Bankipur, Chajju Bagh, Jamuna-Dih (Secretariat Complex), Digha areas among others.

Recreational residential houses boosted orchard culture

Throughout the 18th and the 19th Century, horticulture became a great craze with the aristocracy of Patna (and they include Nawabs and Zamindars) who grew and experimented with various fruits (and especially Mangoes) in gardens of recreational residential establishments; which were also alternatively referred as **Garden Houses**.

In the first half of 18th Century; there was a keeper of a big garden named **Chhajju**, who used to send delicious mangoes to Murshidabad as a present to Alivardi Khan and Siraj-ud-Daulah, the successive Nawabs of Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. After his death, he was buried in his garden itself. There is a newly built mausoleum over the tomb of this head gardener, now named as Chhajju Shah. Presently, the said locality, an urban mahalla of Patna is known as Chajju Bagh, means the Garden of Chajju but there is no existence of any garden (Bagh).

Patna - city of gardens, groves and orchards

A summary reading of the mohallas of Patna around the first and second decades of the 19th century reveals an important aspect of urbanization with emphasis on natural environment lurking in the minds of the people of Patna in form of gardens, groves and orchards commonly termed as Bagh. In the east-west geographical setting, we had the following: - (1) Bagh Jafar Khan, (2) Bagh Raja Dhiraj Narayan, (3) Bagh Haider Nawaz Khan, (4) Bagh Kakandi, (5) Bagh Jhirjhiri, (6) Bagh Kalichand Sahu, (7) Gulzarbagh, (8) Faizbagh, (9) Sangat Wa Bagh Gosain Pyararam, (10) Qazibagh, (11) Fatehbagh, (12) Bagh Wafadar, (13) Bagh Sitab Rai, (14) Bagh Vallendez, (15) Bagh Balkishun, (16) Bagh Afzal, (17) Ramna (A Deer Park in Mauryan times), (18) Company Bagh, (19) Bagh Raja Murlidhar, (20) Chajju Bagh.

Almost all the baghat (groves) as above and Gardanibagh of later times have disappeared, more or less, and except for Gulzarbagh and Gardanibagh, which have merely retained their names minus greenery; other groves cannot even be spotted or identified easily. Other localities elsewhere also have lost their green leafy parasols and the areas have turned into highly congested living places. It may also be observed that because of abundance of groves as well for its Urdu Shayeri, Patna ranked next only to Lucknow, the city of Nawabs at that time.

Horticulture in Patna

"Patna enjoys fruits of one kind or other almost throughout the year. Major fruits grown in the district are mango, guava and banana in seriatim while limes, amoula, ber, papaya, pomegranate, jamun and bel are found in sporadic manner," according to 'Gazetteer of India: Bihar; Image of Patna (1971)'. But presently, guavas are brought to Patna mostly from West Bengal and UP and bananas from Vaishali district.

Soil and temperature

Rise in temperature accompanied with decrease in humidity causes Loo (hot waves) during summer and in conjunction

with heavy black clay soils found in the various tracts of the district this deters the growth of some of the tender fruits like litchi and papaya.

On the other hand alluvial soils of light greyish loam texture falling in Phulwarisharif, Danapur, Maner, Bihta, Biharsharif, Islampur, Ekangarsarai, Fatwa and Patna town blocks contain very prolific growing orchards.

Availability of mangoes in Patna market

Among mangoes, the earliest local variety is **Bombaiya** which comes to market towards the end of May and disappears altogether in about a fortnight. **Langra** also does not last more than three weeks and its peak season is in the middle of June. It is succeeded by **Sipia** which is followed by **Shukul**. **Krishnabhoga** appears during this period, but does not make a grade. For about five weeks starting in early June, Patna remains over-flooded with mangoes which become an important item of food for all. In the countryside **Bijju** mango is still relished by people. They are not standardized, but some of them may have their individual taste. Some superior varieties, such as **Mithua**, **Kerba** and **Sinduria** are sometimes brought to town also and even upper classes taste them for the sake of diversion. Development of **Digha Langra** variety & **Digha (dudhia) Langra** of Patna

Patna has been famous for its mangoes since olden times. Langra of Digha is a class by itself. It is also known as Maldah and grown on the tracts by the side of River Ganges throughout Bihar; particularly in the districts of Patna and Bhagalpur and also in the Maldah district of West Bengal adjacent to the River Ganges, but the Digha variety of Patna has its own individuality and flavour.

Some of those orchards may still be seen though in a dilapidated condition as for e.g. at Fatuha by Patna-Mokamah National Highway.

In fact the famous Digha Langra variety of mangoes, widely acclaimed as one of the best varieties among tropical fruits, is under antiquated cultivation in Digha tract of the district.

The average size of orchard holdings is small and orchards of even a few Kathas are also not uncommon in the district. A striking feature of these orchards is that they contain mostly grafted plants and may include some varieties of individual fruits, specially in case of mangoes.

Carrying forward of historical legacy

This is a result of the efforts of the old landlords of the district who pursued this avocation as their hobby for successive generations in the past.

Cause of unproductivity

Crowding of plants in orchards (though less intense in the Digha tract), lack of manuring and absence of irrigation and pruning practices are almost universal faults found in the various orchard tracts of the district.

In certain tracts falling in the command area of the Punpun and the Ganga, manuring of orchards is automatically achieved due to regular inundation. But suitable orchard sanitation and cultivation is generally unknown in the district. Orchard Cultivation, in most cases followed every alternate years. Inter-cropping of orchards are largely unknown. Intercropping of orchards is largely unknown. For orchard sanitation, spraying against mango hopper is very casually done although stem borers are abundant in the plants.

A cumulative effect of all these combined with the aging of the plants in Digha and other belts has made these orchards unproductive and serious efforts to rejuvenate the decaying orchards has become necessary.

Present status of the Patna variety of Digha (dudhia) Malda

Now the sprawling township of Digha has consumed most of old orchards (barring few of them like Taru Mitra Campus, Kurji Holy Family Hospital Campus among others) and there is little space left for fresh plantation as the whole area stretching from Pataliputra Colony to Polson Diary (elongated stretch of land, south of Digha-Danapur Road) is under rapid urbanisation. So it will not be long before **Digha's Langra** variety disappears from the scene altogether.

Even the fruiting in old orchards of Maner, Phulwari and Biharsharif belts are very sparse and irregular.

Feeding today's Patna market

Presently, some of the well-managed new mango orchards of Maner, Phulwarisharif, Bikram and Biharsharif produce regular crops, although mostly a light crop is followed by heavy one (and that include two mango groves of Digha belt also).

However, the market survey report in Patna also reveals the selling of langra variety of mangoes in the name of **Digha-Malda** coming from the groves of districts of Bhagalpur, Munger, Patna, Bhojpur and Buxar; i.e. linear tracts immediately south of the River Ganges.

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CAN WE DELAY THE 'BOLT FROM BLUE' (Woman-specific)

- Dr. (Mrs) Krishna Chaudhari Sinha and Dr. Dilip Sinha

Nature's blessing in the form of physical ability of motherhood makes the women completely different from men. But unfortunately all the organs required to fulfill the motherhood are more prone to cancer.

Paining abdomen to Ovarian Tumour

Dr. Krishna Kumar is a respected physician of his locality. His wife often had complains of pain in the abdomen. She used to take some or other Medicine. Once they were invited by a Sonologist friend for Dinner. She requested for excuse due to pain in the abdomen. Her Sonologist friend said that Paining Abdomen should not be a cause of excuse but a better reason to visit a Sonologist. Next day She went for a Ultra sound study of Abdomen. Ovarian Cancer was diagnosed.

In 2012, ovarian cancer was diagnosed in 2,39,000 women and by 2014, even after surgery and chemotherapy 1,52,000 succumbed worldwide. The typical age of diagnosis is 65 years. The overall five-year survival rate is 45%. The problem with Ovarian cancer is that it does not create a major problem to draw you attention but the victim have vague problem of abdomen which can pass as routine gastric discomfort. For example there may be constant fatigue, frequent changes in bowel habit, feeling of distension of abdomen, low back ache, chronic pain in the abdomen, urgent need to pass urine etc.

In most cases, vague symptoms exist for several months before being recognized. These vague complains should not be neglected. A good ultrasound examination of abdomen and pelvis may give first clue. Earlier it is diagnosed better the chances of survival. Strong doubt and investigations remain only hope for delaying the bolt.

Uterine cancer

Obesity, older age, infection by human papilloma virus, irregular vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain or fullness may be the starting complains of Uterine cancer. If caught early, most types of uterine cancer can be cured using surgical or medical methods. Early menarche, late menopause, overweight, no kids, missed periods, chronic bladder infections, irregular bleeding are may be calling symptoms. She should be thoroughly investigated. A good ultrasound of Abdomen and pelvis is sufficient to clinch the issue.

Cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is a cancer arising from the cervix, it is due to growth of abnormal cells that have the ability to invade or spread to other parts of the body. Median age of cervical cancer diagnosis is 49. However 15% of new cases are diagnosed in women over 65. Early on, typically no symptoms are seen. Later, symptoms like vaginal bleeding, pelvic pain, or bleeding during sexual intercourse (spotting) appear. Diagnosis is typically by cervical screening followed by a biopsy. is then done to determine whether or not the cancer has spread. Treatment is combination of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. Five year survival rates is 68%.

A Pap test, is a screening procedure. It tests for the presence of precancerous or cancerous cells on the cervix. Pap test is named after Georgios Papanikolaou, Greek doctor who found this way to detect signs of cervical cancer. Pap smear screening every 3-5 years with appropriate follow-up can reduce cervical cancer incidence up to 80%.

Breast cancer

Worldwide, Breast cancer is the most common invasive cancer in women. It affects about 12% of women. The number of cases has significantly increased since the 1970s, a phenomenon partly attributed to the modern lifestyles. Five-year survival rate - 85%. Think first about Breast Cancer if you detect Lump in the breast, change in shape in breast, dimpling of the skin, fluid from the nipple, red scaly patch of skin or retraction of nipple. Five-year survival rate 85%. Mamography and self examination of breast helps in early detection of Breast Cancer.

Detect the early signals

The intention of this article is not to create a sense of insecurity. We wanted to emphasize that we must try to be sensitive enough to detect the early signals given by our body whenever body feels any threat. If you feel any wrong signal, talk with your doctor. Don't think 'Investigations' are wasteful expenditure but they are the only window available, through which we can see inside our body.

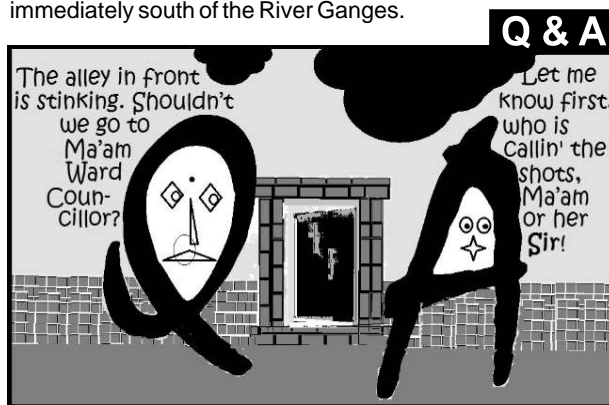
It is true that we cannot revert all the Bolts from the Blue. But if we are alert we can delay many of them. Let me finish the talk with a Grandma's story. Mrs Madhuchanda Nandy, our childhood friend, was playing with her Grand Daughter. During play she was hit on her breast and it pained. She palpated and surprised to detect a lump in the breast which she never marked. She went for immediate investigation. Breast Cancer was detected. She opted for Radical Surgery. Today even after five years of surgery still she plays with her granddaughter.

The Bolt is thus delayed.

Continued from page 2 **Medical Education**

D'Silva, who authored that report, wrote, "Except for a few who get into premier institutions of their choice purely on merit, most students face Hobson's choice - either pay capitation to secure admission at a college and learns the first lesson of business or give up on the dream of a medical degree.

Sourced from : Docplexus News



Earth's sixth mass extinction event under way, scientists warn

Researchers talk of 'biological annihilation' as study reveals billions of populations of animals have been lost in recent decades

Damian Carrington Environment editor @dpcarrington

A "biological annihilation" of wildlife in recent decades means a sixth mass extinction in Earth's history is under way and is more severe than previously feared, according to research.

Scientists analysed both common and rare species and found billions of regional or local populations have been lost. They blame human overpopulation and overconsumption for the crisis and warn that it threatens the survival of human civilisation, with just a short window of time in which to act.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, eschews the normally sober tone of scientific papers and calls the massive loss of wildlife a "biological annihilation" that represents a "frightening assault on the foundations of human civilisation".

Prof Gerardo Ceballos, at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, who led the work, said: "The situation has become so bad it would not be ethical not to use strong language."

Previous studies have shown species are becoming extinct at a significantly faster rate than for millions of years before, but even so extinctions remain relatively rare giving the impression of a gradual loss of biodiversity. The new work instead takes a broader view, assessing many common species which are losing populations all over the world as their ranges shrink, but remain present elsewhere.

The scientists found that a third of the thousands of species losing populations are not currently considered endangered and that up to 50% of all individual animals have been lost in recent decades. Detailed data is available for land mammals, and almost half of these have lost 80% of their range in the last century. The scientists found billions of populations of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians have been lost all over the planet, leading them to say a sixth mass extinction has already progressed further than was thought.

Billions of animals have been lost as their habitats have become smaller with each passing year.

The scientists conclude: "The resulting biological annihilation obviously will have serious ecological, economic and social consequences. Humanity will eventually pay a very high price for the decimation of the only assemblage of life that we know of in the universe."

They say, while action to halt the decline remains possible, the prospects do not look good: "All signs point to ever more powerful assaults on biodiversity in the next two decades, painting a dismal picture of the future of life, including human life."

Wildlife is dying out due to habitat destruction, overhunting, toxic pollution, invasion by alien species and climate change. But the ultimate cause of all of these factors is "human overpopulation and continued population growth, and overconsumption, especially by the rich", say the scientists, who include Prof Paul Ehrlich, at Stanford University in the US, whose 1968 book The Population Bomb is a seminal, if controversial, work.

"The serious warning in our paper needs to be heeded because civilisation depends utterly on the plants, animals, and microorganisms of Earth that supply it with essential ecosystem services ranging from crop pollination and protection to supplying food from the sea and maintaining a livable climate," Ehrlich told the Guardian. Other ecosystem services include clean air and water.

"The time to act is very short," he said. "It will, sadly, take a long time to humanely begin the population shrinkage required if civilisation is to long survive, but much could be done on the consumption front and with 'band aids' – wildlife reserves, diversity protection laws – in the meantime." Ceballos said an international institution was needed to fund global wildlife conservation.

The research analysed data on 27,500 species of land vertebrates from the IUCN and found the ranges of a third have shrunk in recent decades. Many of these are common species and Ceballos gave an example from close to home: "We used to have swallows nesting every year in my home near Mexico city – but for the last 10 years there are none."

The researchers also point to the "emblematic" case of the lion: "The lion was historically distributed over most of Africa, southern Europe, and the Middle East, all the way to northwestern India. [Now] the vast majority of lion populations are gone."

Historically lions lived across Africa, southern Europe, the Middle East, all the way up to Northwestern India. Today their habitat has been reduced to a few tiny pockets of the original area.

Prof Stuart Pimm, at Duke University in the US and not involved in the new work, said the overall conclusion is correct, but he disagrees that a sixth mass extinction is already under way: "It is something that hasn't happened

yet – we are on the edge of it."

Pimm also said there were important caveats that result from the broad-brush approach used. "Should we be concerned about the loss of species across large areas – absolutely – but this is a fairly crude way of showing that," he said. "There are parts of the world where there are massive losses, but equally there are parts of the world where there is remarkable progress. It is pretty harsh on countries like South Africa which is doing a good job of protecting lions."

Robin Freeman, at the Zoological Society of London, UK, said: "While looking at things on aggregate is interesting, the real interesting nitty gritty comes in the details. What are the drivers that cause the declines in particular areas?" Freeman was part of the team that produced a 2014 analysis of 3000 species that indicated that 50% of individual animals have been lost since 1970, which tallies with the new work but was based on different IUCN data. He agreed strong language is needed: "We need people to be aware of the catastrophic declines we are seeing. I do think there is a place for that within the [new] paper, although it's a fine line to draw."

Citing human overpopulation as the root cause of environmental problems has long been controversial, and Ehrlich's 1968 statement that hundreds of millions of people would die of starvation in the 1970s did not come to pass, partly due to new high-yielding crops that Ehrlich himself had noted as possible.

Ehrlich has acknowledged "flaws" in The Population Bomb but said it had been successful in its central aim – alerting people to global environmental issues and the role of human population in them. His message remains blunt today: "Show me a scientist who claims there is no population problem and I'll show you an idiot."

Earth's five previous mass extinctions

End-Ordovician, 443 million years ago

A severe ice age led to sea level falling by 100m, wiping out 60-70% of all species which were prominently ocean dwellers at the time. Then soon after the ice melted leaving the oceans starved of oxygen.

Late Devonian, c 360 million years ago

A messy prolonged climate change event, again hitting life in shallow seas very hard, killing 70% of species including almost all corals.

Permian-Triassic, c 250 million years ago

The big one – more than 95% of species perished, including trilobites and giant insects – strongly linked to massive volcanic eruptions in Siberia that caused a savage episode of global warming.

Triassic-Jurassic, c 200 million years ago

Three-quarters of species were lost, again most likely due to another huge outburst of volcanism. It left the Earth clear for dinosaurs to flourish.

Cretaceous-Tertiary, 65 million years ago

A giant asteroid impact on Mexico, just after large volcanic eruptions in what is now India, saw the end of the dinosaurs and ammonites. Mammals, and eventually humans, took advantage.

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Courtesy: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jul/10/earths-sixth-mass-extinction-event-already-underway-scientists-warn>

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If not test, a mirror at least

Newsdesk – Based on the NEET (National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test) examinations this year data have been provided by Telegraph (<https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170624/jsp/nation/story158505.jsp>) on June 23, about the language preference shown by examinees. We directly quote Basant Kumar Mohanty's report in the newspaper:-

"Every third Bengali and almost every Gujarati speaker among would-be doctors and dentists chose to take their entrance test in their mother tongue this year. Odias showed the least interest in taking the exam in their vernacular, suggest the registration data..."

"This year's test gave the candidates a choice of 10 languages - including Bengali, Odia and Assamese - instead of the stark English-or-Hindi option of previous years..."

"Of the nearly 11.39 lakh students who registered for the test, 9.13 lakh (80.16 per cent) chose English and 1.2 lakh (10.59 per cent) picked Hindi. Some 47,853 (4.2 per cent) chose Gujarati and 34,417 (3.02 per cent) opted for Bengali..."

"Marathis, Tamils, Telugus and Kannadas emulated Odias in showing a marked lack of interest in writing their medical-dental entrance test in their native languages.

"Among Hindi speakers, every fourth student seems to have chosen to take the exam in Hindi - extrapolating their proportion among the applicants from their percentage in the population - perhaps because enough study material is available in Hindi.

"Panchanan Mohanty, coordinator at the Centre for Endangered Languages and Mother Tongue Studies at the University of Hyderabad, explained the findings in the light of two factors: the availability of study materials in the regional languages, and certain groups' pride in their mother tongue.

"Gujaratis and Bengalis feel proud about their language. They prefer to transact mostly in their language unlike (the speakers of) other (Indian) languages', he said.

"Mohanty said that keeping local attitudes in mind, the school boards in Bengal and Gujarat had published science textbooks in the local languages, allowing their students to take the Class XII exams in the vernacular.

In contrast, he said, there is hardly any science textbook in the Odia language.

"In the Hindi belt, the preference is shifting towards English. There is a feeling that the quality of education at English-medium schools is better," Mohanty said.

"Dr Kampa Shankar, a Medical Council of India executive committee member, said the entrance exam had introduced the choice of regional languages so that no candidate lost out because of his poor command of English.

"He said the council would decide whether to drop some of the regional languages or include more of them on the basis of the student response this year.

"If there are negligible takers for any specific language, it may be dropped. Some other languages may be included next year,' Dr Shankar said.

"He said the medium of instruction in medical and dental courses was English across the country."

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