

Goa to be a prime hub of wellness tourism: CM

- Dr Pramod Sawant inaugurates curtain raiser of 9th World Ayurveda Congress & Arogya Expo
- Goa to host [Dec 8-11](#) event for first time

Panaji, Oct. 13, 2022

Goa is drawing up plans to become a prime Ayurveda and wellness tourism hub on the strength of a slew of initiatives, Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant said [today](#) while inaugurating the curtain raiser of the 9th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC) & Arogya Expo, to be held here from [December 8](#) to 11.

The state is eager to harness the benefits of Ayush visa, announced by the Prime Minister recently, to develop tourism, health and wellness centres and make Goa as the best in health tourism sector, the Chief Minister said.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister, AYUSH, was the chief guest at the function, where Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for Tourism, and Shri Vishwajit P Rane, Goa Minister of Health, were also present.

The four-day event, supported by the Central and state governments and the Union Ministry of AYUSH, will witness an assemblage of about 5000 Ayurveda stakeholders — industry leaders, practitioners, traditional healers, educationists, students, drug manufacturers, growers of medicinal plants and marketing strategists — from across the world.

'Ayurveda for One Health' is the focal theme of the event this year at Kala Academy, being organised by World Ayurveda Foundation, an initiative of Vijnana Bharati.

Noting that WAC is the biggest event in traditional wellness system, the Chief Minister said it will certainly catapult Ayurveda on global arena.

Dr Sawant said medical and wellness tourism will be ramped up in the state by involving all ayurvedic doctors and practitioners, besides setting up exclusive health and wellness centres on the lines of primary health centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs).

He said about 41 such health and wellness centres will be set up where services of Ayush doctors will be available. "Two 50-beds Ayush hospitals under the National Ayush Mission (NAM) scheme will be set up soon. An Ayush hospital will be inaugurated on [December 8](#) at Dhargal in Pernem taluk," Dr Sawant said.

"The positive impact created by WAC in its previous editions is going to repeat here too. The event will set a good platform for students, stakeholders, practitioners and experts to learn and exchange views and ideas," he added.

Shri Sonowal said the focal theme of the event 'Ayurveda for One Health' is very meaningful for journey of life.

"Traditional medicine has now been well accepted by global community due to its credibility. WAC has to be used for promoting Goa as a place for medical tourism," he said.

Shri Sonowal said the Ministry of AYUSH with all stakeholders of Ayurveda celebrates Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanvantari Jayanti on [October 23](#).

"The motto of this year's celebration is "Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda" (Ayurveda Everyday, Ayurveda Everywhere). All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, is the nodal Agency for the implementation of the programme. Around 22 Ministries and departments of Government of India are collaborating for this event," he said.

Noting that the WAC has grown over the years, Union Minister of State for Tourism, Shri Shripad Naik said the World Health Organisation (WHO) is part of the WAC for the first time and it will trigger immense interest of participants.

Shri Vishwajit Rane said WAC is being held when Ayurveda has acquired the global status and the state is keen on leveraging the benefits of medical tourism.

Shri Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Union Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) said through campaigns like Jan Sandesh, Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan, awareness about the benefits of Ayurveda will be created among the public as part of Ayurveda Day.

In his welcome address, Dr P M Varier, Managing Trustee, Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, and Chairman, National Organising Committee, WAC & Arogya, said WAC aims to popularise and globalise Ayurveda.

Shri Pawan Kumar Godatwar, Representative of WHO, gave a presentation about the upcoming event and Arogya expo.

Smt Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi; Dr Satheesh Shenoy, Vice Chairman, Vijnana Bharati; and Shri Suhas Godse, Chairman, Local Organising Committee, WAC; were also present.

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