

**PRESS INVITE FOR ATTENDING WEBINAR
ON TUESDAY 12th MAY 2020 at 12 NOON**

Prof. Yamini Tripathi, Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, IMS-BHU & Prof. Bejon Misra, Founder, Patient Safety & Access is inviting you to a scheduled WEBINAR to meet friends from the Media and answer all questions.

Topic: PRESS BRIEFING ON THE ROLE OF AYUSH AND COVID-19

Time: May 12, 2020 12:30 PM (IST) Mumbai, Kolkata, New Delhi

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4248130542>

Meeting ID: 424 813 0542

For Further details and facilitation, please do not hesitate to contact:

Dr. Sushil Kumar Dubey, Coordinator of the WG on Mobile Nos.:+91-8423270165 or 9415540732 Email: drsushildudey@gmail.com or

Prof. Dr. Yamini Bhushan Tripathi, Chairman of the WG on Mobile Nos- +91 9415694450 Fax No: +91542 2368174, Residence Phone +91542-2366577 Email IDs yamini@bhu.ac.in, yaminiok@yahoo.com, dean_ay@bhu.ac.in or

Prof. Dr. Kamal Nayan Dwivedi, Member Secretary of the WG, Mobile No. +91-8765550189 and +91-9415223859 Email: kndbhu@gmail.com

It is the proud privilege of **Prof. Dr. Yamini Bhushan Tripathi**, Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi and **Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra**, Founder of Patient Safety and Access Initiative of India Foundation (PSAIIIF), New Delhi, India, to invite the friends from the media in India and overseas on behalf of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Quality Council of India (QCI), The Aware Consumer, Consumer Online Foundation and others over an Webinar to answer all questions on the landmark partnership created to promote AYUSH (Indian Traditional Medicine Systems) as an equal option for citizens to remain healthy and fight against pandemics like COVID-19.

An International Seminar was organised by BHU during LOCKDOWN 2.0 days from 27th April to 2nd May 2020 at 11AM every day. More than 100 participants attended the seminar and were addressed by International and National Experts/scholars on the subject of AYUSH. Attached please find the copy of the **AGENDA as ANNEXURE I**. At the end of the seminar on 2nd May, all the participants released a summary and called it **THE MAHAMANA DECLARATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE ROLE OF AYUSH AND (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**. Attached please find the copy of the same **as ANNEXURE II**. Subsequently after larger consultations with all the key stakeholders on Friday 8th May 2020 at 4PM an ACTION PLAN was developed and finalised for the way forward in the next 12 months to implements the NINE KEY CONCERNS raised in the MAHAMANA DECLERATIONS. Attached please find the ACTION PLAN as **ANNEXURE III**.

As you can observe, **The Mahamana Declarations** triggered an action plan for the promotion of the AYUSH systems globally to be implemented in the next 12 months. **The nine key concerns raised were as follows:**

1. Awareness among citizens on AYUSH:

It was felt that Ministry of AYUSH within Government of India needs to invest more resources to build awareness amongst the consumers about the benefits from AYUSH and launch a multi-media campaign at the earliest to empower the citizens to demand indigenous solutions on healthcare related challenges. The Citizens have to be made an active partner in the crusade and make them fully aware on safety, efficacy, and quality care standards. It was suggested that a national registry of the beneficiary of AYUSH treatment may be created. This may help in tracing the diseases for which these systems are providing the treatment and what are the best options to remain healthy based on Indian Traditional Practices.

2. Value of AYUSH:

There is an urgent need to invest at least 5% of the GDP into healthcare in our country and substantial amount should be invested in preventive care by linking all the Primary Healthcare Centres with AYUSH, especially with focus on all the 1.5 lakhs Health & Wellness Centres identified in the country under PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat). The objective is to bring standardization and uniformity in Ayush healthcare delivery and to provide as empanelment criteria for coverage under health insurance. It is strongly recommended that

there should be mandatory entry level quality certification of Ayush Health and Wellness Centres through NABH accreditation. Similarly, infrastructure must be greatly enhanced in AYUSH Pharmacopoeia India (API) by linking with existing laboratories accredited/certified by NABL or establish new laboratories in different government institutions to ensure prompt service to the citizens and manufacturers. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of AYUSH (MoA) should jointly take the responsibility to regularly examine, revise and update specifications of plant materials, finished products and packaging materials, as per already available research-facts from different laboratories, across the world. The Ministry of AYUSH should approve clinical trial hospitals in central and regional levels, which would facilitate researchers & manufacturers to conduct clinical trials as per international norms.

3. AMEND The Standard Setting Exercise for AYUSH MEDICINES:

There is an urgent need for emphasis on safety and efficacy of new AYUSH combination products. For this purpose, the licensing requirements needs to be updated to include requirement of data related to confirmatory evidence of efficacy claims of the product. Additional safety data should be provided if long term safety data on its usage are not available. For a rapid development of integrative Ayurveda, it is desirable that an in-depth clinical research takes a priority. We must work towards developing a scientifically validated common message for herbal material, herbomineral material and Ayurvedic procedures to propagate Astang-Ayurveda around the World.

4. Changing Role of AYUSH Practitioners:

All AYUSH practitioners, nurses other paramedics need to sharpen their clinical skills, and treatment guidelines based on patient specific treatment requirement. They should be at par with practitioners and healthcare providers engaged with modern medicine without any discrimination based on their knowledge and skills. Regular CME's should be conducted to develop integrative protocols and enhance better understanding and belief, among doctors of all systems of medicine. We must encourage collaborative OPDs for modern and AYUSH doctors for treatment of Human subject and its environment. Also, introduce continuing education, refresher courses to update knowledge. We must also develop Astang Ayurveda (all 8 Branches) in field of research, teaching and training and health care for their global acceptability.

5. Assess the Value of Our Biodiversity:

India has a richness of flora and fauna. It was felt that farmers should be motivated from across the country to cultivate medicinal plants, especially where there are huge needs of a particular herb & those which are nearing extinction for which we need to provide technical agricultural support for cultivation of suitable herb in their self-owned land. We should also start thinking of providing training on Organic cultivation practices. All existing helplines for farmers and citizens should get integrated with the National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) Govt. of India, which will greatly facilitate individuals and farmers to cultivate growing of medicinal plants in their respective homes and farms. There has to be a strong linkage developed between the farmers and the manufactures of AYUSH Products so that we have strict uniform quality standards as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which is the legally standard setting body of our country and certified by institutions like Quality Council of India (QCI) so that all our products are of high quality and accepted by consumers in India or abroad.

6. Strong Regulatory Body:

There is an urgent need for a robust and independent Regulatory Body for AYUSH consisting of highly skilled manpower, state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure for framing and uniform implementation of quality and safety standards across industry on GMP guidelines, GMP Certification and Accreditation of manufacturing facilities to boost domestic and export promotion. The regulatory authority should be managed by competent and knowledgeable professionals under an exclusive law passed by the Parliament of India to uphold the traditional knowledge base of our country on indigenous alternative medicine systems in India and use it appropriately in a scientific manner within the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines and objectives of The Department of Technical Cooperation for Essential Drugs and Traditional Medicine (TCM), which is the lead department within WHO. There is a necessity to bridge the existing gaps between front line (WHO-GMP) AYUSH manufacturers, and remaining 9,000 manufacturers in India with reference to common rules and regulation, which needs to be reviewed. We must establish finished product testing on Ayurvedic products to test all analytical aspects of the drug as per pharmacopoeial & international standards.

7. Institutionalize AYUSH:

It is strongly recommended to establish a Center of Excellence in the form of National Institute of Ayurvedic Education and Research (NIEAR) on priority at Faculty of Ayurveda at IMS, BHU with an objective to assess current situation in reference to and inter alia all recommendations made in this global webinar on Ayurveda and Covid-19. The objective of the Center should be to prepare a roadmap for implementation in one-year timeframe. The overall objective of all such institutes should be to contribute in improving health and saving lives by supporting countries and regions to develop, implement and monitor national policies on medicines, including traditional medicines and complementary/alternative medicines, For hospital training, private and Govt hospitals may be engaged with these Institutions, who are focusing more on "online" teaching. We should also encourage research on Yoga.

8. Make AYUSH Popular:

A four-prong strategy should be adapted for this purpose which can be utilised in the management of COVID-19:

Preventive interventions: We may include both pharmacologic as well as non-pharmacological strategies as preventive measures against COVID and other diseases.

Novel scientific studies: We are ready to prepare drug/ nanoparticles against SARS-CoV-2 but before that we should do some molecular docking as well as system dynamics simulation studies of the useful secondary metabolites of targeted medicinal herbs against the viral spike proteins.

Immune Boosters: We can improve our immune system by daily intake of immune boosters.

Up-scaling and marketing: Commercialization of plants with their medicinal value is the need of present time and this can achieved through Plant Tissue Culture strategies such as micro propagation, batch culture, bioreactors etc. Tissue culture-based industries should step forward and contribute to the best in this respect.

9. AYUSH Leadership:

This is the right time and opportunity for the Govt. of India and Ministry of AYUSH to consider in providing all necessary resources to support this important International Initiative with priority and conviction to realize the dream of **Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya**, the illustrious founder of BHU, had in his vision of integrating the best of Ayurvedic and modern systems of medicine. We would collaborate with institutions like National Medicinal Plant Board, Govt of India, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Pharmacopoeial Commission of Indian Medicine (PCIM) Gujarat Ayurveda University, Jamnagar, India Pharmacopeia Commission (IPC), Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Quality Council of India (QCI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Patient Safety and Access Initiative of India Foundation (PSAIIF) and other renowned institutions working in India and Globally for promoting Indian Traditional Healthcare Practices to keep healthy citizens healthy through preventive care and enable citizens to access quality healthcare based on credible information to make an informed choice and access healthcare in an affordable manner as part of the Universal Health Coverage initiative taken by all the UN Member Countries including India.

In order to efficiently and effectively implement the nine key concepts of the declarations, a nine member working group (WG) was constituted to implement the Mahamana Declarations and **Prof. Y. B. Tripathi, Dean, Faculty of Ayurveda, IMS-BHU was made the Chairman of the WG.**

All the THREE ANNEXURES are attached.