

**20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**GLOBAL AYUSH INVESTMENT AND  
INNOVATION SUMMIT**

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**SPEECH**

**BY**

**HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

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**WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022**

**AT 10 30 HRS**

**VENUE: MAHATMA MANDIR,  
GANDHINAGAR, GUJARAT**

**Your Excellency Shri Narendra Modi Ji,  
Prime Minister of India,**

**Your Excellency Dr. Tedros Adhanom  
Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World  
Health Organisation,**

**Your Excellency Shri Sarbananda Sonowal,  
Honourable Union Minister of AYUSH and Ports,  
Shipping and Waterways,**

**Your Excellency Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel,  
Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat,**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Namaste.**

It is my privilege and honor to participate in the Inaugural Session of the AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit.

On this occasion, India is showcasing its official recognition of therapies originating from traditional medical systems by hosting the first-ever WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine.

Traditional medicine has been an integral resource for health for centuries in communities around the world. The use of traditional complementary or alternative medicine is especially widespread in settings where access to conventional medications is limited.

The sociocultural practice and biodiversity heritages of traditional medicine are invaluable resources to evolve inclusive, diverse sustainable development.

The World Health Organization estimates that 80% of the world population uses traditional medicine of various origins.

The knowledge of traditional medicine, treatments and practices must not only be respected, but must also be preserved and promoted.

The initiation of this project by Shri Modi Ji translates into reality his vision to offer to the world a new way of healing the suffering of people. For

Shri Modi Ji the whole world is a family “*Vasudeva Kutumbakam*”

Allow me here to congratulate the State of Gujarat and the Government of Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel for the successful Groundbreaking Ceremony for the setting up of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine.

The presence of the World Health Organization in Jamnagar confirms Gujarat’s prominent place as a world leader in the practice of traditional medicine. This will certainly prove crucial to enhance further cooperation between India and the rest of the world, in the field of AYUSH, traditional medicine and sustainable biomedicine.

As Gujarat continues to be a powerful driver responsible for the economic development of India, making the country a pivotal world partner for investment in the medical field, the WHO World Centre for Traditional Medicine will undoubtedly promote India's standing in the field of traditional medicine and highlight India's long standing and valued expertise in the field of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.

Allow me to put on record my appreciation of the cooperation and assistance extended by the Director-General of the World Health Organization Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, by providing invaluable support and guidance and in playing a pivotal role in sharing of expertise and best

practices through policy dialogue for development of a resilient health system in Mauritius.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mauritius and India share the same ancestral values and the practice of AYUSH forms an integral part of Mauritian traditions. Moreover, in Mauritius the practice of AYUSH is popular and fully recognised as a good mix of science and tradition and also as a form of alternative medicine.

India's rich heritage of medical wisdom derived in the field of traditional medicine for ages deserves to be shared and given more light.

In Mauritius, we have embraced similar medical philosophies, recognizing that traditional medicine

do complement scientific medicine and represents a way of healthy living and treatment with established medical concepts on prevention of diseases and promotion of good health.

Indeed, in Mauritius, the practice of Ayurveda is rooted in our history. This practice is blossoming, and growing more vibrant every day.

Attendance at Public Ayurveda Clinics attract an average of 50,000 patients annually for a population of around 1.2 million. In addition, there are Ayurvedic clinics run by NGOs and private sector. Mauritians attend Ayurvedic clinics for various ailments ranging from hairfall, chronic joint disorders, skin problems like psoriasis, digestive problems, obesity, non-communicable diseases,

and even with complications like cardiovascular diseases, renal diseases, and cancer.

Mauritius is one of the rare countries outside India where the practice of Ayurvedic medicines is governed by a legal framework, the Ayurveda and other Traditional Medicine Act. Under this Act, the practice of Ayurveda, Homeopathy and the Chinese system of Medicine are recognized and regulated.

I must also mention that, as an illustration of the close cooperation between Mauritius and India in the medical field, an Academic Chair in Ayurveda was set up at the University of Mauritius in March 2018 following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and the Ministry of

AYUSH of India. Mauritius has also signed bilateral agreements with the Government of India aimed at developing Indian traditional medicine through research and development.

Moreover, Mauritius has established an Ayurvedic Committee since 2014 and which looks into the control of importation of Ayurvedic medicines and herbal products into the country.

As testimony to our commitment to inculcate and promote the healthy way of living associated with the values of AYUSH, Mauritius has been celebrating Ayurveda Day on **Dhan te ras** Day every year since 2017.

In a bid to promote AYUSH the recommendations submitted by the consultant made available to us by

the Government of India are being examined and it is proposed to set up a dedicated AYUSH hospital in Mauritius which is bound to become a Centre Excellence in the future.

Mauritius is also very grateful for the donation of 10 tonnes of Ayurvedic Medicine by the Government of India during the COVID-19 first lockdown in May 2020. This was one of the many gestures of solidarity for which we are grateful to the Indian Government.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

India has been rightly hailed as the “Pharmacy of the World”. In Mauritius, we are envisaging to establish a pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing industry in a bid to position the

country as a pharmaceutical hub in Africa. The development of the pharmaceutical industry in Mauritius represents a fundamental component of the government's economic agenda to diversify into new sectors of activity, especially now, given the current COVID-19 crisis.

I would invite you all to consider this particular project that will represent yet another important milestone in our close cooperation, especially in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector.

I, therefore, look forward to fruitful networking between experts in the field in this Investment and Innovation Summit for exploring potential avenues of collaboration, for mutual benefits and interests.

Moreover, I wish that the interactive themes that will be discussed during this Summit on the integration of Ayurveda, yoga, traditional and integrative medicine, will broaden the scope of Ayurveda practice in the region at large and Mauritius.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To conclude, allow me to express my gratitude to Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Honourable Prime Minister of India, his Excellency Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Honourable Minister of AYUSH and Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat, for the

exceptional platform being created through this  
Global Investment and Innovation Summit.

I look forward to continued cooperation and  
exchanges for the benefit of the global community  
at large.

Gujarat ni maari mulakat adbhoot rahi.

Gujarat nu prasiddh bhojan / ane umalka bharyo

Satkar / maani ne / mane ghonon anand thayo.

Thank you.

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