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1. 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.

2. 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.

3. AIIA signs Mou with NIAIST, Japan to promote collaboration in Research of Ayurveda and Traditional medicine (Oct. 7, 2022)

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), under the Ministry of AYUSH, and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 7 October 2022 in New Delhi to promote Institute's research activities both at a national and international stage.

The MoU will enable both countries to promote research collaboration and building capacities in the field of the Indian Ayurvedic system of traditional medicines. All these activities will be executed in support of the Ministry of Ayush.

AIIA already has MoUs with the European Academy of Ayurveda, Bernstein, Germany; Western Sydney University, Australia; Graz Medical University, Austria; College of Medical, UK; London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK and Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)

All India Institute of Ayurveda is an apex institute for Ayurveda which is being set up in New Delhi. It has been set up to make Ayurveda an evidence based treatment and standardize the Ayurveda drugs.

Current Director of AIIA: **Professor Tanuja Manoj Nessari**.

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**

4. CCRAS 'SPARK' Program to Support Innovative Research in Ayurveda (Sept. 3, 2022)

The Central Council of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has prepared the '**Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken' (SPARK)** for the students of Ayurveda (BAMS) studying in recognized Ayurveda colleges.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- Pramod Kumar Pathak, Special Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India and Vaidya Jayant Yashwant Devapujari, Chairman, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) launched this fellowship scheme and its application portal at an event held on 2nd September, 2022.

Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK) :

- SPARK is a unique initiative to support the research efforts of young talent of the country.
- The SPARK program has been developed primarily to help students develop research skills and to further support and encourage their research ideas.
- The application process for SPARK will be completely online through the portal www.spark.ccras.nic.in.
- Interested candidates have to submit their research proposal through SPARK portal.
- These proposals will be evaluated by eminent experts and reviewers.
- Under this fellowship, a financial assistance of Rs 50,000 will be offered to the selected research scholar.
- Initially, there will be a total of 100 seats in each session.

Purpose of SPARK :

- It aims to support the research ideas of young undergraduate students enrolled in Ayurveda colleges across the country.

Central Council of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) :

- CCRAS is an institute located in **New Delhi** to promote Ayurvedic science and research work on it in the country and abroad.
- The Council is currently working on various R&D projects in collaboration with leading research institutions from **Romania, Germany, Israel, USA, Canada** and the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.
- In order to complement the efforts of the Ministry of AYUSH for the promotion and dissemination of Ayurveda education across the world, the Council has partnered with leading educational institutions across the world and established Ayurveda Chairs in **11 countries**.

5. Ministry of AYUSH signs MoU with MeitY for digitalisation of AYUSH sector (Aug. 17, 2022)

The Ministry of AYUSH and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the AYUSH Grid project.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- As a part of the MoU, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of AYUSH to digitise the AYUSH sector for a period of 3 years.
- This MoU is a continuation of an MoU signed in 2019.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will provide technical support including adoption of emerging technologies for the AYUSH Grid project.
- Advisory input on the AYUSH Grid project will be provided by a high level advisory committee. The committee will be headed by Secretary AYUSH and co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Ayush Grid Project :

- AYUSH Grid is a proposed central information and communication platform that will provide various technical services for standardisation of all systems of medicine (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy) under AYUSH.
- The AYUSH Grid project was launched by the Ministry of AYUSH in 2018 to form a backbone for the IT sector.
- The project was launched under the Digital India program which supports 'Information and Technology' to enhance service quality and improve service delivery.
- The project will allow integration of all stakeholders and services or functions related to AYUSH systems of health care.

6. UK Parliament honours Tanuja Nesari with Ayurveda Ratna award (July 5, 2022)

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) Director Tanuja Nesri has been conferred with the Ayurveda Ratna Award by the UK Parliament.

- The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science (ITSappg) presented the award in recognition of his contribution to promoting the development of Ayurveda in India and abroad.

- The award was presented on the occasion of International Day of Yoga (June 21).
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Science was formed in 2014 with the aim of spreading the knowledge of Ayurveda, Yoga, Astrology, Vastu, Unani and Sangeet to the United Kingdom and abroad.
- **About All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**
- Establishment - 2017
- Headquarters - New Delhi

7. Tamil Nadu tops food safety index (June 8, 2022)

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Union Health Ministry has released the State Food Safety Index 2021-2022.

Tamil Nadu topped the State Food Safety Index this year.

- **Top three big states in the index**

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Gujarat
3. Maharashtra

- **Top three smaller states in the index**

1. Goa
2. Manipur
3. Sikkim

- **Top three UTs in the index**

1. Jammu and Kashmir
2. Delhi
3. Chandigarh

- **New Eat Right India initiatives launched**

- Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya launched various innovative initiatives by FSSAI including Eat Right Research Awards and Grants Phase II, Eat Right Creativity Challenge Phase III, a competition at school level.

- He unveiled the logo for the Ayurveda diet, which includes the initials of Ayurveda and Ahara, with 5 leaves symbolizing the five elements of nature.

- **About State Food Safety Index**

- The index is developed by FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
- It was started in 2018-19.
- Its aim is to create a competitive and positive change in India's food safety ecosystem.
- It measures the performance of states on five significant parameters of Food Safety.
- These parameters are - Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing - Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

[For more information please visit 7th June 2022 news.](#)

8. PM Modi Announces Plan To Issue AYUSH Visas For Foreigners (April 21, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the Centre would soon introduce a special Ayush visa category for foreign nationals who want to come to India to take advantage of traditional medicine.

- It will be a part of initiatives to promote medical tourism.
- With this visa, it will be easier for foreigners to come to India for AYUSH treatment.
- Ayush methods of treatment are Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.
- It aims to further promote medical tourism in the country with a special focus on treatment under traditional systems of medicine.
- Just as traditional medicine has given a boost to tourism in Kerala, it has the same potential in every nook and corner of the country.
- As the acceptance of traditional medicines is growing, the market for the Ayush products has grown manifold since 2014 from about Three Billion Dollars to about \$18.2 Billion now.
- Tedros announced holding an annual international meet for Traditional medicines in Gujarat.
- The first meeting will be held next year, when WHO and India together celebrate 75 years.

- **Other important announcements by PM**

—Special AYUSH hallmark for high quality AYUSH products

—Expansion of AYUSH e-marketplace to enable farmers involved in growing medicinal plants to easily connect with the market.

—India will set up a network of Ayush Parks in the country to popularise Ayush products, encourage manufacturing and R&D in the area.

9. WHO Global centre for Traditional medicine in India (March 26, 2022)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has signed an agreement with the government of India to set up a WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The Agreement was signed on 25 March 2022 in Geneva by the Secretary, Ministry of Ayush Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, and Director General, WHO Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

- The Government of India will invest \$250 million in the center .
- The primary objective of GCTM is to harness the potential of traditional medicine from across the world through modern science and technology and improve overall health of the communities' world over.
- The WHO centre will be under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- It is the only such centre on traditional medicine of WHO in the world.

Traditional Medicine

- According to the WHO, Traditional medicine is the sum total of the knowledge, skill, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.

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**

World Health Organisation (WHO)

- The World Health Organisation is a specialised agency of the United Nations which was founded on 7 April, 1948.
- Every year 7 April is celebrated as “World Health Day”.
- Headquarters of WHO : Geneva, Switzerland
- Director General of WHO : Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia .
- He was elected as WHO director General in 2017 and later re-elected in 2022 for a period of 5 years.