



NEWSLETTER

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Mr. Nilanjan Sanyal is new Secretary (AYUSH)

Mr. Nilanjan Sanyal, a 1979 batch IAS officer of the Orissa cadre, took over as Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 31 May 2013 (afternoon). He brings with him over three decades of varied administrative experience.

Before joining his new position, Mr. Sanyal was Special Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development. He has also served as Additional Secretary in the same Ministry and was the first Mission Director of the National Mission for Empowerment of Women. Earlier, he has been an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution from July 2010 to February 2011. Before that, he was Joint Secretary in the same Ministry for a little over three years. He has been Principal Secretary to the Governor of Odisha from June 2005 to June 2010. He has also held senior positions of Commissioner and Secretary, Higher Education Department; and Managing Director, Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority.

Mr. Sanyal has also been Member Secretary of the Second National Commission on Labour in the Union Ministry of Labour from May 1999 to June 2002. Prior to that, he was Director in the Ministry of Mines for four years. He has also served as Collector and District Magistrate



Mr. Nilanjan Sanyal

of Balangir district of Odisha and has been Director and Additional Secretary of several Directorates like Textiles, Panchayati Raj and Special Projects in the Government of Odisha. He started his administrative responsibilities as Charge Officer in Odisha in 1981, and held a number of responsibilities as SDO, Bargarh; Deputy Director, Consolidation, Sambalpur; Project Manager of the District Industries Centre at Rourkela; and Managing Director of the Aska Cooperative Sugar Industries Ltd. in Odisha State, before coming on Central Deputation for the first time when he served in the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and

Pensions first as Under Secretary and later as Deputy Secretary.

Mr. Sanyal, an M.Sc. in Physics from the University of Delhi, has a Diploma in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and holds an M.Phil. degree in Social Sciences from Panjab University. He has keen interest in the multipronged development of Unani Medicine and other native systems of medicine including Ayurveda, Siddha, Yoga & Naturopathy, and Homoeopathy. Besides English and his mother tongue - Bengali, he is fluent in Oriya and Hindi.

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) welcomes Mr. Sanyal as the new Secretary, Department of AYUSH (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India) and looks forward to better and faster development of Unani Medicine as well as other AYUSH systems during his tenure. It is hoped that the research programmes of the CCRUM will receive a fresh boost under his patronage.

Workshop on Knowledge Sharing and IP Management in Unani Medicine

Need to document traditional knowledge of Unani Medicine stressed

There is an urgent need to document the hitherto undocumented traditional knowledge of Unani Medicine and other Indian systems of medicine and protect it from bio-piracy. This was emphasized by Mr. Bala Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India at a one-day National Workshop on Knowledge Sharing & Intellectual Property (IP) Management in Unani Medicine organized by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) at its headquarters in New Delhi on 23 March.



Mr. Bala Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India (second from left) at a one-day National Workshop on Knowledge Sharing & Intellectual Property (IP) Management in Unani Medicine organized by Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) at its headquarters in New Delhi on 23 March. To Mr. Prasad's right is Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM; and to Mr. Prasad's left are Mr. K.S. Kardam, Deputy Controller of Patent & Design, Indian Patent Office (IPO); and Dr. Khalid M. Siddiqui, Assistant Director (Unani), CCRUM headquarters.

In his inaugural address to the workshop, the chief guest Mr. Bala Prasad said that traditional knowledge (TK) in Unani Medicine and other Indian systems of medicine

had huge market potential, and that this sector was developing fast. He said that well-planned efforts should be made to conserve the country's biological diversity and to promote

its sustainable use. In 2011, India has emerged as the global leader in medicinal plants sector. Mr. Prasad laid emphasis on equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of

national biological resources and the TK associated with them.

He informed that in pursuance to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), India had enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002, and the Biological Rules were notified in 2004. The Act addresses access to biological resources and associated TK. It is essential to seek approval of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

the Government of India to prevent bio-piracy and misappropriation of the classical knowledge in Unani Medicine and other traditional Indian systems of healthcare.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. K.S. Kardam, Deputy Controller of Patent & Design, Indian Patent Office (IPO) said that Intellectual Property (IP) plays a vital role in international trade. The Government has ensured



A section of audience at the inaugural session of the National Workshop on Knowledge Sharing & IP Management in Unani Medicine organized by the CCRUM in New Delhi on 23 March.

for obtaining any biological resource occurring in India or knowledge associated with it for research or commercial utilization, or bio-survey or bio-utilization. Recently, the NBA has filed the country's first ever bio-piracy criminal case against the US agrochemical giant Monsanto and its Indian partner Mahyco on BT Brinjal issue in Karnataka. The company has used local variety of Brinjal to develop BT Brinjal.

Mr. Prasad said that the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is an important initiative of

“Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is an important initiative of the Government of India to prevent bio-piracy and misappropriation of the classical knowledge in Unani Medicine and other traditional Indian systems of healthcare.”



Mr. Bala Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of AYUSH delivering his inaugural address to the CCRUM's National Workshop on Knowledge Sharing & IP Management in Unani Medicine in New Delhi on 23 March.

transparency in patent system and made important initiatives to ensure that TK is not unduly patented in India. Patents and trademarks procedures have been re-engineered, and their records digitized. Now, online search on patents and trademarks is also available. Besides guidelines on issues relating to patenting of traditional knowledge, online patent filing facility has been introduced from December 2012.

Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM informed that the Council has been awarded patents by the IPO on eight Unani formulations tested for their efficacy in bronchial asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, constipation and coryza. The Council has also filed applications for patenting over 30 Unani researched formulations. The CCRUM has attained remarkable success in clinical research on the efficacy of Unani medicines in the treatment of different common



Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM welcoming the guests and participants at the Council's National Workshop on Knowledge Sharing & IP Management in Unani Medicine in New Delhi on 23 March.

and chronic diseases like vitiligo, rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and validation of pharmacopoeial Unani formulations.

Under its drug standardization programme, the Council has developed pharmacopoeial standards for 298 single and 100 compound Unani drugs. Eight volumes of *Unani Pharmacopoeia of India* – six of its first part and two of the second part – have been published, besides six volumes of *National Formulary of Unani Medicine*. Under its survey and cultivation of medicinal plants programme, the Council has published seven volumes containing 12,000 folk medicinal claims collected from tribal population in different forest areas in the country, besides undertaking experimental and field scale cultivation of some important medicinal plants. It has also translated from Arabic/Persian to Urdu over 40

volumes of classical Unani works and published them, besides reprinting of 80 rare books.

The workshop had two technical sessions that covered different key aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) with regard to Unani Medicine. In the pre-lunch session, Prof S.K. Verma, former Director, ISII presented an overview of IPR spectrum in

Indian context. Mr. G.R. Raghvendra, Registrar of Copyright, Copyright Office, Government of India in his lecture on copyright protection, highlighted the benefits of literary and artistic creativity.

Mr. C.M. Gaind, former Chief (IPR), Head, IP Consultancy & Management Division, National Research Development Corporation



A view of audience at the CCRUM's National Workshop on Knowledge Sharing & IP Management in Unani Medicine in New Delhi on 23 March.

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(NRDC) spoke on *Patent Protection: Tapping the Potential of Innovative New Products*. In his post-lunch talk, Mr. Gaind focussed on establishment of prior-art, while Mr. S.K. Pangasa, former Assistant Controller, Indian Patent Office spoke on making disclosure for patent protection. Dr. Nidhi Sandal, Joint Director (IPR), Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) lectured on filing patent with international patent offices with special emphasis on Patent Corporation Treaty (PCT) procedure. ● **MAK**

Annual meeting of heads of Institutes/Units

CCRUM discusses its new IMR policy draft

The annual meeting of the in-charges of the Institutes/Units functioning under the Council was held at its headquarters in New Delhi on 26 and 27 June. The meeting discussed in detail the draft of the Council's new Intra-mural Research (IMR) policy while reviewing the progress made at the Institutes and Units and formulating contours of their research road-map for the coming year.

Institutes in a fixed time frame. The Director General also ensured immediate resolution for all pending issues, and asked the participants to address infrastructure development and capacity building issues in a prioritized manner.

Dr. Khalid Mehmood Siddiqui, Assistant Director (Unani), CCRUM headquarters said that the in-charges of the Institutes and Units should strictly follow clinical trial protocols.



Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM addressing the annual meeting of heads of the Council's Institutes/Units at its headquarters in New Delhi on 26 June. To his right are Dr. M.A. Waheed, Deputy Director in charge of Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad; and Dr. Shariq Ali Khan, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-4), Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Aligarh. To Prof. Jamil's left is Dr. Khalid M. Siddiqui, Assistant Director (Unani), CCRUM headquarters.

Presenting the draft of the new IMR policy, Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM emphasized streamlining of research projects, and increasing involvement of the researchers at each level from planning to analysis. He said that contrary to the existing practice of allocation of projects from the Council, the Institutes should design and submit project proposals to the

Council headquarters for review. The projects approved by the Council should be taken up at the Institutes/Units. He urged that each Institute should carry out at least three projects per researcher in a fiscal year.

Prof. Jamil observed that the IMR policy would help align research projects with local requirements and internal capacity of the respective

He also stressed that the meetings of Institutional Ethics Committees should be held frequently.

Dr. M.A. Waheed, Deputy Director in charge of Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Hyderabad said that national health priorities should also be covered under the new IMR policy. He said that development of specific markers might play an

important role in wider acceptance of Unani system of medicine.

Dr. Shariq Ali Khan, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-4), Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Aligarh suggested to include in the policy document details on the number of proposals to be submitted by an institute, wages for research participants and compensation in case of any disability, and project diagnostic tools of Unani Medicine and Nano-pharmacology. Dr. Naquibul Islam, Research Officer (Scientist-4) in charge of RRIUM, Srinagar said that diseases of children and redesigning of drugs for the selected diseases should also be included in priority areas under the policy. It was also suggested by the participants that diagnosis too should be included in research projects, rather than just focusing on cure, and that the projects should cover drug-

as well as disease-oriented research.

At the meeting, the participants presented progress reports on the projects allotted to their respective Institutes, followed by comments from the monitoring officers at the headquarters. Some other issues that figured at the meeting included needs of infrastructure development at specific Institutes, purchase proposals, etc.

Other attendees included Dr. Latafat Ali Khan, Aligarh; Dr. Wasim Ahmad, Lucknow; Dr. Mohd. Ayub Khan, Patna; Dr. Mohammad Raza, Mumbai; Dr. Aslam Khan, Bhopal; Dr. Sheikh Noor Mohammad, Burhanpur; Dr. Zakiuddin, New Delhi; Dr. Pervez Ahmad Siddiqui, Allahabad; Dr. Jawwadul Haque, Kurnool; Dr. Najibul Hasan, Bangalore; Dr. S. Hadi, Edathala; Mr. Sheikh Afsar Ali, Hyderabad; Dr. Wahiduzzaman,

Karimganj; Dr. Irshad Ahmad Khan, Kolkata; Dr. Sagheer Ahamd Siddiqui, New Delhi; Dr. L. Samiullah, Bhadrak; Dr. Rafath Mehmooda, Chennai; Dr. M. Asim, DSRU, New Delhi; Mr. M. Husnain, DSRI, Ghaziabad; Dr. Mustehsan, Silchar; and Dr. Mohammad Tariq Khan, Meerut. The officers from the headquarters who attended the meeting included Dr. Abdul Hannan, Joint Director; Mr. Mehr-e-Alam Khan, Consultant (Portal); Mr. S.M. Adhami, Consultant (Statistics); Dr. M. Fazil Khan, Dr. Jamal Akhtar, Dr. Merajul Haque, Dr. Ahmad Sayeed, Dr. M.U. Azhar, and Dr. Nighat Anjum – all Research Officers (Unani); Dr. Pradeep Kumar, Research Officer (Pathology); Mr. Aminuddin, Research Officer (Botany); Dr. Sadia Ayyub, Research Officer (Biochemistry); Mr. H.S. Thapa, Investigator (Statistics); and Mr. M. Niyaz Ahmad, Research Officer (Publication). ● **M. Niyaz**

Ahmad (MNA) and MAK

Computer training at RRIUM, Chennai

The Council's Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Chennai organized two computer trainings for its staff – the first, a 30-day workshop conducted during March and April, and the second, a 15-day programme held in the month of June.

The trainees were exposed to different modules of *Microsoft Office 2007* including *MS Word*, *MS Excel*, *MS Power Point*, and *MS Outlook*. The first training programme covered the basic training in *Word*, *Excel*, *Power Point*, and the internet including browsing and emailing. The second training covered advanced module on *Excel*, and basic modules on

Power Point, and mail management through *Outlook*. The trainees were given certificates after completion of the programmes. The trainings were organized with the cooperation of a local computer education centre - SSI Computer Education.

Those who underwent the trainings were: Hakim Syed

Jameeluddin Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-4); Hakim Aijaz Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); Hakim K. Kabiruddin Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); Hakim T. Shadia Begum, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); Hakim Hafiz C. Md. Aslam, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); Mr. A. R. Mohammed John, Compounder; Mrs. Nazia Kouser Nathamker, Compounder; Mr. Syed Anvaruddin Kirmani, Store Keeper; Mr. Md. Rafiuddin, UDC; Mr. A. Abdul Latheef, UDC; Mrs. Shamshad Fathima, UDC; Mrs. R Naseema Begum, Jr. Stenographer; and Mr. Syed Abusaleh Asim, LDC. ● **MAK with inputs from RRIUM, Chennai**

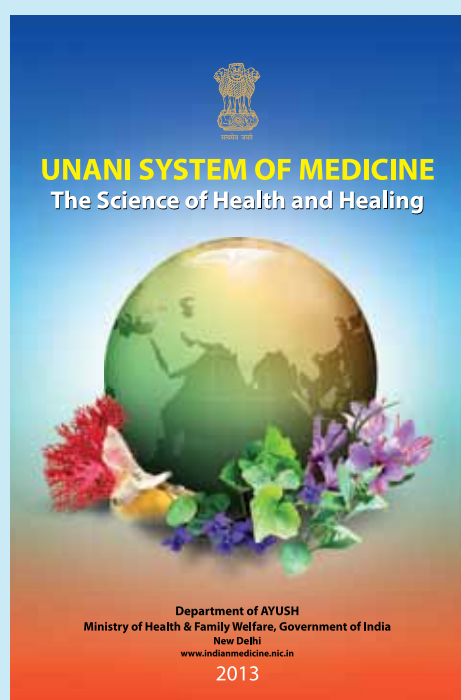
Document on Unani System of Medicine published

The Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India brought out a publication entitled *Unani System of Medicine – The Science of Health and Healing* in May that presents a snapshot of the scientific aspects and the relevance of Unani Medicine in the contemporary and emerging health scenario. The document is the third in the series of publications on AYUSH systems published for spreading the rich and age-old medical knowledge for universal health benefits.

The foreword to the publication is written by Mr. Anil Kumar, Secretary, Department of AYUSH, and the preface by Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM). Prof. Jamil along with senior officers at the Department of AYUSH has also been actively involved in the content planning. The CCRUM researchers have made significant contribution to the document. On behalf of the Department, the document has been printed by the Council.

The publication presents an overview of the historical development of the system as well as its unique philosophy, basic principles and fundamentals, modes of treatment, use of natural drugs, and scientific achievements. It provides an insight into the contemporary research and development activities, besides the regulatory mechanism for education, training, and practice of Unani system of medicine.

The first chapter starts with historical evolution of the system and lists important landmarks in the course of its development in different parts of the world, especially in India. It highlights the system's



present status in India and its global scenario while touching upon the Indian Government's initiatives and achievements about propagation of Unani System of Medicine. Strengths of the system are also discussed in this chapter.

The second chapter deals with the development of fundamental concepts, philosophies and principles of health and illness. It throws light on the life factors, such as fundamental elements of human body, temperament, humours, disease

process, methods of diagnosis, and principles of treatment.

The third chapter discusses Unani System of Medicine's holistic approach to human body in health and disease, and the emphasis it lays on prevention of disease and promotion of health through Six Essential Factors, and how these factors help in lifestyle management.

The fourth chapter covers therapeutic approaches of Unani System of Medicine. Different modes of treatment including regimenal therapy, dietotherapy, pharmacotherapy, and surgery are described in this chapter.

The fifth chapter is on drugs drawn from natural sources. The chapter mentions categories of the drugs according to their potencies and explains Unani pharmaceuticals, regulations for drug manufacture and licensing, standardization and quality control, development of pharmacopoeial standards, and facilities for testing of Unani drugs.

The sixth chapter covers research and development taking place in Unani System of Medicine in the country. It mainly highlights the leads that the CCRUM has obtained in fundamental research, pre-clinical and clinical research, drug standardization, survey and cultivation of medicinal plants, and literary research. Research papers published on these themes from the Council and other institutions are listed in this chapter.

The seventh chapter deals with education and practice of

Unani System of Medicine. While describing the infrastructure available for undergraduate and postgraduate education and practice of Unani System of Medicine, the chapter makes special mention of central educational and regulatory

institutions and Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), the statutory body that regulates education and practice in the system.

At the end of the document, books and monographs on Unani System of

Medicine and important journals and websites have been suggested for further reading and understanding of Unani System of Medicine and related aspects. A glossary of important Unani terms has also been included.

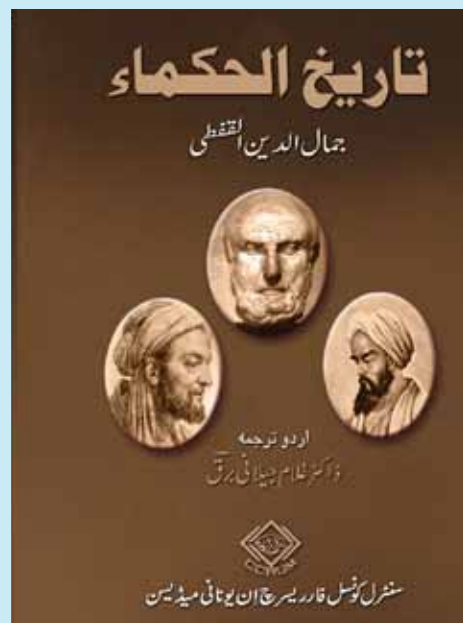
● **MAK**

Jarahiyat-i Zahrawi and Tarikh al-Hukama published

The Council, under its scheme of reprinting of rare and classical books of Unani Medicine, has recently brought out Urdu translations of two important works of Unani Medicine entitled *Jarahiyat-i Zahrawi* and *Tarikh al-Hukama* written originally in Arabic. The books have been printed after fresh typesetting and layout of the texts.



Jarahiyat-i Zahrawi is the Urdu title of a part of the original Arabic work *Kitab al-Tasrif li-man 'Ajiza 'an'il-Talif* authored by a tenth-century Spanish scholar Abul Qasim al-Zahrawi known to the Western world as Albucasis, whereas *Tarikh al-Hukama* was originally written by an Egyptian scholar Jamaluddin al-Qifti in the thirteenth century.



Jarahiyat-i Zahrawi

The original Arabic book *Kitab al-Tasrif li-man 'Ajiza 'an'il-Talif* comprises 30 chapters. The first 29 chapters deal with fundamentals of Unani Medicine, Hygiene, Materia Medica, Dietotherapy, and Therapeutics. The last chapter, which is on Surgery, carries details of various surgical

procedures, some of which are still considered relevant, as well as illustrated account of surgical instruments. In view of the importance of the chapter on Surgery, it has been translated into six European languages. The original Arabic text and English translation of this chapter were published in 1973 from London, United Kingdom.

The chapter on Surgery was first translated into Urdu by an Indian scholar Hakim Nisar Ahmad Kakorvi and titled as *Jarahiyat-i Zahrawi*. This Urdu version was first published in 1947 by Darul Isha'at, Kanpur, India.

Tarikh al-Hukama

Tarikh al-Hukama is regarded as an important treatise on the biographies and works of scholars and physicians who lived during pre-Hippocratic era and early thirteenth century. The book has been frequently quoted by later historians, particularly Ibn Abi Usaibia' (1203-1270 AD) and Ibn al-'Abari (d. 1289 AD). The volume covers description on 411 physicians, philosophers, intellectuals, astrologers and mathematicians.

The book, translated into Urdu by an Indian scholar Ghulam Jeelani Barq, was first published in 1945 by Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu (Hind), Delhi.

● **MAK with inputs from Amanullah**

Workshop on the use of Hindi in official work

Use of Hindi in CCRUM is increasing

Use of Hindi in official work has over the years increased greatly in the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), and the Council is making concerted efforts to achieve the targets set by Department of Official Language for the current year. This was declared by Prof S. Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM at a one-day workshop on the use of Hindi as official language organized by the Council at its headquarters on 19 March.



Prof. S. Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM presenting a memento to the guest of honour Dr. P.K. Sharma, Senior Research Officer, Committee of Parliament on Official Language at the Hindi workshop held at the Council's headquarters in New Delhi on 19 March.



A section of audience at the Hindi workshop held at the Council's headquarters in New Delhi on 19 March.

Welcoming the guests and participants, Prof. Jamil said that the use of Hindi had increased manifold in official work at the Council's centres as well as headquarters during the past few years. He said that the Council was making its best efforts to achieve all the targets set by Department of Official Language for the year 2012-13, and planning to further enhance the use of Hindi language in the Council's work. He urged the Council staff to increase the use of Hindi in inter-personal as well as official communication.

The chief guest Dr. S.N. Tiwari, Deputy Director, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan stressed the need for collective efforts for further promotion of Hindi language and literature. He responded to the questions raised by the participants about the difficulties being faced by them in the use of Hindi, and said that there was a need to increase the level of commitment towards the language. He also recited some Hindi poems.

The guest of honour Dr. P.K. Sharma, Senior Research Officer, Committee of Parliament on Official Language spoke in detail on the objectives and importance of the Official Languages Act and said that Hindi language is a scientific language which is read in accordance with its writing. He laid emphasis on the use of Hindi language in research activities and communication of their outcomes.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmad, Assistant Director Official Language, Telecom appreciated the Council's initiative to organize the workshop, and suggested

to conduct such workshops in future as well. He said that learning Hindi is very easy for those who know Urdu. Mr. Satendra Dahiya, Research Officer, Committee of Parliament on Official Language suggested ways to remove difficulties faced in preparation of inspection questionnaire mandated

by the Sub-Committee of Parliament on Official Language. Dr. R.P. Roy, Hindi Officer, CCRAS focused on the need of collective efforts for adoption of Hindi language in research.

Mr. Mehr-e-Alam Khan, Consultant (Portal) was master of ceremony, and

Dr. Misbahuddin Azhar, Research Officer (Unani) and in charge of Hindi section and Mrs. Akhtar Parveen, Hindi Assistant made arrangements for the event.

● **MAK and MNA with inputs from Misbahuddin Azhar**

Joint Secretary (AYUSH) visits RRIUM, Patna

Mr. Bala Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India visited the Council's Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Patna on 4 February.



Mr. Bala Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (right) going round the outpatient department at Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Patna on 4 February. Escorting him is Dr. Mohammad Ayub Khan, Deputy Director in-charge of the Institute.

During his visit, Mr. Prasad went round the Research Out-patient Department (ROPD), General OPD, laboratories as well as In-patient

Department (IPD) at the Institute. He also checked case sheets and follow-up registers maintained at the Institute, and interacted with the

patients and enquired about their health and native places.

In a meeting with the Deputy Director in-charge and technical officers, Mr. Prasad discussed the Institute's progress on the research projects allotted during 2012 and 2013. He laid emphasis on bringing out research publications as well as expediting research activities.

Mr. Prasad also enquired about the progress of the Institute's under-construction building at Nawab Manzil and urged to get the construction completed soon.

Lauding the functioning of RRIUM, Patna, the Joint Secretary observed that the Institute was 'outstanding in treating patients and undertaking research.' He also appreciated the enthusiasm and professionalism of the staff.

At the meeting, Dr. Mohammad Ayub Khan, Deputy Director in charge of the Institute made presentation on the status of the allotted research projects and other activities and progress of the Institute.

He also made a mention about the Institute's research proposals for the current year. ● **MNA with inputs from RRIUM, Patna**

RRIUM, Chennai organizes free health camps

The Council's Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Chennai organized four free health camps and a Polio Immunization programme in different localities of the metropolis during February and June.



Unani physicians of RRIUM, Chennai attending to patients at the Council's health camp at Kolatture village in Chennai.

The first health camp was organized at Kolatture village in memory of the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on 24 February. The camp, held in collaboration with AJ Trust, was inaugurated by Mr. J.M. Haroon, Member of Parliament from Theni constituency in the presence of Panchayath President Dr. Ameer Jaan and other important people from the locality.

At the camp, the Institute's Unani physicians attended to 102 patients suffering from different ailments. These patients were given free-of-cost Unani medicines. The visitors

were also provided with informative literature about Unani Medicine and healthy living as well as activities and achievements of the RRIUM and the Council.

The Institute staff who managed the camp included Hakim K. Kabiruddin Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3), and the auxiliary staff - Mr. A.R. Mohammed John and Mr. Shaik Mehboob Siraj.

Besides, the Institute also organized an Intensive Pulse Polio Immunization Programme in cooperation with Royapuram Health Post in Zone V of Chennai Corporation on 24 February. A total of 96 children, including three aged above five years, were given polio drops. Mrs. M. Rabitha Begum, Staff Nurse at the Institute managed the programme with the help of auxiliary staff - Mr. Syed Shahul Hameed and Mr. M. Shankar.

The second health camp was held at Jothi Nagar, Thiruvottiyur,



A nurse of RRIUM, Chennai giving polio drops to a child at Pulse Polio Programme held in the city on 24 February.



A view of the health camp held at Jothi Nagar, Thiruvottiyur, Thiruvallur District on 29 May.

Thiruvallur District on 29 May in cooperation with Jothi Nagar Welfare Association. The camp started with an interactive session taken by Mrs. Nancy Priscilla, Social Worker at the Institute, on Unani system of medicine and healthy living. She highlighted the activities and achievements of the Council as well as the Institute. She addressed the participants in Tamil language and answered their queries about the aims and objectives of the Council and the progress it has made in its research programmes.

During the camp, 133 patients were treated for various ailments, particularly the elderly suffering from Wajaul Mafasil (Rheumatoid Arthritis), Tahajjurul Mafasil (Osteo Arthritis) and Su'aal (Cough) and others suffering from Jarb (Scabies) and Hikka (Pruritis).

The camp benefited 79 women, 39 men, 13 girls and two boys. They were treated with free-of-cost Unani medicines. The patients and the visitors were also provided with the Council's literature on its research progress.

The Institute staff who managed the camp included Hakim Aijaz Ahmad, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3), Mrs. Nancy Priscilla, Social Worker, and auxiliary staff - Mr. A.R. Mohammed John, Mr. Shaik Mehboob Siraj and Mr. Syed Saleem Batcha.

The third camp was held in cooperation with Imdad Baitulmal at Lalagunta on 16 June. The camp benefited a total of 139 patients including 77 men, 54 women, five boys and three girls who were treated

with free-of-cost Unani medicines. Most of the aged patients were found to be suffering from Wajaul Mafasil and Tahajjurul Mafasil. All the 54 cases including 32 men and 22 women who had raised blood sugar levels were referred to the Institute for further treatment.

Hakim Aijaz Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); Mr. A.S.M. Basheeruddin, Lab Technician; Mr. A.R. Mohammed John, Compounder; Mrs. R. Lakshimi, Staff Nurse; and Mr. Abdul Salam, Pharmacy Attendant managed the camp.

At another camp organized at Sathya Murthy Bhavan on 19 June, the Institute provided free-of-cost Unani treatment to 159 patients suffering from various ailments. Mr. J.M. Haroon, Member of Parliament, Mr. Vasant Kumar, former MLA, and other dignitaries including Mr. Feroz and Mr. M. Najma Shariff were present at the camp.

The Institute staff who managed the camp included Hakim K. Kabeeruddin Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); Mr. Rasheed Lateef, Lab Technician; Mr. A.R. Mohammed John, Compounder; Mrs. Jagarunnisa, In-charge Staff Nurse; Mrs. Nancy Priscilla, Social Worker; and Mr. Shaik Mehboob Siraj, Messenger.

• **MAK and MNA with inputs from RRIUM, Chennai**

“ A wise man ought to realize that health is his most valuable possession. ”

Hippocrates (c. 460 BC – c. 377 BC) Greek physician.

Council's health camp in Imphal

The Council's Clinical Research Pilot Project at Manipur organized a free health camp at Minuthong Golapati in Imphal on 15 June.



The Council's physician attending to patients at the health camp at Minuthong Golapati in Imphal on 15 June.

Minuthong Golapati is a high-populated and minority-centric locality in Imphal city, where most of the people come from remote villages to earn their livelihood, and cannot meet the cost of healthcare

services. The one-day camp provided free health check-up and treatment to 158 patients including 83 men and 75 women. A team of the physicians and nurses from the Council's Pilot Project attended to the patients who were mainly suffering from Wajaul Mafasil (Arthritis), Cough, Asthma, Eczema, Itching, Anorexia, Indigestion and Leucorrhoea.

Dr. Majid Ali Ansari, Technical Officer (Unani) and Dr. Islam Ansari managed the camp with the help of other officers and auxiliary staff.

The news of the camp was covered by TwoCircles.net, a not-for-profit news website. The website quoted Maolana Atabuddin, a visitor to the camp, saying that localities largely populated by people belonging to the minority community in and around Imphal city needed such free health camps as majority of the population cannot afford costly treatment, and that these camps would also generate awareness about Unani Medicine.

● **MNA with inputs from Clinical Pilot Project, Manipur**

CRIUM, Hyderabad takes part in herbal exhibition

The Council's Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad participated in an exhibition Herbo Expo Oshadi 2013 organized by Andhra Pradesh Medicinal Plants Board in the city from 5 to 7 January.

At the exhibition, the CRIUM put up a pavilion showcasing the Institute's activities mainly in the area of survey and cultivation of medicinal plants. A free health camp was also organized by the Institute at this occasion. The Institute's Unani physicians provided the visitors free health check-up, consultancy and Unani medical treatment. At the camp, the physicians examined 173 patients. Of them, 31 cases were

referred to the Institute as research cases. These included two cases of Vitiligo, seven cases of Psoriasis, 14 cases of Sinusitis, and two cases of Hyperlipidemia, besides six cases for Akhlath study.

The Institute's team that managed the free Unani medical camp included Dr. Asiya Khanum, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); Dr. Gulnawaz Ahmed, Research Officer (Unani) (Scientist-3); and auxiliary staff - Mr. Hamid Ali Ather and Mr. Jaffer Hussain Khan. ● **MNA with inputs from CRIUM, Hyderabad**

Council's Scientific Advisory Committee meets

The Council's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) met twice at its headquarters in New Delhi - first on 5 January and thereafter on 9 May. At these meetings, the SAC discussed the Council's research progress and future plans.

The SAC meeting at the CCRUM headquarters on 9 May considered the proposal to undertake clinical validation of pharmacopoeial drugs in ten additional diseases and generate data on safety and efficacy of 20-25 related pharmacopoeial drugs. The diseases in question include *Sayalan al-Rahim* (Leucorrhoea), *Didan al-Am'a* (Worms Infestation), *Niqris*, (Gout), *Khafaqan* (Palpitation), *Dhayabitus Sukkari* (Diabetes Mellitus), *Nafkh-e Shikam* (Flatulence), *Jarab* (Scabies), *Hasah wa Raml al-Kulya* (Renal Calculus), *Du'f al-Ishtiha'* (Anorexia), and *Su'al-e Muzmin* (Chronic Cough). The SAC also considered a proposal to undertake clinical validation of 20-25 additional pharmacopoeial drugs on the ten diseases already undergoing validation studies.

The meeting was presided over by the SAC Chairman Prof. M.A. Jafri who is Professor of Department of Ilm-ul Advia at Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi.

Discussing the initial draft of the Council's new Intra-mural Research (IMR) policy, the Committee recommended that an exclusive meeting of the SAC should be held to discuss in depth and finalize the new policy. Among other things, the SAC recommended clinical validation of 20 other pharmacopoeial formulations. It considered protocols for developing

quick-relief Unani drugs, proposal for re-designing of the dosage forms of Unani products, and projects on fundamentals of Unani Tib.

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM and Member-Secretary of the SAC informed the committee that most of the actions suggested by the members in the previous meeting were taken including the new initiative in the area of new drug development research.

Prof. Jamil also informed the SAC that the Council organized two workshops – one on *Knowledge Sharing & IP Management in Unani Medicine*, and the other on the use of Hindi in official work. He also mentioned about the Council's venturing in the area of new Unani drug development. The Council has initiated modification of the present forms of some of the existing drugs and converting them into sugar-free capsules, gel, granules, flavoured syrup for children, etc.

Members of the committee who attended the meeting included Prof B. S. Usmani, Mumbai; Dr. Ahmad Kamal, Hyderabad; Hakim Mohammad Yousuf, Srinagar; Dr. O.P. Agarwal, Emeritus Scientist, ICMR, New Delhi; Dr. Nandini K. Kumar, Chennai. Dr.

Qaiser Jamil, Hyderabad; Dr. M.A.Q. Pasha, New Delhi; and Dr. Farhan Jalis, New Delhi were present as special invitees. Hakim Abdul Hannan, Joint Director, CCRUM; Dr. Khalid M. Siddiqui, Assistant Director (Unani), CCRUM; and other officers at the Council's headquarters also attended the meeting.

Earlier, presiding over the first meeting on 5 January, the SAC Chairman Prof. M.A. Jafri observed that the infrastructure for practice of different forms of regiminal therapy such as Hijamat (Cupping), Hammam (Turkish bath), and Taleeq (Leeching) needed to be established at the Institutes functioning under the Council. He also said that the SAC should meet frequently.

Lauding the Council's obtaining eight patents on Unani drugs, the SAC recommended that important Unani medical works should be translated into different languages including English. The Council should also make efforts to obtain grants from Department of Science and Technology for developing research in the area of Chemistry like pre-clinical studies, and put in place a strong monitoring mechanism so that the studies are carried out in a time-bound and cost-effective manner. The members felt that studies on commonly occurring and cause-of-concern diseases should be carried out.

The meeting also discussed some proposals for collaborative clinical studies with specialized institutes, and considered the proposal for strengthening animal house and constructing an additional floor on the existing building to expand In-

patient Department (IPD) facility at the Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad.

The SAC also recommended proposals for strengthening Drug Standardization Research Unit (DSRU) of RRIUM, Chennai, digitization of classical rare books of Unani Medicine, and the proposal of RRIUM, Aligarh for holding a workshop on Prescription Writing.

In his welcome remarks, Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil, Director General, CCRUM and Member-Secretary of the SAC informed that an important exercise for development of protocols on four

diseases, namely Hepatitis, Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension and Vitiligo was undertaken by the Council in accordance with the WHO and ICMR guidelines. He also mentioned about the Council's holding of a workshop on *Clinical Trial Protocol and CRF Writing*, and training workshop on *Ethical Issues and Role of Ethics Committee in Clinical Trials*.

At the meeting, Dr. Khalid M. Siddiqui, Assistant Director (Unani), CCRUM headquarters briefed the committee about the progress made by the Council during the past five years (2007 to 2012) and presented action plan for the year 2012-13.

Other members who attended the meeting were Prof. Rais-ur-Rahman, A & U Tibbiya College, New Delhi; Hakim Mohammad Abdul Haleem, New Delhi; Hakim Mohammad Yousuf, Srinagar; Dr. O.P. Agarwal, Emeritus Scientist, ICMR, New Delhi; Dr. Nandini K. Kumar, Chennai, and Prof. Amir Azam Khan, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Dr. Shamshad Ahmad Khan, former Assistant Director (Chemistry) (Scientist-4), CCRUM and Mr. S.M. Adhami, former Research Officer (Statistics) (Scientist-4), CCRUM were present as special invitees, besides technical officers of the Council at the headquarters. • *MNA with inputs from Jamal Akhtar*

Ethics Committee of RRIUM, Patna meets

The Institutional Ethics Committee of the Council's Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Patna met at the Institute on 12 February.

The Committee discussed the research protocols for projects on some of the fast-acting Unani pharmacopoeial formulations for common diseases. The committee also went round different sections of the Institute.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the Committee Dr. Surendra Prasad Sinha, who is a former Professor of Medicine from Patna Medical College & Hospital, expressed satisfaction on the Institute's research activities.

The RRIUM is the only referral hospital of Unani Medicine in the

region, which offers specialized treatment for Filariasis, Vitiligo, Hyperacidity, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and abdominal diseases.

A member of the committee, Prof. Allauddin Ahmad, who is a former Vice Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, recommended that if the efficacy of Unani pharmacopoeial drugs was proved on scientific parameters, the Council should provide them in open market for peoples' benefit. Another member of the committee, Dr. M.P. Tripathi, who is a former Chief Medical Officer of Patna, suggested that a collaborative study should be conducted on the

efficacy of Unani drugs in Hepatitis B.

Other members of the committee who attended the meeting were Mr. Akbar Raza Naqvi, Retired District Judge, Patna; Dr. Tauheed Kibriya, Reader, Government Tibbi College and Hospital, Patna; Dr. Syed Hamid Hassan, Associate Professor, Government Tibbi College and Hospital, Patna; Mr. Misbahul Haque Emadi, Khanquah-i Emadia, Patna; Dr. M. Aftab Alam, Social Scientist, and Secretary, Al-Baari Human Educational and Welfare Society, Patna; and Mr. S. Ghulam Sarmad, community representative. The Institute staff were also present at the meeting.

Deputy Director in charge of the Institute and Member Secretary of the Committee Dr. Mohammad Ayub Khan welcomed and thanked the Chairman and members of the Committee. • *MAK & MNA with inputs from RRIUM, Patna*

Hakim Mohammad Taiyab passes away

Prof. Hakim Mohammad Taiyab, a renowned scholar and physician of Unani Medicine, and a former Principal of Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh, died on 5 June at his residence in the University area. He was 82. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Hakim Taiyab had a long association with the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) right from its establishment in different capacities. A former Member of the Council's Governing Body (GB) and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), he served as Chairman of the SAC in 1997. He had also been Project Officer of the Council's Clinical Research Unit at Aligarh from 1970 to 1995, and played an important role in its up-gradation to Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine, of which he was appointed Coordinator.

A distinguished clinician and teacher of clinical medicine, Prof. Taiyab was appointed the first Dean



Hakim Mohammad Taiyab

of Faculty of Unani Medicine at the AMU in 1987.

After obtaining his Bachelor of Unani Tib and Surgery (BUTS) degree from the AMU in 1952, Hakim Taiyab started his career in 1954 as Lecturer

at the University's AK Tibbiya College. He was appointed Reader in the Department of Moalajat in 1966. He received his Ph.D. in Persian in 1970, and rose to become Professor in the Department of Ilmul Advia in 1979. He retired from the University service in January 1993. He was bestowed the Best Physician Award by the President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma in 1996.

Prof. Taiyab was an active member of the All India Unani Tibbi Conference, and was unanimously elected its President in 2005, and served the Conference in that capacity till 2010.

He translated into Urdu a classical work of Unani Medicine *Kitab al-Ashar Maqalat fi'l 'Ain* by the eighth-century scholar Hunain Ibn Ishaq that was published in 1957. He authored three books - *Ilmu'l 'Ain aur Atibba-i Qadeem*, *Qanoon-i Sihhat* (1961), and *Atibba-i Qadeem Ke Cliniky Mushahadat* (1971).

● **MAK with inputs from Fakhr-e Alam, LRIUM, New Delhi**

Retirements

Dr. Mohammad Ataullah Shareef, Deputy Director in charge of the Council's Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad retired from service on superannuation on 31 January. He joined the Council as Research Assistant (Unani) on 20 August 1981, and became Research Officer (Unani) in September 1985. He rose to become Deputy Director in charge of Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine

(RRIUM), Patna in July 2005. In 2006, he took over as Deputy Director in charge of CRIUM, Lucknow. In 2007, he came to CRIUM, Hyderabad as Deputy Director and on 1 April 2012 he took over as in charge of the Institute.

Dr. Syed Sikandar Ali Khan, Research Officer (Pathology) (Scientist-3) at RRIUM, Patna retired from service on superannuation on 31 January. He joined the Council as Assistant Research Officer (Pathology) on 22 July 1983. He became Research Officer on 6 February 1989, and served

as in-charge of the Institute from 1 November 2008 to 28 November 2012.

Hakim Mohammad Aslam, Assistant Director (Unani) at RRIUM, Mumbai retired on attaining the age of superannuation on 31 March. He came in the Council's service on 1 April 1981.

Mr. Suhail Anwar, Store Keeper at the CCRUM headquarters retired on superannuation on 30 April. He joined the Council on 14 July 1980.

Hakim Mazhar Subhan Usmani is no more

Hakim Mazhar Subhan Usmani, a renowned Unani physician of the country and former Vice-Chairman of National Minorities Commission, died in New Delhi on 15 January. He was 80, and is survived by his wife, four daughters and a son.

Hakim Usmani had been associated with the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) as Member of the Governing Body, Scientific Advisory Committee, and different other Committees set up from time to time to review and advance the Council's research programme. He had also been a member of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy, besides being on several other important panels.



Hakim Mazhar Subhan Usmani

In recognition of his valuable services as a physician and a teacher of Unani Medicine, Hakim Usmani was honoured with the State Physician Award by the Government of Delhi in 1998. He was also bestowed some other important honours.

Hakim Usmani was known for his excellence in Unani treatment, and diagnosis purely on the basis of 'Nabz' (pulse). He taught Unani

Medicine at Ayurvedic & Unani (A&U) Tibbia College, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, and retired as Reader and Head, Department of Moalajat (Medicine) after having served the institution for over two decades. He had served the college as Lecturer from 1970 to 1973. Before rejoining the institution in 1979 as Senior Lecturer, he also had a stint at Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

After obtaining his Fazil-e-Tib

(Unani) Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (Modern) degree from the State Takmeel-ut-Tib Unani Medical College, Lucknow in 1959, Hakim Usmani started his career as Lecturer at Jamia Tibbia (Hamdard Tibbi College), Delhi in April 1964 and worked there till August 1969. Hakim Usmani was held in high esteem by the Unani medical fraternity in the country. He held several important positions in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. He was President of the Delhi State Chapter of the All India Unani Tibbi Conference (AIUTC) in the 1990s, and also served as a member of the working committee of the AIUTC.

Hakim Usmani had great expertise in manufacture of Unani drugs and worked as Manager, Unified Pharmacy, Tibbia College Board, Delhi Administration. He also served as in-charge of Jamia Tibbia Hospital, Delhi and of Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

Hakim Usmani wrote a number of articles on Unani Medicine and a book *Tipu Sultan ke Moalajat*. He also participated in several national and international conferences on Unani Medicine and other traditional systems of medicine. ● **MAK**

Retirements

Mr. Syed Mustafa Akbar, Radiographer at RRIUM, Aligarh retired from service on 31 January on attaining the age of superannuation. He started service with the Council on 20 October 1981.

Mr. Syed Kasim, Chowkidar at CRIUM, Hyderabad retired on

superannuation from service on 31 January. He joined the Council's service on 15 December 1971.

Mr. V. Jaganath Chary, Pharmacy Attendant at CRIUM, Hyderabad retired on superannuation from the Council's service on 28 February. He started his service in the Council on 7 December 1973.

Mr. Mohammad Lateefuddin, Ward Boy at CRIUM, Hyderabad retired on superannuation from service on 30 April. He joined the Council on 19 May 1978.

Mrs. Ajmeri Begum, Aya at CRIUM, Hyderabad retired on superannuation on 31 May. She joined the Council's service on 20 August 1973.

Survey of Coimbatore district forests in Tamil Nadu

The Council's researchers from its Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Chennai conducted an ethno-botanical survey in two forest areas - Annamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi and Coimbatore Forest Division - under Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu in January 2013. The surveyors collected medicinal plants and recorded folk medicinal claims from the tribal and other rural inhabitants of the areas.

The Coimbatore district is located at the foot hills of the Nilgiri Hills in Western Tamil Nadu between 10° 55' and 11° 10' North and 76° 10' East longitude. The areas surveyed in Coimbatore Forest Division included Mangarai, Anaikatti (North and South Coimbatore Range), Siruvani hills and Sholakarai forest areas (Bolvampatti range), Mulli, Pillur and Manar hills (Karamadai range) and Palamalai forest areas (Periyanayakan and Palyam ranges). Similarly, the areas surveyed in Annamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi included Topslip, Varagaliyar in Ulandy forest range; Akkamakai, Cinchona in Valparai forest range; and Manambolly in Manambolly forest range. The forest areas such as Mulli, Pillur, Manar hills, Siruvani,

Anaikatti, Palamalai in Coimbatore Forest Division and Varagaliyar, Topslip, Akkamalai, Monombolly forest areas in Annamalai Tiger Reserve are demarcated areas for rich floristic diversity.

During the survey, 546 plant specimens belonging to 182 species from Annamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi and 555 plant specimens representing 185 species from Coimbatore Forest Division were collected and recorded. Of them, some of the important Unani medicinal plants identified and recorded are: *Abrus precatorius* L. (Ghungchhi), *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Willd. (Babool), *Achyranthes aspera* L. (Chirchita), *Adhatoda zeylanica* Medic (Arusa),

Aegle marmelos (L.) Correa (Belgiri), *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Bedd. (Gul-e-Dhawa), *Aristolochia indica* L. (Zarawand), *Asparagus racemosus* Willd. (Satawar), *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R.Br. (Madar), *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L. (Qilqil), *Cassia auriculata* L. (Tarwar), *Cassia fistula* L. (Amaltas), *Cassia occidentalis* L. (Kasondi), *Catunaregam spinosa* (Thunb.) Tirvengadam (Mainphal), *Coccinia grandis* (L.) J. Voigt, (Kunduri), *Euphorbia hirta* L. (Dudhi Kalan), *Ficus racemosa* L. (Gular), *Gloriosa superba* L. (Muleem), *Helicteres isora* L. (Marorphali), *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schum.) Heine (Talmakhana), *Lawsonia inermis* L. (Hina), *Mallotus philippensis* (Lam.) Muell. Arg. (Kamila), *Martynia annua* L. (Kalabichhuwa), *Mimosa pudica* L. (Lajjalu), *Mirabilis jalapa* L. (Gul-e-Abbas), *Mimusops elengi* L. (Mulsari), *Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC. (Konch), *Piper nigrum* L. (Filfil Siyah), *Plumbago zeylanica* L. (Sheetraj Hindi), *Phyllanthus emblica* L. (Amla), *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb. (Bijasar), *Ricinus communis* L. (Bedanjeer), *Rubia cordifolia* L. (Majeeth), *Ruta chalepensis* L. (Sudab), *Santalum album* L. (Santal Safaid), *Solanum nigrum* L. (Mako), *Solanum surattense*



Santal Safaid (*Santalum album* L.)



Gul-e-Abbas (*Mirabilis jalapa* L.)



Surveyors collecting folk claims in Paralikadu tribal colony.



Survey team members busy in field activities.

Burm. f. (Katai), *Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers (Sarphuka), *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn) Roxb. (Balela), *Terminalia chebula* Retz. (Halela), *Tribulus terrestris* L. (Khar-e-Khasak), *Vitex negundo* L. (Sambhalu), *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal (Asgandh) and *Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb) R. Br. (Inderjo Shireen).



Sheetraj Hindi (*Plumbago zeylanica* L.)

The surveyors also recorded 42 claims of medicinal uses of plants from the tribal and local people of Ulandhy, Valparai and Manambolly in Annamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi and Coimbatore, Boluvampatti Karamadai and Periyannayan Palyam range in Coimbatore Forest Division. Some of these are: Tender stem of *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Willd. ex Del. (Karuvalam) is used for ulcer; fruit of *Acacia sinuata* (Lour.) Merr. (Sigakai) is used to treat dandruff and hair fall; leaves of *Acalypha indica* L. (Kuppaimeni) are used for Jaundice; roots of *Achyranthus aspera* L. (Nayuruvi) are used for toothache; leaves of *Adhatoda zeylanica* Medic. (Adathoda) are employed for cough; powder of dried plants of *Aerva lanata* (L.) A. Juss. ex Schult. (Poolai) is used for kidney stone and urinary

irritation; roots of *Aristolochia indica* L. (Perumarunthu) are used for poisonous bite; latex of *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R. Br ex Ait. (Erukku) is used for dog bite; dried flowers of *Cassia auriculata* L. (Avaram) are used for diabetes; leaves of *Cassia occidentalis* L. (Tagarai) are used for skin diseases; leaves of *Cassia tora* L. (Thagarai) are employed for paralysis; leaves of *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don are used for diabetes; plant of *Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L. (Vishnukaranthi) is used for urinary irritation; leaves of *Hibiscus vitifolius* D. Don. are used for the treatment of cold in infants; leaves of *Leonotis nepetifolia* (L.) R. Br. (Adukkuthumbai) are used for wound healing; leaves of *Leucas aspera* Spreng. (Thumbai) are used for common cold; leaves of

Plumbago zeylanica L. (Chitramoolam) are used for the treatment of ulcer; leaves of *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb. (Venkai) are used for diabetes; seeds of *Ricinus communis* L. (Amankku) are used for throat infections; heart wood of *Santalum album* L. (Santhnam) is used for sunburn; leaves of *Sida acuta* Burn.f. (Kurunthotti) are used for wound healing; leaves of *Solanum nigrum* L. (Manathakkali) are used for the treatment of ulcer; leaves of *Tamarindus indica* L. (Puliyamaram) are used to treat rheumatic swellings; roots of *Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers. (Velaichedi) are used for diarrhea; fruits of *Tribulus terrestris* L. (Nerunji) are used for kidney stone; leaves of *Vitex negundo* L. (Notchi) are used for joint pain; and latex of *Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb) R.Br. (Veppala) is used for wound healing, etc.

The survey team led by Mr. R. Murugeswaran, Research Officer (Botany) included Dr. K. Venkatesan, Research Assistant (Botany); Mr. K. Lakshmi Narayanan, Field Attendant; and Mr. M. Sankar, Driver.

• **Aminuddin with inputs from R. Murugeswaran, RRIUM, Chennai**

Prof. Rais-ur-Rahman is new Advisor (Unani)

Prof. Rais-ur-Rahman joined as Advisor (Unani) to Government of India, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 15 February 2013. Earlier, he served as Head, Postgraduate Department of Moalajat wa Ilmul Amraz (Medicine & Pathology) at Ayurvedic and Unani (A & U) Tibbia College, New Delhi. He has a broad vision on globalization of Unani Medicine, and brings with him two-and-a-half decades of teaching and administrative experience.

A reputed Unani physician, Prof. Rahman is Technical Member of Standing Finance Committee of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) as well as a Member of the Council's Scientific Advisory Committee. He has been a Member of various other committees of the CCRUM as well as selection committees and boards of studies of different academic institutions of Unani Medicine. Also, he has been on staff selection panels of Public Service Commissions of Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh.

Prof. Rahman has chaired technical sessions, delivered lectures, and presented research papers at various national and international training workshops, seminars and conferences on Unani Medicine and other health-related subjects. A Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) (Unani) from A & U Tibbia College, University of Delhi, he has supervised five M.D. (Unani) theses, and published many research papers. He is also on the Editorial Boards of different research journals of Unani Medicine, besides being on the panels of experts of different media channels.

Prof. Rahman joined service as Demonstrator (Moalajat) at Hamdard



Prof. Rais-ur-Rahman

Tibbi College, New Delhi in February 1988. In May 1988, he joined as Demonstrator in the Department of Moalajat wa Ilmul Amraz, A & U Tibbia College, New Delhi. In 1992, he was appointed there as Lecturer (Moalajat), and in 1996 as Reader. He has been serving as Head, Postgraduate Department of Moalajat wa Ilmul Amraz (Medicine & Pathology) at the A & U Tibbia College since 2002. He became Professor in 2011.

Prof. Rahman has also worked as Assistant Medical Superintendent during 1998 and 2002, and Deputy Medical Superintendent during 1996 and 1998 at A & U Tibbia College Hospital, New Delhi.

● MAK

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Director General & Editor-in-Chief:

Prof. Syed Shakir Jamil

Executive Editor:

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Editorial Board:

Abdul Hannan, Khalid M. Siddiqui, M. Fazil Khan, Jamal Akhtar, M. Niyaz Ahmad

Editorial Office:

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR
RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE
61-65, Institutional Area
Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110 058 (India)
Telephone : +91-11/28521981, 28525982,
28525983, 28525831, 28525852, 28525862,
28525883, 28525897, 28520501, 28522524
Fax : +91-11/28522965

E-mail: unanimedicine@gmail.com

Website: www.ccrum.net

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