

Eric Arthur Blair - George Orwell

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In news– Recently, a group of intellectuals, teachers and students in Motihari, the headquarters town of East Champaran district in Bihar, paid tributes to George Orwell on his 73rd death anniversary.

A brief note on him-

- Eric Arthur Blair (25 June 1903 – 21 January 1950), better known by his pen name George Orwell, was an English novelist, essayist, journalist, and critic.
- His work is characterised by lucid prose, social criticism, opposition to totalitarianism, and support of democratic socialism.
- He was born on 25 June 1903 in Motihari, Bihar.
- After his education in England, he joined the Indian Imperial Police in Burma (now Myanmar) before resigning in 1928 to devote his life to writing.
- During the Second World War he worked as a journalist and for the BBC. The publication of *Animal Farm* led to fame during his lifetime
- He took his pen name from River Orwell, which flows through Suffolk County where he stayed.
- In his rather short writing career, he left an indelible stamp on 20th century English prose.
- Some of his well-recognised works are *Down and Out in Paris and London*; *Keep the Aspidochelone Flying*; *Homage to Catalonia*; *Animal Farm*; and *1984* (or *Nineteen Eighty-Four*). The last, written a year before he died in 1950, may be regarded as his magnum opus.
- Orwell's work remains influential in popular culture and in political culture, and the adjective "Orwellian" describing totalitarian and authoritarian

social practices is part of the English language, like many of his neologisms.

- In 2008, The Times ranked George Orwell second among “The 50 greatest British writers since 1945”