

#BEFORE SUEZ

Darius I's Forgotten Waterway

This canal was not only about commerce, it was also about power. By controlling such a critical route, Darius I enhanced Persia's naval mobility and influence

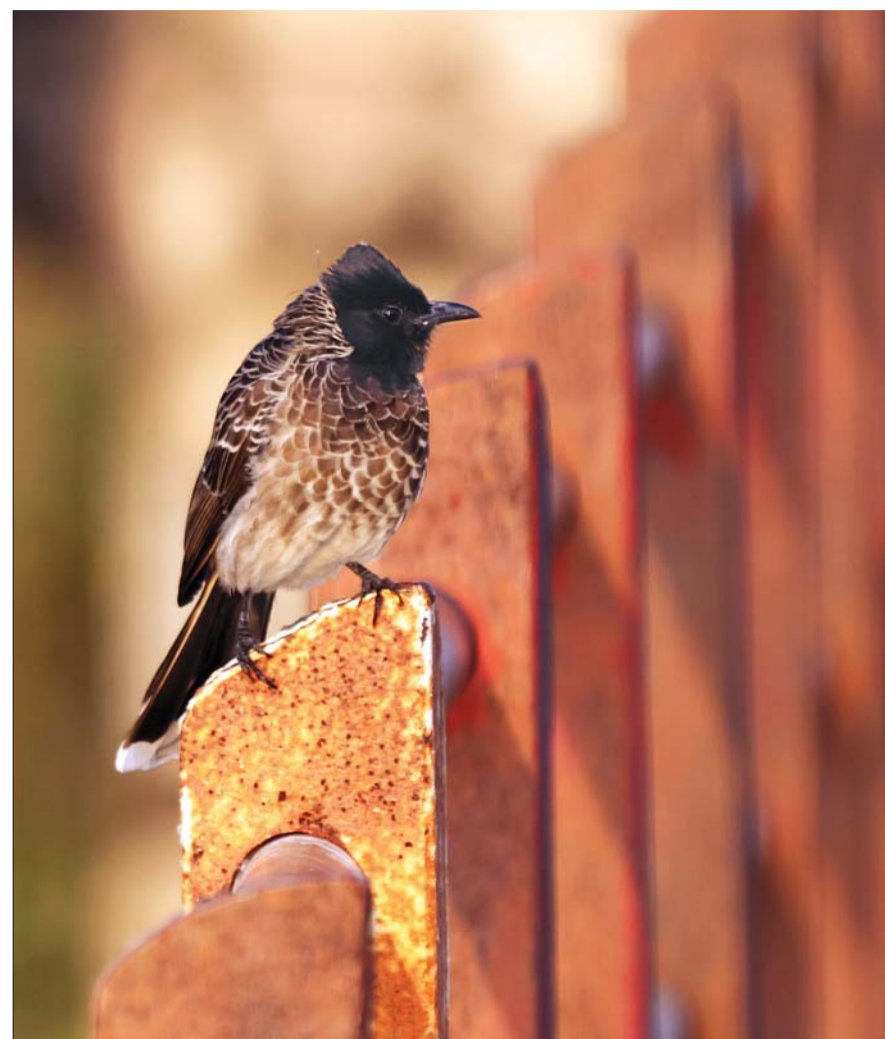
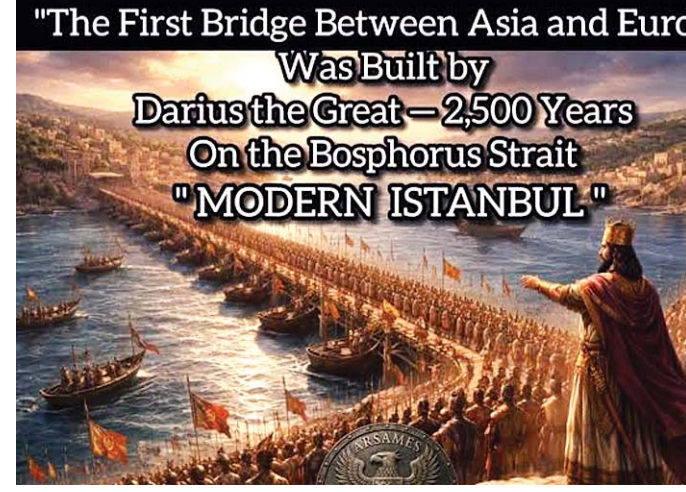


Long before the modern Suez Canal reshaped global trade in the 19th century, an ambitious attempt to connect major seas had already taken place more than two millennia earlier. Around 500 BCE, the Persian emperor Darius I ordered the construction of a canal that linked the Nile River to the Red Sea, creating, in effect, an early precursor to the Suez Canal.

This was no minor project. Historical accounts suggest that as many as 120,000 workers laboured for nearly a decade to carve the waterway through harsh desert terrain. The canal was reportedly wide enough, around 150 feet, to allow ships to pass through, making it a significant engineering achievement for its time. By connecting waterways, Persian vessels could travel from the Persian Gulf towards the Mediterranean region without undertaking the long and dangerous journey around Africa.

While the canal did not directly link the Mediterranean Sea to the modern Suez Canal, it connected to the Nile, which then flowed north into the Mediterranean Sea. This indirect route still revolutionized transportation and trade. It opened more efficient channels between Asia and parts of Europe, strengthening the Persian Empire's economic and strategic position.

But this canal was not only about commerce, it was also about power. By controlling such a critical route, Darius I enhanced Persia's naval mobility and influence. The ability to move ships and goods more efficiently meant greater control over trade networks and military logistics.



Mirza Yawar Baig
Naturalist and Wildlife Conservationist

We have been in America for the past six years in a lovely small town (they call it City, in America) called West Springfield, South of Boston. Typical small-town America. Quiet roads, nice neighbours, safe environment, gardens, songbirds, the occasional bear passing by checking on the bird feeders. Magnolias blooming in spring, very briefly but spectacularly. Then, the not so long summer followed by a brilliant fall. Like a glorious sunset before nightfall. Winter, white, long, dark and very cold. Even there, the beauty of this world is extraordinary, the sight of snow ploughs with full lights on, clearing snow at 3.00 AM after the storm has ended, a sign simultaneously of duty, concern for others, and simply beautiful. And the circle continues.

Hyderabad is both the same and changed. Same friends, some older and weaker, and others older and stronger. Their children being introduced to me. A name they have heard and so call me, Thatha, and my wife Amamma, or Dada and Dadi. A penny for their thoughts? Na!! I prefer to remain content with my imagination. All chickens don't have feathers.

Old friends among others in Hyderabad, imagine my joy, early in the morning after our arrival, hearing the liquid warble of the Red-vented Bulbul! It is a good thing that birds don't know the names we give them. Imagine being named after the colour of your derrière. I almost had tears in my eyes (where else??). I hadn't realized how much I had missed hearing that call.

Mr Northern Cardinal, who serenades me from his perch on the tree outside my window in West Springfield, no offense meant. I miss you here. Greetings to you and Mrs. Cardinal. Both of them are the source of joy and inspiration for me for six years.

Back in Hyderabad, at 10.00 PM, calls the Koel (Asian Koel, Eudynamis scolopacea). I suspect it lives in the mango tree next door and suffers from insomnia.

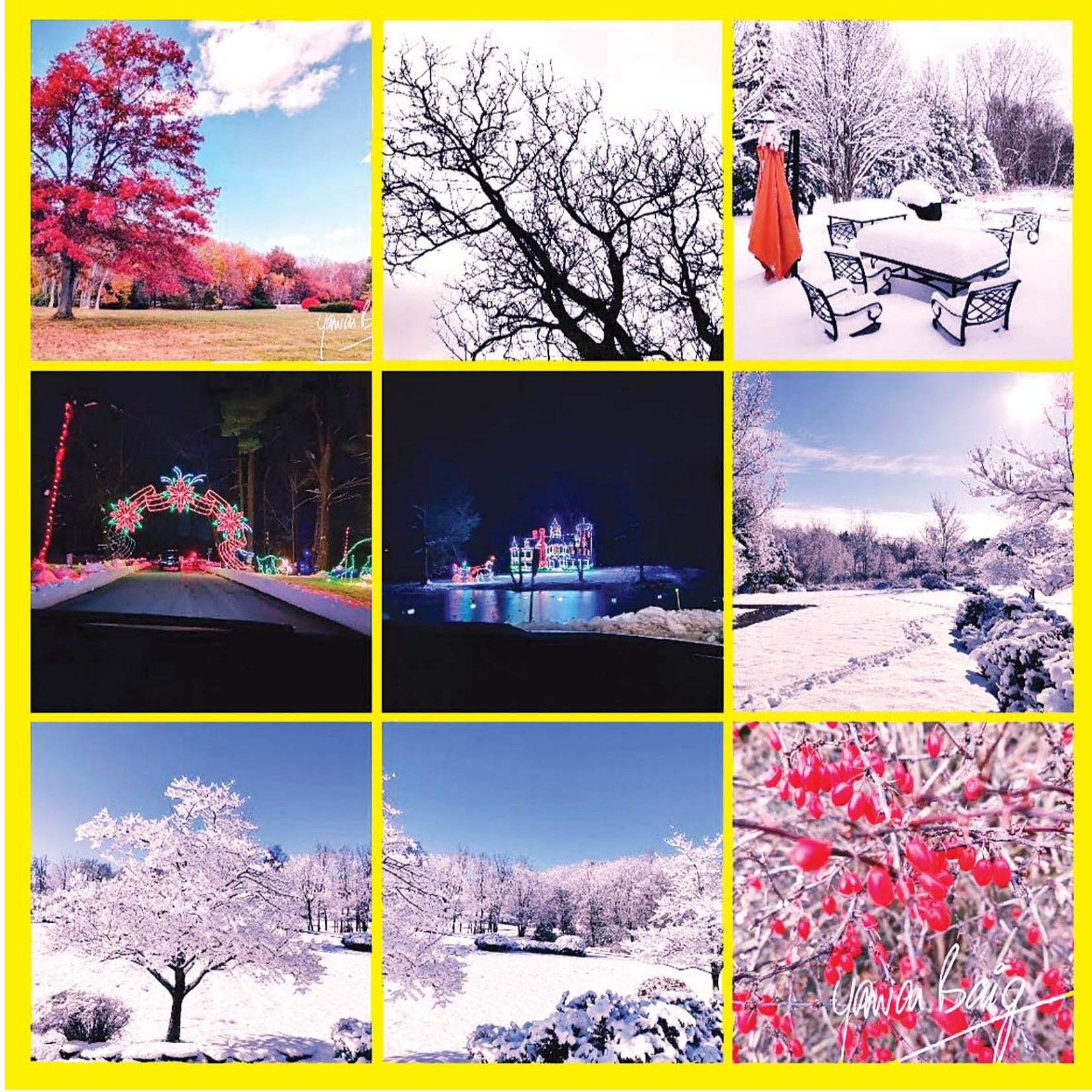
Then, there are the Purple

Truly, the standard of Hyderabadi Biryani is the same and superb, no matter where you eat it. Proof that all cooks are related. The immense variety of dishes is testimony to the imagination of those cooks, who take the same four ingredients, meat, rice, spices, vegetables, and produce things that are distinct, yet related and complementary to each other. You can't imagine Biryani without Mirchion ka Salan. But what is their similarity? None at all. Yet, one is not complete without the other.



Past, Present, Future

#HOMECOMING



मैं अकेला ही चला था
जानिब-ए-मंजिल सगर
लोग साथ आते गये और
कारवाँ बनता गया।।
-मज्रूह सुल्तानपुरी
(I had started alone towards my destination but people kept joining me and the caravan kept growing. Majrooh Sultanpuri)

That is my hope. So, when I feel alone, I repeat to myself, what someone else said: If not you, then who? If not now, then when? And I remind myself of my own motto: I will not allow what is not in my control to prevent me from doing what is in my control.

What is different is unimaginable traffic on the roads which proves that if there is a will, there is a way, someone will move and you can inch ahead, burning fossil fuel (directly or indirectly in electric cars). Experiencing what your toothpaste feels every day when you force it onto your brush. Given the traffic and the way we make it ten times worse by our total single-minded focus on ourselves with complete disregard for everyone else. It is a wonder that you don't see people killing each other at every turn. But they don't. They just move ahead.

Depending on who you are driving with, you also have the opportunity to listen to some of the most colourful descriptions of people's ancestry in choice Dakni or Telangana Telugu. That is when you are so thankful for the traffic without which you would not have had this education about the unending possibilities in lineage.

Another amazing change that I see is the proliferation of jewelry and bridal wear shops all over the city. On the side road (not a main thoroughfare) that we live on, there are four new ones which were not there six years ago. So, it looks like the position of India as the most populous country remains assured well into the future. I suppose if people have the money to buy gold and spend on lavish weddings, it is good for the economy. Or is it a sign of desperation?

As we spoke, we were into April, a month that promises glorious heat and mangoes. Ask the value of heat for a Hyderabadi who lived through six minus 20 Celsius winters. The Mango, truly the king of fruits, and any fear of diabetes be damned. After all, why do they have Metformin? Yes, there are mangoes in America, from Mexico. Mangoes from Mexico? Can you imagine that? Don't. That would be like imagining tortillas from Hyderabad. Come to Hyderabad and taste the Himayats, and Beynishans, and Pedda and Chinnna Rasaals. And if you wait a couple of months, then the Langda, Chausas and Daseris from Maleebabad.

Then, replete, fully fed up and fulfilled, you see life in a totally different light.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#MEDICINE

Humans May Soon Be Able to Regrow Lost Teeth Naturally

Researchers suspect that our genetics may still contain inactive pathways capable of producing additional teeth under the right conditions

For generations, losing an adult tooth has been considered permanent. Once a natural tooth was gone, the only available solutions were artificial replacements like dentures, bridges, or dental implants. But that reality may soon change forever.

In one of the most exciting breakthroughs in regenerative medicine, Japanese researchers have officially begun human clinical trials for a revolutionary treatment designed to help humans grow entirely new teeth naturally.

The treatment focuses on activating the body's hidden biological ability to regenerate teeth, something scientists once believed was impossible.

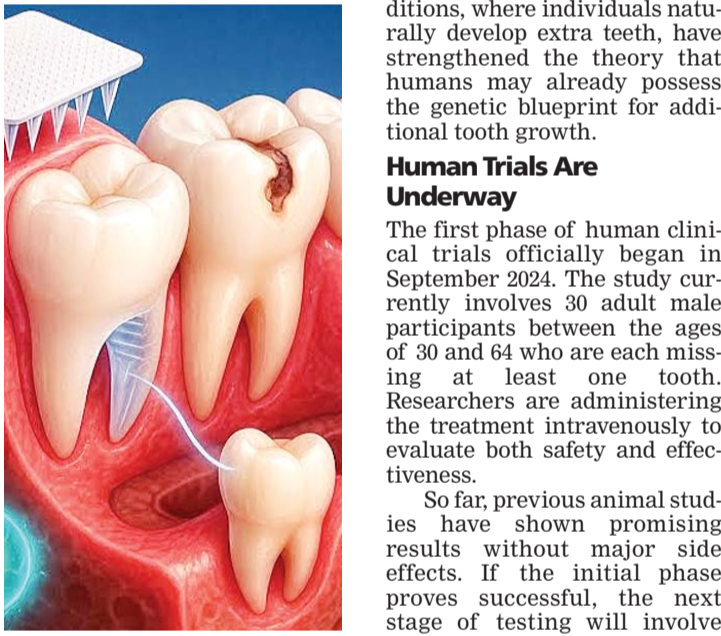
A Groundbreaking Discovery
Unlike bones, which can naturally repair and regrow themselves after injury, teeth do not possess the same regenerative ability. Even though teeth are among the hardest materials in the human body, they cannot heal or regrow once permanently damaged or lost.

Now, scientists from Kyoto University and Kitano Hospital believe they may have found a way to change that.

Researchers have spent years studying a protein called USAG-1, a molecule that naturally suppresses tooth growth. In earlier laboratory experiments involving mice and ferrets, scientists discovered that blocking this protein successfully triggered the growth of entirely new teeth.

What makes this discovery so remarkable is that the newly formed teeth were not artificial replacements, they were real biological teeth with natural roots and proper integration into the jawbone.

The Hidden "Third Set" of Teeth
Scientists now believe that humans may carry dormant "third tooth buds" hidden with-

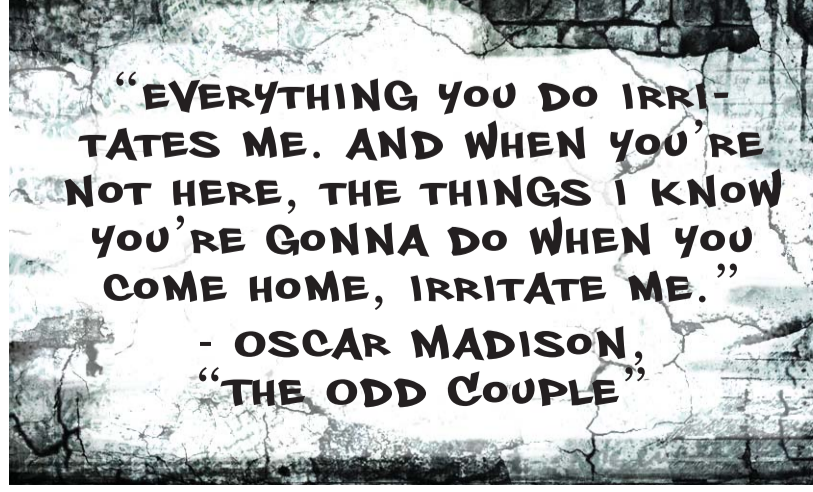


in the jaw. Humans normally develop two sets of teeth during their lifetime:
• Baby teeth
• Permanent adult teeth
However, researchers suspect that our genetics may still contain inactive pathways capable of producing additional teeth under the right conditions. The experimental treatment aims to reactivate those dormant biological mechanisms. Some rare medical con-

The Future of Tooth Regeneration
The implications of this research extend far beyond cosmetic dentistry. Tooth loss can impact nutrition, speech, confidence, and overall health. A treatment capable of restoring living teeth naturally could dramatically improve quality of life for countless individuals. Although the research is still in its early stages, the progress already achieved has generated enormous excitement within the scientific and medical communities. What once sounded like science fiction is now becoming a real possibility.

For the first time in history, humans may be on the verge of regrowing their own teeth naturally, opening the door to an entirely new future in medicine and dentistry.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman