

3.4.3 Research Papers Published During Year 2021-22

Sr. No.	Title of paper	Name of the author/s	Department of the teacher	Name of journal	ISSN number	Is it listed in UGC Care list	Page No.
1.	<u>Diversity of Arbuscular Mycorrhizae Spores from Industrial Belts of MIDC, Dombivli, Thane District of Maharashtra for Winter Season</u>	Mahavir Gosavi	Botany	<u>The Journal of Plant Science Research</u>	0976-3880	<u>YES</u>	1-3
2.	<u>Diversity of Arbuscular Mycorrhizae Spores from Industrial Belts of MIDC, Dombivli, Thane District of Maharashtra for Winter Season</u>	Ashwini Deshpande	Botany	<u>The Journal of Plant Science Research</u>	0976-3880	<u>YES</u>	1-3
3.	<u>Lipase as a green and sustainable material for production of levulinic compounds: State of the art</u>	Kirtikumar C Badgujar	Chemistry	<u>Materials Science for Energy Technologies</u>	2589-2991	<u>YES</u>	4-6
4.	<u>Phytochemical analysis, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activity of leaves and bark of Ceropogia rollae Hemadri</u>	Nitin A. Mirgane	Chemistry	<u>Plant Science Today</u>	2348-1900	<u>YES</u>	7-9
5.	<u>Have You Arrived Yet? Attempting a Disambiguation of the Modernist-Postmodernist Dichotomy</u>	Seema C.	English	<u>Dibrugarh University Journal of English Studies</u>	0975-5659	<u>YES</u>	10-11
6.	<u>Mashini anuwad: Prakriya prayog samsyaye va samadhan</u>	Dinesh Pathak	Hindi	<u>Samichin</u>	2250-2335	<u>YES</u>	12-14
7.	<u>A Short-Term Survey of Avian and Mammalian Diversity of Matheran: A Tourist Hub</u>	Aditya Akerkar	Zoology	<u>Journal of Scientific Research</u>	0447-9483	<u>YES</u>	15-17
8.	<u>Undescribed C-Glycosylflavones from Corn Silk and Potential Anti-inflammatory Activity Evaluation of Isolates</u>	Satish Sarfare	Zoology	<u>Planta Medica</u>	1439-0221	<u>YES</u>	18-20

9.	<u>Comparative study of roadside avenue trees as bio-indicators of air pollution in and around Mumbai, India: A case study</u>	Vishnuprasad V.	Botany	<u>International Journal of Science and Research Archive</u>	2582-8185	NO	21-23
10.	<u>Revisiting Communication Skills in English Courses in HEIs</u>	Lakshmi Muthukumar	English	<u>Cosmos Multidisciplinary Research E-Journal</u>	2456-1665	NO	24-25
11.	<u>Staging an Encounter: Citizenship and Resistance</u>	Lakshmi Muthukumar	English	<u>International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences</u>	2456-7620	NO	26-28
12.	<u>Ajadi ka amrit varsh, gandhichintan va dalito ki sthiti</u>	Dinesh Pathak	Hindi	<u>Ajanta</u>	2277-5730	NO	29-30
13.	<u>Bajarvad aur hindi upnyas</u>	Dinesh Pathak	Hindi	<u>Ajanta</u>	2277-5730	NO	31-32
14.	<u>Analysis on the novel approach of using colloidal silver against E. coli persists to Ampicillin</u>	Anita Desouza	Microbiology	<u>Bioscience Biotechnology Research Communications</u>	2321-4007	NO	33-35
15.	<u>Analysis on the novel approach of using colloidal silver against E. coli persists to Ampicillin</u>	Carol Braggs	Microbiology	<u>Bioscience Biotechnology Research Communications</u>	2321-4007	NO	33-35
16.	<u>Diaspora a Key in strengthening India-US relations under Modi Government</u>	Rashmi Bhure	Politics	<u>FINS Journal of Diplomacy and Strategy</u>	2581-6586	NO	36-39
17.	<u>Connecting The Missing Links In Northeast India: A Review Of Bogibeel Bridge</u>	Rashmi Bhure	Politics	<u>FINS Journal of Diplomacy & Strategy</u>	2581-6586	NO	40-41

NAAC SSR -Cycle 4 : 2018-2023

Metric No.:3.4.3 Number of research papers published in the Journals as notified on UGC CARE list

2021-22

This is to certify that pages from number 1 to 41 of the attached documents/reports are verified and found to be true.



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Diversity of Arbuscular Mycorrhizae Spores from Industrial Belts of MIDC, Dombivli, Thane District of Maharashtra for Winter Season

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Arbuscular mycorrhizae (AM) are the obligate symbionts, forming natural, beneficial relationships with higher plants. About 80% of plants are colonized by AM fungi which belong to Glomeromycota (Family Endogonaceae). In soil microorganisms, AM fungi are commonly studied because of their capacity to support plant tolerance under polluted and toxic conditions. The current study deals with the exclusive survey of fifteen industrial sites from MIDC, Dombivli (East). The sites were investigated to study diversity of AM fungi with respect to rhizosphere soil analysis for subsequent spore density and identification. Spores of *Glomus*, *Acaulospora*, and *Gigaspora* were observed. The observed species were also detected in root colonization analysis, using standard staining methods. The spore density was highest for *Glomus*. The species recorded and identified from genus *Glomus* are *G. aggregatum*, *G. albidum*, *G. australe*, *G. deserticola*, *G. fasciculatum*, *G. fulvus*, *G. geosporum*, *G. intraradices*, *G. microcarpum*, *G. multicaule* and *G. occultum* along with species of *Acaulospora* like *A. foveata*, *A. mellea*, *A. scrobiculata* and *Gigaspora margarita*.

Keywords: Arbuscular mycorrhizae (AM), Glomeromycota, *Glomus*, *Acaulospora*, *Gigaspora*.

INTRODUCTION

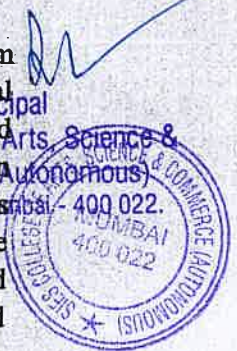
The present paper deals with investigation of Arbuscular Mycorrhizae (AM) in industrially polluted MIDC area of Dombivli in Thane district Maharashtra, with respect to their association with seasonal weeds surrounding fifteen industries in MIDC area, located at Sagarli in Dombivli (East). The mutually beneficial relationship between the roots of plants and fungi is called mycorrhiza. The word 'mycorrhiza' meaning fungus and 'rhiza' meaning root (Smith and Read, 2005). Arbuscular Mycorrhizal fungi are obligate symbionts and form natural partnerships with Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms. They are even found in nutrient deficient soils. AM fungi play an essential role in plant growth, plant protection (from drought, salinity, and salinity) and soil quality. Around 80% of plants are colonized by AM fungi which belong to Glomeromycota and members of family Endogonaceae. AM fungi are employed both in

agriculture and forestry (Rodrigues and Muthukumar, 2009).

Thus, in present context, study of AM fungi for mycoremediation is an emerging significant alternative technology in the clean-up of metal contaminated soil to maintain status of environment and to use it as biofertilizer inoculums in more efficient way to serve in better way for fulfilling the needs of humankind.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The selected study sites were fifteen industries from MIDC, Sagarli of Dombivli (East). Different seasonal weed samples were collected growing around selected industries, along with rhizosphere soil. For collection of roots and rhizosphere soil samples, a steel pipe was inclined and driven into soil up to 25 cm of root zone at different depths. AM fungal spores were isolated from rhizosphere soil samples by wet sieving and decanting method (Gerdemann and Nicolson, 1963). The isolated spores were observed by lifting them



The Journal of Plant Science Research

VOLUME 38

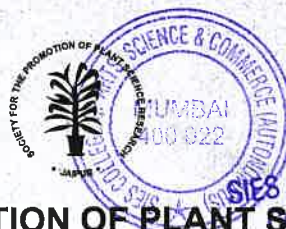
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UGG-CARE List

Journal Details

Journal Title (in English Language)	The Journal of The Science Research
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Publisher	Prism Publication Pvt. Ltd.
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Subject areas

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RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Phytochemical analysis, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activity of leaves and bark of *Ceropegia rollae* Hemadri

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ARTICLE HISTORY

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KEYWORDS

Ceropegia rollae
 Anti-inflammatory activity
 Antioxidant activity
 FRAP; DPPH

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study is to evaluate *in vitro* antioxidant activity and anti-inflammatory activity of methanolic extract of the leaves and the bark of the plant *Ceropegia rollae* Hemadri. The antioxidant activity of the both leaves and bark extract was studied using FRAP and DPPH method. The *in vitro* anti-inflammatory activity and phytochemical characterization were carried using known protocols. The various phytochemical components such as total phenolics and flavonoids were determined. The plant *Ceropegia rollae* also contains tannis and ascorbic acid. This is related to the antioxidant activity of the plant *Ceropegia rollae* extract. The leaves shows good antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activity as compared to the bark. These can be used as natural antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agents.

Introduction

Inflammation is an important adaptive rejoinder caused by noxious stimuli and conditions such as tissue injury to the animal. Mostly the oxidative stress and inflammatory establish a complex interaction. The endocellular state shows a key role in the activation and dysfunction of various immune cell (1-3). *Ceropegia rollae* Hemadri shows significant radical scavenging activity and also interact with various cell lines (4-6).

Free radicals are highly reactive species; they may have one or more than one unpaired electrons. Such as the superoxide, hydroxyl and peroxy radicals. They may easily attack the cell lines and convert the normal cell into pathogenic cell. These free radicals are responsible for the large nobler of the diseases in the human and the animals. Due to increase in the population and the industrialization, the free radicals are increased in the atmosphere. These free radicals affect the human life badly (6, 7). To overcome this, there is need of antioxidants. This antioxidant plays important role for the protection of the body against damage by the radicals. These free radicals are highly reactive. Oxygen radicals are called as ROS and produced by industrial pollution or they are formed

by the biochemical process from various cells and the respiratory chain. These free radicals are the main factor for the lipid peroxidation. *Ceropegia rollae* has certain bioactive compounds, which have good antioxidant and anti-inflammation activities (8-10).

The plant *Ceropegia rollae* play an important role in inhibition of the various bacterial disorders and overcome the free radical activity and the inflammation. The phytochemicals present in the plant *Ceropegia rollae* are the tannins, terpenoids, steroids, phenols, cardiac glycosides, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids and anthraquinones, determined by various protocols developed (11-13). They also give positive test for the flavonoids from the Mg-HCl along with the Zn-HCl (14, 15). The plant also gave Keller and Killani test for the glycosides and with the acetic anhydride and sulphuric acid for the, ferric chloride as reagent test for the phenols (16, 17).

Ceropegia rollae is a tuberous herb, which is widespread to Western Ghats and Konkan region of Maharashtra, India. The Stem is pubescent, leaves are ovate, puberulous, cymes in subaxillary and terminal. Flowers are larger, with peduncle and having pedicels hirsute in nature. The flower is 2.3-3.5 cm long, tube with length 1.5-2.5 cm long, base slightly the inflated at all angles. Mostly the flower Petals are 8-16 x 2.8

About the Journal

Editor-in-Chief: K K Sabu

Publishing model: Fully Open Access

Days to First Editorial Decision: **48 days**

Submission to acceptance: **136 days**

Acceptance rate: **36%**

Impact Factor (2022): **0.9**

Scopus CiteScore: **1.4**

NAAS score (2024): **6.9**

Google Scholar h-index: **26**

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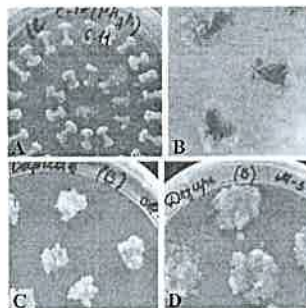
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Vol. 11 No. 1 (2024)



PUBLISHED: 01-01-2024

Research Articles




Effects of plant growth regulators on callogenesis and embryogenesis in sarnav and desiree potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) varieties

Feruza I. Babadjanova, Khurshida A. Ubaydullaeva, Akmal M. Asrorov, Bakhtiyor K. Rakhmanov, Adkham N. Abdullaev, Abduvakhid A. Bolkiev, Sadulla A. Abdullaev, Jakhongir B. Eshmurzaev, Zabardast T. Buriev
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 Impact Factor (2022): 0.9
 Scopus CiteScore: 1.4
 NAAS score: 5.44
 Google Scholar h-index: 25

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Vol. 10 No. 4 (2023)



PUBLISHED: 01-10-2023

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DUJES Volume 27 | March, 2019 Issue DUJES Volume 26 | March, 2018 Issue DUJES Index

Vol. 30 | March 2022 | Have You Arrived Yet? Attempting a Disambiguation of the Modernist-Postmodernist Dichotomy | Seema C

Abstract

Is postmodernity simply a 'post' appended to modernity or does postmodernism have distinctive features that delineate it from modernism? While critics like Habermas and Bauman would believe that postmodernism is nothing but an extended project of modernism, others like Lyotard believe that it is a complete rupture from modernism. This ambiguity is the characteristic of the origins of the term postmodernism, the chronological placement of the age, the features associated with it and more importantly, its theorization. This paper questions the subsumption of postmodernism under the sign of modernity. The paper will analyse the 2016 American sci-fi film, *Arrival* directed by Denis Villeneuve to attempt a disambiguation of the Modernist-Postmodernist dichotomy and examine Lyotard's paralogy to read the signposts ahead.

Keywords: Legitimation, determinism, metanarrative, performativity, paralogy, Sapir-Whorf Theory, Zero-sum game.

Definitions and characteristics seem to be very important in an organizational world. After all, they allow delineation between any two ideas, doctrines or movements. So, while the world celebrates hundred years of high modernism, it is natural to wonder where does postmodernism figure? Though there might be disagreements on the characteristics of modernism, even when we are situated at the cusp of 100 years of high modernism, there is no disputing its existence. But this does not seem to extend fully to postmodernism. There is a tendency to assimilate postmodernism under the sign of modernism. While Jameson critiques postmodernism in terms of lack and bemoans the reification of postmodern "things" (314), attacks on postmodernism have been mounted from various perspectives, be it Marxist (Callinicos 1989, 1990), cultural (Wheen 2004), historical (Evans 2001) or even religious (Wells 1999), apart from the damning Sokal affair.[1] A common issue raised by almost all detractors of postmodernism (and even its supporters) is its lack of a conceptual definition; while some admit to using a tacit definition, others are annoyed by its obvious contradictions. Then, there are the attempts at appropriating postmodernism as an organic extension of modernism (Habermas, 1997 and Bauman, 2000).[2]

All these seem to indicate that postmodernism must have distinctive characteristics that must function in opposition to modernism for it to deserve a separate location; else, it will be subsumed under the sign of modernism. The problem is how to harness a movement that is amorously situated and principally against definitions to gain a location? This Modernist-Postmodernist disjunction characterizes the title of the paper, "Have You Arrived Yet? Attempting a Disambiguation of the Modernist-Postmodernist Dichotomy".

Is postmodernism simply a 'post' appended to modernity, an extension to modernity, or does postmodernism have distinctive features that delineate it from modernism? While critics like Habermas and Bauman would believe that postmodernism is nothing but an extended project of modernism, others like Lyotard believe that it is a complete rupture from modernism. This ambiguity is characteristic of the origins of the term postmodernism, the chronological placement of the age, the features associated with it and more importantly, its theorization.

A manner of distinguishing between modernism and postmodernism is by examining how both the movements perceive knowledge, knowledge formation (Lyotard's "legitimation") and power. Both modernism and postmodernism have made unique contributions to society. Modernism brought an end to medieval practices with its appeal to reason. It also put the individual in the centre, making human life more important. Modernity, the child of Enlightenment, is anchored in principles of rationality and reason. Knowledge formation in modernism is anthropocentric. The conviction accorded by Descartes' famous axiom, Cogito, ergo sum – (I think, therefore, I am) further entitled a logical, rational man to be at the centre of the universe. As a result, the modernist perspective

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मशीनी अनुवाद : प्रक्रिया, प्रयोग, समस्याएँ व समाधान

प्रा. दिनेश पाठक

अनुवाद के क्षेत्र में मशीनी अनुवाद पिछले कुछ दशकों में एक महत्वपूर्ण विकल्प के रूप में आया है। जैसे मशीनी अनुवाद के क्षेत्र में १९३३ से ही अनुसंधान व प्रयोग शुरू हो गये थे किंतु इसे गति ८० के दशक में मिली। जब कम्प्यूटर सस्ते व प्रचलित हो गये। मशीनों की सहायता से विशेषकर कम्प्यूटर की सहायता से किया जानेवाला अनुवाद मशीनी अनुवाद या मशीन आधारित अनुवाद कहा जाता है। इसमें स्रोत भाषा में दी। सामग्री को मशीन विशेषकर कम्प्यूटर की सहायता से लक्ष्य भाषा में अनूदित किया जाता है। सबसे पहले १९३३ में एक रूसी इंजीनियर पेत्र पेत्रोविच ने इस दिशा में पहल की और इस प्रकार की संकल्पना व यंत्र का पेटेंट करवाया। पेत्र पेत्रोविच का यह अनुवाद यंत्र कम्प्यूटर नहीं था। किंतु इसने आगे के आविष्कार व प्रयोग के रास्ते को खोल दिया। पेत्रोविच के आविष्कार के दस वर्ष बाद डॉ. ए. डी. बूथ ने इस दिशा में गंभीरता के साथ काम प्रारंभ किया और कम्प्यूटर आधारित अनुवाद की रूप-रेखा को प्रस्तुत किया। डॉ. बूथ की इस रूप-रेखा ने इंग्लैंड में इसके पक्ष में वातावरण का निर्माण किया। कई संशोधक व तकनीकी जानकार इस दिशा में कार्य करने के लिए आगे बढ़े। मशीनी ट्रांसलेशन का सबसे पहले प्रयोग वॉरेन वीवर के मेमोरेण्डम ऑन ट्रांसलेशन में १९४९ में किया गया। कालांतर में येहोशा-बार-हिलेल ने एम.आई.टी. में मशीनी अनुवाद को लेकर गंभीर अनुसंधान किए और इसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अनुसंधान का विषय बना दिया। यह परंपरा अनेक प्रयोगों के माध्यम से यूरोप के विकसित देशों जैसे इंग्लैंड, जर्मनी, फ्रांस के साथ-साथ जापान और चीन में सतत विकसित व परिमार्जित होती गयी। १९६२ में मशीनी अनुवाद के महत्व को समझते हुए संयुक्त राष्ट्र में एसोसिएशन फॉर मशीन ट्रांसलेशन एंड कम्प्युटेशनल लिम्बिस्टिक्स की स्थापना की गई। संयुक्त राष्ट्र में इस एसोसिएशन की स्थापना ने इस काम के महत्व को और भी बढ़ा दिया। इसके महत्व को देखते हुए नेशनल एकेडमी ऑफ साइंसेस ने इस क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए ऑटोमैटिक लैंग्वेज प्रोसेसिंग एडवाइजरी कमिटी को बनाया। इस कमिटी ने मशीनी अनुवाद के क्षेत्र में अनुसंधान को और तेज कर दिया। इस क्षेत्र से कई महत्वपूर्ण संस्थाएँ व विशेषज्ञ जुड़ने लगे और व्यापक स्तर पर अनुसंधान, प्रयोग व सुधार के कार्य तेजी के साथ किए जाने लगे। पहले मशीनी अनुवाद का प्रयोग इंग्लिश, फ्रेंच, जर्मन, स्पेनिश भाषाओं के वाक्यों, साधारण सूचनाओं से जुड़े अनुच्छेदों तथा धार्मिक वाक्यों के अनुवाद के लिए किया गया। जब इन प्रारंभिक प्रयोगों में सफलता मिल गई तो बाद में इसका प्रयोग अन्य क्षेत्रों से जुड़ी सूचनाओं के अनुवाद के लिए भी किया जाने लगा।

मशीनी अनुवाद के क्षेत्र में मिलने वाली इस प्रारंभिक सफलता ने बड़े संस्थानों व निवेशकों को इस नए क्षेत्र में निवेश व अनुसंधान संचालना संपन्न क्षेत्र की ओर आकृष्ट किया। इस नये क्षेत्र के दोहन के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अनेक कार्यक्रमों का उदय हुआ। इस क्रम में सबसे पहले सिस्ट्रान (१९७८) तथा आन में प्रोजेक्ट (१९८४) एल्ट्राविस्टा वेबलफिश, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट व गूगल जैसी कंपनियों तेजी से आई। माइक्रोसॉफ्ट व गूगल के आ जाने से इस पूरे क्षेत्र की तस्वीर बदल गई। बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों की उपस्थिति ने एक तरफ जहाँ मशीनी अनुवाद के लिए एक बड़ी पूंजी उपलब्ध कराई वहीं दूसरी ओर व्यापक संसाधनों का उपयोग कर बड़े भाषा बाजार का निर्माण इन कंपनियों ने किया। अनेक व्यापक संसाधनों का उपयोग कर जहाँ एक तरफ इन कंपनियों ने मशीनी अनुवाद हेतु अनेक प्रभावशाली सॉफ्टवेयरों का निर्माण किया वहीं दूसरी तरफ आक्रामक मार्केटिंग व प्रभावशाली विज्ञापनों के बदौलत इन्होंने एक बहुत बड़े उपभोक्ता वर्ग का निर्माण किया जो अपनी भाषा में संचार साधनों के द्वारा दी गई सुविधाओं का प्रयोग करने की ललक जगाए लंबे समय से किसी मुख्यद परिवर्तन की आशा लिए बैठा था। इन कंपनियों ने कम्प्यूटर व मोबाइल दोनों क्षेत्रों में सरल मशीनी अनुवाद की सुविधा प्रदान की। माइक्रोसॉफ्ट व गूगल ने इस दिशा में भारतीय भाषाओं के लिए बड़ा काम किया है। जहाँ माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने कम्प्यूटर पर अनुवाद को प्रारंभ करवाया। वहीं गूगल ने मोबाइल पर इन सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध कराने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। मोबाइल सेवाओं के अंतर्गत टैक्स्ट मैसेजिंग को पाने व भेजते समय अनुवाद की सुविधा गूगल ने दी। आज यह सुविधा वॉइस रिकॉर्डिंग के साथ भी उपभोक्ताओं को अनेकों भाषाओं में निःशुल्क मिल रही है। मशीनी अनुवाद की लोकप्रियता का एक बड़ा माध्यम मोबाइल बन गया है। लोग तमाम संदेशों को खासकर अंग्रेजी में लिखे संदेश बड़ी आसानी से हिन्दी में अनूदित करके समझ रहे हैं। मशीनी अनुवाद का एक और उपयोग इन दिनों फेसबुक पर देखने को मिल रहा है। फेसबुक अब अपने उपभोक्ताओं को मशीनी अनुवाद की सुविधा उपलब्ध करा रहा है। फेसबुक पर भेजे गये किसी भी संदेश को अब उपभोक्ता अपनी भाषा में अनूदित करके समझ सकता है। इस सुविधा ने फेसबुक की लोकप्रियता व उसकी ग्राहक संख्या को बढ़ाया है।

मशीनी अनुवाद के प्रारंभिक विकासक्रम को समझ लेने के बाद उसकी प्रक्रिया को समझ लेना भी समीचीन होगा। मशीनी अनुवाद का सारा कार्य-व्यापार कम्प्यूटर के अंदर पहले से प्रोग्राम किये गये सॉफ्टवेयर पर आधारित होता है। इस सॉफ्टवेयर में पहले से ही स्रोत व लक्ष्य भाषा के शब्दों उसकी व्याकरणिय संरचना तथा उनके अंकों को प्रोग्राम्ड कर दिया गया होता है। अनुवादक स्रोत भाषा के वाक्यों को कम्प्यूटर में दिये गये स्थान पर टाइप करता है और फिर लक्ष्य भाषा में अनुवाद का आदेश देता है। उसके इस आदेश के बाद कम्प्यूटर स्रोत भाषा की



समीचीन

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15

14

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28

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A Short-Term Survey of Avian and Mammalian Diversity of Matheran: A Tourist Hub

Aditya Akerkar¹, Anoushka Kumar², Kapil Sharma³, Lucy Nadunker⁴, Satyam Gupta⁵, and Shivani Thevar⁶

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Abstract: Matheran is not only a cultural legacy or a tourist spot but also a great natural resource with immense intrinsic value that can contribute significantly to the ecological patterns of the area. Former said, it being a tourist spot, has repercussions of its own, where like every other hill station it has succumbed to waves of tourists and unplanned development leading to loss of its pristineness. While Matheran and nearby areas are growing in its infrastructure, several sites in the region still harbor rich biodiversity. This study aims to assess the avian and mammalian diversity in the vicinity of the tourist spots in order to assess their conservation importance. The results from the study were as follows. Mean population of the two locations are 291 and 133. Few location points appeared to have more abundance yet showed dominance of few opportunistic species. Few rare species were also sighted in spots having minimum human interference. This shows that even though Matheran is a popular tourist destination, the prohibition of vehicular entry in Matheran has been a boon for the biological diversity conservation in that area.

Index Terms: Abundance, biodiversity, conservation, ecological, opportunistic.

I. INTRODUCTION

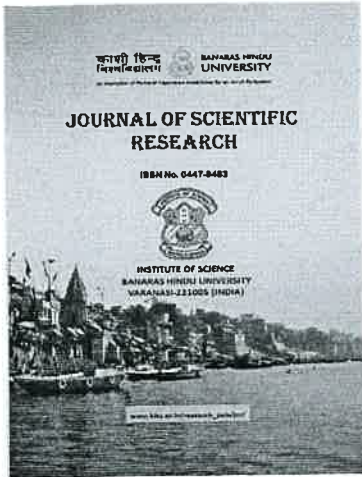
Tourism is considered a leisure activity that the majority of people indulge into, so as to break the tedium of life (Bhatia, 2013). It has a potential to develop at a high rate and guarantee consequential improvement in the infrastructure (Vethirajan & Nagavalli, 2014). India possesses one of the enormously growing tourism industries (Arunmozhi & Panneerselvam, 2013), that aids in improving economic condition (Nag, 2013). India has seen a consistent development in its travel industry in the past few years with an increased footfall rate of 16.3 per annum (Subash, 2015). Wildlife tourism has also shown rapid growth, alluring local and foreign visitors, thereby generating

avenues (Aftabuddin & Jain, 2017).

Apart from creating new jobs and developing the economy, tourism has a few downsides, such as, destruction of landscapes and communities, contamination of air and water, undervaluation of cultures along with several others. It has prompted the destruction of coastlines, deforestation of alpine zones, disintegration of valuable landscapes, and annihilation of wildlife habitats (Croall, 1995). It is viewed as an endogenous movement and displayed as a component of costs and ecological damage (Alavalapati & Adamowicz, 2000). Several studies have indicated the stress response of wildlife in terms of demographic, physiological and behavioral changes, to anthropogeny (Martin & Réala, 2007).

Avifaunal diversity forms an important component of the natural ecosystem that serves as an indicator of disturbance. Population of birds are sensitive to pollution in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (Manjunath and Joshi, 2012). They respond positively or negatively to the kind and intensity of anthropogenic activities. While some species are lost due to changes in the habitat matrix, several opportunistic species flourish even in dense urban jungles. Likewise, many bird species are known to inhabit the urban Mumbai metropolis (Monga, 2004) and its surrounding areas including Mahul (Verma et al., 2003), Uran (Pawar, 2011), Vasai (Walmiki et al., 2013), and Thane Creek (Nitsure, 2002; Quadros, 2001). However, there is a lack of thorough survey on the bird diversity of some of the tourism hotspots in and around the city. These areas in the outskirts of the city are known to be few of the last remaining wild spaces around the city that act as carbon sink, but are experiencing habitat loss and degradation at a rapid rate (Khan et al. 2016, Sinnarkar et al. 2013). Hence, it becomes imperative to assess the level of degradation in these areas by determining how different indicator species inhabiting the areas respond to alterations in their natural habitat.



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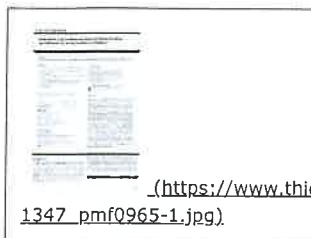
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Abstract

Phytochemical investigation of corn silk *C*- β -oligopyranosyl-7-*O*- β -D-glucopyranoside (**3**), and ax-4-epidioxyergosta-6,22-dien-3 β -ol (**6**) and stigmasterol. Compounds **1** and **2** were attained using spectral data including LPS-induced macrophages and decreased respectively, at 50 μ M. Compound **5** showed activity in chondrocytes by 1.80 \pm 0.0 inhibition of iNOS or NF- κ B but induced

Key words

Zea mays - Corn silk - Poaceae - C-G[#] Dedicated to Professor Dr. A. Douglas

Supporting Information

The NMR, HRESIMS, and IR spectra
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Undescribed C-Glycosylflavones from Corn Silk and Potential
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Authors

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ABSTRACT

Phytochemical investigation of corn silk resulted in isolation and characterization of four flavone C-glycosides, chrysoeriol 6-C- β -oligopyranosyl-7-O- β -D-glucopyranoside (**1**), 3'-methoxycassiaoccidentalin A (**2**), chrysoeriol 6-C- β -hoivinopyranosyl-7-O- β -D-glucopyranoside (**3**), and ax-4'-OH-3'-methoxymaysin (**4**), a triterpenoid, friedelin (**5**), two sterols, (22E)-5 α ,8 α -epidioxyergosta-6,22-dien-3 β -ol (**6**) and 6 β -hydroxystigmasta-4,22-diene-3-one (**7**), and a mixture of β -sitosterol and stigmasterol. Compounds **1** and **2** were previously undescribed. Structure elucidation of the isolated compounds was attained using spectral data including 1D and 2D NMR and HRESIMS. Compounds **1**, **2**, **5**, and **6** inhibited iNOS activity in LPS-induced macrophages and decreased nitrite levels by 68.64 \pm 4.46, 65.67 \pm 6.47, 88.50 \pm 0.50, and 94.00 \pm 4.00%, respectively, at 50 μ M. Compound **5** also showed inhibition of NF- κ B (51.00 \pm 1.50%). Compounds **1** and **2** induced NAG-1 activity in chondrocytes by 1.80 \pm 0.05 and 2.00 \pm 0.13 fold, respectively. The extract of corn silk, however, did not exhibit inhibition of iNOS or NF- κ B but induced NAG-1 by 1.80 \pm 0.51 fold.

Introduction

Corn silk (*stigma maydis*) is a waste product from corn (*Zea mays* L., Poaceae/Gramineae) cultivation. It is native to North America, and copiously available throughout the world, especially in United States, Turkey, China, and France [1, 2]. Corn silk is a thread-like silky material found between an ear of corn and an outer husk that expands from the female flower of the corn and changes color from light green to red/yellow/golden and brown [3]. Corn silk has been used in traditional medicine as an effective herbal reme-

dy for alleviating symptoms of many diseases [1, 3]. Some recent pharmacological studies [3, 4] have shown the effectiveness of corn silk against hyperglycemia, obesity, cardiovascular and neurological disorders, cystitis, prostatitis, edema, nephritis, gonorrhea, urinary infections [5–10], inflammation [11], oxidative stress [12, 13], and bacterial infections [14]. Most of these biological act

[#] Dedicated to Professor Dr. A. Douglas Kinghorn on the occasion of his 75th birthday.Sarfare S et al. Undescribed C-Glycosylflavones from Corn Silk. *Planta Med* 2022; 88: 745–752 | © 2021, Thieme. All rights reserved.Principal
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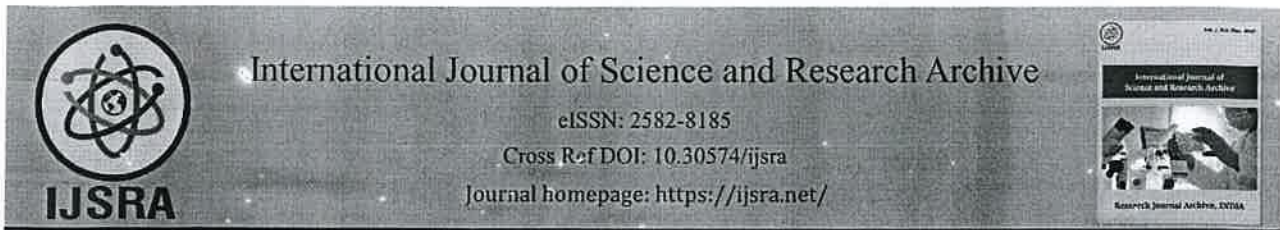
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(CASE REPORT)

Comparative study of roadside avenue trees as bio-indicators of air pollution in and around Mumbai, India: A case study

Kirthika S and Vishnuprasad V *

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Abstract

With rapid increase in urbanization followed by industrialization compounded due to ever-exploding population in the past few decades there is a steep rise in contamination of one of the most vital abiotic factors of the environment i.e., the air. In these circumstances, the clean and green measures to monitor and control air pollution have become inevitable. Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) is one such index for indicating the extent of the plants to withstand air pollution. This includes analysis of physiological and biochemical parameters like total chlorophyll content, ascorbic acid content, pH of the leaf extract and relative water content of the leaves. In this study, the plants selected are mature tree species like *Polyalthia longifolia*, *Putranjiva roxburghii*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Delonix regia* and *Peltophorum pterocarpum* from Mumbai and its surrounding regions. According to the Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) values, plants can be classified as tolerant, intermediate, sensitive and highly sensitive. The tolerance of the plants studied in the decreasing order is as follows *P. roxburghii* > *P. pterocarpum* > *D. regia* > *P. longifolia* > *A. scholaris*. Species selected on the basis of their APTI values can then be used as bio-indicators of air pollution and in its mitigation for green belt development in urban areas.

Keywords: Air pollution; Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI); Bio-indicators; Urbanization

1. Introduction

In modern world, pollution has become the biggest enemy for the survival of the living organisms. Out of all pollutions, air pollution is the one which is increasing at an alarming rate due to rapid industrialization and urbanization and excessive use of automobiles resulting in the rapid decline in air quality contributed mainly by emissions of air pollutants like Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Carbon monoxide (CO) and Particulate matter (smaller than 10µm). Vehicular pollution contributes up to 70%, 52% and 30% of total air pollution in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata respectively [1]. The increasing environmental pollution has adverse effects on the human health, animal and plant life, infrastructure, etc.

The urban trees are the ones which are grown in urban areas on roadsides, in parks and gardens, in industrial and residential complexes, green belts, traffic islands, etc. to increase the green infrastructure in the concrete jungles. Urban trees not only increase the green infrastructure but also contribute in terms of environmental and socio-economic aspects. The plants in polluted areas show many changes in their morphology and metabolism like changes in concentration of chlorophyll, ascorbic acid, proteins, phenols and other metabolites, chlorosis, necrosis, and other types of injuries on leaf and other parts of the plant. This is the result of absorption of harmful gaseous pollutants like SO₂, CO, CO₂, NO_x, through leaf stomata also vegetation provides large surface area for deposition of dust and particulate matter [2]. This shows that plant helps to take-up the pollutants from the atmosphere and mitigates air pollution.

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Revisiting Communication Skills in English Courses in HEIs

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Abstract

The objective of this paper is to defend a stand that the language courses that are designed need to change their investment oriented approach and this should be replaced with a reinforcement approach closer to the last two years of the graduation programme. This will ensure that maximum motivation is generated by a revision of items such as vocabulary building, knowledge of collocations, homonyms, homophones, grammar, editing and awareness of first language or mother tongue interference. This hypothesis will be tested with empirical proof arrived at through a survey taken from a sample size of 143 students, the stakeholders concerned, whose opinion is what really matters

Keywords: communication skills in English, competence, measurable learner outcomes, investment and reinforcement

Introduction:

This paper is the outcome of some pertinent questions that have agitated me as a teacher of English. How can we empower learners with effective English without alienating indigenous languages and cultures, without disempowering those who fail to master mere tools required to use English competently? Is the National Education Policy really a solution to the age-old problems ranking teachers across the nation or is it going to compound the problem further? Should we really adopt a frog-in-the-well approach with regard to English at this juncture and focus on regional languages instead of ensuring measurable learner outcomes with regard to empowering our learners with effective communication skills in English? These are questions that deserve to be asked even if we do not have concrete answers at this juncture.

One is part of the system and as an insider have witnessed several conferences that have had academicians, research scholars and administrators from various parts of the globe debating on multiculturalism, linguism and anti-globalization. The learner of the future, whose fate was going to hang in balance, meanwhile, has to deal with a situation where English had to be mastered by hook or by crook as the language in which all business was to be transacted in the corporate world within India and abroad. Anti-globalization activists can cry themselves hoarse but English is clearly here to stay. Predicting an apocalypse where English is concerned is a non-pragmatic approach that will do more harm than good.

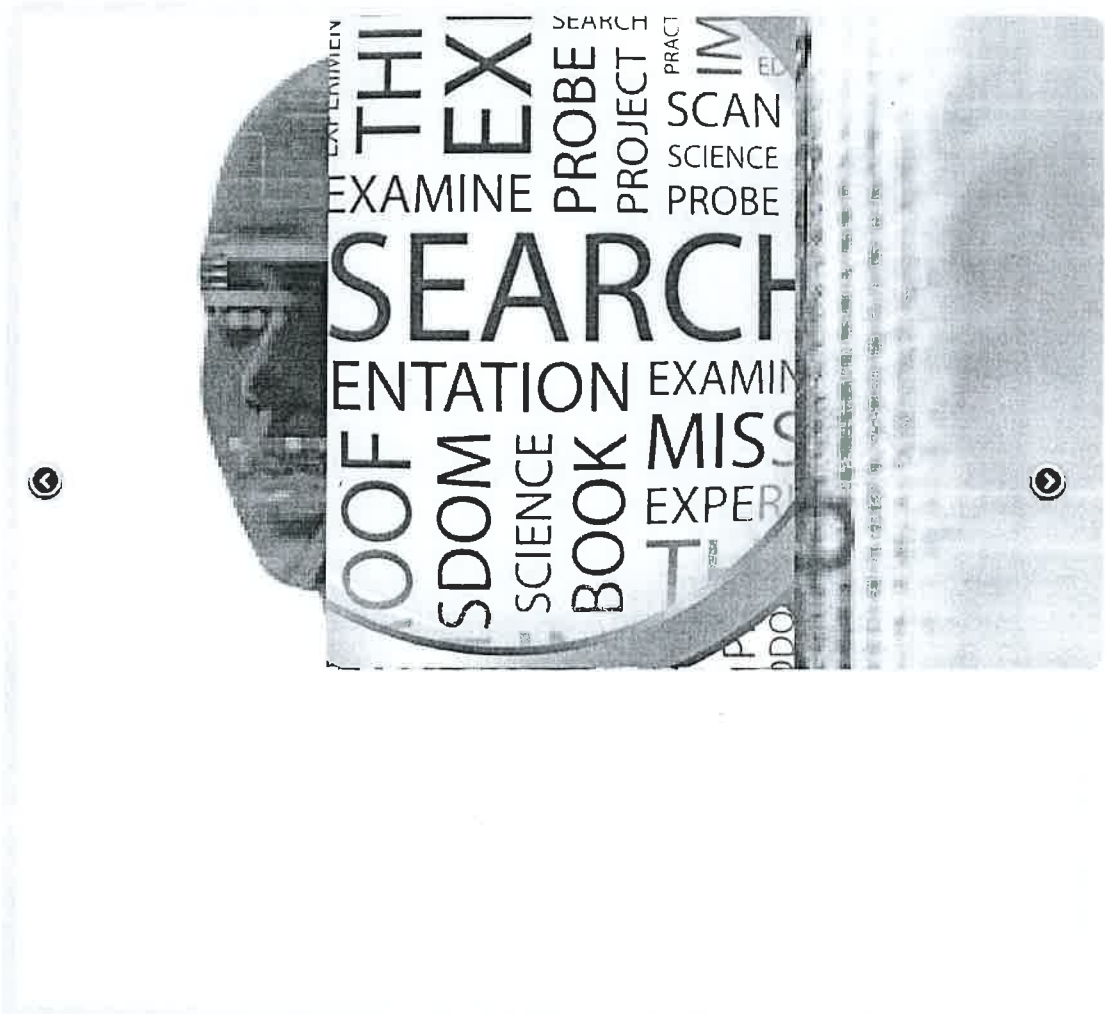
The recommendations in the draft of the National Education Policy (DNEP) for 2019 evidenced a “fixation with “investing” in the child’s future” (Suresh 2019) which does



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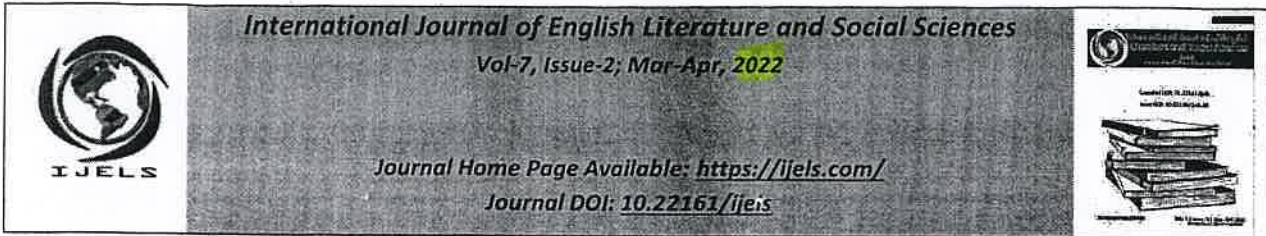
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Staging an Encounter: Citizenship and Resistance

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Abstract— Maxim Gorky's 'Mother' has been hailed as a timely intervention by a writer in exile that succeeded in rallying the flagging hopes of a citizenry that was reeling under the failure of the first Russian Revolution. The novel offers a different perspective on the ways in which women resisted attempts at repressing revolutionary voices across classes. This paper attempts to look at the differences in the depictions of the Russian and French Revolutions in Gorky's *Mother* and Dickens' 'A Tale of Two Cities' respectively. Comparisons will also be drawn between the two novels as ones that vary in their representation of women as participants in a revolution. The paper also proposes to scrutinize the strikingly unusual manner in which the French Revolution itself has been presented by Dickens with a very deep-rooted patriarchal agenda that aims at disempowering women's agency through characters such as Madame Defarge, La Vengeance, Miss Pross and Lucie Manette. The paper will seek to validate the position that Dickens' representation of the French Revolution unlike Gorky's depiction of the Russian Revolution is guilty of a stark gender bias that is evidenced in his "extreme portrayal and rejection of Madame Defarge and his exaggerated depiction of Lucie as a desired feminine form" that also demonstrates patriarchal anxiety about powerful women and a fear of revolution itself (Robson: 329).

Keywords— citizenship, empowerment, gender bias, patriarchal anxiety, resistance

I. INTRODUCTION

Historically women have been left out of the exercise of political power. While they were denied suffrage in Western democracies for a long period of time, they continue to be significantly under-represented in formal political forums and seminal decision-making bodies all over the world. Politics has therefore been and continues to remain a male-dominated arena and activity. A standard argument used to deny women the right to vote or participate in political decision-making is that they are naturally irrational. Theorists and philosophers like Hobbes, Locke, Aristotle, Plato and Rousseau have argued that men are naturally rational and therefore ideally suited for political decision-making while women are emotional and more suited to the private, affective and domestic sphere of the home. In order to resist this exclusion, women had to claim that they were not in fact different, but were men's equals; in that, they were equally capable of being rational and of taking part in the political sphere.

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On the other hand, paradoxically, in mobilizing as women and claiming rights for women, they were affirming their identity as women and thus reinforcing the existence of sexual difference. Thus, though women have acquired suffrage in democracies the world over, they have found that the right to vote does not automatically lead them to the road of full political citizenship. An important element of political citizenship is political participation, and this must translate into far more than a mere chance to vote every few years.

II. METHOD AND DISCUSSION

A thorny issue with most feminists has always been that of political representation. Despite having the rights to eligibility and the right to vote, women are still terribly underrepresented in most parliamentary democracies the world over and also in decision-making bodies that count, both locally and nationally. Women have been very

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८. आजादी का अमृत वर्ष, गांधीचिंतन व दलितों की स्थिति

डॉ. दिनेश पाठक

अध्यक्ष, हिन्दी विभाग, एस.आई.ई.एस. कला, विज्ञान व वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय, मुंबई.

देश आजादी का अमृत वर्ष मना रहा है। आजादी मिले 75 वर्ष हो गये। इन पचहत्तर वर्षों में देश ने जीवन के सभी क्षेत्रों में तरक्की की है। दुनिया की एक बड़ी व महत्वपूर्ण आर्थिक संभावनासंपन्न ताकत के रूप में हमें पहचाना जा रहा है। विज्ञान व तकनीकी के क्षेत्र में भी हमने ठीक-ठाक तरक्की की है। शिक्षा व सामाजिक जागरण का स्तर भी बढ़ा है। किन्तु इस सब के बीच हमारे लोकतांत्रिक देश में लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों व आस्थाओं में लोगों का विश्वास कम हुआ है। देश की राजनीतिक स्थितियों व उनसे उपजी निराशा ने लोगों के विश्वास को कमजोर किया है। राजनीतिक संस्थाओं, व्यक्तियों व उनकी विचारधाराओं को लोग अब उतने विश्वास के साथ नहीं देखते जैसे कुछ दशक पहले देखा करते थे। यह अविश्वास इसलिए क्योंकि इन लोकतांत्रिक संस्थाओं व विचारधाराओं से जिस और जितने परिवर्तन की अपेक्षा भारतीय जनता ने की थी। स्थितियाँ उस तरह से हकीकत में नहीं बदलीं। स्वाभाविक ही था कि बड़े व व्यापक बदलाव की आशा लगाकर बैठी जनता में निराशा व यथास्थिति को स्वीकार करने का भाव बढ़े और वह इन संस्थाओं व विचारधाराओं के प्रति उदासीन हो जाए। हमारे देश में आजकल ऐसी ही स्थितियाँ विकसित होती दिखाई पड़ रही हैं। इन्हीं स्थितियों के बीच हम आजादी का अमृत वर्ष मना रहे हैं। इन्हीं स्थितियों के बीच देश के दलितों की स्थिति पर विचार करना अपने आप में एक महत्वपूर्ण वैचारिक मुद्दा बन जाता है क्योंकि दलितों की कुल जनसंख्या देश की समूची जनसंख्या का एक चौथाई हिस्सा है, अर्थात् दलित देश की कुल आबादी में 25 प्रतिशत हिस्से के भागीदार हैं। इस चौथाई हिस्से को लेकर सबसे ज्यादा चिंतित गांधी जी थे। उनके सामाजिक-राजनीतिक चिंतन का एक बड़ा भाग दलितों के उत्थान व उनके सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास से जुड़ा हुआ था। अपने विचारों, भाषणों, लेखन व कार्य के माध्यम से निरंतर गांधी जी दलितों के कार्य में लगे रहे। हरिजन सेवक संघ के माध्यम से वे निरंतर दलितों में उत्थान की कोशिश करते रहे किन्तु वे अच्छी तरह से जानते थे कि दलितों से जुड़ी समस्याओं को पूरी तरह तब तक भारतीय समाज से नहीं मिटाया जा सकता, जब तक भारतीय समाज का सवर्ण तबका इसे मन से स्वीकार कर न ले। वे इस हृदय परिवर्तन को सवर्ण वर्ग के लिए आध्यात्मिक उत्थान के रूप में देखते थे। इस संदर्भ में अनिल दत्त मिश्र लिखते हैं- "गांधी जी अस्पृश्यता निवारण के लिए सवर्ण हिंदुओं के दृष्टिकोण में परिवर्तन लाना चाहते थे। उनका मानना था कि जिस प्रकार दलितों के लिए भौतिक उत्थान आवश्यक है, उसी प्रकार सवर्ण एवं संपन्न वर्ग के लिए आध्यात्मिक उत्थान आवश्यक है।" आजादी के बाद संवैधानिक प्रावधानों व आधुनिकता के प्रभाव के कारण देश में अस्पृश्यता की भावना में भारी कमी आई है। दलितों के प्रति सवर्णों के देखने व व्यवहार करने के दृष्टिकोण में भी व्यापक परिवर्तन हुआ है किन्तु गांधी जी जिस हृदय-परिवर्तन की अपेक्षा भारतीय सवर्ण समाज से रखे हुए थे वह हृदय-परिवर्तन भारतीय समाज में अभी भी पूर्ण रूप से नहीं हुआ

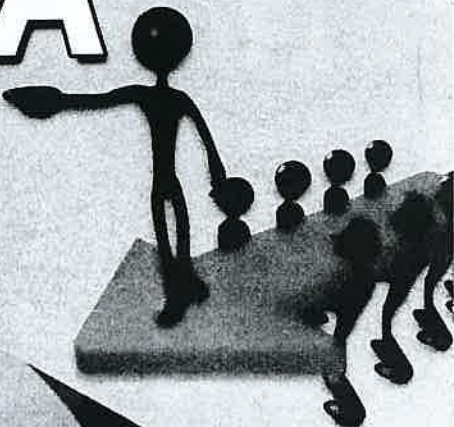
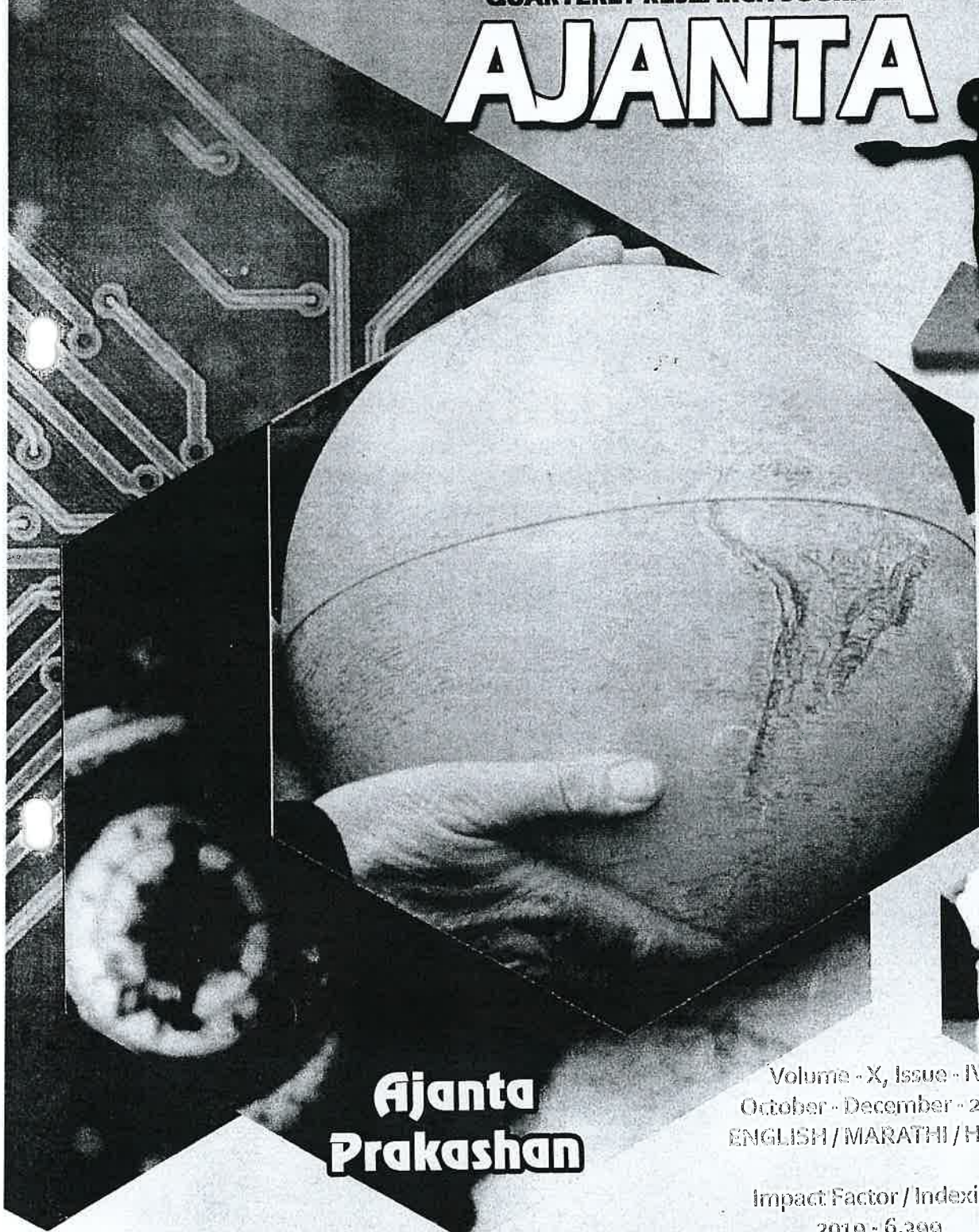


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५. बाजारवाद और हिंदी उपन्यास

डॉ. दिनेश पाठक

सहायक आचार्य एवं अध्यक्ष हिंदी विभाग, एस.आइ.ई.एस कला, विज्ञान एवं वाणिज्य महाविद्यालय, सायन (प), मुंबई.

बाजार मानव समाज के विकास के साथ जुड़ा रहा है। मानव सभ्यता के विकास के साथ-साथ बाजार भी विकसित होता रहा और अलग-अलग युग व परिस्थितियों के अनुसार इसका रूप बदलता रहा। सच यह है कि बाजार ने मानव सभ्यता के विकास में एक महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है। मनुष्य को सभ्य व उन्नत बनाने में शिक्षा, संगीत, विज्ञान तथा अन्य सांस्कृतिक तथ्यों के साथ बाजार का भी महत्व रहा है। आवश्यक वस्तुओं, उत्पादों व सेवाओं को उपलब्ध कराने में, मानव समाज की व्यापक आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति में और मनुष्य को सतत क्रियाशील बनाए रखने में बाजार की भूमिका मानव सभ्यता के विकास में निर्विवादित है। बाजार हमेशा समाज के अंग के रूप में काम करता रहा और समाज उसका नियमन व नियंत्रण करता रहा, जब तक यह स्थिति रही तब तक समाज व बाजार एक-दूसरे के साथ सामंजस्यपूर्ण ढंग से आगे बढ़ते रहे और मानव समाज के लिए बाजार एक आवश्यक सामाजिक जरूरत बना रहा किंतु नब्बे के दशक में आए भूमंडलीकरण ने मनुष्य, समाज व बाजार के बीच के इस समीकरण को बदल दिया। उत्पादन युद्ध व असीमित लाभ कमाने की गला काट स्पर्धा ने बाजार को इतना अधिक प्रभावशाली व नियंत्रक बना दिया है कि अब बाजार समाज से नियंत्रित न होकर स्वयं समाज को नियंत्रित करने लगा है। अब बाजार समाज की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप नहीं चल रहा है बल्कि वह समाज को अपनी प्राथमिकताओं के आधार पर चला रहा है। अब समाज की जरूरतों के आधार पर उत्पादों व सेवाओं को बाजार नहीं मुहैया करा रहा है बल्कि वह तमाम वस्तुओं व सेवाओं की जरूरत मनुष्य में बना रहा है और फिर इस बनाई गई जरूरतों की पूर्ति के लिए वह वस्तुओं, उत्पादों व सेवाओं को अपनी शक्तों और मूल्यों पर उपलब्ध करा रहा है। बाजार के लिए उसका मुनाफा सर्वोपरि है चाहे उसके लिए किसी भी प्रकार की रणनीति को क्यों न अपनाना पड़े। बाजार की इस बदली हुई स्थिति ने समाज को अनेक रूपों में प्रभावित किया है। इन प्रभावों के कारण दुनिया के सारे परंपरागत समाजों में अनेक बदलाव दिखाई पड़ रहे हैं। ये बदलाव विकसित व विकासशील दोनों प्रकार के मुल्कों में दिखाई दे रहे हैं। भारतीय समाज में आए तमाम बदलावों को समकालीन हिंदी उपन्यासकारों ने पहचाना है और उन्हें अपने उपन्यासों में चित्रित किया है। इन बदलावों को निम्नलिखित रूप से सूचीबद्ध किया जा सकता है -

१. उपभोक्तावादी प्रवृत्तियों का तीव्रता से बढ़ना
२. अनावश्यक उत्पादों व सेवाओं की ओर बढ़ता रुझान
३. उधार की संस्कृति का विकास

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Biomedical Communication

Analysis on the Novel Approach of Using Colloidal Silver Against *E. coli* Persisters to Ampicillin

Carol Braggs* and Anita Desouza

Department of Microbiology, SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai, India

ABSTRACT

Bacterial persisters are phenotypic variants that form under stress, cause recurrent infections and also possess antibiotic tolerance. The use of colloidal silver to combat persisters seems to be a promising alternative since bacterial tolerance towards metals or metal ions has not been reported. The objective of this study was to determine the effect of colloidal silver on *E. coli* K-12 NCIM 2665 persisters to Ampicillin. The study determined the effect of colloidal silver on *E. coli* persisters to Ampicillin. The combined action of Ampicillin and silver against persisters was determined by checkerboard assay. Tolerance of log phase population of *E. coli* K-12 NCIM 2665 to silver and whether persisters to silver are formed was also determined. The Fractional Inhibitory Concentration (FIC) index for Ampicillin and colloidal silver was determined to be ≤ 1 which indicates an additive effect. A five-log reduction in log phase population and two log reduction in antibiotic persisters was observed after one hour exposure to 16ppm silver; indicating the effectiveness of colloidal silver. Colloidal silver decreases the formation of Ampicillin persisters as well as prevents the survival of existing Ampicillin persisters. In order to combat recurrent bacterial infections, methods need to be found to reduce the formation of pathogenic bacterial persisters or to enhance the susceptibility of persisters to antibiotics. The results of the present study imply that colloidal silver can be used as an anti-persister strategy directly or in combination with an antibiotic.

KEY WORDS: COLLOIDAL SILVER, E.COLI K-12, PERSISTER CELLS.

INTRODUCTION

The host immune system has a variety of mechanisms that can combat bacterial infections. However, pathogens like *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Helicobacter pylori*, *Candida albicans* not only evade the host immune system, but also persist in the host even after antibiotic treatment resulting in recurrent infections (Jayaraman 2008; Dawson et al. 2011; Fauvart et al., 2011; Hong-Geller and Micheva-Viteva 2015; Fisher et al., 2016; Moorhouse et al., 2016). One of the main factors that contribute to the recurrence of infection is persistence. Persistence was first observed as a phenomenon by Bigger when a population of *S. aureus* survived after treatment with Penicillin (Bigger 1944). Bacterial persisters are distinct physiological variants that exhibit tolerance to

antimicrobial agents. Tolerance towards antimicrobials makes treatment of such recurrent infections difficult.

Persistence differs from antibiotic resistance since resistant cells grow in the presence of higher doses of antibiotics while persister cells remain dormant. Multidrug tolerance of persisters is one of the major factors for recurrent infections and the inability of antibiotics to eliminate the pathogen (Waters and Bassler, 2005; Lewis, 2008; Moker et al., 2008; Lewis, 2010). Many antibiotics have been shown to be active only against dividing bacteria. Persister cells are known to greatly slow down essential cellular functions that are generally targeted by antibiotics such as transcription, translation, cell wall synthesis and DNA replication (Kwan et al., 2013). New methods to enhance the susceptibility of persisters to antibiotics or to reduce the formation of pathogenic bacterial persisters are required to combat recurrent

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Diaspora a key in strengthening India-US relations under Modi Government

By Dr. Rashmi Bhure - March 21, 2022

Abstract

Indo-US relations have come a long way since India's Independence. From estranged democracies, during the cold war, they became engaging democracies in the post-cold war period. In the 21st Century, various changing internal and external factors have contributed immensely to strengthening this relationship. One of those catalyst instruments has been the Indian Diaspora. Indo-US relations have been significantly shaped and reshaped over the years by the Indian-Americans. Prime Minister Narendra Modi since 2014 has capitalized on the Indian diaspora as a link between India and America to its core. Narendra Modi has kept the Indian diaspora at the forefront to recalibrate India-US relations through open public engagements in Silicon Valley, election rallies, cultural outreach, political lobbies, economic engagement through Make in India, ease of doing business policies and Philanthropy, etc. Not only the Indian government but also the US government have benefitted from these economically and politically elite sections of Indian-Americans, hence, boosting Indo-US ties to an unprecedented height under Modi's government.

Keywords: India-US, Indian Diaspora, Indian-American, Pravasi Bharatiya, Narendra Modi, Public Engagement, Soft power

Introduction

India and the US were estranged democracies during the Cold War period. The end of the Cold War gave the two nations the opportunity to engage extensively. Since then the Indian-American diaspora has played a significant role in shaping the India-US relationship. The 4.4 million overseas Indians in the United States of America are the rare example of an incredible journey of Indian-Americans, from being "Coolie" "Snake-charmer" to the "Vice-President of USA" (Kamala Harris, Indian-American, became the Vice-President of USA in 2021). At present the Indian

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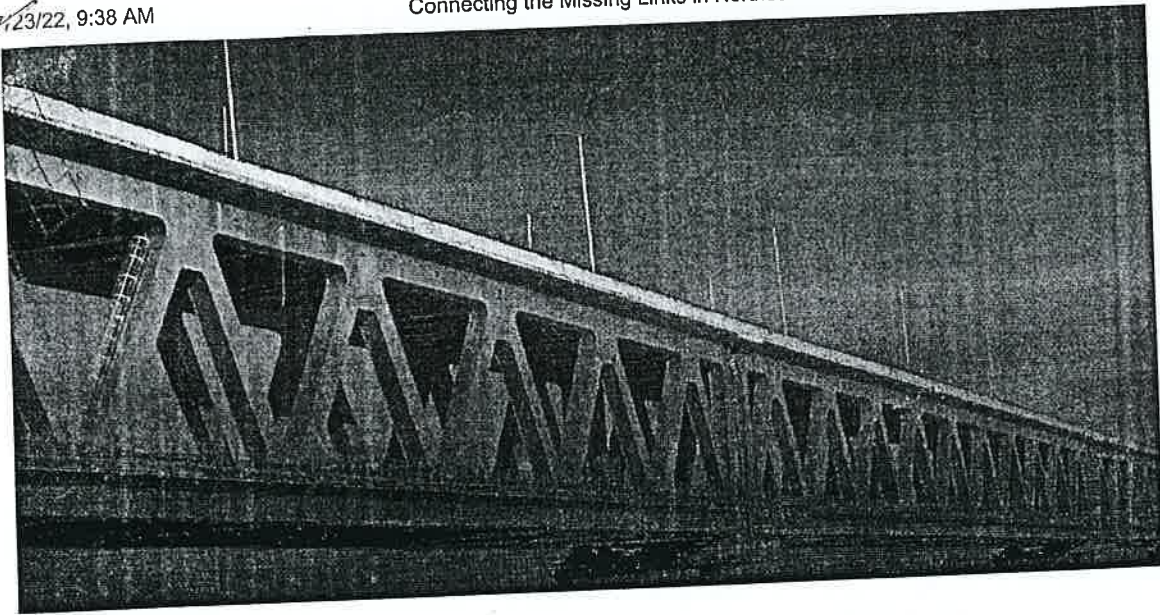
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Abstract

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Bogibeel rail cum road bridge across the river Brahmaputra near Dibrugarh was commissioned in December 2018 and has completed three years of operation. The article examines both the domestic and international context of this project. Internal factors like the Assam Accord, various civil society initiatives, and government efforts play a significant role. The international context of reorientation of Indian foreign policy in the aftermath of the cold war in the 1990s and the rising belligerence of China which led to the Look East and Act East policies are analysed. The article focuses on the Bogibeel project with specific reference to the development of connectivity in the NE region as a part of Act East Policy. Further, it assesses the impact of the new bridge on connectivity in upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in its various dimensions such as a change in patterns of railway operations, road connectivity vis-a-vis ferry services, and impact on military-related movements. Possible future development of inland water transport along NW2 is briefly indicated.

Keywords: Act East Policy, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bogibeel Bridge, Look East Policy, Northeast India, Railway Connectivity.

Introduction

"Build your opponent a golden bridge to retreat across" is a quote often attributed to Sun Tzu, the high priest of the art of war, although his actual precept was only to leave an opening for the enemy to withdraw.[1] History is replete with examples underscoring the strategic importance of bridges to warfare. But bridges have a much more enduring and crucial role in daily life. They provide cost-effective, better, and easy connectivity, apart from unequivocally boosting overall economic growth and development. Bogibeel bridge across the river Brahmaputra near



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