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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. Walkthrough for C-20 Working Group on Integrated Holistic Health organized by AIIA (April 10, 2023)

On April 8, 2023, the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** under the **Ministry of AYUSH** organized a walkthrough for the '**C20 Working Group on Integrated Holistic Health**'.

An overview of the news:

- The event was attended by a large gathering of over 400 delegates and the institute showcased how an integrated approach can be effectively implemented in the field of health care.

C-20:

- The C-20 is one of the **eight official working groups of the G-20** Forum.
- The **19 countries** in the C-20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- C-20 India 2023 is one of the official engagement groups of G-20 which provides a platform for civil society organizations (CSOs) in the world to articulate people's aspirations for world leaders in G-20.
- The walkthrough, organized by the institute, took the delegates to the hospital and highlighted how an integrated approach in healthcare can be effectively implemented for the betterment of humanity.
- AIIA has also signed an MoU with **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University** for cooperation and coordination in the field of research and education in the field of **Ayurveda**.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (AVV):

- AVV is a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary research academic university, hereinafter referred to as **Amrita**.

On this occasion, AIIA launched the **Millet Calendar** by **Dr. Anita Bhatia**, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women.

4. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Department of Integrative Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital (Feb. 8, 2023)

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Department of Integrative Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, Waterways and AYUSH **Sarbananda Sonowal** and Health Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** jointly inaugurated the **Department of Integrated Medicine** at **Safdarjung Hospital**, New Delhi on 7 February.

An overview of the news

- This Department of Integrated Medicine will further the **collaboration between traditional and modern systems of medicine** to provide better service to the citizens.
- These centers will treat patients using both **Ayurveda and modern medicine**.
- Integrative medicine aims to harness the potential of India's rich heritage and medical knowledge, along with using modern advances in **allopathy**.
- The government will also set up a Department of Integrated Medicine in **AIIMS Delhi**.
- The Central Government has decided to open **Integrated Medical Centers** in all government medical establishments, especially all AIIMS in the country.

Integrative Medicine

- Integration of **AYUSH** with Modern Medicine for Holistic Health is Integrative Medicine.
- The Ministry of AYUSH was set up on the **9 November 2014** to revive the knowledge of traditional Indian systems of medicine.
- AYUSH focuses on education and research in the fields of **Ayurveda, Yoga Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**.

5. Ministry of AYUSH ties up with ITDC to promote Medical Value Travel in India (Jan. 24, 2023)

Ministry of AYUSH ties up with ITDC to promote Medical Value Travel in India

The **Ministry of AYUSH** has **signed an MoU with India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), Ministry of Tourism, to promote Medical Value Travel in Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine**.

An overview of the news

- The MoU was signed by Dr. Shashi Ranjan Vidyarthi, Director, Ministry of AYUSH and Shri Piyush Tiwari, Director (Commercial & Marketing), ITDC.
- Under the MoU, the Ministry of AYUSH will provide training to ITDC officials to sensitise them about the medical value of travel in Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine.
- The implementation and progress of the MoU will be monitored by a Joint Working Group (JWG), which will be co-chaired by representatives of the Ministry of AYUSH and ITDC.
- JWG will also identify best practices adopted by Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand etc. to promote themselves as preferred destinations for medical value travel.
- The opportunities and challenges to promote **Medical Value Travel in India were discussed by the G20 delegates at the recently concluded first G20 Health Working Group meeting under the chairmanship of India in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

Medical Value Travel

- Medical Value Travel is created to promote itself as a quality healthcare destination for patients around the world.
- According to the Global Wellness Institute (GWI) report 'The Global Wellness Economy: Looking Beyond Covid', the global wellness economy will grow at a rate of 9.9 percent annually.
- The AYUSH based **healthcare and wellness economy is estimated to grow to \$70 billion by 2025.**

6. Three Himalayan medicinal plants enter IUCN Red List (Dec. 12, 2022)

Three Himalayan medicinal plants enter IUCN Red List

Three medicinal plant species found in the **Himalayas** have recently been placed on the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species** following an assessment.

Important facts

- These species are found in the Himalayan region spread across **Nepal, India, China, Sikkim, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.**
- IUCN is an international organisation (NGO) working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

These three species are as follows-

About the three species

1. Meizotropis pellita

- Commonly known as **Patwa**, it is a perennial shrub that is **endemic to Uttarakhand**.
- "The species is listed as '**critically endangered**' on the basis of being found in a limited area (less than 10 sq km)," the study said.
- This species is threatened by deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and wildfires.
- The oil extracted from its leaves contains strong antioxidants and can be a natural alternative to **synthetic antioxidants** in the pharmaceutical industries.

1. **Fritillaria cirrhosa**

- It is a **perennial bulbous herb**.
- According to the study, its numbers **declined by 30%** during the assessment period (22 to 26 years).
- This species is listed as '**Vulnerable**' in view of its rate of decline, length, poor germination capacity, high trade value, extensive harvesting pressure and illegal trade.
- In China this species is used to treat **bronchial disorders and pneumonia**.
- This plant is also a strong **cough suppressant**.

1. **Dactylorhiza hatagirea**

- This species, also called the **salampanza**, is threatened by habitat loss, livestock grazing, deforestation, and climate change.
- It is used extensively in **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and other alternative systems of medicine** to cure dysentery, gastritis, chronic fever, cough and **abdominal pain**.
- This species is listed as '**endangered**'.

7. PM Modi inaugurates three National Ayush Institute of eminence in Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani (Dec. 11, 2022)

PM Modi inaugurates three National Ayush Institute of eminence in Ayurveda

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated virtually three National Institutes of eminence in Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani on 11 December 2022. The PM inaugurated the **All India Institute of Ayurveda in Goa, National Institute of Unani Medicine in Ghaziabad**, and **National Institute of Homoeopathy at Delhi** from Goa. All the three institutes will be under the Union Ministry of Ayush.

PM Modi was in Panaji, Goa to participate in the Valedictory ceremony of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress. The 9th World Ayurveda Congress was organised by the Union Ministry of Ayush in Panaji from 8-11 December 2022.

The theme of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress was: **Ayurveda for All**

According to the Ministry of Ayush, these satellite institutes will further strengthen the research, international collaborations and facilitate affordable Ayush services for a larger community. These institutes will help to provide affordable healthcare to every citizen and every region of the country.

National Institute for Ayurveda

All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) 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.

National Institute for Ayurveda Goa is the branch of the AIIA, New Delhi.

National Institute of Unani Medicine

The National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) was set up in **Bengaluru in 2004** as an autonomous institute under the Ministry of AYUSH,

The National Institute of Unani Medicine, Ghaziabad will be the satellite center of the NIUM Bengaluru. It will be the first such institute in Northern India and cater to patients around Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and other states of India.

National Institute of Homoeopathy at Delhi

National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Delhi is the first of its kind to be established in Northern India for developing the Homeopathic system of medicine and to provide health care facilities.

It will be the satellite center of the **National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata**. The National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata was set up in 1975 as a premier research and academic institution for Homoeopathy.

AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy)

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- 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. Ayush Ministry to set up an Academic Chair in Ayurvedic Science at Western Sydney University, Australia (Nov. 22, 2022)

Ayush Ministry to set up an Academic Chair

The Union ministry of Ayush announced the setting up of an Ayurveda Academic Chair based at Western Sydney University's **NICM Health Research Institute**, with tenure for a period of **three years**.

Dr. Rajagopala S., Associate Professor & Head (Department of Kaumarabhritya) All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi has been selected for the post of Academic Chair in Ayurvedic Science at Western Sydney University, Australia.

In order to promote Ayurveda and Yoga the Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 16 foreign countries for the setting up of Ayush Chair.

The Academic Chair will undertake academic and collaborative research activities in Ayurveda, including herbal medicine and yoga, as well as design academic standards and short-term/medium-term courses and educational guidelines. It will provide academic leadership in demonstrating and fostering excellence in teaching, research and policy development related to Ayurveda.

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

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- Minister of AYUSH: **Sarbananda Sonowal**

10. Google announces the winner of the Google for Doodle 2022 Contest (Nov. 14, 2022)

Google announces the winner

This year Google has declared **Kolkata's Shlok Mukherjee** as the **winner of the Google for Doodle 2022 competition** for his inspiring doodle titled '**India on the Center Stage**' for India.

Important facts

- Shloka's doodle - '**India on the Center Stage**' - expresses hope for India's scientific progress to gain further momentum in the years to come.
- The theme of the Doodle for Google contest 2022 was '**In the next 25 years, my India will be...**'.
- Sharing his doodle, Shlok wrote, "Indian scientists will succeed in developing indigenous eco-friendly robots for the betterment of humanity in the next 25 years".
- India will travel regularly from earth to space. India will be stronger in the coming years with more development in Yoga and Ayurveda.
- This year's contest received over 115,000 entries from children in classes 1 to 10 from over 100 cities across India.
- Shloka's doodle will be shown on Google.co.in for **24 hours on November 14, 2022.**
- This year's Doodle for Google judging panel included actor, filmmaker, and TV artiste **Neena Gupta.**
- The 20 finally selected doodles were displayed online for public voting. Apart from the national winner, 4 group winners were also selected.