

THE BOOK REPRESENTS THE MODERN LIFE OF KOLKATA IN THE MID 19TH CENTURY AND ALSO FOCUSES ON THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE OF KOLKATA AND ITS SURROUNDING AREAS.

HERITAGE

HUTUM PYANCHAR NAKSHA BANGLA'S FIRST NOVEL

APURBA JAHANGIR

Kaliprasanna Singha was born in a rich zamindar family in Jorasanko, Kolkata, in 1840. In a lifespan of only thirty years, he left lasting contributions in both Bengali Literature and the society of that time. He attended the Hindu College and later completed his education through English tutors at home. He was only thirteen years old when he established the 'Vidyotsahini Sabha'-- society to discuss significant issues of the day. Later on, he entered the cultural milieu of Kolkata through Vidyotsahini Patrika, a periodical, and Vidyotsahini. He is also fondly remembered for his translation of the Mahabharata, the largest epic, and as a philanthropist, who helped several people in distress and was apart of many movements.

His famous satiric novel Hutum Pyanchar Naksha is considered to be the first bengali novel. The book is based on the newly wealthy people of Kolkata. Kaliprasanna targeted their lifestyles, as these people were indulged in forgery, gambling, tricks and deception in order to gain more wealth.

The book represents the modern life of Kolkata in the mid 19th century and also focuses on the spoken language of Kolkata and its surrounding areas. Kaliprasanna's use of the name Hutum led to a new form of language called 'Hutomi Bangla' which was a stepping stone towards modern bengali literary language.

Kaliprasanna takes up a significant part of Sunil Gangopadhyay's well known historical fiction 'Sei Samay'.

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Kaliprasanna Singha



PHOTO: INTERNET

NUMBERS

95

If Charles Eugster is any example, maybe Usain Bolt ought to put off his planned retirement by 60 years or so. Eugster, 95, obliterated the 95-and-over world indoor record for 200 meters, recently, at a British Masters Athletics meet in London. The retired dentist, who took up exercise in his 80s, clocked in at 55.48 seconds, easily toppling Orville Rogers' 57.88 set in 2013. According to the Silver Grey Sports Club, Eugster set a British record for 60 meters the day before. The Telegraph has called Eugster "the world's fittest pensioner." He plays all kinds of sports but took up competitive track in 2013.

The newspaper wrote that he eats fresh fruit in the morning and gulps a protein drink after workouts. On his website, Eugster offered these general tips for winning at life: "Successful ageing requires work, diet and exercise. The huge mental and physical potential of the aged remains unexplored. Bodies can now be rebuilt at any age and a new life started." Who's going to argue with this guy?

Source: huffingtonpost.com

QUIRKY SCIENCE

WHAT'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DEEPEST HOLE ON EARTH?

Remove this rusted metal cap and the world's deepest hole tunnels miles into the Earth. However, we know more about certain distant galaxies than we do about what lies miles beneath our very own feet. For that reason, Soviet scientists in the 1970s decided to probe deeper than humanity has ever done before. For the next 24 years, they drilled on and off into the Earth's crust. The result was the Kola Super deep Borehole and a drill-depth of more than 7.5 miles (12 kilometers). To put that in perspective, Kola descends further than the deepest point of the ocean, which lies at nearly 6.8 miles (11 kilometers). The borehole is located on the Kola Peninsula of Russia.

So did we learn anything from these decades of labor? Thankfully, yes! Scientists found microscopic fossils of single-celled organisms at 4.3 miles (7 kilometers) down. And at nearly the same depth, they discovered water. They also found that the temperature at the bottom of the hole reached a blistering 356°F (180°C). Being too hot to continue, drilling officially halted in 1994. However, what's even more impressive is that scientists estimate that the distance to the center of the Earth is nearly 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometers). Turns out, 7.5 miles barely scratches the surface.

SOURCE: IFLSCIENCE.COM



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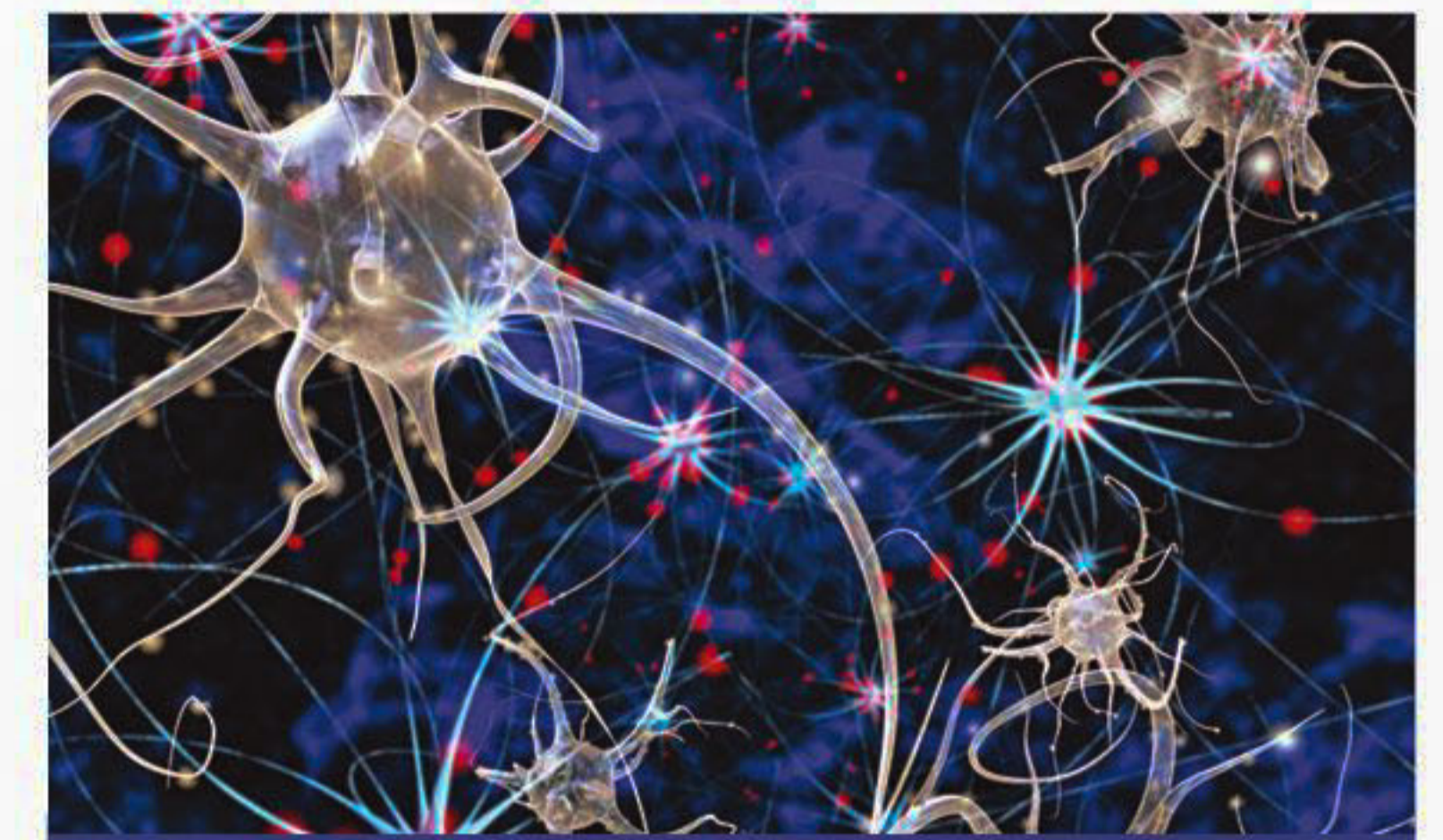
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Drug Restores Brain Function and Memory in Early Alzheimer's Patients

A novel therapeutic approach for an existing drug reverses a condition in elderly patients who are at high risk for dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, researchers at Johns Hopkins University found.

The drug, commonly used to treat epilepsy, calms hyperactivity in the brain of patients with amnesic mild cognitive impairment (aMCI), a clinically recognized condition in which memory impairment is greater than expected for a person's age and which greatly increases risk for Alzheimer's dementia, according to the study published this week in Neuro Image : Clinical.

The findings validate the Johns Hopkins team's initial conclusions, published three years ago in the journal-- Neuron. They also closely match the results in animal studies performed by the team and scientists elsewhere. Next, neuroscientist Michela Gallagher, the lead investigator, hopes the therapy will be tested in a large-scale, longer-term clinical trial.

Hippocampal over-activity is well-documented in patients with aMCI and its occurrence predicts further cognitive decline and progression to Alzheimer's dementia, Gallagher said.

"What we've shown is that very low doses of the atypical antiepileptic levetiracetam reduce this over-activity," Gallagher said. "At the same time, it improves memory performance on a task that depends on the hippocampus."

The team studied 84 subjects; 17 of them were normal healthy participants and the rest had the symptoms of pre-dementia memory loss defined as aMCI. Everyone was over 55 years old, with an average age of about 70.

The subjects were given varying doses of the drug and also a placebo in a double-blind randomised trial. Researchers found low doses both improved memory performance and normalised the over-activity detected by functional magnetic resonance imaging that measures brain activity during a memory task. The ideal dosing found in this clinical study matched earlier preclinical studies in animal models.

SOURCE: SCIENCEDAILY.COM