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1-15 MARCH, 2020

# Down To Earth

FORTNIGHTLY ON POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

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## THE CURIOUS CASE OF UTERUS REMOVAL IN INDIA

Doctors are recommending hysterectomy as first-line treatment even to young women, burdening them with long-term illnesses



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# Down To Earth

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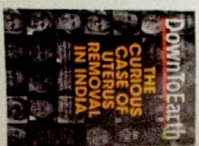
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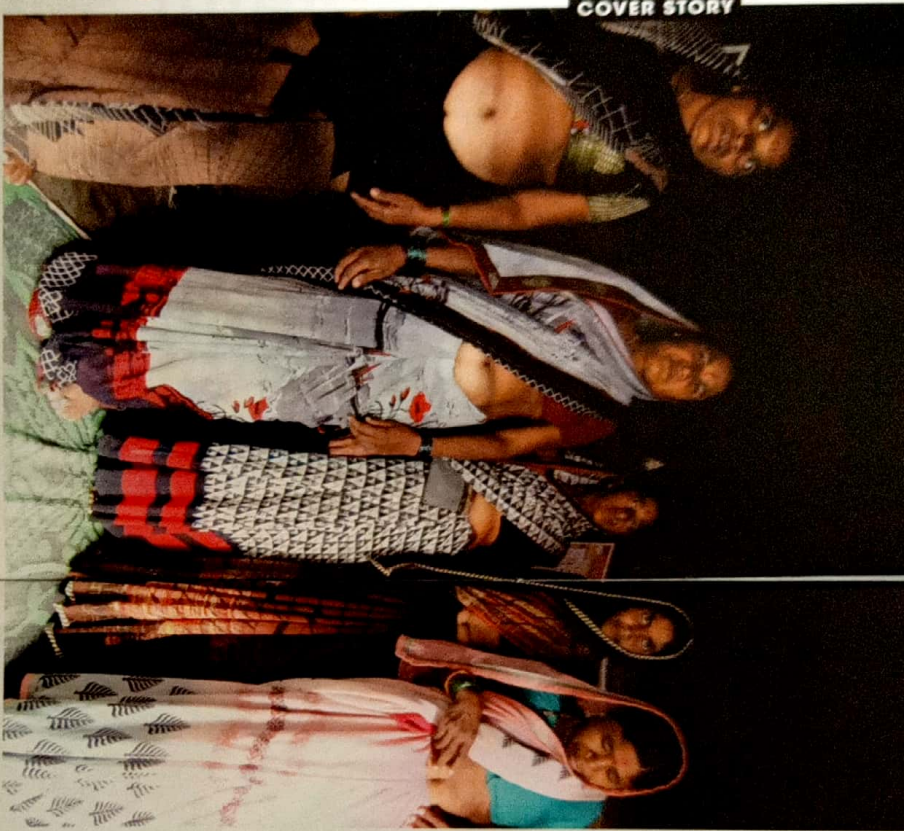
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# Mainstream

Founded by Nikhil Chakravarty

VOL LVIII No 13

New Delhi

March 14, 2020

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# Corona Pandemic, Scindia's Exit, HC's Censure

The outbreak of novel coronavirus (Covid 2019) has lately been described as a pandemic, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Thus all visas, barring those in select categories, have been suspended till April 15, 2020.

The Centre has also advised all States and Union Territories to invoke the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, thereby enabling them to enforce advisories whenever necessary.

On the political plane the situation appears dismal for the main Opposition party—the Congress—with the exit of Jyotiraditya Scindia from it to join the ruling party at the Centre, the BJP. This is a crisis of phenomenal proportions for it carries the portents of the Congress' disinte-

gration. In the face of the BJP's rise as a neofascist outfit in national politics, the prospects of such a development is a matter of serious concern and anxiety for every secular democrat who feels that the Congress alone is a bulwark of against the majoritarian fascism that the Right-wing Hindu party upholds and represents. This goes far beyond the petty likes and dislikes of individuals and projects ominous signals for the polity as a whole. What is most significant is the fact that has been highlighted in the national media—Scindia's entry into the BJP has come at a time when the latter's core agenda, as epitomised by the citizenship law, is "sparking protests, resistance and even communal violence".

Against this background the eloquent words in *The Indian Express'* editorial need careful scrutiny: That a prominent leader of the Congress does not just exit the party at a moment such as this one, but does so to join the BJP, is a vote of no-confidence in the party that it would do well to seriously reflect on in more ways than are immediately obvious. And as for Scindia in the BJP, he will soon have to defend what he just weeks ago called the indefensible. That's between him and his conscience—or, to be precise, his most recent conscience.

Meanwhile, the UP Government's ominous attacks against those opposed to the new citizenship law (CAA) by putting up hoardings and banners with photographs and personal data of citizens protesting against the Act has been taken *suo moto* cognisance of by the Allahabad High Court which characterised the State Government's move as illegal. Not just that. The HC pointed out that the government's measure "reflects colourable exercise of powers by the Executive" besides being an "unwarranted interference in privacy of people" and violative of "Article 21 of the Constitution". Without mincing words it held that the government must retrace its steps after carefully listening to the HC's censure.

Such an unequivocal denunciation by the judiciary is of special relevance in the prevailing situation when the Union Home Minister with a straight face charges the Congress leadership in both Houses of Parliament with being the originator of the recent communal riots in Delhi.

March 12

S.C.

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**Yes Bank Bought by Yes Men**

7 Yes Bank fell prey to faulty and dubious lending strategies.

**A New Normal with No Room for Dissent**

8 The ruling government has failed all tests of reason and reasonability in its treatment of anti-CAA protests.

**Triggering a Global Financial Crisis**10 Whether a black swan or a scapegoat, COVID-19 is an extraordinary event that has given birth to the concept of the economic "sudden stop."  
— *T Sabri Öncü***How Prepared Is India to Control the COVID-19 Pandemic?**13 A nationwide COVID-19 epidemic of unprecedented seriousness is imminent and a full-time war-room, run by a task force with the best national experts, must be set up. — *T Jacob John***Engaging Rural Youth Gainfully**16 Harnessing rural youth's potential to contribute to the country's growth would require rural-centric policies and the creation of an ecosystem for the establishment of own enterprises. — *Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Gyanendra Mani***Assessing the US–China Economic and Trade Agreement**19 The United States and China had signed Phase One of the Economic and Trade Agreement, which reads like a charter of demands that the US has made on China in several key areas. — *Biswajit Dhar***How Far Is India's Nominal Exchange Rate from Equilibrium?**29 The swings in the Indian nominal exchange rates, associated with global events, are driven more by surges in global capital, and no evidences of systemic overvaluation are revealed. — *Ashima Goyal, Kritika Banerjee***Reforming Indian Agriculture**35 Reforms in four areas—focus of agricultural policies, allocation and efficiency of land and water, weather and price volatility, and agricultural markets—should be the priority for the current government's agenda of doubling farmer incomes. — *Ashok Gulati, Devesh Kapoor & Marshall M Bouton***Weak Governance, Good Deals, and Their Economic Impact**43 The National Democratic Alliance government has tried to tackle India's low rankings in the World Bank's Doing Business Indicators by improving the *de jure* rules related to the business climate. — *Rajesh Raj S N, Kunal Sen & Sabyasachi Kar***Relocating Women Insurgents in Assam**54 Through in-depth interviews across five districts of Assam, the work of former women combatants of the United Liberation Front of Asom within the organisation is highlighted. — *Dixita Deka*

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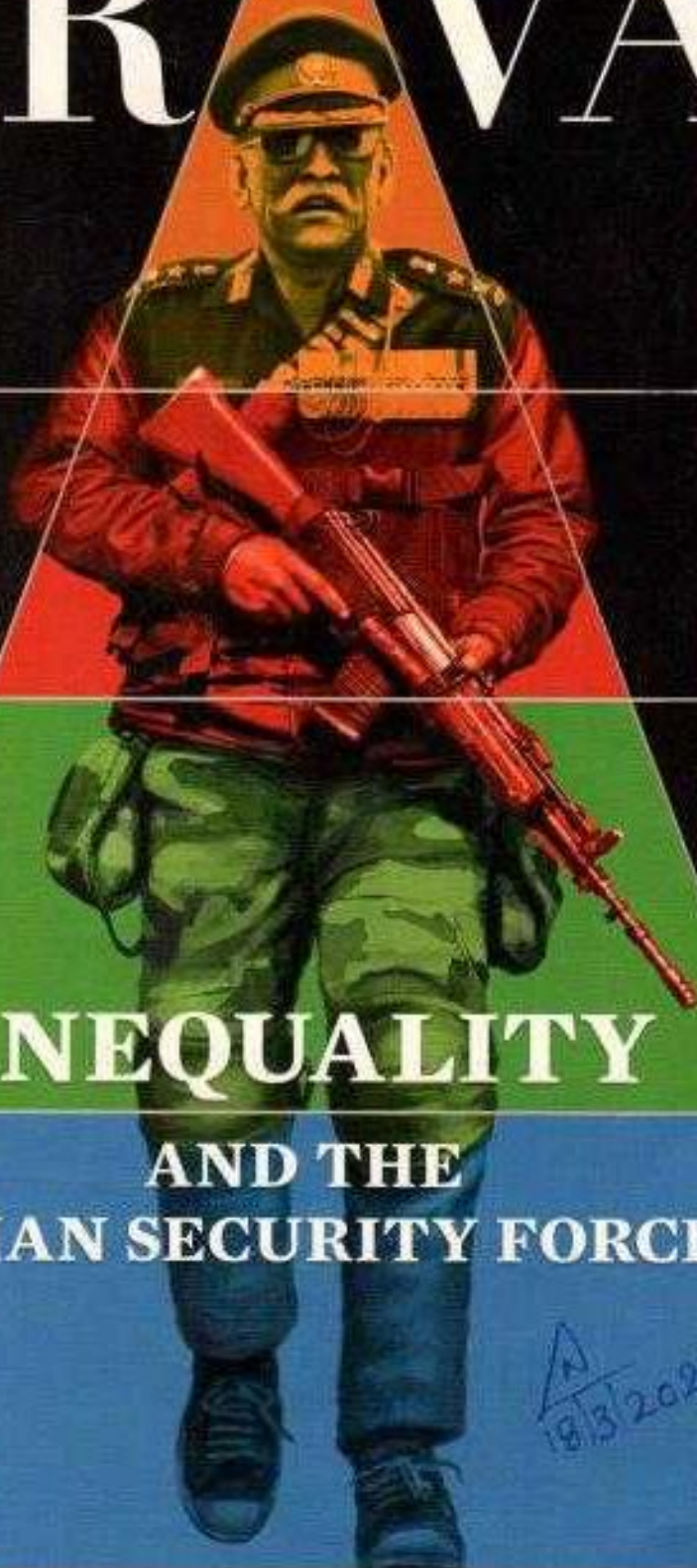
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18/3/2020





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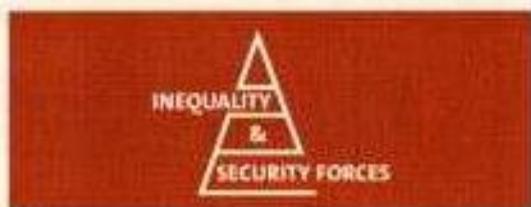
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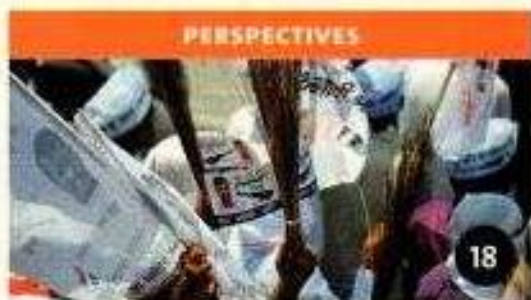
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The casteist and racist origins of the Indian Army's recruitment policies

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Public conversation about the Indian security forces is becoming ever more jingoistic and reflexively laudatory. Even to weigh their form and function against the constitutional principles of Indian democracy is to invite denature and abuse. But while such hyper-nationalism is often driven by elite social groups, many from oppressed communities suffer unequal treatment at the hands of the security forces, and even within their ranks. The Indian Army is shaped by recruitment policies of racist and casteist origin, and allows the abuse of low-ranking army soldiers as sahayaks. Adversaries bear a disproportionate burden of the casualties from paramilitary operations. Driven from a society of caste and class inequalities, the security forces remain shackled by those inequalities too.



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# Mainstream

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18/3/2020

March 7, 2020

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FROM N.C.'S WRITINGS

• THREAT TO CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE



# Tackling the Multi-dimensional Crisis

As we go to press, news has come of a major crisis having hit another bank, the Yes Bank. The RBI Governor has disclosed that those having accounts in the bank would be able to withdraw a maximum of Rs 50,000 at present. He has also assured the public that prompt steps were being taken to tackle the crisis which would be overcome within thirty days. However, after the experience with the PMC Bank these promises carry virtually no weight whatsoever. In the midst of this development the BJP leaders in charge of the Ministry, including the Minister herself, have blamed the previous Congress Government for the mess in the banking sector; to this charge former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram has correctly underlined the need for vigil by the present government and in the circumstances held that it was pointless to attack the erstwhile government

for whatever the Yes Bank was facing today. He has further asked: what were the regulators doing and what was their concrete role in this regard? These queries are of vital importance at the present juncture.

Meanwhile, the communal violence that rocked northeast Delhi in particular in the last few days continues to simmer even if the scale of violence has declined at the moment. But the fact that as many as 53 persons (according to the latest estimates) lost their lives in the riots cannot be ignored in any way. After so many days it is only today that the Delhi Police, which had come in for considerable flak for its incompetence and ineffectiveness at the time of the fratricidal assaults, has been finally able to identify those who stoked the flames of fire and urged the public to help the police in this respect.

However, the situation on this score has become complicated due to several factors. As *The Indian Express* notes,

The Narendra Modi Government continues to resist and stonewall the Opposition's demand to take up the issue of the Delhi riots in Parliament... Let's talk after Holi, it says. This deferment should not be surprising, perhaps, given that the violence, and its costly toll, also point to the government's own abdication, especially that of Delhi Police. But it is still chilling. That Parliament should be paralysed by a stand-off in this precarious moment, that attempts should be made to steer it towards business as usual, that a blind eye and a deaf ear should be turned, even if for now, to the destruction of life and property in the national Capital... is a continuing scandal.

At the same time, what is of utmost significance is that the BJP leaders responsible for hate speeches that led to the communal violence remain unapprehended and are freely moving about everywhere including Parliament, whereas a responsible former civil servant and currently human rights activist Harsh Mander is placed in the dock instead of being allowed to register FIRs against those who made hate speeches. That is why a major publication in the Capital has legitimately observed:

There are many guilty men of Delhi. Putting an activist with a formidable record of civic action in the dock in this moment seems to be a waste of the court's precious time, and a travesty.

Indeed, this is an observation few can dispute.

The ruling dispensation's latest action against Opposition MPs in the Lok Sabha cannot also be taken lightly as it is an attempt to trigger confrontation in the Lower House. This must be firmly resisted by all forces wedded to the democratic functioning of every institution in the country.

March 6

S.C.

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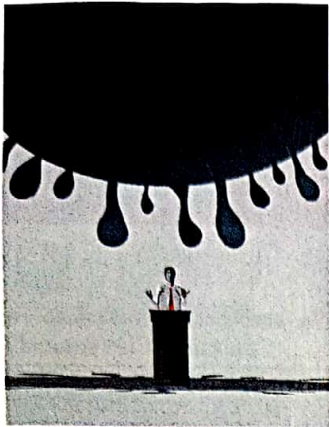
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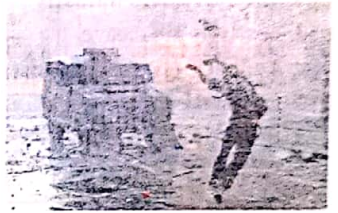
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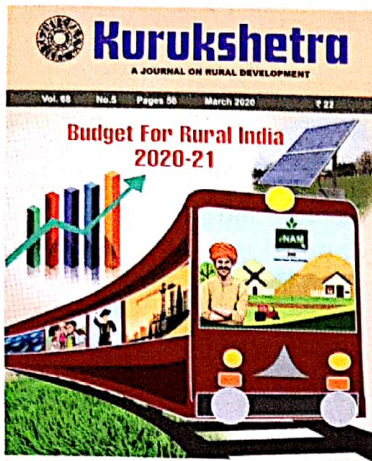
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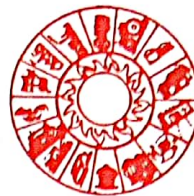
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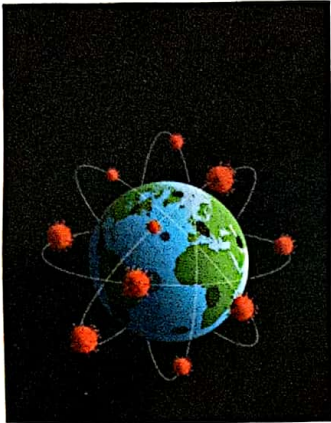
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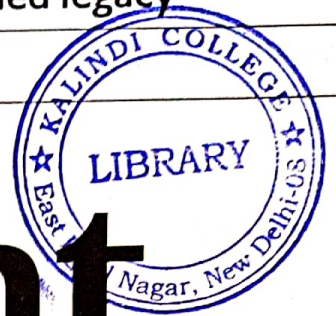
Joe Biden's remarkable comeback

Why NATO should help Turkey

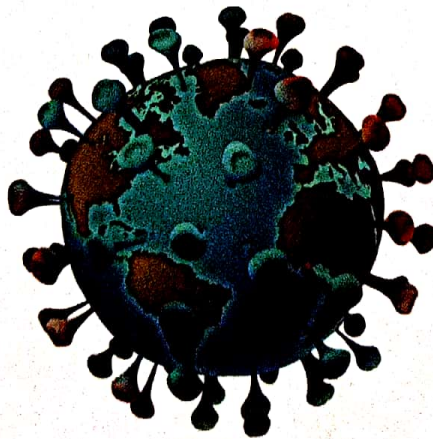
The battle for African democracy

Jack Welch: a troubled legacy

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# The right medicine for the world economy



12/3/2020



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# The right medicine for the world economy



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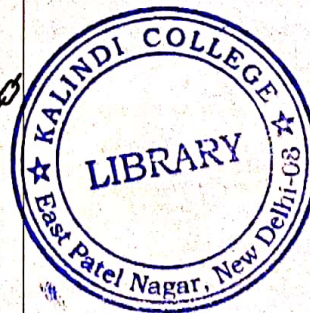
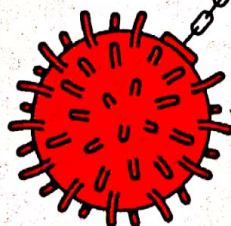


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# GY

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MEDICINES AND  
THE NEED TO INTEGRATE  
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- TRIAGING FOR MAINSTREAMING HOMEOPATHY
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## ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES

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Khushali Gambhir

*In an era where the World Health Organisation (WHO) is worried about antibiotic sensitivity and chronic non-communicable diseases, homoeopathy is a therapeutic science that can step in to fill the gap. Research leads us to understand that homoeopathy is based on nano-technology that works on immunity enhancement.*

### 10 Quality of Life: An Ayurvedic Approach

Chhaju Ram Yadav and Sanjeev Sharma

*The origin of Ayurveda has been traced to around 6000 BCE. The first recorded medical texts evolved from the Vedas. More than 1.5 million practitioners are using this traditional medicinal system for health care in India. It is estimated that 7800 manufacturing units are involved in the production of natural health products and traditional plant-based formulations in the nation, which requires more than 2000 tonnes of medicinal plant material annually.*

### 16 Traditional Healing: Reviving an Ancient Art

Imlikumba and P Ringu

*Traditional or indigenous and folk medicine is a system developed over generations within various civilizations, societies, communities, tribes and clans. The World Health Organisation estimated that 80 per cent of the population in developing countries rely on traditional medicine, mostly plant drugs for their primary health care needs. In India, 70 per cent of the population uses traditional medicine.*

### 26 The Siddha System of Medicine: A Geographical Perspective

K Kanakavalli and E Wilson

*The word AYUSH denotes traditional and non-conventional systems of health care and healing which includes ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha, sowa rigpa and homoeopathy. AYUSH systems of medicine are codified and recognised by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. Medical pluralism in India is a reflection of its cultural diversity and AYUSH systems have evolved over thousands of years, absorbing and adapting yet maintaining its individual identity.*

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### 32 Criticisms of Homeopathy: Addressed Through Scientific Research

Chaturbhuja Nayak

*Despite being practised for over 200 years homeopathy is still facing credibility challenges. Emerging research in this field has however, proven the plausibility of this science. During last two decades developed nations like Britain, France, USA and Australia, have questioned the effectiveness of homeopathy, although results have proven the scientificity of the alternative system. In the years to come, studies conducted by homeopathic research organisations around globe is likely to further validate its scientific basis.*

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# CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

## Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. Since its establishment in March 1978, the Council has been busy in researching various fundamental and applied aspects of Unani Medicine. Over the years, the CCRUM has emerged as the world-leader in the field of research in Unani Medicine.

### THE NETWORK

The CCRUM has 23 research centers functioning in different parts of the country, besides its headquarters in New Delhi.

### AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

- Clinical Research
- Drug Standardization
- Literary Research
- Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of the significant achievements of the Council are as follows:

#### Clinical Research

- Developed 27 Unani drugs, which are purely natural, standardized and without any side-effects, for successful treatment of vitiligo, sinusitis, infective hepatitis, eczema, filariasis, malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, bronchial asthma and some other common ailments.
- Obtained 17 patents on for developing certain novel therapeutic compositions and SCAR primers.

#### Drug Standardization

- Developed pharmacopoeial standards for 298 single and 150 compound drugs. Besides, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for manufacture of 50 compound drugs have also been finalized.
- Published six volumes of *National Formulary of Unani Medicine*, six volumes of *Unani Pharmacopoeia of India* (UPI), Part 1 (on single drugs), and three volumes of the UPI, Part 2 (on compound drugs).

#### Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

- Collected over 104,568 specimens of medicinal plants belonging to 1,800 species from the wild.
- Undertaken successful cultivation of 33 important medicinal species.
- Gathered and documented over 16,261 folk medicinal claims.

#### Literary Research

- Translated 56 volumes of 21 classical books/manuscripts from Arabic/Persian into Urdu and other languages.
- Prepared a database of 2,400 manuscripts of Unani Medicine.
- Reprinted over 70 rare classical books.
- Compiled Standard Unani Medical Terminology for 4,028 terms of Unani Medicine.
- Developed 'Standard Unani Treatment Guidelines for Common Diseases'.

#### Publications

- Produced over 2,000 research papers and brought out about 400 publications, besides regular publication of a quarterly bulletin *CCRUM Newsletter*, quarterly Urdu Journal *Jahan-e-Tib* and quarterly English Journal *Hippocratic Journal of Unani Medicine*.

For further information please contact:

Director General

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India

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# 727

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a symposium on

its politics

in our times

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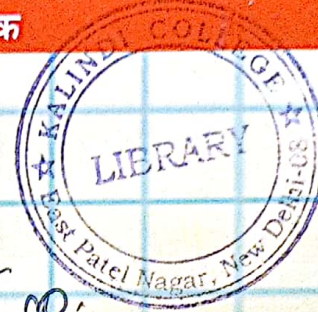


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फोकस

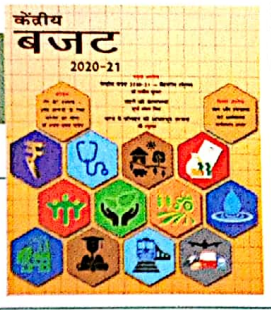
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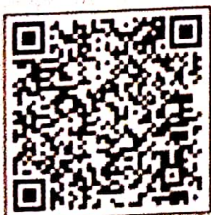
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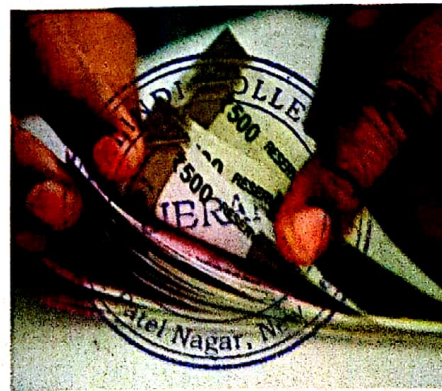
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