

## EDITORIAL

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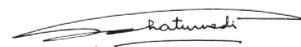
The prevailing pandemic has drawn global attention on the immense potential of Traditional Medicine (TM). It has enabled acknowledgement of both preventive and curative aspects of healthcare for sustainable wellness. Today, these systems are not limited by demand within the countries of origin. As visible in the substantial growth in international export of Ayurvedic and other TM products, it has been witnessing a growing interest worldwide. A growing body of clinical research is further adding to its validity.

Traditional medicine in healthcare, being more prevalent in the Global South, is also a significant tool for South-South Cooperation, as is evident in several strategic regional co-operations with and within Africa, BIMSTEC and ASEAN. Protection of TM has also brought the common concerns of the Global South at several international platforms such as WIPO, WHO and WTO.

RIS has been on the forefront to bring TM to become a legitimate player in the world trade by meeting with global standards in manufacturing and quality and safety standards. It has already initiated several studies in the area of medicinal plants and TM trade. At a time when TM systems across countries are making serious efforts at trade, research and information exchange on commerce, economy and sociology and policy, dissemination of this information becomes imperative. With these objectives in mind that RIS and the AYUSH Ministry joined hands to launch the Forum for Indian Traditional Medicines (FITM) in 2017.

Through the Traditional Medicine Review (TMR) our endeavour would be to bring out academic outputs to generate debate on economy, trade, IPR, international healthcare cooperation, legislation and policy responses in the field of traditional medicine. This will definitely connect the wider, emerging community of TM enthusiasts to bring about greater clarity in domestic and international policy and strategy formulation. Ultimately, we hope the TMR would emerge as a Journal of peer reviewed research papers.

The encouraging support from Vaidya Rajesh ji Kotecha, Secretary, AYUSH and his team and the Board Members of the FITM are major source of strength for this effort. I would also like to use this opportunity to compliment the FITM Team, led by Prof. T.C. James and comprising Dr. Namrata Pathak and Mr. Apurva Bhatnagar, for their commendable effort.



**Sachin Chaturvedi**