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1. 'Gujarat Declaration' outlining the outcome of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 released (Sept. 5, 2023)

The World Health Organization (WHO) released the outcome document of the first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 as the "Gujarat Declaration".

An Overview of the News

- The "Gujarat Manifesto" reaffirms the global commitment **to traditional medicine for health and wellness.**
- This emphasizes the need for rigorous scientific methods to understand and implement holistic and context-specific healthcare approaches.
- India, as the host of the WHO Global Center for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat, plays an important role in supporting Member States and taking forward the work agenda of the summit.
- **Key objectives** include enhancing evidence-based traditional complementary integrative medicine (TCIM), promoting standardized documentation, and establishing a global network of TCIM reference clinical centers.
- The declaration emphasizes leveraging digital health technologies, especially artificial intelligence, for digital resources related to TCIM.
- The summit was **organized by WHO** and **co-hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 17 - 18 August 2023.**

AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy):-

- The Ministry of AYUSH was established on **9 November 2014** to revive the knowledge of traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- It focuses on education and research in the fields of Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.
- AYUSH Minister - **Sarbananda Sonowal**

World Health Organization (WHO)

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Established - **April 7, 1948**
- "World Health Day" - **7 April**
- Headquarters - **Geneva, Switzerland**
- Director General - **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia**

2. India to host ASEAN countries conference on traditional medicines (July 13, 2023)

India-to-host-ASEAN-countries-conference-on-traditional-medicines

The Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Mission to ASEAN and ASEAN Secretariat, is organizing a Conference on Traditional Medicines for ASEAN Countries on 20th July, 2023.

An Overview of the News

- The aim of the conference is **to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing between India and ASEAN countries in the field of traditional medicines.**
- **The "Act East Policy"** launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a new impetus to the strategic partnership between India and ASEAN.

Growth and Achievements of Ministry of AYUSH:

- The Ministry of AYUSH has seen significant growth since it became an independent ministry in 2014.
- Collaboration with international organizations and national institutions has allowed high-quality research on AYUSH systems in various health conditions, including non-communicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus, cancer, mental health, and infectious diseases such as COVID-19.
- The ASEAN conference will serve as a platform for sharing research results and experiences in the field of traditional medicine.

Conference Goals:

- To facilitate exchange of best practices and recent developments in the regulatory framework for the promotion of traditional medicine in ASEAN member countries.
- Strengthening international cooperation in AYUSH through collaboration and establishment of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ASEAN countries and other countries.

Participant Details:

- A total of 75 participants will participate in the conference, including international delegates from eight ASEAN countries and two international delegates participating virtually.
- Delegates will brainstorm and share ideas on traditional medicine during the one-day conference held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

About Ministry of AYUSH

- It is a **government ministry in India.**

- It is responsible for **the development, promotion and regulation of traditional systems of medicine.**
- AYUSH is the abbreviation of **Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Society** and aims **to promote education and research of the above.**
- The ministry provides educational and training programs.

Establishment - **2014**

Responsible Ministers - **Sarbananda Sonowal, Cabinet Minister and Mahendra Munjapara, Minister of State**

Ministry Executive - **Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary**

Ministry of Motherhood - **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**

3. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the two-day National Ayush Mission Conclave in New Delhi (May 18, 2023)

Union-Minister-Sarbananda

On 18 May Union Minister of AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the two-day **National AYUSH Mission (NAM) Conclave in New Delhi.**

An Overview of the News

- The two-day conclave will pave the way for better coordination among stakeholders and strengthen the functioning of AYUSH health and wellness centres.
- **The objective of the mission** is to increase the availability, reach and quality of AYUSH health services across the country through AYUSH Health Wellness Centers as part of the Ayushman Bharat scheme of the Government of India.
- The government had approved operationalization of 12,500 AYUSH health wellness centres by upgrading existing AYUSH dispensaries and health sub-centres under the broad umbrella of NAM in a phased manner.
- **More than 8500 such centres** have been established across the country and are serving the communities.

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4. Thiruvananthapuram to host fifth Global Ayurveda Festival in December (May 13, 2023)

The **fifth edition** of the **Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2023)** will take place in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala** from **December 1 to December 5, 2023**.

An overview of the news

- The event is being organized by the **Center for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA)** in collaboration with the **Ministry of AYUSH, Government of Kerala and several Ayurveda associations**.
- Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, **V Muraleedharan** is the **chairman of the organizing committee** of the event.
- The event will focus on showcasing the potential of Ayurveda in addressing the health challenges of the present day world and setting up a platform for **global networking of Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders**.
- The theme of GAF 2023 is "**Emerging Challenges in Healthcare and a Resurgent Ayurveda**".
- Top scientists including Nobel laureates and **7,500 delegates from 75 countries** are expected to participate in the event.
- The event will also explore how to effectively present Ayurveda in the tourism sector, which can contribute immensely to the development of Kerala.

About Global Ayurveda Festival

- The Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) is a **biennial event** that aims to showcase the **potential of Ayurveda as a holistic system of medicine**.
- The festival provides a **platform for global networking of Ayurveda practitioners and stakeholders**.
- The festival includes **presentations of research papers, poster sessions, and exhibitions of Ayurvedic medicines, herbal products, and wellness services**.

5. World Homeopathy Day: 10 April (April 10, 2023)

World Homeopathy Day: 10 April

World Homeopathy Day is observed every year on **10th April** to mark the **birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, the **founder of Homeopathy**.

An Overview of the News

- The **Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH)** under the **Ministry of AYUSH** organized a scientific conference on the occasion in New Delhi.
- The conference was inaugurated by **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar** and its theme is '**Homoe Parivar - Universal Health, One Health, One Family**'.
- The conference included sessions on **policy aspects, advances in homeopathy, research evidence and clinical experiences in homeopathy**.
- CCRH exchanged **Memorandums of Understanding (MoU)** with various Homeopathic Colleges and Directorate of **Homeopathy, Government of Kerala**.
- In addition, a documentary, a portal and **eight books of CCRH** were released during the event.

History of World Homeopathy Day

- Samuel Hahnemann was born in Paris on **10 April 1755** and was a renowned physician and scholar.
- He discovered the **fundamental principle of homeopathy**, known as "**like cures like**".
- Homeopathy is widely used in India and is considered a safe form of **treatment with minimal side effects**.
- World Homeopathy Day is organised under the **Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India**.
- The day aims **to raise awareness about homeopathy and its benefits as an alternative form of medicine**.

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Establishment - **2014**

Responsible Ministers - **Sarbananda Sonowal, Cabinet Minister and Mahendra Munjapara, Minister of State**

Ministry Executive - **Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary**

Ministry of Motherhood - **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India**

6. Government organised the birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj, the religious leader of the Banjara community for the first time (Feb. 27, 2023)

For the first time, the Union Ministry of Culture is organising a year-long festival to mark the 284th birth anniversary of **Santh Sevalal Maharaj**, the spiritual and religious leader of the **Banjara community**.

An overview of the news:

- This jubilee year program started on February 26, 2023 under the **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**. Under this, a two-day program was organised as a part of the 284th birth anniversary celebrations on February 26-27, 2023 at Dr. Ambedkar International Center in New Delhi.
- Home Minister Amit Shah was invited as the chief guest in this program.
- For the last 3 years, New Delhi based Santh Sevalal Maharaj Charitable Trust has been celebrating it in Delhi.

Santh Sevalal Maharaj:

- He was born on February 15, 1739 at **Suragondankoppa in Shivamogga district of Karnataka**.
- He is considered a social reformer and spiritual teacher of the **Banjara community**.
- Due to his extraordinary knowledge, excellent skills and spiritual background in Ayurveda and Naturopathy, he was able to dispel the myths and superstitions prevalent in the tribal communities and improve their lives.
- In states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Santh Sevalal Maharaj is the revered icon of every Banjara family.
- In February, the birth anniversary of Santh Sevalal Maharaj ji is celebrated with great pomp in all these states.
- The Samadhi Sthal of Santh Sevalal Ji is situated at Pohradevi in Manora Taluka of Washim District of Maharashtra, which is also known as Banjara Kashi.
- The population of the **Banjara community in the country is 10 to 12 crores**.

7. 'SMART' program for Ayurveda professionals launched to regulate and boost R&D in Ayurveda (Jan. 2, 2023)

In order to regulate Ayurvedic medical education and boost the research and development in Ayurveda, the government has launched '**SMART**' (**Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals**) program on 2 January 2023.

The SMART program has been jointly launched by the **Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)** and the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)**. Both the Institutions come under the Union Ministry of Ayush.

The proposed initiative is conceptualized with an objective to identify, support and promote innovative research ideas in healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.

The program was launched by **Vaidya Jayant Deopujari**, Chairman, NCISM and **Prof. Rabinarayan Acharya**, Director General, CCRAS in the presence of **Prof. B. S. Prasad**, President of Board of Ayurveda, NCISM and other senior officials.

Every year **23 October** is observed as [Ayurveda Diwas](#) in India.

Union Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy)

- The Ministry of AYUSH was set up on the 9th of November 2014 to revive the knowledge of traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- It focuses on education and research in the fields of Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy.
- Minister of AYUSH: **Sarbananda Sonowal**

8. 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022 inaugurated in Goa (Dec. 8, 2022)

9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022 inaugurated in Goa

The 4 day (8-11 December) **9th World Ayurveda Congress** (WAC) was inaugurated on 8 December 2022 at **Panaji, Goa** in the presence of Union Minister of State for Tourism and Shipping, Ports and Waterways **Shripad Naik** and the Chief Minister of Goa **Dr Pramod Sawant**.

The main objective of the conference is to provide a global platform for all the stakeholders, including industry leaders, practitioners etc to strengthen the Ayurveda sector, envision its future, and facilitate interaction between professionals and consumers to boost Ayurveda commerce.

Theme of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2022: **Ayurveda for One Health**.

A MoU was signed between [All India Institute of Ayurveda \(AIIA\)](#) and **Rosenberg's European Academy of Ayurveda, Germany** to facilitate advanced studies in traditional Indian medicine systems.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to attend the valedictory function of WAC on 11 December.

Every year 23 October is observed in India as [Ayurveda Day](#).

9. Ayurveda Day (Oct. 23, 2022)

Ayurveda Day

The 7th [Ayurveda](#) Day is being observed all over India on 23 October 2022. Ayurveda day is observed on Dhanwantari Jayanti and this year it is being observed on 23 October 2022. All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the Ministry of Ayush, is the nodal agency for implementing the Ministry of Ayush's mandate for Ayurveda Day this year. The first Ayurveda day was observed in 2016.

Ayurveda Day 2022

As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav the Government of India organized a six week long programme (12th September-23rd October) to interact with and sensitize the people so that the message of Ayurveda can percolate down to all levels.

The main event on Ayurveda Day was held in **New Delhi** by the Ministry of Ayush and the Union Minister for Tribal Affairs **Arjun Munda** was the Chief Guest.

Theme of the Ayurveda Day 2022

The theme of Ayurveda Day 2022 is "**Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda**" so as to propagate benefits of Ayurveda to larger and grass root communities.

Who was Dhanwantari?

The original conception of Ayurveda in its entirety is essentially linked to Dhanwantari who is considered as God of Hindu Medicine.

Dhanwantari is considered a mythical deity born with ambrosia (Amrit) in one hand and Ayurveda on the other at the end of the churning of milk ocean (Samudra Manthan). He reincarnated himself in the Chandra dynasty. He was born to King Dhanwa, learnt Ayurveda from Bharadwaja.

His great grandson Divodasa was also known as Dhanwantari, but was specialised only in the surgical branch of Ayurveda. **Sushruta**, is said to have learnt the art of science of surgery from Divodasa Dhanwantara.

10. 9th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo (Oct. 14, 2022)

Union Minister of AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the **Curtain Raiser** (a small event that happens before a bigger one and is a preparation for it) for the **9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) and Arogya Expo** in **Panaji** on 13 October.

Important facts

- The event will be held in Goa from **December 8 to December 11, 2022**.
- The event is supported by the Central Government and State Governments as well as the Union Ministry of AYUSH.

- The four-day event** will see participation from over 5000 Ayurveda stakeholders –
- industry stalwarts, practitioners, traditional healers, academics, students, drug makers, medicinal plant growers as well as marketing strategists from across the globe.
 - Due to the efforts of the Government of India, the market turnover of AYUSH sector has grown from USD 3 billion to more than USD 18 billion in the last 8 years.
 - Every year on **October 23, Ayurveda Day** is celebrated by the Ministry of AYUSH on **Dhanwantri Jayanti**.
 - The motto of this year's celebration is "**Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda**" (**Ayurveda Everyday, Ayurveda Everywhere**).
 - All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi is the nodal agency for the implementation of this programme.
 - Speaking on the occasion, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that Goa is planning to become a premier Ayurveda and Health Tourism Center based on several initiatives.