

Insights and Commentary from Dentons

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April 2023



Don't miss the

BUZZ!

Healthcare, Pharma & Life Sciences

Weekly Insights & Updates

2 August 2022

Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar

The Ministry of Ayush and WHO signed a Host Country Agreement on March 25, 2022, for the establishment of the first WHO's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India. The salient aspects of this agreement are as follows:

- That WHO will set up GCTM Centre in Jamnagar (Gujarat).
- That it aims to support nations in developing policies & action plans to strengthen the role of traditional medicine as part of their journey to universal health coverage.
- The Government shall respect the functional independence of WHO in carrying out its activities and in assigning to the Centre such WHO officials or other WHO personnel as it deems necessary for carrying out the functions assigned to the Centre.
- The Government shall provide to WHO, free of charge, appropriate and adequate office premises for the Centre and its installations.
- The Government shall also be responsible for the maintenance and security of the workplace premises for the Centre, its installations, and technical plants, together with storage and archive space, meeting space, equipment and other facilities.

[Link to press release](#)

Implementation of Ayush Schemes

Ministry of Ayush is implementing the following Schemes in the country under 'Central Sector' and 'Centrally Sponsored Scheme' categories:

Centrally Sponsored Scheme

- National AYUSH Mission (NAM).

Central Sector Scheme

- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) in AYUSH
- Champion Services Sector Scheme for Medical Value Travel
- AYURGYAN
- AYURSWASTHYA Yojana
- AYUSH Oushadi Gunvatta evum Uttapadan Samvardhan Yojana (AOGUSY).
- Scheme for Conservation Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants.

g. Promotion of International Co-operation in AYUSH.

Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM), financial assistance is provided to the State/UT Governments as per the proposals submitted by them in their respective State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs) and as per the NAM guidelines

[Link to press release](#)

Government has taken multiple steps to further increase availability of doctors in the country

As per information provided by National Medical Commission (NMC), there are 13,08,009 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on June, 2022. Assuming 80% availability of registered allopathic doctors and 5.65 lakh AYUSH doctors, the doctor-population ratio in the country is 1:834 which is better than the WHO standard of 1:1000. Also, there are 34.33 lakh registered nursing personnel and 13 lakh Allied and Healthcare Professionals in the country.

[Link to press release](#)

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) provides a fixed day, free of cost assured, comprehensive and quality Antenatal Care

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) provides a fixed day, free of cost assured, comprehensive and quality Antenatal Care on the 9th day of every month to pregnant women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities. Under PMSMA Program, private medical practitioners are also encouraged to offer voluntary services at government health facilities. A total of 2937 volunteers are offering PMSMA services to pregnant women including poor pregnant women as well as farmer families on 9th of every month (source: PMSMA Portal). The Government honours such private medical practitioners with 'IPledgeFor9' Achievers Awards.

[Link to press release](#)

A total of 22,97,64,327 ABHA numbers have been created till 15th July 2022

Government of India launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with an aim to establish National Digital Health ecosystem by creating an online platform, enabling interoperability of health data so as to create longitudinal electronic health record (EHR) of citizens. Three key registries of ABDM namely ABHA number/Health ID, Health Professional Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR) and digital infrastructure for data exchange is created to enable data interoperability across digital health platforms. Creation of ABHA number is voluntary. Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) can be generated for citizens of all age-groups, post a KYC verification.

[Link to press release](#)

Laws for enforcing “Right to Health” for all

For enabling environment for ensuring the 'Health for all' the National Health Policy, 2017, envisages to provide universal access to good quality healthcare services through increasing access, increasing affordability by lowering the cost of healthcare delivery and equity. The policy envisages as its goal the attainment of the highest possible level of health and well-being for all at all ages, through a preventive and promotive healthcare orientation in all developmental policies, and universal access to good quality healthcare services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. The Policy is centered on the key principles of Equity; Affordability; Universality; Patient Centeredness & Quality of care; accountability; Inclusive partnerships; Pluralism and decentralization.

[Link to press release](#)

Average life expectancy at birth improved by 20 years; an increase in age from 49.7 (1970-75) to 69.7 (2015-19) has been registered

As per the latest report titled Sample Registration System (SRS) based Abridged Life Table 2015-19 published by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Government of India, the average life expectancy at birth has increased from 49.7 during 1970-75 to 69.7 during the year 2015-19 registering an increase of 20 years during this period.

[Link to press release](#)

Promoting use of Generic Medicines in the Country

Government of India is aware that despite the orders of the Courts and the relevant regulations of the Medical Council of India, generic medicines are not being prescribed by most medical practitioners. In this regard, clause 1.5 of Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 prescribes that every physician should prescribe drugs with generic names legibly and preferably in capital letters and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drug. Further, the erstwhile Medical Council of India (MCI) had issued circulars where all the Registered Medical Practitioners have been directed to comply with the aforesaid provisions.

[Link to press release](#)

Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar addresses National Family Planning Summit 2022

"India understood the importance of Family Planning early and went on to be the first country to launch a National Family Planning programme in 1952." This was stated by Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare as she chaired the National Family Planning Summit, 2022. Aligning with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, the theme of the summit was "Sustaining efforts, Steering Partnerships, Shaping Vision in Family Planning – Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas & Sabka Vikas".

[Link to press release](#)

More than 50 digital health services/ applications integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)

The National Health Authority (NHA) announced expansion of the digital health ecosystem being built under its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) with successful integrations of 52 digital health applications. In the last two months, additional 12 health service applications completed their integration across various milestones in the ABDM sandbox environment. After a successful demonstration, these applications were added to the ABDM Partners ecosystem. The tally now includes 20 government applications and 32 private sector applications.

[Link to press release](#)

Health Ministry reviews Progress of Centrally Sponsored Scheme to operationalize New Medical Colleges attached with existing District hospitals

The Centre has urged 14 States to speedily accelerate utilization of central funds and exponentially expedite completion of New Medical Colleges attached with existing District/Referral hospitals approved under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for early commencement of UG courses. The concerning slow progress of these projects was strongly highlighted by Shri Rajesh Bhushan, Union Health Secretary as he reviewed the progress with Health Secretaries and Directors (Medical Education) of 14 States and UTs through video conference (VC). 157 new medical Colleges have been sanctioned under this scheme since 2014, in three phases so far.

[Link to press release](#)

Hon'ble Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu and Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla chair event to sensitise Parliamentarians on Hepatitis

Vice President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Venkaiah Naidu along with Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla chaired an event to sensitize the parliamentarians on Hepatitis on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, 2022. Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare apprised the audience on the situation of Hepatitis in the country and explained

the need to rapidly eliminate the disease.

[Link to press release](#)

Research Wings in Ayurveda Colleges

Central Government has constituted a commission namely the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) as per the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020 to provide quality and affordable medical education, ensure availability of adequate and high quality medical professionals of Indian System of Medicine including Ayurveda in all part of the country and encourages such medical professionals to adopt latest medical research in their work and to contribute to research.

[Link to press release](#)

Ayurvedic Aahar Products

In order to recognize India's age-old principles of Ayurveda and the Aahara prepared as per ancient texts, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formulated Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022 in consultation with the Ministry of Ayush and notified the regulations in the official gazette on 5th May, 2022.

[Link to press release](#)

Diagnostic Tests for Domestic and Global Acceptance

Ayurveda treatments are planned according to various parameters like prakriti, agni, satmya etc. of a healthy or diseased state of an individual and not solely based on diagnostic tests. Under First Schedule of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and defined under Section 3(a) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules there under, 59 authoritative books of Ayurveda system of medicine, 31 authoritative books of Siddha system of Medicine and 14 authoritative books of Unani system of Medicines are mentioned. Drugs/Plants mentioned in these authoritative books are considered as classical Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani drugs.

[Link to press release](#)

Steps taken to promote Organ Donation in the Country

Government of India has the National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) to promote organ

donation and transplantation across the country. The provisions under the programme include financial support for:

- a. Setting up of State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) in each State/UT.
- b. Setting up of National/ Regional/State Bio-material centres;
- c. Establishing new Organ Transplant/retrieval facilities and strengthening of existing Organ Transplant/retrieval facilities.
- d. Provision of Transplant Coordinators to medical colleges and trauma centres.
- e. Maintenance of deceased donor
- f. Dignified funeral of deceased donor
- g. Post-transplant immune-suppressant drugs to BPL patients.

[Link to press release](#)

Initiatives by the Government for treatment of rare diseases

The Government has launched National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021 in March, 2021 for the treatment of rare disease patients. The salient features of NPRD, 2021 are as under:

The rare diseases have been identified and categorized into 3 groups namely Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3.

- a. Group 1: Disorders amenable to one-time curative treatment.
- b. Group-2: Diseases requiring long term/lifelong treatment having relatively lower cost of treatment and benefit has been documented in literature and annual or more frequent surveillance is required.
- c. Group 3:- Diseases for which definitive treatment is available but challenges are to make optimal patient selection for benefit, very high cost and lifelong therapy.

[Link to press release](#)

Steps taken for improving maternal and child health in the country

Under National Health Mission (NHM), technical and financial support to the States is given as per the proposals submitted by the States/UTs in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) based on the requirements, including maternal and child health and state specific innovations, and the approvals are accorded as Record of Proceedings (RoP) to States/UTs.

[Link to press release](#)

Initiatives for ensuring healthcare in tribal areas

There are various Government/Non-Government institutional mechanisms and survey agencies which generate data on tribal healthcare on a periodic basis. Rural Health Statistics (RHS) provides details of infrastructure and human resource in tribal areas. National Family Health Survey (NFHS) provides details on major health indicators about maternal and child health among Scheduled Tribes. Census of India provides population and household details including Tribal areas. National Sample Survey provides household surveys on various socio-economic subjects.

[Link to press release](#)

Update on Food Testing Laboratories in India

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that it has recognized/notified 224 food testing laboratories (including 53 state government laboratories, 145 private laboratories and 26 other government laboratories for primary testing and 20 laboratories for testing referral food samples). FSSAI does not establish primary food testing labs but recognizes and notifies labs based on voluntary applications. Further, FSSAI is implementing a Central Sector Scheme named "Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs (SOFTeL) under which State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTLs) are provided funds for setting up lab with basic lab equipment, installation of high end equipment and establishing microbiology lab.

[Link to press release](#)

New Specified Health Warning on Tobacco Products packs

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has notified new sets of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs by making an amendment in the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008 vide GSR 592 (E) dated July 21, 2022 “The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Third Amendment Rules, 2022”. The amended Rules will be applicable w.e.f. December 1, 2022.

[Link to press release](#)

Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates AYUSH Building Complex in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

Union Minister for AYUSH and Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated an AYUSH Building Complex at Kharghar in Navi Mumbai. This new infrastructure will house the Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy (RRIH), under Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) and Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM) under Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM).

[Link to press release](#)

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Presides over the 4th Convocation of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS)

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya presided over the 4th Foundation Day cum Convocation Day of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, a premier medical teaching and health care Institute at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. Dr Vinod Kumar Paul, Member NITI Aayog graced the occasion as the Special Guest and Dr. Atul Goel was the Guest of Honor at the Convocation which was attended by other eminent dignitaries.

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