

WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM)

March 10, 2022

In news– The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in Jamnagar, Gujarat **by signing a Host Country agreement between the Government of India and the World Health Organization (WHO) recently.**

About WHO GCTM

- The WHO GCTM will be **established under the Ministry of AYUSH.**
- **This would be the first and only global outposted Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.**
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General, WHO had announced the establishment of WHO GCTM in India on the occasion of 5th Ayurveda Day on 13th November, 2020.
- **A Joint Task Force (JTF) was** constituted for coordination, execution and monitoring of activities for the establishment of this Centre.
- **JTF comprises representatives** from the Government of India, Permanent Mission of India, Geneva and the WHO.
- **Under the ambit of this, an interim office is being established at the ITRA, Jamnagar, Gujarat** to execute the identified technical activities and planning of fully functional WHO GCTM.
- **The interim office is intended to deliver broadly on generation of evidence and innovation, artificial intelligence** based solutions for traditional medicine, systematic reviews **in collaboration with Cochrane, Global survey on traditional medicine** data across WHO

GPW 13 (Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019-2023) and sustainable development goals, traditional medicine socio-cultural and biodiversity heritage with a forward looking approach to administrative processes for the establishment of main office of WHO GCTM.

- **The WHO GCTM would provide leadership on all global health matters related to traditional medicine** as well as extend support to member countries in shaping various policies related to traditional medicine research, practices and public health.

Current interim office seeks to-

- To position AYUSH systems across the globe.
- To provide leadership on global health matters pertaining to traditional medicine.
- To ensure quality, safety and efficacy, accessibility and rational use of traditional medicine.
- To develop norms, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas, tools and methodologies, for collecting data undertaking analytics, and assess impact.
- Envisage WHO TM Informatics centre creating a collaboration of existing TM Data banks, virtual libraries, and academic and research institutes.
- To develop specific capacity building and training programmes in the areas of relevance to the objectives and conduct training programmes in campus, residential, or web-based, and through partnerships with the WHO Academy and other strategic partners.