

Insights and Commentary from Dentons

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April 2023



MISSING on your WEEKLY DOSE?

Healthcare, Pharma & Life Sciences

Weekly Insights & Updates

26 July 2022

Centre Reviews Points of Entry (PoEs) Health actions at international airports and ports in India

The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare reviewed the functioning of health screening of international travelers arriving in India at airports and ports. The meeting was attended by Airport and Port Health Officers (APHOs/PHOs) and Regional Directors from Regional Offices of Health & Family Welfare. They were advised to ensure strict health screening of all arriving international travelers which can minimize the risk of importation of monkeypox cases into the country. They were advised and re-oriented in the clinical presentation of monkeypox disease as per MoHFW's 'Guidelines for Management of Monkeypox Disease'.

[Link to press release](#)

Development of Medicine for Covid-19 Using Traditional Systems

Ministry of Ayush has formed an Inter-disciplinary AYUSH R&D Task Force having representation from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and AYUSH Institutions. The Interdisciplinary AYUSH Research and Development Task Force has formulated and designed clinical research protocols for prophylactic studies and add-on interventions in COVID-19 positive cases for studying four different interventions viz. Ashwagandha, Yashtimadhu, Guduchi + Pippali and a Polyherbal formulation (AYUSH-64). Overall, 150 clinical, pre-clinical and epidemiological studies have been undertaken by the Research Councils and National Institutes under the Ministry of Ayush.

[Link to press release](#)

Measures taken to promote the cultivation of Medicinal Plant

As per the study entitled 'Medicinal Plants in India: An Assessment of their Demand and Supply, Ved and Goraya (2017)' conducted by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) supported by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), the annual demand of herbs / medicinal plants in the country was estimated about 5,12,000 Metric Tonnes in 2014-15. As per the study, about 1178 medicinal plant species are recorded in practices of trade, out of which 242 species are traded in a high volume of more than 100 MT per annum. Further analysis of these 242 species revealed that 173 species (72%) are collected from wild sources.

[Link to press release](#)

Initiatives To Curb Rising Mental Health Cases In India

For providing affordable and accessible mental healthcare facilities to the population, including the poor and underprivileged, the Government is implementing National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) in the country. The District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) component of the NMHP has been sanctioned for implementation in 704 districts for which support is provided to States/UTs through the National Health Mission. Facilities made available under DMHP at the Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC) levels include outpatient services, assessment, counseling/ psychosocial interventions, continuing care and support to persons with severe mental disorders, drugs, outreach services, ambulance services, etc. In addition to the above services, there is a provision of 10 bedded in-patient facility at the District level.

[Link to press release](#)

Boosting cancer research and treatment in the country

The government of India has been working towards boosting cancer research and treatment in the country. In this regard, National Cancer Institute at Jhajjar (Haryana) and Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata (First and Second Campus) have been set up by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

[Link to press release](#)

Government has taken various regulatory measures since 2019 to ensure the quality of medicinal products in the country

The Government has taken various regulatory measures since 2019 to ensure the quality of medicines in the country. The key measures are as under:

- a. The Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended providing that every Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (bulk drug) manufactured or imported in India shall bear Quick Response Code on its label. The stored data or information shall include the minimum particulars including Unique product identification code, Batch No, Manufacturing date, and Expiry Date.
- b. The Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended providing that any marketer who sells or distributes any drug shall be responsible for the quality of that drug as well as other regulatory compliances along with the manufacturer under these rules.
- c. The Drugs Rules, 1945 were amended providing that "in case the applicant intends to market the drug under a brand name or trade name, the applicant shall furnish an undertaking in Form 51 to the Licensing Authority to the effect that to the best of his knowledge based on search in trademarks registry, central database for brand name or trade name of drugs maintained by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, literature and reference books on details of drug formulations in India, and internet, such or similar brand name or trade name is not already in existence with respect to any drug in the country and the proposed brand name or trade name shall not lead to any confusion or deception in the market".
- d. The manufacture for sale and distribution of 80 Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs) drugs in India was prohibited in public interest after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board.
- e. 220 additional posts of various levels have been created including Joint Drugs Controller, Deputy Drugs Controller, Asst. Drugs Controller and Drugs Inspector in the year 2022-23. In a historic achievement, India's cumulative COVID-19 vaccination drive has surpassed the 200-Crore milestone.

[Link to press release](#)

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMME

The Government has implemented the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM). With the goal of achieving Sustainable Development

Goals related to TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global targets, the programme has implemented a National Strategic Plan with the following objectives: -

- a. Early diagnosis of TB patients, prompt treatment with quality assured drugs and treatment regimens.
- b. To engage with the patients seeking care in the private sector.
- c. Prevention strategies including active case finding and contact tracing in high-risk/vulnerable population.
- d. Airborne infection control.
- e. Multi-sectoral response for addressing social determinants.

[Link to press release](#)

4.14 crore Adolescents provided Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation under the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme in 2021-22

The government of India has been working for ensuring women and child health. Progress made in the various interventions under Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram is as below:

- a. Total 7203 Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) have been established in the country; 52 lakh Adolescent clients received counseling and clinical services in AFHCs during 2021-22
- b. 4.14 crore Adolescents were provided Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation tablets under the Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) Programme in 2021-22
- c. The Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene is implemented to promote menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years. 34.92 lakh adolescent girls have been covered every month under this scheme in FY 2021-22 both through the Centre and State budgets.
- d. 7.64 lakh Peer Educators (PEs) have been selected during the period of 2016-17 to 2020-21 and out of these, 5.46 lakh Peer Educators have been trained. A total of 1.46 Lakh Adolescent Health and Wellness Days (AHWDs) were held in FY 2021-22 for awareness creation in communities and stakeholders.

[Link to press release](#)

Transplantation of Human Organs & Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 provides for regulation of removal, storage, and transplantation of human organs & tissues for therapeutic purposes

The Transplantation of Human Organs & Tissues Act (THOTA), 1994 provides for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of human organs & tissues for therapeutic purposes and for prevention of commercial dealings in human organs & tissues. The subject of artificial organs is not regulated under the aforesaid Act.

[Link to press release](#)

Achievements made under NRHM and NUHM

National Health Mission (NHM) envisages the achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable & quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs. NHM encompasses its two Sub-Missions, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). The main programmatic components include Health System Strengthening in rural and urban areas, Reproductive-Maternal- Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases.

[Link to press release](#)

Patent awarded for use of advanced automated system or instrument for Therapeutic Emesis

The Ayush sector has been constantly attempting to use technology and new innovation for various Ayurveda therapies. An advanced automated system or instrument for Therapeutic Emesis has been developed, which will make this therapy simple and convenient. Dr. B Sreenivasa Prasad, President, Board of Ayurveda, National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), and his team of inventors were granted a patent for development of an

advanced automated system or instrument for Therapeutic Emesis by the Controller of Patents,
Government of India.

[Link to press release](#)

Research and Development for traditional system of medicines

The Government of India has signed 25 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) for country-to-country cooperation in the field of medicine with Nepal, Bangladesh, Hungary, Trinidad & Tobago, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Myanmar, World Health Organization, Germany, Iran, Sao Tome & Principe, Equatorial Guinea, Cuba, Colombia, Japan, Bolivia, Gambia, Republic of Guinea, China, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Brazil, and Zimbabwe. 37 MoUs for undertaking collaborative research and development of Traditional Medicine have been signed with foreign Institutes/Universities/Organizations from the USA, Germany, UK, Canada, Malaysia, Brazil, Australia, Austria, Tajikistan, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, Japan, Indonesia, Reunion Island, Korea, Hungary, etc. 15 MoUs have been signed for setting up of Ayush Academic Chairs in foreign Institutes/Universities from Hungary, Latvia, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Russia, West-Indies, Thailand, Indonesia, Slovenia, Armenia, Argentina, Malaysia, South Africa, Australia, and Mexico.

[Link to press release](#)

Ayush Mark Certification Scheme

Ayush Mark Certification Scheme is operated by the Quality Council of India (QCI) since 2009. The salient features of the scheme are as follows:

- a. It is a voluntary certification scheme for ASU&H products having two levels: Ayush Standard Mark and Ayush Premium Mark.
- b. The Ayush Standard Mark is based on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Ayurvedic, Siddha, and Unani medicines (Schedule T) as per Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945. AYUSH Premium Mark is based on WHO's GMP guidelines covering herbal medicines.
- c. For any manufacturer to qualify for AYUSH Mark Certification, compliance with the domestic regulations is a pre-requisite. The products are certified post regulatory approval given by the State Licensing Authority of the state government concerned.
- d. The rest of the details of the scheme can be accessed at the following link:
<https://qcin.org/voluntary-certification-scheme-for-ayush-products>.

This information was given by the Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

[Link to press release](#)

Steps taken to promote traditional medical tourism

During the inaugural ceremony of the “Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit” held on 20th April 2022 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, Prime Minister made the announcement to launch a special category of Ayush visa for tourists visiting India for Ayush medical tourism/education/treatment including Yoga. Accordingly, the Ministry of Ayush has requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to work out the modalities for the creation of a separate category for Ayush Visa/eVisa. It is a part of Heal in India campaign to promote traditional medical tourism.

[Link to press release](#)

Steps taken to Improve Coverage under AB-PMJAY Scheme

Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is an entitlement-based scheme. Eligible beneficiaries can directly visit any empanelled public or private hospital to avail cashless treatment. Ayushman cards are issued to the beneficiaries to create awareness about the scheme. National Health Authority in association with State Health Agencies has fast-tracked the process of issuance of cards to the beneficiaries across the country.

[Link to press release](#)

Update on Setting up of AIIMS Like Institutions

Setting up of 22 new AIIMS has been approved under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), 6 of which at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Patna (Bihar), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), and Rishikesh (Uttarakhand) are fully functional. State/UT-wise details of the remaining 16 AIIMS, including details of funds sanctioned, funds released, the present status, and timelines for completion is in Annexure.

[Link to press release](#)

Details of Financial Assistance for Poor Patients

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provides financial assistance for the treatment of poor patients suffering from identified life-threatening diseases and taking treatment in Government hospitals, under the Umbrella Scheme of Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant.

[Link to press release](#)

Update on National Program for Healthcare of the Elderly

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare launched the “National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly” (NPHCE) during 2010-11 to address various health-related problems of elderly people. The objective of the Programme is to provide accessible, affordable, and high-quality long-term, comprehensive and dedicated care services to an Ageing population. The Programme is implemented as Centrally Sponsored Programme at two levels:

- a. Primary care services at district hospitals and sub-district level through geriatric clinics, investigations & rehabilitation services, domiciliary visits by the rehabilitation worker for bed-ridden elderly, and counseling to family members for care of such patients and Health Education. A total number of 713 Districts have been covered.
- b. Tertiary care services through OPD and in-door facilities, development of specialized human resource through various courses in geriatric medicine as well as research at Regional Geriatric Centers and National Centres for Ageing. Under this Component, Two National Centres of Ageing (NCAs) and 18 Regional Geriatric Centres (RGCs) have been set up.

[Link to press release](#)

Update on NFHS-5 & Rural Health Statistics

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released the National Report of the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), which is available in the public domain (<http://rchiips.org/nfhs/>). The major findings evident from NFHS-5 (2019-21) as compared to NFHS-4 (2015-16) are given in Annexure I. The information on various important indicators captured in NFHS-5 is used for monitoring the SDG-related health goals. India has made significant progress in various SDG health indicators like Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the proportion of pregnant women who had an ANC visit in the first trimester, Institutional Births, Child immunization, etc. A list of SDG indicators, where NFHS-5 is the data source is given in Annexure II.

[Link to press release](#)

Initiatives for Pregnant Women

The government of India has several initiatives to provide financial and medical support to all pregnant women including women belonging to economically weaker sections during their pregnancy and delivery in Government hospitals. These include:

- a. **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)**, a demand promotion and conditional cash transfer scheme for promoting institutional delivery. The details of the scheme can be seen at the link given below: <https://nhm.gov.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=3&lid=309&sublinkid=84>.
- b. **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK)** entitles every pregnant woman to free delivery, including for caesarean section, in public health institutions along with the provision of free transport, diagnostics, medicines, other consumables, diet, and blood.

[Link to press release](#)

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates Vaccination Centre for Children and Launches Bal Raksha Mobile App at All Institute of Ayurveda

Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Vaccination Centre for children at the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA). He also launched the Bal Raksha mobile app, which is aimed at creating awareness of pediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents. The app will also collect feedback from parents regarding the impact of the kit on their children's health and immunity.

[Link to press release](#)

National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), Ghaziabad will help in mainstreaming and integration of Ayush healthcare services with modern medicines: Ayush Minister

Union Minister of Ayush and Ports Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inspected newly constructed campus of the National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. NIUM, Ghaziabad is a satellite Institute of National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangaluru and will be the first of its kind to be established in the northern region of India. Union Minister of State, Road Transport and Highways and Civil Aviation, General V.K. Singhand, officials of Ministry of Ayush accompanied Shri Sonowal.

[Link to press release](#)

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