

#KANAKLATA BARUA

Birbala 'Did And Died'

The Brave Martyr of the Quit India Movement.



The Quit India Movement of 1942, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was a pivotal moment in India's struggle for independence. While countless individuals across the nation answered the call for 'Do or Die', few acts of courage stand out as poignantly as that of Kanaklata Barua, a young Assamese freedom fighter who sacrificed her life for the honour of the national flag. Her story, rooted in the small town of Gohpur in Assam, remains a symbol of youthful patriotism and fearless defiance against British colonial rule.

Early Life of Kanaklata Barua

Kanaklata Barua, fondly known as Birbala (meaning brave girl), was born on December 22, 1924, in the village of Barangabari in the present-day Sonitpur district of Assam. Orphaned at a young age, she grew up in a modest household and was known for her spirited nature

and deep love for her motherland. Inspired by the freedom struggle and the revolutionary ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and other national leaders, she joined the Mrityu Bahini (Death Squad), a youth wing of the local freedom fighters affiliated with the Quit India Movement.

Role in the Quit India Movement

In August 1942, following the launch of the Quit India Movement by the Indian National Congress, people across Assam rose in protest. The movement gained momentum in Gohpur and nearby regions, where volunteers of the Mrityu Bahini vowed to challenge British authority, even at the cost of their lives.

Kanaklata, only 17 years old, became a key figure in mobilizing young people. On September 20, 1942, she led a procession of unarmed volunteers, including members of the Mrityu Bahini, towards the Gohpur Police Station, with the goal of hoisting the Indian national flag, a direct act of defiance against the British.

Martyrdom at Gohpur Police Station

As the peaceful procession approached the Gohpur Police Station, the British authorities ordered them to stop. Undeterred, Kanaklata moved forward holding the tricolour high. Despite repeated warnings, she advanced boldly towards the police station gate. In a shocking and brutal response,

British police opened fire on the unarmed crowd. Kanaklata Barua was shot and killed on the spot, still clutching the flag. Her sacrifice was not in vain, her fellow comrade, Mukunda Kakoti, picked up the flag and was also shot down. But eventually, the flag was hoisted, fulfilling their mission.

Legacy

Kanaklata Barua's supreme sacrifice remains etched in the collective memory of Assam and India. She is remembered as a symbol of courage, patriotism, and youthful idealism. Monuments and memorials across Assam, including the Kanaklata Udyan (Park) in Tezpur and the Kanaklata Barua Gold Medal instituted for academic excellence, honour her legacy. The Indian Coast Guard also named a patrol vessel,

ICGS Kanaklata Barua, in her memory, further immortalizing her contribution to the nation's freedom. Kanaklata Barua's martyrdom at Gohpur is a powerful reminder that the Indian freedom struggle was not just fought by leaders in Delhi, but also by brave souls in every corner of the country, including young women like Kanaklata. Her story continues to inspire generations to uphold the values of courage, justice, and patriotism.



Stings and Bites You Don't Want

#OMG



Arizona Bark Scorpion

Arizona bark scorpions are the most venomous scorpions in North America, a frightening fact considering that they're also the most commonly encountered house scorpions in Arizona. The venom causes acute pain and can lead to symptoms that include frothing at the mouth, breathing difficulties, and muscle convulsions. Limbs may also become immobilized. Though the venom is rarely fatal, its effects can last for as long as 72 excruciating hours. Arizona bark scorpions tend to hide in dark crevices during the day and hunt at night.



Black Widow Spider

One of the world's most notorious spiders, the black widow lives up to its reputation and is capable of delivering a bite that is painful and toxic to humans. Early symptoms of a female black widow bite may be minimal like a pinprick, or not felt at all. Within an hour, symptoms may include pain throughout the body near the site of the bite, difficulty breathing, high blood pressure, muscle weakness, nausea and vomiting, and, in pregnant women, contractions and early labor. Interestingly, bites from male black widow spiders, which are smaller and less colorful than females, are less harmful as they contain less venom.



Pit Viper

Pit vipers, which include copperheads, water moccasins, and rattlesnakes, are venomous snakes. In the U.S., copperheads are responsible for the most venomous snake bites annually, primarily due to proximity to human habitats. Of all the North American pit viper species, however, the venom of copperheads is among the least toxic.

While a copperhead snake bite is not often deadly, it can cause severe pain within a few minutes of the bite. Symptoms of bites by all species of pit vipers may include changes in heart rate or rhythm, difficulty breathing, numbness near the site of the bite, swelling of lymph nodes, and weakness or dizziness. The bite must be treated, or else the tissue around it could be permanently damaged.



Platypus

Considering the large number of venomous creatures that inhabit Australia, the cute and clumsy platypus might seem like a safe option. Unfortunately, it isn't always. A male platypus has ankle spurs on its hind legs that are capable of delivering a sting that can cause excruciating pain and swelling in humans. Conventional painkillers don't work with this sting; either. Platypuses, however, usually don't sting humans unless provoked; they primarily use their venomous spurs as a defense against rival males of their species.



Box Jellyfish

These gelatinous sea creatures, also called sea wasps, are among the most feared animals in the ocean. You might have a better chance of escaping a shark attack unscathed than surviving a swim through a box jellyfish's tentacles. Even jellyfish that have washed up on beaches can release venomous stingers from their tentacles.

The venom is so toxic that it makes the box jellyfish arguably the most deadly creature in the world. Within five minutes of being stung by this animal, humans typically experience extreme pain, shortness of breath, and sometimes cardiac arrest. Researchers are working on an antidote to block the effects of a box jellyfish sting, one that could be effective if applied to the skin within 15 minutes of being stung.



Stingray

The creature that killed Australian conservationist Steve Irwin isn't usually dangerous to humans, but it will strike if threatened. Stingrays have sharp barbs containing venom on their tails, and most injuries from this animal occur when someone accidentally steps on one. Effects of a venomous stingray encounter usually occur within six to 48 hours and are rarely fatal. Symptoms may include breathing difficulty, sweating, muscle cramps, bleeding, seizures, and chest pain.

To avoid being stung by a stingray's sharp barbs, shuffle your feet as you walk through the sand in shallow water. This lets the stingray know you're coming.

• Bryan Nelson

There are many venomous animals in the world, but not all venom is created equal. Some stings and bites from venomous creatures are merely irritating; others can stun their victims slowly and unexpectedly. Then, there are stings and bites that cause extremely high levels of pain. Just be wary of these 10 animals that deliver some of the most painful stings and bites.



Bullet Ant

The bullet ant has the distinction of delivering the most painful sting in the insect world, as evidenced by the Schmidt Sting Pain Index. Some even believe that a bullet ant sting might be the most painful sting. Entomologist Justin Schmidt, who created the Pain Index, experienced it firsthand and described it as 'pure, intense, brilliant pain. Like walking over flaming charcoal with a 3-inch nail embedded in your heel.'

This menacing ant is found in South America, where it is referred to as the 24-hour ant in reference to the duration of time pain lasts after being stung. Despite the excruciating pain, the stings are not fatal and are not known to cause permanent damage.



Stonefish

Not every creature on this list delivers a painful sting that can kill you, but the stonefish is one of the exceptions. Stonefish are the most venomous fish in the world, capable of fatally stinging humans. Unfortunately, stonefish are also masters of camouflage, blending in with their surroundings on the ocean floor or coral reefs. They're found in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Stonefish have spines along their dorsal fins that contain venom. A sting from a stonefish requires medical attention and treatment with antiserum to reverse the symptoms, which may include irregular heartbeat, temporary paralysis, shock, extreme pain, and possibly death.



Gila Monster

Gila monsters, one of the few venomous lizards in the world, are colourful natives of southwest North America. Since they lack the musculature to forcibly inject venom, they rely on hard chewing with their sharp teeth to ensure that the poison gets implanted. Gila monsters can be so aggressive that they have been known to flip over while biting, further opening the wound.

A Gila monster bite will cause pain in humans, but fortunately, these creatures are mostly docile towards people as long as they're left alone. If one does bite you, pry open its jaws with a stick while ensuring the lizard has a solid foothold on the ground.



Tarantula Hawk Wasp

Tarantula hawk wasps are huge, and their name is derived from their habit of hunting tarantulas. After stinging a tarantula, the wasp lays its eggs on the spider and buries it. Because tarantulas are not easy prey, tarantula hawks are equipped with a powerful venom that is reputed to create one of the most painful stings in the insect world. According to the Schmidt Sting Pain Index, a pain scale rating the relative pain caused by some insect stings, a sting by a tarantula hawk rates as the second most painful sting ever measured. If it's any consolation, the pain supposedly only lasts for five minutes.

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Honouring the Gentle Giants



World Elephant Day, observed on August 12, is dedicated to raising awareness about the urgent plight of elephants worldwide. These majestic creatures face numerous threats, including poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and illegal wildlife trade. The day aims to foster compassion, support conservation efforts, and promote better treatment and protection of both African and Asian elephants. Conservationists, wildlife organisations, and animal lovers unite to advocate for stronger policies and global cooperation. On this day, people are encouraged to learn more about elephants and contribute to preserving their natural habitats, ensuring that future generations can witness these gentle giants in the wild.

#SITE-SEEING

Hidden China in Kolkata

If Kolkata is your next destination, then Terretti bazaar should be a 'must-visit' for you. Get the taste of uniqueness



A small locality, Tiretta bazaar, could offer one with a slice of China in a mega city like Kolkata. Not only the scrumptious Chinese delicacies attract one, but a walk down the busy streets of Tiretta bazaar for photography is indeed a smart choice.

Located near Central metro station at Sun Yat Sen Street, Tiretta bazaar is an old settlement for a small Chinese population dating back to the 18th century. They have been bringing a variety of authentic Chinese dishes into prominence since then.

The most suitable time to visit there is early in the morning at around 5:30 or 6 so as to get a variety of foods. However, opting a Sunday for its visit is wiser as one gets plenty of options.

Going to tiretta bazaar is easy. All you need to do is to take a bus that goes towards Central metro station and walk a few steps. Alternatively, you can avail metro rail service and disembark at Central. If you prefer visiting the place by car, then you need to park the car in front of Poddar Court.

The uniqueness about the place lies in the diversity of foods available. Chicken momos, fish momos, pork momos (dumplings), both steamed and fried, prawn wafers, pork and chicken bazezi buns, and chinese sausages are some of the delicacies every food lover can savour. The taste would certainly pamper your taste buds with every bite. The list goes endless. Indulge on



some other homemade options including soup noodles, fish ball, and meatball soup, a fresh plate of hot dumplings, wontons or soup and rice pudding that is partly sweet in its taste. The taste of such succulent foods would leave you crave for more. Not only do these recipes dominate in taste, they offer you with some interesting looks as well. Yet another interesting snack worth mentioning again is the prawn papad that is sold at a nominal price, which looks quite

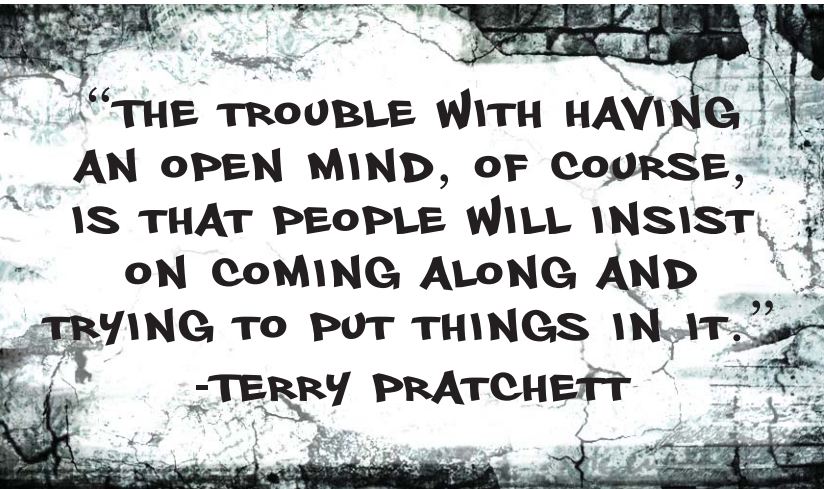
welcoming too to the foodies. Tiretta bazaar not only satisfies non-vegetarians, but even vegetarians as kachoris are constantly prepared and is also fairly in demand. However, it is also suggested that you get the taste of all in a moderate quantity. Additionally, if you are a fish lover, you will be fascinated to see a large variety of fishes probably Rohu, Catla, etc. being sold on both sides of the street. At another corner of a lane, there is a pig butchery where interested customers can head.



While non-vegetarian delights are plentiful, the greener options are in no less quantity. You will find a plethora of fresh vegetables at the entrance of the marketplace including potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, spinach, and red chillies, capsicum, yellow and red bell pepper, onion, brinjal, cauliflower, etc. at reasonable prices. So, if you are perhaps planning to buy veggies from this site, it would not be a bad idea. Moreover, do not give fresh coconuts a miss that are also up for grabs. Drinking coconut water after a lip-smacking breakfast would probably do full justice to your tummy.

If Kolkata is your next destination, then Terretti bazaar should be a 'must-visit' for you. Get the taste of uniqueness. Let loose your temptations at least once and return home with smiles and a happy belly. Get the real-time experience and discover the happenings around you. A lot could be discovered in only one fine morning exclusively at Terretti bazaar!

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman