

**Speech by the Ambassador on
Ayurveda: A Gateway of wellness
27 March 2025, SVCC-Paramaribo**

Namaskar Good evening, Shubh Sandhya,

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Science and Culture, Henry Ori Dr. Amrika Anoroudh

Senior Government officials, Representatives from All for One Suriname

Members of the Indo-Surinamese Community, Friends of India, distinguished Guests, and friends.

Traditional Indian medicine is one of the oldest medical systems and remains popular worldwide. The term Ayurveda is derived from the Sanskrit words Ayur (life) and Veda (Science or Knowledge). Thus, Ayurveda translates to knowledge of life. Ayurveda, a natural system of medicine, originated in Indian subcontinent more than 5000 thousand of years ago and is often called the “Mother of All Healing.”

Distinguished participants and friends,

I limit myself here to not go in technical details of Ayurveda that will be discussed by our domain experts today. However, I love to share some basic advantageous side of Ayurveda.

First- Ayurveda is a curative healing system as well as preventive care system and it focuses on root cause of problem unlike allopathic healing system.

Second- It is an oldest way of healing system. Colonial masters imposed their system on us while doing white man's burden job in the Asia, Africa and Latin America. Therefore, our knowhow was neglected for a long time.

However, it is survived in our house and societies through knowledge transfer from one generation to another generation given its great benefits.

Third-It is widely used and most of common herbs are easily available around our environment. Turmeric, Ginger, Mint, Tulsi, Neem and Lemon loke herbs and spices are not rare commodities. Storage is easy and it is cost effective compare to the allopathic medicines.

Fourth- Ayurveda is our first response to any health disorder. Every household is a hospital and every mother is a doctor for their children. Our initial prescribed medicines are largely herbal home remedies since millennia. Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda is not mere a new campaign. In fact, it is inherently infused in our societies since millennia.

Distinguished participants and friends,

Role of women in Ayurveda: The role of women has been extremely important in the development of traditional system of medicine especially Ayurveda and herbal medicines. Therefore, we called Gharelu Nushkhe means home remedies as Grandmother Remedies; therefore, millions of women administer such remedies since millennia. Women also serve as conservators and cultivators of medicinal plants throughout the world. Women, therefore are

the frontline, although often silent and unrecognized healers of human suffering in much of the world.

Traditional medicinal deep rooted in Caribbean societies including Suriname and derived from diverse sources from Asia and Africa besides indigenous Latin American.

Confluence in the field of the Ayurveda and herbal based treatment was started in Suriname soon after the arrival of Kontraki in Trans-Atlantic world. There is no any systematic research or details writing available on this confluence. While interacting with our diaspora I found quite similar home remedies practicing in Suriname and Bihar- UP. Given in such the background, India and Suriname started joining hand together to harness the existing opportunity.

It may be recalled that India and Suriname signed an MoU on Traditional Medicine cooperation in Jan 2020 and subsequently the Government of the Republic of Suriname in coordination with the Embassy an Ayurveda Health Centre and a Medicinal Plants Garden Project was launched in the District of Saramacca on the occasion of the 8th Ayurveda Day in 2023. Hopefully, the center will be operation after adoption of an appropriate legal framework.

The climatic condition of Suriname is favorable for commercial herbal farming and therefore, Suriname can be become a supplier of medicinal herbs and spices to Latin America, America and Europe as demand of such products are growing everywhere. Furthermore, it would transform Suriname into a wellness tourism center.

In nutshell, there is a huge space are available where we can cooperate each other in order to harness the benefits of the Ayurveda. I am quite hopeful; our bilateral cooperation will strengthen in this field in coming years.

Thanks for your kind attention.

Jai Bharat Jai Suriname