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S. No.	CONTENTS	Page No.	
	Editorial		
28	A Review on Transdermal Drug Delivery System P.Palanisamy, B.Jaykar, B.S.Venkateswarlu, R.Margret Chandira, and Suriyan. D	27035-27056	
29	Screening of <i>In vitro</i> Antidiabetic Activity of Coconut Shell and Pericarp by Alpha Amylase Inhibitory Assay Dhanish Joseph, Hima Davis and Arya Venugopal	27057-27065	
30	A Review: Vaccine Drug Delivery System P.Palanisamy, B.Jaykar, B.S.Venkateswarlu, R.Margret Chandira and Krishnaswami	27066-27081	
31	Formulation and Evaluation of Topical Gel Incorporated with Nimesulide Loaded Magnetite Nanoparticles Dhanish Joseph, Jebini Elizabeth Thomas, Manju Maria Mathews and Maria Jose	27082-27088	
32	Controlled Drug Delivery System B.S.Venkateswarlu, P.Palanisamy, R.Margret Chandira and Sandhya	27089-27095	
33	Taxonomic Diversity of the Weed Medicinal Flora used by Aboriginal People of Purulia District (W.B) India Nandadulal Sannigrahi and Amal Kumar Mondal	27096-27106	
34	Review Article of Proteins, Peptides and Macromolecules Drug Delivery System B.S.Venkateswarlu, R.Margret Chandira, Suriyan.D and P.Palanisamy	27107-27120	
35	Estimation of Antioxidant, Cytotoxic Activity of Attatic Curanam M.Suriyaprakash, A.Magesh, K. Jayabalan and R.Rajeshkannan	27121-27125	
36	Lung Cancer and Its Types R. Margret Chandira, B. S. Venkateswarlu, Antony Amal Raj, P. Palanisamy and A.Dominic	27126-27130	
37	Studies on the Antioxidants Activities in <i>Gloriosa superba</i> L. among Five Different Accessions of Tamil Nadu State, South India J.A.Paul Jasmine, V.Gurusamy, K.Palanisamy, V. Balakrishnan and T. Sundari	27131-27140	
38	Review of Hydrogels for Drug Delivery at Present R. Margret Chandira, B. S. Venkateswarlu, P. Palanisamy, Kavya, and A.Dominic	27141-27151	
39	Electrospun Nanofibers- New Delivery System A Review R.Margret Chandira, P.Palanisamy, B.S.Venkateswarlu, C.Pasupathi, and A.Dominic	27152-27163	
40	Biodegradable Nanoparticle Delivery System - An Overview R. Margret Chandira, B. S. Venkateswarlu, M. Prabakaran, P. Palanisamy and A.Dominic	27164-27173	
41	India's Globally Important <i>Sterculia urens</i> Roxb. in Crisis: Critical Insights into Conservation, Prospects and Challenges Anjali Shukla and Nainesh Modi	27174-27182	

42	Fecundity of Catfish, <i>Sperata aor</i> (Hamilton, 1822) from Bhadra Reservoir, Karnataka D.S.Somashekar, M.Venkateshwarlu and B.R.Kiran	27183-27188
43	A Review on Anti-Hypertensive P.Palanisamy, B.Jaykar, B.S.Venkateswarlu, R.Margret Chandira, and Krishnaswami	27189-27204
44	Measurement of Acoustics in Kolli Hills-An Ecotourism Place of Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu State, South India J.Karunamoorthi, K.Palanisamy, V.Gurusamy, V.Balakrishnan and T. Sundari	27205-27213
45	Protein and Peptide Based Drug Delivery System: A Review R. Margret Chandira, B. S. Venkateswarlu, P. Palanisamy, C Pasupathi and A.Dominic	27214-27225
46	Vaccine Delivery Systems - A Review R. Margret Chandira, B. S. Venkateswarlu, Prabakaran.M, P. Palanisamy and A.Dominic	27226-27235
47	Corticosteroids in Dental Impaction - A Literature Review Janani Kandamani, Sudarssan Subramaniam Gouthaman, Divya S. R and M.P.Santhosh Kumar	27236-27242
48	The Impact of Phorate on the Protein Levels of the Fresh Water Fish, <i>Catla catla</i> N.T.Jeba Shiny and S. Lakshmanan	27243-27246
49	A Review on Nanoparticles and Its Properties CH N V S MASTANRAO and R. Margret chandira	27247-27252
50	Antibacterial Efficacy of Silver Nanoparticles against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Prashik Parvekar, Jayant Palaskar and Sandeep Metgud	27253-27257

Editor Message



On 17 December 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1996 (resolution 50/81). Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security represents an unprecedented acknowledgement of the urgent need to engage young peace builders in promoting peace and countering extremism, and clearly positions youth as important partners in the global efforts.

The UNESCO Youth Programme emphasizes in its work that youth are not just beneficiaries, but they are essential leaders and partners in finding solutions to the issues faced by young people in the world today. They must be fully engaged in social development themselves and supported in this work by their societies. In line with its Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, the UNESCO Youth Programme works to create an enabling environment in which this goal can be achieved, by bringing youth voices to the fore and encouraging young people to take action. The theme of International Youth Day 2020, "Youth Engagement for Global Action" seeks to highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes, as well as draw lessons on how their representation and engagement in formal institutional politics can be significantly enhanced.

In this day occasion the UN secretary general António Guterres has given a message "This year's Youth Day occurs as the lives and aspirations of young people continue to be upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some have lost their lives, and many have seen family members and other loved ones perish" Also Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande General Assembly President has been stated his message that "Young people are the trail-blazers of progress. As entrepreneurs, activists and community leaders, you not only inspire change – you create it. In the era of COVID-19 and the long-lasting social and economic negative effects it has on youth - and with only 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals - your vision and commitment are paramount to creating a more sustainable and inclusive world".

The 1.2 billion young people living worldwide are both rights bearers and active agents in the realization of our universal human rights. It is your right, and our global responsibility, to ensure that people everywhere have access to just and equitable opportunities to fulfil their rights and aspirations. The potential for humanity to create a peaceful, prosperous future will not be reached as long as inequities and discrimination against youth remain commonplace, and young people lack opportunities to have their voices heard. On behalf of IJONS we wish and congratulate all of the young people who are in development works for the nation and by the nation.

Vijikumar Sahadevan
IJONS

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