

TERROR IN KOLKATA
THE FUSION LIFESTYLE



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CONCLAVE

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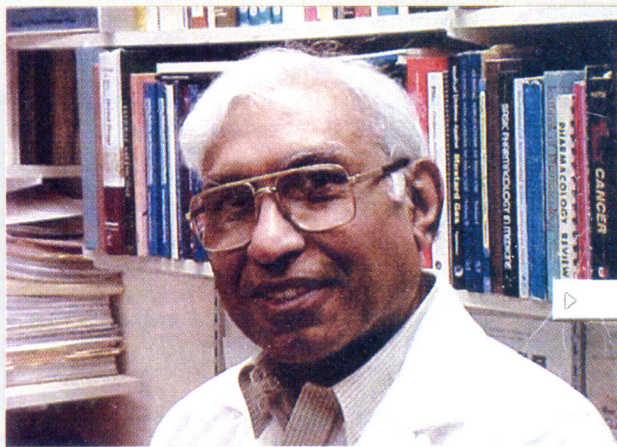
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EXCLUSIVE OPINION POLL

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TO many the name of Satu M. Somani immediately connects to nerve agents and mustard gas. But Somani, professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Southern Illinois University's (SIU) School of Medicine, is also spearheading research into ayurveda. Somani is a member of the Complimentary and Alternative Medicine Task force at SIU's Springfield campus, which is studying, among other things, Cisplatin, a highly toxic cancer drug that can damage the kidney and lead to hearing loss. Somani wants to see how herbal drugs could enhance the body's antioxidant system and is putting to the test plant extracts like ginger and ginkgo biloba. In the winter edition of *Aspect* magazine, he notes, "I call it deductive

Natural Instincts



DOUBLY APPRECIATIVE: Somani is proud of his Indian and US links

medicine because it has been handed over from generation to generation." Somani, who has been in America for nearly four decades, is proud of his In-

dian connection. Somani believes that an immigrant can serve both his new home and the country of his origin. He is the founding treasurer of the first Hindu temple in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has been active in many social organizations from his student days. The Somani family has established a **Illinois** Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust in Hingoli, Maharashtra, which gives numerous scholarships to deserving students, foreign travel fellowships and awards in literature and science

for creative work. "Giving back to the community is very much an Indian tradition," he says, "it is a good American tradition, too."

—Mabel Pais