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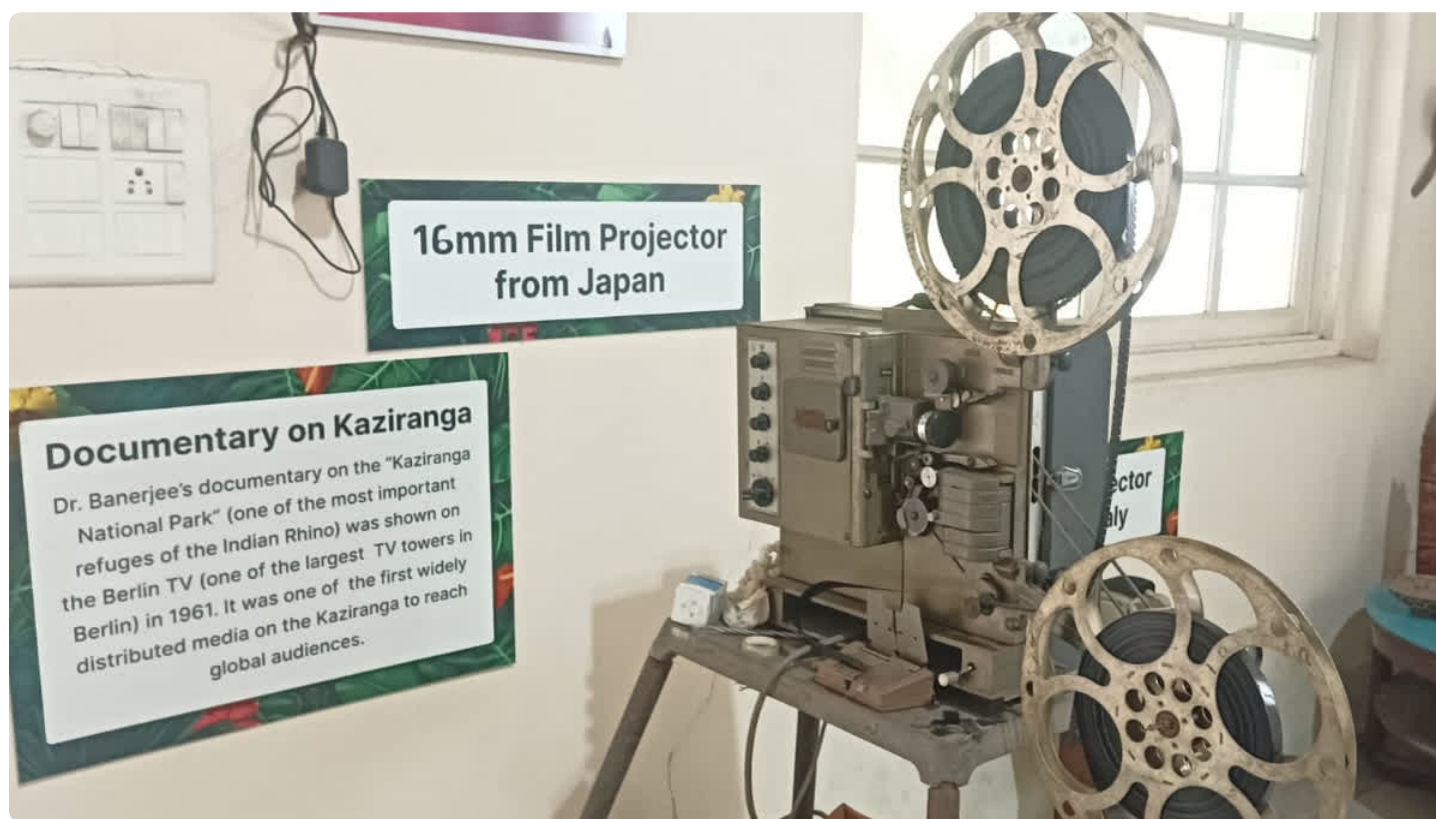
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Dr. Robin Banerjee: The Visionary Who Brought Assam's One-Horned Rhinoceros To World Stage

Due to the efforts of Dr. Robin Banerjee, the world saw the one-horned rhinoceros of Assam on television screens.

*Etv Bharat (Etv Bharat)*

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By **ETV Bharat English Team**

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Golaghat: The fame of the one-horned rhinoceros found in Assam's Kaziranga National Park is not limited to India but to the whole world. Only a few of us know that, due to the efforts of Dr. Robin Banerjee, the world saw the one-horned rhinoceros of Assam on television screens.

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man who introduced Assam's rhinoceros to the world

A doctor by profession during the British rule pre-independence era, Dr Robin Banerjee played a special role in the field of medical care as well as for the conservation of Kaziranga National Park. It was his acclaimed efforts for which the Centre honoured Dr Robin Banerjee with the Padma Shri Award in 1971.

Documentary work on rhinos to attract the attention of the world

Dr. Banerjee, who hails from West Bengal, came to Assam during the British rule. After joining the Naharjan tea estate in Bokakhat as Chief Medical Officer, he was attracted to the environment, ecology and animals of Kaziranga, especially to the one-horned rhinoceros.

After that, he decided to grab the attention of the world by making documentaries on Kaziranga's rhinoceros. And accordingly, started collecting documentaries from 1952. For the next several years, Banerjee devoted his time to exploring Kaziranga through his lens and making documentaries which focused on the less-famed one-horned rhinos. His efforts in the form of documentary work were completed in 1960.

A year later, in 1961, his works were telecast on Berlin television. Dr. Banerjee, during his stay at the Naharjan tea garden, made shelter arrangements for various wild animals, including leopards, python snakes, etc., at his residence. His love for Assam and its nature was so profound that after his retirement, instead of going back to his native land, he decided to stay back in Golaghat.

Dr. Robin Banerjee Museum

Accepting his wish for a land in Assam, the government gave him 14 *bighas* of land and a bungalow in the heart of Golaghat. From then on until his demise, he became a permanent resident of Golaghat and played a special role in promoting Kaziranga National Park and its wildlife.

After his demise, his bungalow has been converted into a museum known as Padma Shri Dr Robin Banerjee Trust Natural History Museum. The museum showcases the items collected by Dr. Banerjee from different countries of the world, as well as various photographs captured by him with his camera. Its main attraction is a picture of an eagle snapped in England, for which he had to wait for eight hours and a picture of a leopard taken from a distance of just seven meters.

Apart from this, 300 million-year-old Plant Fossils formed by the roots of the tree, which were collected from the Lumding Forest Department, have been preserved in this museum. One of the valuable belongings among the collections is a Japanese camera bought by Banerjee to continue his passion for photography.

The Early Years

Born on August 12, 1908, at Barhampur in West Bengal, Banerjee received his early education at Shantiniketan and studied medicine at Calcutta Medical College. He later studied higher education in medicine in Liverpool in 1934 and Edinburgh in 1936.

Career

Banerjee joined the Liverpool Royal Navy in 1937 and decided to return to India after seeing the horrors of the war at that time. On his return to India, he joined the Chabua Tea Estate in Assam in 1952 as CMO.

Robin Banerjee's personal life

He fell in love with a British nurse in his youth. But at that time, the two could not come together due to different circumstances. In view of which, he remained as a bachelor for the rest of his life. Dr. Banerjee, who took the lead in the conservation of Kaziranga National Park, gave birth to an NGO called Kaziranga Wildlife Society.

The Honors

He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Centre in 1971. He has a doctorate degree from Assam Agricultural University and Dibrugarh University. Apart from this, he also won awards at the national and international levels for the documentary he made.

The last days

Banerjee spent the last part of his life in solidarity with the social life of Golaghat. He breathed his last on August 6, 2003, at his residence due to age-related ailments.

Showing some of the valuable items from the museum that Banerjee built with his own hands, caretaker Nitish Das said, "The projector was bought by Dr Banerjee from Japan to show the documentary made by him. He made 27 documentaries. Kaziranga is the first documentary which was showcased in Berlin, and it was his efforts for which he was awarded the Padma Shri. "

Calling Dr Banerjee a traveller soul, Das revealed, "He travelled all over the world. He was also a member of the World Wildlife 21 Society. He settled down in Golaghat in 1969. He didn't think about anything other than wildlife. "

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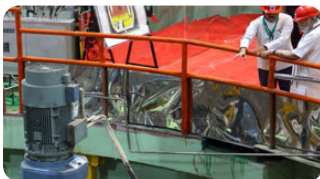
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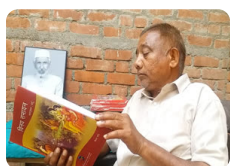
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