

SPEECH OF DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'UNANI MEDICINE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH' AND UNANI DAY CELEBRATIONS ON 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2019 AT VIGYAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Minorities Affairs, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi Ji,

Hon'ble Minister of DoNER, Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji,

Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik Ji,

Secretary (AYUSH), Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha Ji,

Adviser Unani, Dr. Tahir Ahmad ji

Other dignitaries on the dais,

Our friends from media,

All the learned researchers, physicians, and scholars who are gathered here,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to be present here in the Inaugural Ceremony of the National Conference on Unani Medicine and the Unani Day Celebrations, 2019. Unani Day is celebrated by the Ministry of Ayush on the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of February every year and I must congratulate the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine for organizing the National Conference on the theme 'Unani Medicine for Public Health' on this occasion today.

Health is a subject that concerns not only the health professionals but each one of us. Health is viewed holistically as an interacting system with mental, emotional and physical components. The World Health Organization defines health as "State of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of diseases or infirmity". Its health strategy emphasises on methodologies for harnessing the potential contribution of Traditional and Complementary Medicine to health, wellness and person-centred healthcare.

India possesses a rich heritage of traditional systems of medicine which have been playing an important role in providing holistic health care to

the masses down the ages. Each of the AYUSH systems, Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homeopathy is unified on this concept of 'holistic treatment'. These systems are meant to enhance the total health of a human being from both mental and physical aspects. Out of these, Unani system of Medicine is unique as it has been nurtured by the best of intellect of many cultures. The system has assimilated so well in the Indian civilization that today it is recognized by Government of India as one of the important components of Indian system of medicine. It has come to form an integral part of our present day healthcare delivery system. This integration of Unani medicine in mainstream healthcare is based on the prior acceptability of the system in the public.

The Unani System of Medicine has some significant features such as accessibility, affordability and holistic approach towards healthy living. Another strong point is that drugs used in this system are mostly obtained from plants and minerals, so they are comparatively safer. This system also offers time-tested remedies for various common and chronic ailments. The popularity and demand for Unani medicine has helped the Government in making available Unani facility in many health centres in India, which are running successfully. Unani medicine can offer the right solution for many health challenges we are facing due to lack of treatment and paucity of resources. So today, when I am addressing this august gathering of stakeholders of Unani system of medicine, I am sure they understand the vital role they can play in the current scenario.

I would like to iterate here that designation of Hakim Ajmal Khan's birthday as Unani Day to showcase the strength of this system further shows the belief and commitment of the Government towards the cause of the traditional systems of medicine. As we all know, Hakim Ajmal Khan Sahib besides being an eminent Unani physician, was one of the most influential personalities in the fight for freedom and respected across all communities. This day is of importance not only to Unani fraternity but also to the whole country. Hakim Sahib was a humane, versatile genius, intensely committed,

articulate and a remarkable combination of honesty, high idealism and professional skill. He vigorously advocated the cause of both Unani and Ayurveda systems of medicine together. He stressed that the traditional systems which had well served the people in the past should continue and make progress without any hindrance. His contributions to India on the whole and the traditional systems of medicine in particular cannot be neglected.

While we acknowledge the time tested efficacy of our traditional systems of medicine, it is also important to remember that in today's world, we all need to progress and evolve with the changing times. Scientific validation of our age old therapies is important for greater acceptance and globalization of our systems and I believe that collaborations with scientists from varied streams like Biochemistry, Biogenetics, Bioinformatics, Nanotechnology is the need of the hour for bringing out the yet unknown facts of Unani medicine. At this juncture, it is indeed, heartening to see that the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, which is an apex organisation working in research & development of Unani system of medicine has obtained significant leads in clinical research, drug standardisations, survey and cultivation of medicine plants and literary research during the past four decades of its existence. I am also happy to note that the CCRUM is actively engaged in the collaborative research for promotion and development of Unani medicine and is collaborating with various leading national and international scientific institutions. The Council has signed MOU with South Africa, Bangladesh and Tajikistan and is having active dialogue with Iran, UAE, Sri Lanka and various other countries. I also welcome the delegates from Bangladesh and Tajikistan participating in this Conference.

Before concluding, I would like to say a line of encouragement for the young students and researchers who are present here today and would be attending the deliberations of the conference. This conference is a perfect opportunity for you to learn from the knowledge and experiences of the renowned experts and broaden your vision and horizon to progress in the

field. In such intellectual gathering, one can build a network with the experts who can raise your calibre of work to greater heights. I have seen the programme of the conference and I must say that it is a very well structured programme and covers all the key areas. I am sure that the deliberations during the conference will strengthen the utilisation of Unani system in mainstream healthcare.

I have great pleasure in participating in the Unani Day Celebrations and to formally inaugurate the National Conference on Unani Medicine on the theme of “Unani Medicine for Health” and I wish the Conference a grand success.

Thank You,

Jai Hind.