

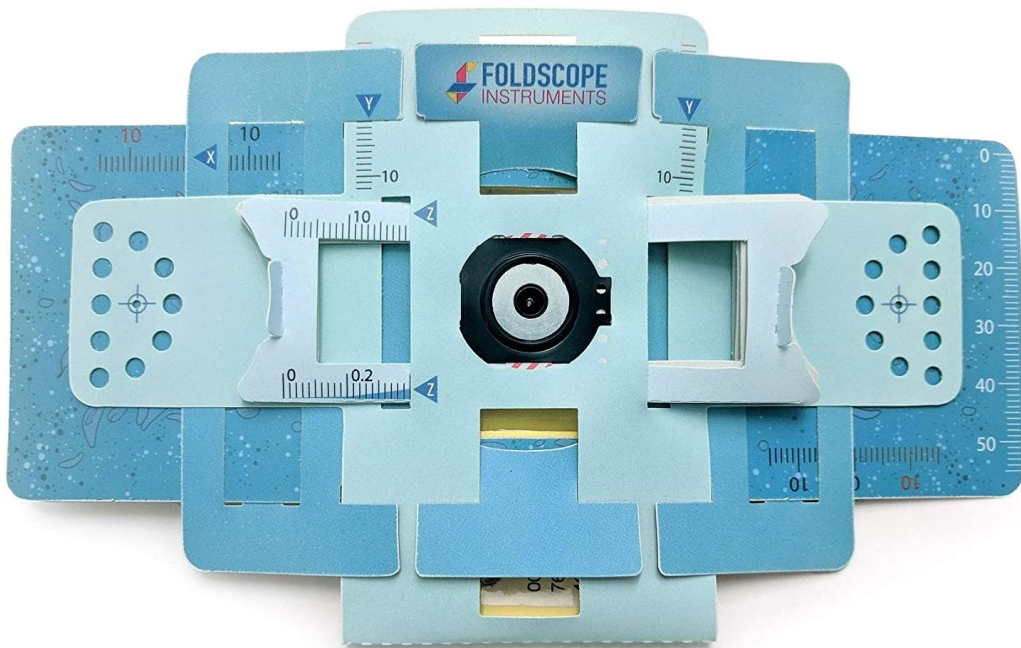


The Paper Microscope: Foldscope

Why in News

Recently, some doctors have explored and validated the clinical utility of **foldscope** in the diagnosis of diseases using various patient samples.

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Key Points

▪ Foldscope:

- It is an **affordable microscope** that can be made from simple components, including a **sheet of paper and a lens**. It cost less than a Rs. 100 to make a Foldscope.
- Upon assembly, the device can hold a specimen slide for observation, and this **specimen can be viewed via a mobile phone camera** attached to it.
- It is **portable and durable**, and performs on par with conventional microscopes.
- It was **developed by Manu Prakash** and is part of the "**frugal science**" movement which aims to make cheap and easy tools available for scientific use in the developing world

▪ Benefits:

- Foldscope can be **used to diagnose diseases** like oral health, urinary tract infection (UTI), leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis, and monitor kidney stones.
- It can be **employed in public healthcare centres for primary diagnosis** or as

personal health monitoring devices.

- Apart from the medical field **it can also be used in agriculture**, to detect various types of microorganisms which affect the crops and animals.

Source: PIB

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