

World Environment Day 2018

Newsdesk – Environment is a crucial question in today's world and howsoever we try to depict a universalized picture for humanity at large, the fact remains that huge masses of poor, toiling people are suffering in everyday life the decay in environment – paying by sickness, stunted growth of children etc. – in all the countries due to the rule of the handful of recklessly greedy capitalists and giant money-bags. The theme for the World Environment Day 2018 was "Beat Plastic Pollution" and India was the global host country. It is a fact that plastics have helped us in many ways. It no doubt was a revolutionary product when it (the various forms of it developing in time) was adopted for human use

for the first time. But over-use of it, over reliance on it has become a menace which is threatening nature, wild life, urban drainage and so many other things. On this occasion the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) sponsored a project "Exploring the potential for adopting alternative materials to reduce marine plastic litter" and published the report by May 2018. Author of the report is Peter Kershaw, Independent consultant – Marine Environmental Protection Norfolk, UK. We publish hereinbelow section 2.1 (edited) of the report which evaluates the pros and cons of our use of plastics. **Our relationship with plastic** 2.1 Criteria for adopting plastics The widespread adoption of plastics, from the 1950s onwards, has brought about very significant benefits for society. These benefits have rapidly been extended to most communities across the globe, and include:

1. Improved human health – medical applications
2. Improved food security - reducing food wastage from field to market, and from market to the consumer
3. Improved efficiency of resource use - e.g. lower energy and water consumption
4. Lower costs of products to the consumer (the cost excludes the external costs to society and the environment)
5. Novel applications where there are no equivalent non-plastic alternatives

The benefits of conventional synthetic polymers, together with some of the disadvantages, are summarised in a SWOT analysis (Table 2.1). One of the main drivers of this approach has been convenience. It can seem easier to use plastics for some applications. Another characteristic has been a reluctance to deal with plastics once the product is no longer required – the end-of-life phase. Unfortunately, convenience is often accompanied by another characteristic, the emergence of 'single-use' plastics. This is exemplified by the emergence of the ubiquitous thin-film shopping bag, which are used globally in enormous quantities (Figure 2.1). This is one area that has witnessed several initiatives to reduce or curtail use, including the use of fees and outright bans, providing a clear incentive to introduce alternative materials. Another example is the extensive use of plastic micro-beads in personal care products such as toothpaste and skin cleaning scrubs. Their inclusion is unnecessary. Prior to their introduction many products were produced containing a natural equivalent, such as ground nut kernels, wood fibres, mica flakes or pumice. The replacement of plastic micro-beads by such materials will not detract from the performance of the product, whether it is to clean or to provide sparkle.

Single-use food containers are not a uniquely modern phenomenon. Many communities in South Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa and South America have a long tradition of the sustainable use of the leaves from several species of plant to wrap, cook or serve food. Examples include the leaves of the Sal (Shorea robusta), Banyan (Ficus benghalensis) and banana or plantain (Musa sp.). There has been a decline in popularity in some regions following the introduction of plastic products. The adoption of single-use, short-lived products is seen at its most extreme in the 'fast food' economy, in which plastic food and drink containers, lids, cutlery, stirrers and straws are used extensively, only to become waste sometimes just a few minutes later (see section 2.4.2). It is also seen in our use of plastics for the protection of goods in transit, and

Behar Herald strongly condemns the dastardly murder of Shujaat Bukhari, the editor of 'Rising Kashmir' in Srinagar. Behar Herald also condemns the dastardly murder of Shahjahan Bachchu, the free minded blogger in Bangladesh.

June waitings

For so many things we wait in the last days of May and then first week of June! Firstly, we see the studious and talented boys and girls, and their parents along with other relatives waiting breathless for the results of entrance examinations for medical and engineering. And when rapturously they receive the results of their passing and All India ranks etc. they begin their wait for the days of counselling and admissions. Much more than the number of those people waiting for results, are the farmers who wait for the monsoon. And monsoon waiting affects all of us. Scorching heat, everyday exchanges of information about rising mercury in Gaya, Patna, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur make us restless and we begin speculating on each string of clouds in the horizon – are they monsoon clouds? And the way they come sometime!... Suddenly the sun of 10.00 AM is dimmed, you smell something, rush out and see huge, huge dark masses of cloud engulfing the sky... kites encircling and moving away look like they are guiding the clouds... dry leaves and dust rise menacingly – the storm has already begun. You wait for the smell of the earth wet with the first big drops of rain!

And then we know that litchis, coming since last week, will be sweet now and markets will get concealed behind heaps of litchi leaves for some days. Mangoes come by the last of May. But wait for the king, the Dudhia Malda begin in the first week of June. Though it never comes by the first week. It keeps us waiting for the second week, even third week sometime.

... But suddenly the heart fills with sadness. Suddenly the Station Road of Purnia, Bhattabari, Naorattan, Zila School, Khazanchi More and other areas appear before the eyes. A man should have been there. The Bengalee Association and the Bengalees in general could have gone to meet him. Or have met him in Patna residence. Could have said, "Ajitda, you shall have to look after these issues. We have brought the questions framed. You may raise it in Bidhan Sabha. The Bengalee students are not getting books. The settlers are not getting pattas..." and more. Of course, he had a political colour. He had the people, the poor farmers, adivasis to fight for in Budhauri estate and other places. But that never prevented him from raising the issues of Bengali-speaking people of Bihar. It was shocking in the year 1998 when bullets killed Ajit Sarkar, four times MLA (he was MLA at the time of his death) from Purnia, on 14th June. It is shocking that after a lapse of two decades, 'who were his killers', are yet not decided.

Walking the timeline with Rabindranath



never came out through the government sales outlets. However, that one was also a pictorial biography and written by first two of the same authors. Uniqueness of the book

Newsdesk – After a long wait the book was finally released on 13th May 2018, the day on which Rabindra Jayanti was celebrated by Bengalee Association, Bihar (report in May 15th issue of Behar Herald) The book is unique in its form and content both. There is only other biography of Rabindranath in three languages published by government of Bihar in 2011. Somehow the copies of that book being presently discussed is that the first section of the book is devoted to Kavigurur's visit to various towns of Bihar on different occasions. He visited Gaya and Bodh Gaya twice – while the first visit, with Acharya Jagdish Chandra Basu, his wife Achala Basu, Sister Nibedita and Rathindranath (eldest son of the poet), and discussions on Buddha's philosophy during the

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Table 2.1 SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) of conventional synthetic polymers.

S1 Improved human health outcomes from medical applications	W1 Utilises fossil fuels and is not carbon neutral
S2 Packaging reduces food wastage from field to market and market to consumer	W2 Risk to human health during production due to exposure to chemicals, including endocrine-disrupting chemicals
S3 Lower water and energy consumption in production	W3 Risk to human health, social and economic well-being and the environment during use and end-of-life phases
S4 Novel applications where there are no equivalents	W4 Very limited biodegradation in the environment, especially in the ocean, leading to rapid accumulation
S5 Lower fuel consumption in aviation and vehicular transport	W5 Waste management solutions are grossly inadequate in most countries
S6 Packaging reduces damage to goods during transport	W6 Circular production patterns are rarely implemented.
S7 Convenience to consumers, including for 'take away' or 'fast food' applications	
O1 Development of new polymers and composites for diverse applications	T1 Continuing accumulation of plastics and microplastics in the environment
O2 Redesign of products to allow lower material use, product reuse and improved recycling potential, in a circular or closed-loop production cycle	T2 Long term consequences for human reproductive and developmental health
O3 Utilisation of intrinsically lower risk chemicals in production and as additives to maintain performance	T3 Long term consequences for social and economic well-being due to impact of plastic waste

Ram Prasad Bismil

Ram Prasad Bismil was an Indian revolutionary who participated in Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918, and the Kakori conspiracy of 1925, both against British Empire. As well as being a freedom fighter, he was also a patriotic poet. Ram, Agyat and Bismil were known as his pen names which he used in Urdu and Hindi poetry. But, he became popular with the last name "Bismil" only. Bismil was one of the founder members of the revolutionary organisation Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. Bhagat Singh praised him as a great poet-writer of Urdu and Hindi. Several inspiring patriotic verses are attributed to him.



Born : 11 June 1897, Shahjahanpur
 Died : 19 December 1927, Hanged in Gorakhpur jail
 Parents: Mulidhar, Moolmati

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Killers of Shampa Ghosh punished

Newsdesk – On 22nd October 2016 Shampa Ghosh (47 years) w/o Bireswar Ghosh was killed in her residence at Mathura Nath Ghosh Lane in Adampur locality of Bhagalpur. This incident was reported in detail in Behar Herald dated 31st October 2016. The firm stand and actions taken by Bhagalpur branch of Bengalee Association was also reported in Behar Herald dated 30th November 2016. Bengalee Association created pressure and the game of the local goons trying to be builders making the Bengalees soft target was exposed. Accused were arrested

by the police. On 5th August 2018 the local newspapers reported that the accused Rikesh Kumar, Kaju Das and Amit Kumar Sinha were given punishment of imprisonment for life in the court of the Sessions Judge. Fine of Rs. 5000/- was also imposed on each of them; the money will be given to Bireswar Ghosh, the husband of slain Shampa Ghosh. Bengalee Association, Bihar and all its branches have congratulated the Bhagalpur branch and also Barari and Champanagar branches who stood by side of Bhagalpur branch during these crucial months.

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Walking the timeline ...

nights inside Mahabodhi temple, liberated him from the grief of his father's death, second visit after a decade remained a visit of unfulfilled wishes. He could not visit Barabar hills due to mismanagement by the local hosts and rested whole day in the waiting room of Bela railway station with high fever. Yet, the spirit of this great Vishwakavi never ceased to work, either at the station or during tedious journey on bullock cart to Bela or in the morning at Bodh Gaya. Some of the finest poems were written there.

His visit to Muzaffarpur needs special mention. He came here because his eldest daughter Madhurilata was married to one advocate of Muzaffarpur Sharat Chandra Chakrabarty. But this was the place where, 9 years before his getting Nobel Prize and subsequent numerous public felicitations, first public felicitation was given to him by eminent and learned persons of Muzaffarpur and the epithet 'Vishwakavi' was used in the citation for the first time. Again, his next visit after a decade was full of sorrow. Madhurilata was sick (she died shortly after) and the poet sitting near head, used to read passages and poems from books to bring peace to her soul.

His visit to Munger was excruciatingly painful. His youngest son Shamindra was sent there for recovery from his failing health. Yet he died in the presence of his father. And how this great man did bear that pain! The Munger page of the book illuminates the soul of the reader.

He visited Bhagalpur once to attend a Sahitya Sammelan and in that conference a proposal to make Hindi the Lingua Franca was made. Tagore, being the visionary, acceded.

And then his visit to Patna to mobilise donations for Vishwabharati. Public Ovation at Wheeler Senate Hall and donations collected given to him by Babu Rajendra Prasad.

After this Bihar section the book proceeds with the life of the poet. Thrilling is the way in which the journey of his life is treated. Not as a poet, writer, musician, playwright, painter, political-intervener in crucial occasions and non-stop visitor to continents of Asia, Europe and America in the darkest of times (1st and 2nd World War) yet being all these together, as an untiring pilgrim moving in the outer and inner world simultaneously in search of the God which has not become alien, inimical to Man. The pilgrim is in search of his own endearing God who pains when man is in

pain, sits near the man who is suffering, caressing him.... The poet is in search of that God because he firmly believes in its truth.

[1861-1941, Walking the timeline with Rabindranath] jointly published by Bihar Bangla Academy and Bengalee Association, Bihar. Price Rs. 500/-]

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World Environment ...

for the presentation of goods to the consumer, both edible and non-edible. It seems reasonable to ask whether all such uses are fully justified. The question could be framed as: 'is the adoption of plastics for this application useful, justified and appropriate; or useful, convenient but inappropriate?' The quest to find alternatives to plastics is probably best directed towards applications where the answer to this question is (b).

Most attention in the development of applications for plastics has focused on the part of the plastics economy that starts with the raw material and ends either at the factory gate or upon delivery to the retail outlet or customer. Most Life Cycle Analysis (LCAs) of plastics production are confined in a similar way (Chapter 7). This excludes the downstream costs of plastics use exemplified by an almost complete absence of the social and environmental costs of plastics use in such assessments. The relatively recent upsurge in public and political interest in marine plastic litter has highlighted this dis-connect between two competing social demands – for plastics in their myriad forms and for an environment free from plastic waste.

[Readers, if interested, can download the report from <https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/exploring-potential-adopting-alternative-materials-reduce-marine-plastic-litter>]

With best compliments from-

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Newsdesk – An evening in the name of legendary rebel poet of Bengali literature, Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated in Behar Herald office at Bank Road, Patna. The programme was held under the banner of Bengalee

Nazrul Sandhya at Behar Herald office

commemorative volume published by Nazrul Institute, Dhaka. Nazrul was already in his phase of mental illness and was staying in Seagreen Hotel at

active creative life (23 years) was just two third of his years of sickness (34 years) and just above one third of his lifetime (76 years). Pal also mentioned that



Association, Bihar but it was sponsored by Anjan Sen, Circulation-in-charge of Behar Herald. The expenses were borne by him.

Chief Guest of the evening was Hasan Imam, renowned playwright, director, actor and theatre personality of Bihar. He has also authored and co-authored four books on folklores of Bihar. Dr. B. B. Mandal presided over the function. Sangita Mukherjee, a young housewife rendered (rather dared to) songs of Nazrul without any accompaniment and musical support (even microphone or amplifiers were not there), and she did it very well – the audience greeted her with clapping. Her rendering of a song like 'Shukno patar nupur' in plain voice, which we normally hear in chorus and high orchestration, was very good.

Sib Sankar Guha recited some poems of Nazrul including moving recitation of 'Kuli-Majur'.

Initiating the evening, Bidyut Pal shared with the audience an event of May 1952, reminiscenced by Ashok Bagchi in a



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Landmark for women rights ...

absence from place of employment due to mental trauma, bodily injury, medical treatment, investigation and trial of the offence, or any other reason;

5. The relationship of the victim to the offender, if any;
6. Whether the abuse was a single isolated incidence or whether the abuse took place over a period of time;
7. Whether victim became pregnant as a result of the offence, whether she had to undergo Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP)/ give birth to a child, including rehabilitation needs of such child;
8. Whether the victim contracted a sexually transmitted disease (STD) as a result of the offence;
9. Whether the victim contracted human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) as a result of the offence;
10. Any disability suffered by the victim as a result of the offence;
11. Financial condition of the victim against whom the offence has been committed so as to determine her need for rehabilitation and re-integration needs of the victim.
12. In case of death, the age of deceased, her monthly income, number of dependents, life expectancy, future promotional/growth prospects etc.
13. Or any other factor which the SLSA/DLSA may consider just and sufficient.

INTERIM RELIEF TO THE VICTIM

The State Legal Services Authority or District Legal

Marine Drive, Mumbai on the way to Liverpool for treatment. As the writer describes, "a big felicitation in the meeting hall of the hotel was arranged at 4 PM. Poet was dressed in dhoti-kurta and was made to sit on a carpet. He was engrossed in tearing an old magazine. Sometime later he plucked away the garland of Rajanigandha. Meanwhile Hemant Kumar, dear to us came with Anil Biswas. Then entered Bipin Gupta and his wife and then Ashok Kumar, Pradip Kumar, K. Yusuf, Kamal Amrohi, K. A. Abbas, Mukesh and Naushad Ali. Many poets had come among whom were Josh Malihabadi, Kaifi Azmi, Khaiyam, Sahir Ludhianvi, Majaj Lakhnavi, Qatil Sipahi, Firaq Gorakhpuri, Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Noor Naravi.

"Kaifi Azmi and Sahir Ludhianvi read their poems praising Nazrul. Hemant Kumar sang a song written by Nazrul, "Phuler jalsay nirab keno kobi".

"Mukesh made a pouch with a towel and began collecting money. Within two hours around fifty thousand rupees were collected. The moment the pouch was handed over to the poet he made some incomprehensible sound and dropped the pouch on the carpet."

Pal said that such was the popularity of this rebel, versatile genius whose

the poet's ancestors went to Churuliya, WB from Hajipur of Vaishali distt. in Bihar.

Hasan Imam, Chief Guest of the occasion in his speech emphasized the 'revolutionary transformation' of a Muslim village lad, working as Muezzin in the local mosque and studying Islamic religious texts in Maktab, to the most powerful voice in poetry against British colonialism, religious fundamentalism, communalism and casteism. Hasan traced this journey through the musical, theatrical experiences of the 'Leto' group in which he worked, his bread-earning labour in various trades, his further schooling and then his experiences in the British Army. Later, his friendship with Muzaffar Ahmad made his outlook clear and sharp against class exploitation.

Hasan quoted portions of Nazrul's statement in the court when as editor of Dhumketu he was arrested and other later speeches. He referred to Nazrul's correct stand on Khilafat movement. Dealing with the dichotomy of political consciousness and cultural consciousness of most of the leaders of Indian independence (strong anti-British yet feudal in social outlook) Hasan referred the names of the children of Nazrul and Pramila. They reflect inter-faith ambience of the family as also the right of the woman as mother.

President of the event, Dr. B. B. Mandal thanked every one for the success of such a compact and enlightening programme.

Services Authority, as the case may be, may order for immediate first-aid facility or medical benefits to be made available free of cost or any other interim relief (including interim monetary compensation) as deemed appropriate, to alleviate the suffering of the victim on the certificate of a police officer, not below the rank of the officer-in-charge of the police station, or a Magistrate of the area concerned or on the application of the victim/ dependents or suo moto.

INSTANT COMPENSATION -

Provided that as soon as the application for compensation is received by the SLSA/DLSA, a sum of Rs.5000/- or as the case warrants up to Rs. 10,000/- shall be immediately disbursed to the victim through preloaded cash card from a Nationalised Bank by the Secretary, DLSA or Member Secretary, SLSA.

Provided that the, interim relief so granted shall not be less than 25 per cent of the maximum compensation awardable as per schedule applicable to this Chapter, which shall be paid to the victim in totality.

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Classical Tamil poems

- A. K. Ramanujan

I said, under my breath,
"I'm burning."

(2)

My love is a two-faced thief.
In the dead of night
she comes like the fragrance
of the Red-Speared Chieftain's
forest hills,
to be with me.
And then, she sheds the petals
of night's several flowers,
and does her hair again
with new perfumes and oils,
to be one with her family at dawn
with a stranger's different face.

(3)

"O your hair," he said,
"It's like rainclouds
moving between
branches of lightning.
It parts five ways
between gold ornaments,
braided with a length of flowers
and the fragrant screwpine.
"O your smiles, your glistening
teeth,
words sheer honey,
mouth red as coral,
O fair brow,
I want to tell you
something,
listen, stop and listen,"
he said, and stopped me.
Came close,
to look closer
at my brow, my hands, my eyes
my walk, my speech,
and said, searching
for metaphors:
Amazed, it grows small, but it isn't
the crescent.
Unspotted, it isn't the moon.
Like bamboo, yet it isn't on a hill.
Lotuses, yet there's no pool.
Walk mincing, yet no peacock.
The words languish, yet your'e not
a parrot,"
On and on he praised my parts,
with words gentle and sly,
looked for my weakening
like a man with a net
stalking an animal.
watched me
as my heart melted,
stared at me
like a butcher at his prey,
O he saluted me, saluted me,
touched me O he touched me,
a senseless lusting elephant
no goad could hold back.
Salute and touch,
and touch again he did,
but believe me, friend,
I still think he is not really
a fool by nature.

[A.K. Ramanujan, the Tamil scholar – (1929-1993) was born in 1929 to Tamil parents in Mysore. He got his early education in Mysore. He got his Ph.D. in linguistics from Indiana University in 1962. He taught at the University of Chicago from 1962, and lived in Chicago until he died in 1993. He also taught at other U.S. universities including Harvard, University of Wisconsin, University of Michigan, University of California at Berkeley, and Carlton College. In 1976, the government of India awarded him the 'Padmashri' title. He was a scholar in Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Sanskrit.]

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Dr. Supriyo Mukherjee

Secretary

Samastipur Branch, Bengalee Association, Bihar

[On 4th June 1947 the newly appointed Viceroy of India Lord Mountbatten delivered his speech on the radio, communicating to the people of India the Plan of Partition, prepared after discussion and agreement of the Indian leaders. It was a fateful day. The text of the speech is printed here.]

The Times reports on Lord Mountbatten's radio broadcast on partition, 4 June 1947 (CAB 21/2038) BROADCAST BY VICEROY EVENTS LEADING TO DECISION

The following is the text of the broadcast which Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy, made yesterday to the Indian people on the transfer of power to Indian hands:-

A statement will be read to you tonight giving the final decision of his Majesty's Government as to the method by which power will be transferred from British to Indian hands. But before this happens I want to give a personal message to the people of India, as well as a short account of the discussions which I have held with the leaders of the political parties, and which have led up to the advice I tendered to His Majesty's Government during my recent visit to London.

Since my arrival in India at the end of March I have spent almost every day in consultation with as many of the leaders and representatives of as many communities and interests as possible. I wish to say how grateful I am for all the information and helpful advice that they have given me. Nothing I have seen or heard in the past few weeks has shaken my firm opinion that with a reasonable measure of good will between the communities a unified India would be far the best solution of the problem.

For more than a hundred years, 400,000,000 of you have lived together, and this country has been administered as a single entity. This has resulted in unified communications, defence, postal services and currency; an absence of tariffs and Customs Barriers; and the basis for an integrated political economy. My great hope was that communal differences would not destroy this.

ORIGINAL PLAN

My first course, in all my discussions, was therefore to urge the political leaders to accept unreservedly the Cabinet mission plan of May 16, 1946. In my opinion that plan provides the best arrangement that can be devised to meet the interests of all the communities of India. To my great regret it has been impossible to obtain agreement either on the Cabinet mission plan or on any other plan that would preserve the unity of India. But there can be no question of coercing any large areas in which one community has a majority to live against their will under a Government in which another community has a majority—and the only alternative to coercion is partition.

But when the Muslim League demanded the partition of India, Congress used the same arguments for demanding in that event the partition of certain provinces. To my mind this argument is unassailable. In fact neither side proved willing to leave a substantial area in which their community have a majority under the government of the other. I am, of course, just as much opposed to the partition of provinces as I am to the partition of India herself, and for the same basic reasons. For just as I feel there is an Indian consciousness which should transcend communal differences, so I feel there is a Punjabi and Bengali consciousness which has evoked a loyalty to their province. And so I felt it was essential that the people of India themselves should decide this question of partition.

The procedure for enabling them to decide for themselves whether they want the British to hand over power to one or two governments is set out in the statement which will be read to you. But there are one or two points on which I should like to add a note of explanation.

It was necessary, in order to ascertain the will of the people of the Punjab, Bengal, and part of Assam, to lay down boundaries between the Muslim majority areas and the remaining areas, but I want to make it clear that the ultimate boundaries will be settled by a boundary commission and will almost certainly not be identical with those which have been provisionally adopted....

POSITION OF SIKHS

We have given careful consideration to the position of the Sikhs. This valiant community forms about an eighth of the population of the Punjab, but they are so distributed that any partition of this province would inevitably divide them. All of us who have the good of the Sikh community at heart are very sorry to think that the partition of the Punjab which they themselves desire, cannot avoid splitting them to a greater or lesser extent. The exact degree of the split will be left to the boundary commission on which they will, of course, be represented.

The whole plan may not be perfect: but like all plans its success will depend on the spirit of good will with

Partition remembered

which it is carried out. I have always-felt that once it was decided in what way to transfer power, the transfer should take place at the earliest possible moment, but the dilemma was that if we waited until a constitutional set-up for all India was agreed, we should have to wait a long time, particularly if partition were decided on, whereas if we handed over power before the Constituent Assemblies had finished their work we should leave the country without a constitution.

The solution to this dilemma, which I put forward, is that his Majesty's Government should transfer power now to one or two governments of British India each having Dominion status as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. This I hope will be within the next few months. I am glad to announce that his Majesty's Government have accepted this proposal and are already having legislation prepared for introduction in Parliament this session. As a result of these decisions the special function of the India Office will no longer have to be carried out, and some other machinery will be set up to conduct future relations between his Majesty's Government and India.

I wish to emphasize that this legislation will not impose any restriction on the power of India as a whole or of the two new States if there is partition, to decide in the future their relationship to each other and to other member states of the British Commonwealth.

Thus the way is now open to an arrangement by which power can be transferred many months earlier than the most optimistic of us thought possible, and at the same time leave it to the people of British India to decide for themselves on their future, which is the declared policy of his Majesty's Government.

INDIAN STATES

I have made no mention of the Indian States, since the new decisions of his Majesty's Government are concerned with the transfer of power in British India.

If the transfer of power is to be effected in a peaceful and orderly manner, every single one of us must bend all his efforts to the task. This is no time for bickering, much less for the continuation in any shape or form of the disorders and lawlessness of the past few months. Do not forget what a narrow margin of food we are all working on. We cannot afford any toleration of violence. All of us are agreed on that.

Whichever way the decision of the Indian people may go, I feel sure any British officials or officers who may be asked to remain for a while will do everything in their power to help implement that decision. His Majesty as well as his Government have asked me to convey to all of you in India their sincere good wishes for your future and the assurance of their continued good will.

I have faith in the future of India and am proud to be with you all at this momentous time. May your decisions be wisely guided and may they be carried out in the peaceful and friendly spirit of the Gandhi-Jinnah appeal.

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June 9: Remembering ...

Raj and native zamindars. They refused to pay tax on land. Birsa raised his voice against the native and tribal administrators and tax collectors. He was arrested in 1895 and was given 2 years rigorous imprisonment. He was released in November, 1897. Once outside, he once again organised the Mundas and launched struggle with traditional arms in 1899. Mundas joined him irrespective of their religious faith, including the Christians. Insurrection broke out in large areas in present day Ranchi and Gumla districts. British army brutally suppressed the revolt and arrested him on February 3, 1900. It was suspected that the British poisoned him when he was incarcerated in Ranchi jail which caused his martyrdom on June 9, 1900. His name will always be remembered for his immense courage in the battle against the British colonisers and the landlords and for his commitment to the cause of tribal rights. Long Live Birsa Munda!

Courtesy : https://archives.peoplesdemocracy.in/2007/0603/06102007_birsa%20munda.htm

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June 9: Remembering Landmark for women rights - SC okays compensation scheme for Birsa Munda's Martyrdom sexual assault, acid attack victims



- J S Mazumdar

BIRSA Munda was one of the tallest and the last among the tribal leaders, who led tribal revolts for 118 years against British Raj, landlords and money lenders in the area of present day Jharkhand. Birsa was born on November 15, 1875 in village Ulihatu in Ranchi district. He died in 1900 at the age of 25 during imprisonment in Ranchi jail. As a tribute to his martyrdom, Jharkhand

state was created on Birsa Munda's birthday, November 15, in 2000.

Birsa Munda was influenced by and later led Sardar movement. Sardar movement of Munda tribes (1858-81) of Ranchi and adjoining areas was for mulki larai (struggle for land) mainly against British government and landlords and for restoration of their lands and against forced labour. To appease the Mundas the British government defined and determined the bhuinhari rights on land. During his study in a Christian missionary school at Chaibasa, he protested and left the school when sardars were called as cheats.

Birsa led a religio-social reform movement among Munda tribes. He forbade worship of spirits, which was widely practiced by the tribals, and opposed idol worship. He preached that there was only one god and the dharti (earth) symbolised the nature. The Mundas and the nature are integrated and could not be separated. He opposed polygamy, which was common among the tribals, and preached that it was a sin. He conceived a code of morals which preached that theft, deception, drunkenness, murder were sinful. His followers called him Bhagawan (god) and Dharti Aba (father of earth).

During 1883-84, British government vested all waste land of villages into 'protected forest' under Indian Forest Act, 1882. They started restricting the rights of the forest dwelling communities. Birsa was deeply disturbed by this act of the government and dispossession of tribal lands by zamindars and outsiders (dikus). He and his followers were deeply convinced that it was their inherent traditional rights on jal, jangal and jamin (water, forest and land). He gave call of ulgulan (revolt). Under his charismatic leadership the Mundas rose in revolt (1895-1900) to establish Munda Raj freeing their water, forest and land from the foreign British

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May 13, 2018

In a historic decision Apex Court Bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur and Justice Deepak Gupta finally approved the NALSA's Compensation Scheme for women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other Crimes, 2018.

It opens a new era by bringing uniformity in Victim Compensation benefits available for Women in India.

At present, different state governments grant varying amounts to rape survivors ranging from minimum Rs 10,000 in Odisha to Rs 10 lakh in Goa. Maharashtra is the only state which has not framed rules. As the amount of compensation varies in different states, there was a dire need to bring uniformity in the same.

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had in W.P. (C) No. 565/2012 titled Nipun Saxena Vs. Union of India observed

that "it would be appropriate if NALSA sets up a Committee of about 4 or 5 persons who can prepare Model Rules for Victim Compensation for sexual offences and acid attacks taking into account the submissions made by the learned Amicus.

The learned Amicus as well as the learned Solicitor General have offered to assist the Committee as and when required. The Chairperson or the nominee of the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women should be associated with the Committee."

Thereafter NALSA constituted a High Powered Committee consisting of: Ms. Pinky Anand, Additional Solicitor General, Shri Rakesh Srivastava Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, Shri T.V.S. N. Prasad

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs,

Government of India, Ms. Indira Jaising, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Shri Alok Agarwal, Member Secretary, NALSA, Shri Surinder S. Rathi, Director, NALSA, Ms. Anju Rathi Rana, Joint Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, Govt. of India, Shri K.L. Sharma, Joint Secretary National Commission for Women Ms. Bharti Ali,

Co-Director, HAQ: Centre for Child Rights

The Committee held rounds of meetings and it was decided to prepare a separate "Chapter" or a "Sub-Scheme" within the existing Victim Compensation Scheme for victims of sexual assault.

The Committee drafted the Victims Compensation Scheme and invited suggestions/ comments from various stakeholders on the draft. Taking into consideration the suggestions/comments, the Committee has finalized the Compensation Scheme for women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other Crimes and submitted the same before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 24/04/2018. After hearing Ld. Amicus Curiae in the case Ms. Indira Jaising, Sr. Advocate and Sh. Surinder S Rathi, Director, NALSA the Apex Court adopted the Draft Scheme and directed Min. of Women and Child Development, GOI to send a copy of the Scheme to States and UTs for adoption at their end.

SCHEDULE APPLICABLE TO WOMEN VICTIM OF CRIMES

S. No.	Particulars of loss or injury	Min. Limit of Compensation	Upper Limit of Compensation
1.	Loss of Life	Rs. 5 Lakh	Rs. 10 Lakh
2.	Gang Rape	Rs. 5 Lakh	Rs. 10 Lakh
3.	Rape	Rs. 4 Lakh	Rs. 7 Lakh
4.	Unnatural Sexual Assault	Rs. 4 Lakh	Rs. 7 Lakh
5.	Loss of any Limb or part of body resulting in 80% permanent disability or above	Rs. 2 Lakh	Rs. 5 Lakh
6.	Loss of any Limb or part of body resulting in 40% and below 80% permanent disability	Rs. 2 Lakh	Rs. 4 Lakh
7.	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in above 20% and below 40% permanent disability	Rs. 1 Lakh	Rs. 3 Lakh
8.	Loss of any limb or part of body resulting in below 20% permanent disability	Rs. 1 Lakh	Rs. 2 Lakh
9.	Grievous physical injury or any mental injury requiring rehabilitation	Rs. 1 Lakh	Rs. 2 Lakh
10.	Loss of Foetus i.e. Miscarriage as a result of Assault or loss of fertility.	Rs. 2 Lakh	Rs. 3 Lakh
11.	In case of pregnancy on account of rape.	Rs. 3 Lakh	Rs. 4 Lakh.
12.	Victims of Burning:		
	a. In case of disfigurement of face	Rs. 7 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
	b. In case of more than 50% injury	Rs. 5 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
	c. In case of injury less than 50%	Rs. 3 Lakh	Rs. 7 Lakh
	d. In case of less than 20%	Rs. 2 Lakh	Rs. 3 Lakh
13.	Victims of Acid Attack-		
	a. In case of disfigurement of face.	Rs. 7 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
	b. In case of injury more than 50%	Rs. 5 Lakh	Rs. 8 Lakh
	c. In case of injury less than 50%	Rs. 3 Lakh	Rs. 5 Lakh
	d. In case of injury less than 20%	Rs. 3 Lakh	Rs. 4 Lakh

Note: If a woman victim of sexual assault/acid attack is covered under one or more category of the schedule, she shall be entitled to be considered for combined value of the compensation.

covered in this Scheme which include Sections 326A, 354A to 354D, 376A to 376E, 304B, 498A (in case of physical injury covered in this Schedule), so that the SLSA/DLSA can, in deserving cases, may suo-moto initiate preliminary verification of facts for the purpose of grant of interim compensation.

An application for the award of interim/ final compensation can be filed by the Victim and/or her Dependents or the SHO of the area before concerned SLSA or DLSA. It shall be submitted in Form 'I' along with a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) or criminal complaint of which cognizance is taken by the Court and if available Medical Report, Death Certificate, wherever applicable, copy of judgment/ recommendation of court if the trial is over.

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WHILE AWARDED COMPENSATION -

While deciding a matter, the State Legal Services Authority/District Legal Services Authority may take into consideration the following factors relating to the loss or injury suffered by the victim:

1. Gravity of the offence and severity of mental or physical harm or injury suffered by the victim;
2. Expenditure incurred or likely to be incurred on the medical treatment for physical and/or mental health including counselling of the victim, funeral, travelling during investigation/ inquiry/ trial (other than diet money);
3. Loss of educational opportunity as a consequence of the offence, including absence from school/college due to mental trauma, bodily injury, medical treatment, investigation and trial of the offence, or any other reason;
4. Loss of employment as a result of the offence, including

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