

JOURNEY OF A CHANGE MAKER

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

“No matter how small you start, always dream big”, said Stephen Richards, a British author and investigative journalist.

This is the motto of Tajul Islam Lekhon's life. For those, who don't know about Lekhon, this 29-year-old man has recently gained immense popularity for his offbeat project and has credited the name

course there. “During my stay there, I observed that, in developed countries, people do the jobs whatever they get to do without any hesitation”, says Lekhon. “Being inspired by them, I decided to do the same after coming back to Bangladesh which turned into my dream. While naming my van, I decided to call it 'Dream Van'”.



Tajul Islam Lekhon

'Handsome Ferriwala Lekhon', who retails different ladies and gents wear, accessories and different luxurious items in his mobile cart called 'Dream Van'. Lekhon, the educated youngster, usually peddles in Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur and on nearby areas but he can be mostly seen around 7/A, Dhanmondi, near KFC.

A quick glance at Lekhon may help you discover the big difference between him and any ordinary street hawker. Wearing trendy attires and boots, with a high end headphone and an expensive DSLR camera around his neck, Lekhon sells out his products to the customers. The students of different universities of Dhanmondi area are his main targeted customers.

“Actually, we live in a country, where there is a so called uneasiness among the educated young generation that doing something small is a disgraceful matter”, says Lekhon, while talking about his objectives. “If we cannot change such beliefs, our problems regarding unemployment will never change”, he adds.

In 2011, during his diploma course at a polytechnic institute in Faridpur, Lekhon stepped into South Korea and worked as a migrant labourer for five years. Along with the job, he also completed a photography



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Coming back to Bangladesh, in January, 2016, he started working on his 'Dream Van' project with an approximate amount of taka 15000. He designed a unique van and started collecting different wallets, bags, belts, sunglasses, sandals, gents and ladies T-shirts, caps, vases, cactuses and many more items for sale. Sometimes, he brings some exclusive T-shirts and vases designed and painted by him.

In this short period of time of around four months, Lekhon has received a very good response from his customers. Now, many young people come thanking him for his bold move and some of them express their wishes to be like him.

At present, one of his uncles is assisting him, as he is planning to introduce many innovative ideas for 'Dream Van'. Lekhon has a Facebook page named 'Dream Van', where he posts every update about this mobile shop. Now he is thinking about informing young, unemployed people about the ways they can make a good profit with a small amount of money.

Lekhon has a message for the unemployed people- 'No job is too small'. It is not necessary to start with a van, but at least starting anything small can change one's financial position.

Breaking the social hierarchy, Lekhon wishes to establish himself as an icon among the unemployed young generation, who sits idly at home and cannot start such things fearing that people might make fun of it. Although, he has the option to go back to South Korea, he wants to work as a change maker in Bangladesh through his 'Dream Van' project. ■

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QUIRKY SCIENCE



THE ROLE OF BACTERIA

The evolution of major novel traits – characteristics such as wings, flowers, horns or limbs – has long been known to play a key role in allowing organisms to exploit new opportunities in their surroundings.

What's still up for debate, though, is how these important augmentations come about from a genetic point of view.

New research from an international team of evolutionary biologists, led by the University of Oxford, has used bacteria to show that acquiring duplicate copies of genes can provide a 'template' allowing organisms to develop new attributes from redundant copies of existing genes.

Gene duplication has been proposed as playing a key role in innovation since the 1970s, but these findings add important empirical evidence to support this theory.

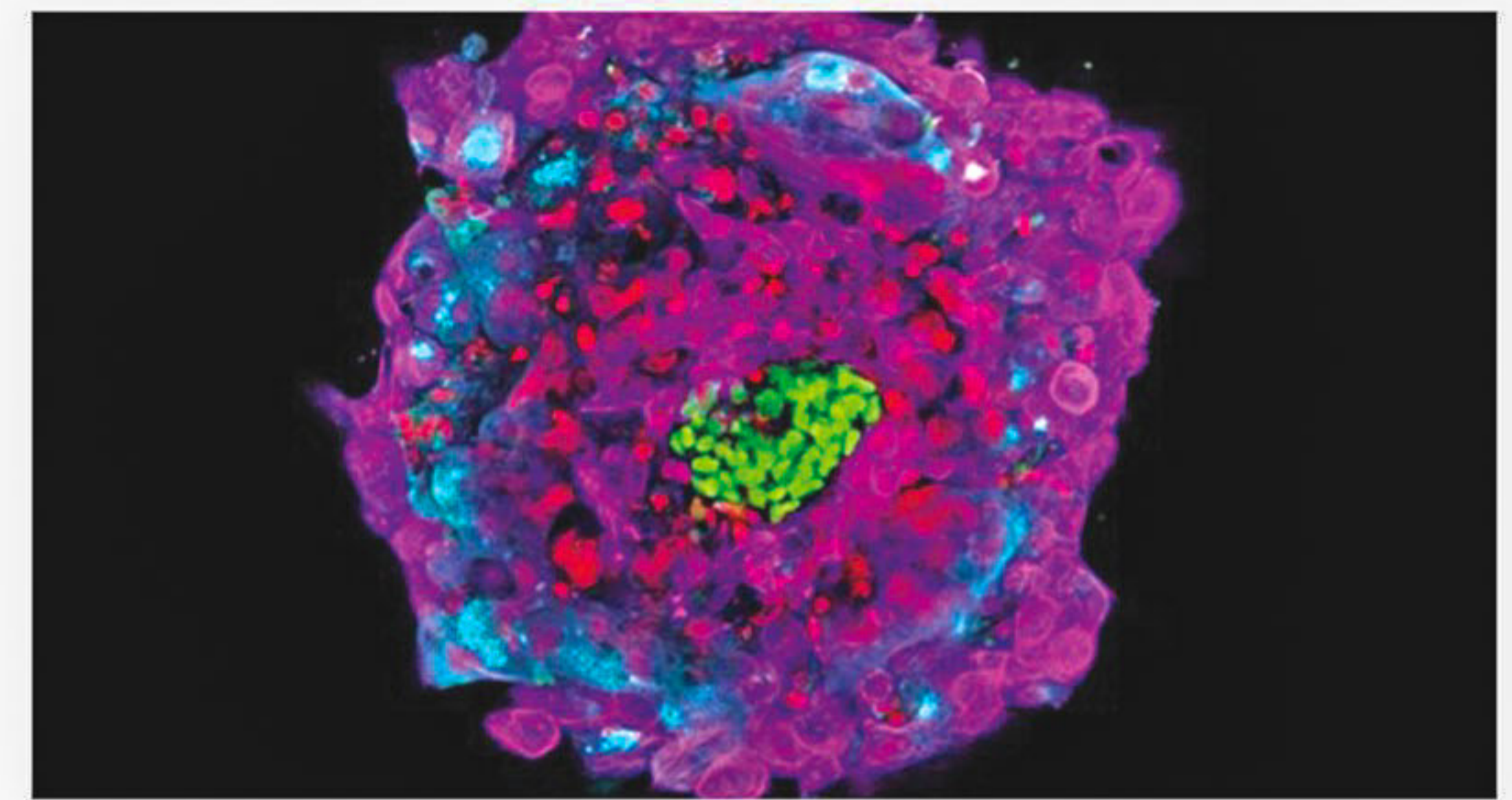
The study, which involved collaboration with researchers from the

University of Zurich, is published in the journal PLOS Genetics.

Professor Craig MacLean, a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow in the Department of Zoology at Oxford University, said: 'The appearance of novel traits, such as wings and flowers, has played a key role in the evolution of biological diversity. However, it is usually difficult to understand the actual genetic changes that drive these evolutionary innovations.'

'We have taken advantage of a simple bacterial model system, where bacteria evolve the ability to eat new food sources, to overcome this obstacle.'

The researchers allowed 380 populations of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria to evolve novel metabolic traits such as the ability to degrade new sugars. This gave the researchers the opportunity to witness evolution happening in real-time.



KEY STAGE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Despite significant biomedical advances in recent decades, the very earliest events of human development – those that occur during a critical window just after fertilization – have remained an unobservable mystery, until now.

New research from scientists at The Rockefeller University shows, for the first time, molecular and cellular processes in human development that occur up to day 14 after fertilization. Published in Nature on May 4, the breakthrough system is the first in which the process of implantation has successfully been replicated in an experimental setting, outside of the uterus. This novel technique vastly expands the ability to answer basic questions about our own development, as well as to understand early pregnancy loss.

Implantation is a crucial step in human development. Occurring shortly after fertilisation, implantation is the process by

which the small, hollow ball of cells called a blastocyst attaches to the uterus, allowing an embryo to begin to take shape.

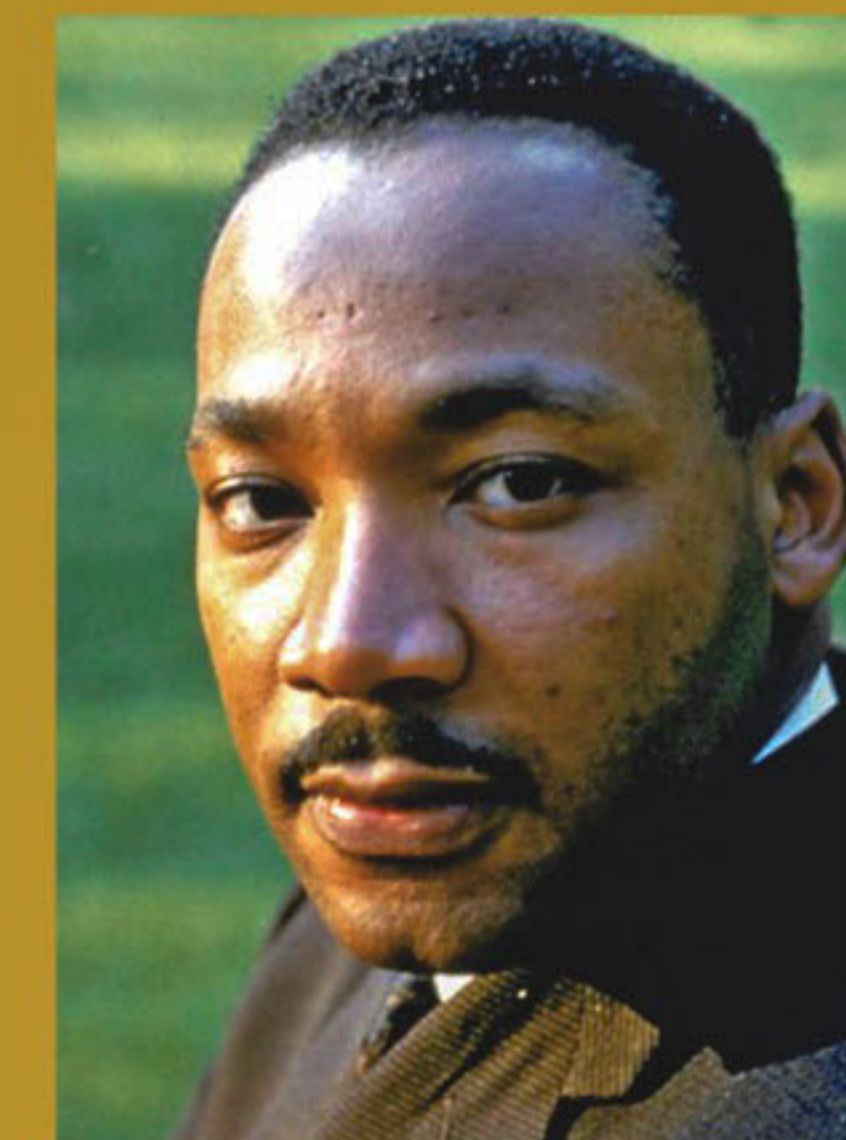
"This portion of human development was a complete black box," says Ali Brivanlou, Robert and Harriet Heilbrunn Professor and head of the Laboratory of Stem Cell Biology and Molecular Embryology. To shed light inside that box, the researchers overcame several key problems: they surrounded the blastocyst with just the right chemical environment, and provided a suitable scaffolding for it to attach to.

Previous research from co-author Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz and colleagues at the University of Cambridge established a similar method using mouse blastocysts, after multiple attempts to define the right combination of factors. This prompted Brivanlou and colleagues, including research associates Alessia Deglincerti and Gist Croft, research specialist Lauren Pietila, and fellow Rockefeller scientist Eric Siggia, Viola Ward Brinning and Elbert Calhoun Brinning Professor and head of the Laboratory of Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics, to adapt the technique and create an attachment culture for human embryos.

Source: Sciencedaily.com



“A SKILLED WORKER, REGARDLESS OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION, REMAINS A TREASURE.”
MADELEINE M. KUNIN
American diplomat, politician



“ALL LABOUR HAS DIGNITY.”
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
American Baptist minister, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement



“IN MY OPINION, ONE OF THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF NATIONS, IS IN THE CULTURE OF DIGNITY OF LABOUR.”
SUNDAY ADELAJA
founder and senior pastor of the Embassy of God

PEARLS OF WISDOM