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## DRDO's Herbal Drug for Leucoderma

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**Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a herbal drug 'lukoskin' for treatment of Leucoderma.

**Leucoderma** is a **skin** and **auto-immune disorder** also called vitiligo. Autoimmune disorders occur when the immune system attacks the body's own tissues and organs.

### World Vitiligo Day 2019

- Every year, **June 25** is observed as World Vitiligo Day to raise awareness about the disease.
- The theme for World Vitiligo Day 2019 is '**The Quality of Life of a Vitiligo Patient**'.

### Significance

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- Present remedies of vitiligo-like allopathic, surgical and adjunctive are either **costly or single molecule based**, with a very low level of efficacy and develop side-effects like a blister, edema, and irritation in the skin.
- **Lukoskin**, available in **ointment** and **oral liquid** form, has seven herbal ingredients having properties such as skin **photosensitizer, anti-blister, anti-irritation, antiseptic**, wound healing and **copper supplementing** properties, while the oral dose has been formulated to check the emergence of new spots.

### Vitiligo or Leucoderma

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- Vitiligo is a skin disease in which **pale white patches** start forming on the skin, due to lack of **melanin** (a pigment in the skin).
- It is **neither contagious** (i.e does not spread from getting in direct contact with the affected person) nor **life-threatening**.

- **Genetic conditions** or **stress-induced** situations are more prone to the occurrence of disease.
- **Leucoderma patients** are also vulnerable to inflammation in the **iris**, loss of **hearing** and **sunburn**.

## Symptoms

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- Vitiligo commonly occurs in people in their twenties; however, it can occur in any stage.
- People with autoimmune diseases, such as **hyperthyroidism** are more prone to it than those who don't have any autoimmune diseases.

## Facts

- The worldwide incidence of leucoderma has been reported at 1-2%.
- In India, its incidence is around 4-5%.
- In some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, its incidence is as high as 5-8%.
- Leucoderma (skin disorder) is considered a **social stigma in India** where people confuse it with leprosy (a contagious disease caused by bacteria).