



WHO-IRCH International Workshop | Uttar Pradesh | 09 Aug 2025

Why in News?

The **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)**, **Ministry of Ayush**, hosted the **inaugural session of the WHO-International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) Workshops** on “Safety and Regulation of Herbal Medicines” (Working Group-1) and “Efficacy and Intended Use of Herbal Medicines” (Working Group-3) at its headquarters in **Ghaziabad**.

- **India, as the lead country** for Working Groups 1 and 3, is committed to strengthening international regulatory cooperation through the WHO-IRCH platform.

Key Points

- **About:** The global technical workshop, organized jointly by the **Ministry of Ayush** and **WHO**, is being held from 6th to 8th August 2025, with senior representatives from WHO Member States, **regulatory authorities, academia, research bodies**, and the herbal medicine industry in attendance.
 - Bringing together experts from across WHO Member States and Observer States, the workshops aim to deliberate on key aspects such as regulatory convergence, quality assurance, and the **clinical relevance of herbal medicines** in traditional systems of **healthcare**.
 - The agenda includes hands-on training sessions in **herbal drug standardisation techniques** such as pharmacognostic, chemical, and elemental analysis.
 - Site visits to **prominent Ayush institutions** are also planned to provide international participants with first-hand exposure to clinical, academic, and manufacturing practices.
 - The workshops have **attracted participants from several countries** under the WHO-IRCH umbrella, including Poland, Nepal, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Paraguay, etc.

Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)

- Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), is a **subordinate office** under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.
- Development of Pharmacopoeias and Formularies as well as acting as **Central Drug Testing cum Appellate Laboratory** for Indian systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy are the key fields of activity of PCIM&H.

International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH)

- International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH), established in 2006, is a **global network of regulatory authorities** responsible for regulation of herbal medicines.
- Its mission is to **collaborate and share the best practices** to help WHO in its recommendations to the members on improving the regulation of herbal medicines as well as raise awareness regarding their safe use in health and wellbeing.

