

**Embassy of India**

**Yerevan**

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**Speech at the celebration of 9<sup>th</sup> International Ayurveda Day on  
Dhanvantari Jayanti (Dhanteras)**

**“Ayurveda - Innovation for Global Health”**

**[University of Traditional Medicine of Armenia, Yerevan]**

**[29 October 2024]**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

Barev Dzez, Namaskar! We, at the Embassy of India in Yerevan, are delighted to be celebrating the 9<sup>th</sup> International Ayurveda Day, although for us in Yerevan, this is only the second time that we are doing so. The Ayurveda day is celebrated on the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti or Dhanteras. Lord Dhanavantari is known as Father of Ayurveda since he was the first divine incarnation to impart its wisdom amongst all.

2. Ayurveda, meaning Knowledge of life in Sanskrit, is a form of traditional medicine that has been practiced in India for thousands of years. It is based on idea that each person has certain life forces (doshas). An imbalance in one area can affect another. When the imbalance is not fixed, disease and illness can occur. Moreover, Ayurveda emphasizes the basic connection between individuals and nature asserting that the human body is influenced by daily cosmic changes, seasons and the environment. As a result, Ayurveda provides guidelines for daily regimens, seasonal routines and dietary concepts to promote a healthy life. This underscores Ayurveda’s holistic system

approach, highlighting the interaction between different bodily systems and the interplay between the body and the environment.

3. Since 2016, the Ayurveda Day has been celebrated annually with a whole of government approach by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy). The celebration reflects the commitment of the Government of India for the promotion of Ayurveda as an indispensable part of the holistic healthcare system culture of India. In an effort to improve healthcare of everyone, the Government of India is reaffirming its commitment to mainstreaming Ayurveda, encouraging innovation and expanding its worldwide reach with the celebration of the Ayurveda Day.

4. This year, more than 150 countries across the globe are expected to celebrate Ayurveda Day around the theme “Ayurveda Innovation for Global Health”. The theme of this year has been specifically chosen to highlight the huge body research done in Ayurveda to establish its scientific relevance in the promotion of health and treatment of various diseases. This also highlights the relevance of Ayurveda for the healthcare of people across the globe irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, social status, and geographical boundaries, giving a new dimension to the contribution of Ayurveda to global health. Through the Ayurveda Day celebrations, the Ministry of AYUSH focuses on integrating Ayurveda with contemporary science to address critical health issues including non-communicable diseases, mental health, antimicrobial resistance and geriatric care.

5. In order to make the knowledge of Ayurveda easily accessible to all, the Ministry of AYUSH has created a digital platform under the umbrella of the AYUSH Grid including major initiatives such as Ayurgyan Scheme, Ayush Research Portal and Namaste Portal. In 2022, the Ministry of AYUSH signed a Host Country Agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Tradition Medicine at Jamnagar in Gujarat. This Centre is poised to become a Centre of global wellness which will promote the development of medicines and research related to traditional medicine. Currently, Ayurveda is recognized in as many as 24 countries across the globe while Ayurveda products are exported to over 100 countries. The Ministry of AYUSH continues to work towards integrating Ayurveda into the mainstream of global health. Initiative such as the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre, Ayushman Bharat Yojna and the Research Centre for Innovation in Ayurveda Biology are advancing Ayurveda's role in the global health system. Through innovation and collaboration, Ayurveda is poised to offer sustainable solutions for global health and wellbeing.

6. In conclusion, I would like to wish you all a very healthy and prosperous Dhanteras and also extend my greetings on Diwali which is being celebrated around the globe on 31 October. I would like to thank all our partners in organizing this event – Ms. Rita Minassian, Ms. Svetlana Avagyan, Eleonora Minasyan and UTMA. Expressing the hope that you all adopt and integrate Ayurveda as a part of your lives!

Thank you!