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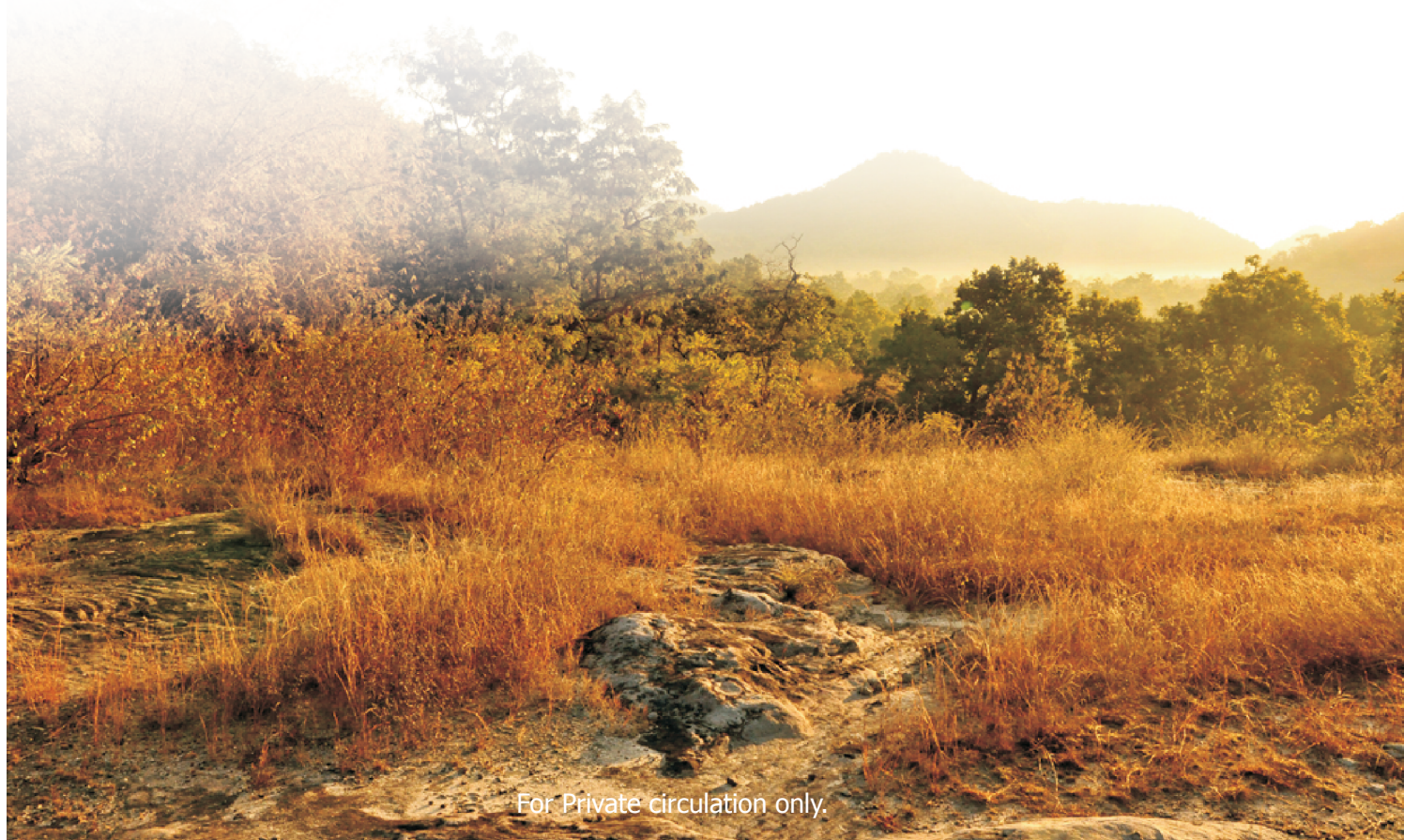


Did Life's First Cells Evolve in Geothermal Pools?

Earth started as a violent place, its surface churned by continuous volcanic eruptions and cloaked in an atmosphere that would have been poisonous to today's life-forms. Furthermore, the thin primeval atmosphere may have provided only scant protection from the young sun's harsh ultraviolet glare. Given these inhospitable conditions, scientists have long wondered: How did the first cells come to be nearly four billion years ago?

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Inside :
Photos from
the excursions
of Botany and
Zoology Department





Editor Speaks **Akanksha Shetty (Editor)**

Here I'm sitting in class, a Zoology lecture, I won't lie I wasn't particularly excited to be in the class. None the less I was sitting there with some friends. The professor was teaching us animal life cycles, but we meanwhile we're talking about the new movie, Delhi Belly, The latest "you have to see it movie". I had seen it a few days back and trust me I laughed like a Hyena. Somewhere in between, a friend of mine, just randomly started talking about something he had read about, some new jellyfish. He was sleeping in class, don't know why he got up!

So he was talking about a new jellyfish that has been found, The "*Turritopsis nutricula*" also known as the **Immortal Jellyfish**, yes, "Immortal", you must have heard or read the word so many times in books, in movies etc. The power to live on forever. To conquer death. According to my friend and I also looked it up on the almighty Google. This jellyfish on acquiring Sexual Maturity that is on becoming an adult has the ability to revert back to a polyp stage i.e back into a kid! And repeat his life cycle back again! I was in awe. Imagine... never dying. Living on forever. Imagine that one jellyfish who must be hundreds of years old must have seen history pass by and not realizing it a bit. Imagine it having seen creatures of the sea evolve or even become extinct and having not realized it. I was blown away.

I was drawn back into class, the professor talking about stages in our lives and all other animals. You are born, you reach puberty, you mature, and you go through old-age and then ultimately die. Almost every animal in the

world goes through such processes. And there was this small jellyfish challenging it all. Science is ever-evolving, there is new research or new facts being fed everyday into this vast pool of information. All over the world, thousands of people are researching and working shedding light on topics of biology that we have never known.

There are about a 6 million species of insects, a million species of animals, fishes, birds, plants that we still have no clue about. The world is not a small place after all. We are humans, the most complex and the most intelligent of all living beings, we can create whatever we want but are still are dependent on the environment for our basic needs. We can't do without it. It is for this reason that we should strive to know everything about this place called Earth. And that is where Biological Sciences come into view and also our Newsletter "**LIFE**". We here at LIFE want to put forth the latest and most amazing facts and research in front of you. It really doesn't matter if you are from a science background, articles here will still amaze you. We also come with an aim to reach out and spread the word about this amazing field.

To Create an awareness about the environment (clichéd isn't it? But I mean it), to take the awesomeness of Biological Sciences to everyone. Though we won't promise you, this is the best Newsletter ever! We will try and hope you join us for this small journey. Yes, YOU.

Hope you enjoy the first issue and a Happy Independence Day to all!

The Silent Geneticist

Akanksha Shetty (Editor)



The Lion Sleeps Tonight

The 14-year-old tiger B2, perhaps one of the most photographed big cats in the world, died at the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, with the post mortem suggesting a natural death.

A student of University of Vienna who wanted to be a teacher but luck did not favour him, as he failed in the examination of teaching. So he returned back to his monastery and started experimenting on the Pea Plant in his garden. Did he then know that his work would become one of the greatest achievements in the field of GENETICS? Even on his 189th birth year GREGOR MENDEL is remembered as the "Father of Genetics." Even today school children study Gregor Mendel's law of inheritance.

He had also started a newsletter called "Experiments on Plant Hybridization" which was published in 1866. It received a lot of criticism at that time, but is now considered a seminal work. After Mendel completed his work with peas, he turned to experimenting with honeybees to extend his work to animals. But he failed to generate a clear picture of their heredity because of difficulties in controlling mating behaviours of queen bees. At first Mendel's work was rejected but it was later widely accepted after his death. The common belief at that time was PANGENES which was responsible for inheritance. Even Darwin's theory of Evolution used PANGENESIS instead of Mendel's model of Inheritance. The modern synthesis used Mendelian genetics. He died at the age of 62. Mendel was widely respected but went unrecognized as the great scientific thinker that he was. Fame and due credit came to Mendel only after his death. In 1900, 3 other European scientists independently obtained results similar to Mendel's. The researchers realized that he had already published both the experimental data lying on his results and a general theory explaining them nearly 35 years earlier.

Check out Photos from the Latest Zoology Excursion to Amboli!



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