The Pivotal Role of Rutucharya of Ayurveda: The Art of Healthy Living

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ABSTRACT:

Ritu, the season, exhibits varying effects on the environment and the body based on its various aspects. Ayurveda has outlined a number of dietary and behavioural guidelines (Charya) that can be readily adjusted to seasonal changes without compromising bodily equilibrium. The main idea of the Ayurvedic medical philosophy is that prevention is possible by dietary and behavioural changes initiated with an alteration in the climate. This is a great Ayurvedic literature emphasize this as a crucial component of preventative healthcare. These days, lifestyle problems are increasingly prevalent and primarily originate from a failure to adhere to seasonal routines because of a lack of awareness of seasonal traits. A solid scientific evaluation is the foundation, which is still valid today. This review article discusses several diet and lifestyle as discussed in Ayurvedic classics needed to stay healthy.

KEYWORDS: Ayurveda; Ritucharya; Seasonal alteration; seasonal regimen; lifestyle disorders.

I. INTRODUCTION:

The ancient science of life, Ayurveda, has always placed more emphasis on maintaining good health and preventing illness by adhering to a healthy diet and lifestyle than it has on curing and treating the illnesses. The fundamental idea of the Ayurvedic system is Swasthyashya Swasthya Rakshanam, which translates as instead of Aturashya, to preserve the health of the healthy the purpose of Vikara Prashamanancha is to treat the illnesses of the sick. The Dinacharya (daily routine) serves this goal. and the seasonal regimen, or Ritucharya, have been referenced in the Ayurvedic classics. Ritucharya falls under "swastha"

vritha," which explains the concepts and methods of maintaining health. It covers comprehensively the way individuals respond in various climatic conditions, geographic locations, and psychophysiological states.

The environment in which we live is undoubtedly shifting as the seasons change. Around us, we experience a variety of bio-life changes, like the spring season flowering and leaf shedding in antumn, many animals going into hibernation, with the arrival of winter, etc. Since humans are a component of the same environment, the body is heavily impacted by outside surroundings. The external and endogenous rhythms are numerous. possess a certain phase relationship with one another, meaning that they communicate and coordinate with one another. Dosha Vaishamva may result from the body's inability to adapt to stressors because of seasonal changes, which could make the body more vulnerable to one or more types of illnesses.3

The majority of the Ayurvedic Samhitas include a prominent discussion of Ritucharya in their opening chapters. The primary goal of the holistic science of Ayurveda is to prevent illness in order to preserve health. In the Charaka Samhita's Tasyashitya chapter, told as "the person's complexion and energy, understanding is enhanced if person adopts a seasonal diet and routine and acting appropriately.⁴ This chapter's primary goal is to make individuals knowledgeable on how to live in accordance with the surroundings.

Understanding Ritucharya, or the regimen for different seasons, is crucial since adapting to changes is the key to survival. Individuals are unaware of or disregard the appropriate dietary items, dressings, and other routines to be observed

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at specific seasons, which causes derangement of homeostasis and results in a number of illnesses, including obesity, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and so forth. Lifestyle-related illnesses are a consequence of people's improper interactions with their surroundings. These lifestyle diseases have a sneaky onset, slowed growth and challenging to treat.⁵

Seasonal classification:

A year is separated into two periods, Aadana (absorptive) and Visarga (replenishing), according to how the sun influences the earth during the year. Adana kala is known as uttarayana while visarga kala as dakshinayan.

Aadana is the time of year when a person's strength declines as a result of the sun's increasing

influence, particularly its scorching and piercing characteristics. The weather turns harsh, scorching, astringent, pungent, dry, and bitter. The sun travels northward during this time, or utharayana. The name "Ayana" refers to the path of the sun. Aadana Kala, or uthara-ayana, comprises the seasons: Grishma (summer), Vasant (spring), and Sisira (late winter). Every season lasts approximately two months.

Visarga is the time when a person's body becomes stronger due to the atmosphere's preponderance of unctuous (oily), cold, acidic, and sweet elements. During this time of year, while the sun is traveling southward (daksinayana), the moon gets stronger. The seasons of Varsha (rains), Sharad (fall), and Hemanta (winter) are all included in Daksinaayana (visarga kala).

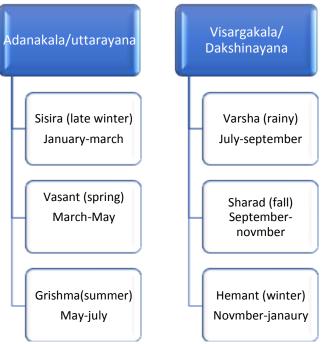


Figure 1: Seasonal classification

Ritu sandhi: Ayurveda explains a unique concept ofRitusandhi kala. Ritu sandhi is the onset of any season. During these seasons, many illnesses

emerge. One should adhere to the medication for the upcoming month for a week during this time.

Seasonal regime:

Sisira Ritu:

Table 1: complete guideline for do and don't in sisira ritu

Sisira Ritu (late winter) January-march			
General condition	During this season, the weather and the cool air both stay cold. At this time of year, the most common Rasa is Tikta		
	(bitter) and Akasha Mahabhuta pridominant. The		



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	individual's strength decreases, Kapha dosha deposition		
	occur and despite Agni (catabolism) persists higher.		
Diet regimen	Pathya Apathya		
	Grains: Wheat, Jawar, New Rice	Grains: Ragi, Bajra,	
	Vegetables: Bottle gourd, Lady's	Jav, Old grains	
	finger, Snake gourd, Kandoori,	Vegetables:Fenugreek,	
	Amaranthas, Indian Sorrel, Red	Karadi, Drumstick,	
	pumpkin, Spinach, Cabbage,	Bitter guard, Brinjal	
	Tomato	Legumes: Lentil,	
	Legumes:Black Gram, Green	Field Beans, Bengal	
	gram	grams, Horse gram,	
	Meat: Goat, Rabbit, Deer,	Cluster beans	
	Chicken, Pegion, Duck, Pig,	Meat: Dry meat,	
	Fish, Prawn, Lobster	Roasted- meat Crab,	
	Tubers: Carrot, Beet root, Sweet	Sheep	
	Potato, Sago	Tubers: Turnip,	
	Fruts: Grape, Wall nut, Date,	Raddish, Garlic,	
	Apple, Apricot, Black current, Shngada, Kamalkanda		
	Coconut, Orange, Chiku	Fruits: Banana,	
	Milk products: Curds, Ghee,	Guava, Custard apple,	
	Milk, Butter, Khoya, Paneer, Karmar, Black plum,		
	Cheese, Milk cream, Chakka, Papaya		
	Butter Milk, Karvas, Piyursh Other things:Cummin		
	Other things: Sweets, Sugar, seed, Chillies, Deep		
	Sesame seeds, Cashew nuts, fried things,		
	Almonds,	Cinnamon, Mustard	
	Pista Water: Cold water		
	Water: Hot water		
Drug of choice	Sunthi, Lasuna		
Lifestyle	It is suggested that you massage with oil, powder, or		
	paste, take a bath in lukewarm water, expose yourself to		
	sunlight, and dress warmly.		
	lifestyle factors that aggravate vata, such as exposure to		
	chilly air, excessive walk or sleeping late at night.		
	cinity an, excessive wark of steeping face at hight.		

Vasant ritu:

Table 2: complete guideline for do and don't in vasant ritu

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Vasant (spring): Marc	h-May			
General condition	year, is regarded as the flowering this season, Rasa and Mah (astringent) and Prithvi, Vayu resp still moderate, and the Agni stays	The period is about between mid-March and mid-May. This time of year, is regarded as the flowering and leaf-formation season. During this season, Rasa and Mahabhuta predominant are Kashaya (astringent) and Prithvi, Vayu respectively. The person's strength is still moderate, and the Agni stays in the Manda state while Kapha		
	Dosha deterioration takes place.			
Diet regimen	Pathya	Apathya		
	Grains: Barley, Millet, Old rice,	Grais: new rice		
	Wheat	Vegetables: lady's finger,		
	Vegetables: Spinach, Dill,	Tondali		
	Fenugreek, Tandulja, Parvar,			
	Bitter gourd, Chakwat,	Meat: Pig, Big fish, Duck,		
	Drumsticks, Brinjal, Chavli,	Buffalow, Bullock		
	Math Tubers: Potato, Beetroot, Yam,			
	Legumes: Pegion pea, Green	Singhada, Tapioka, Kamalkanda		



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gram, Lentil (Masur), Gram Pea,	Fruits: Banana, Guava,	
Marble pea	Custardapple, Cucumber, Peach,	
Meat: Dry fish, Roast fish,	Strawberry, Watermelon, Walnut,	
Kabab, Tandoori, Small fish,	Pista, Cashewnut, Orange,	
Crabs, Lobsters, Prawns,	Karmal, Hog plum	
Rabbits, Patridge	Milk products: Curds, Lassi,	
Tubers: Garlic, Ginger, Onion,	Piyush, Ice-cream, Cheese,	
Carrot, Radish, Turmeric,	Paneer, Cream, Karvas, Khava,	
Mainmula	Chakka	
Fruits:Papaya	Other things: Fried Food,	
Milk products: Butter milk,	Sweets, Sesame	
Butter, Kadhi	Water: cold water	
Other things:clove, Cummin,		
Asafoetida, Mustard, Coriander,		
Dried seeds, Pepper		
Water: Ginger Water, Sandal		
wood water, Sage water, Honey		
water, Katha water		
Pippali, Haritaki		
In addition to exercising during Vasant Ritu, one should bathe in		
warm water. Udvartana, or massage, using powdered Kesara (Crocus		
sativus), Chandana (Santalum album), Agaru, among others, Anjana		
(collyrium), Dhooma (smoking), and Kavala (gargle), as well as		
evacuation techniques like Vamana and Nasya are suggested.		
It is strictly forbidden to sleep duri	ing the day during this season.	
	Marble pea Meat: Dry fish, Roast fish, Kabab, Tandoori, Small fish, Crabs, Lobsters, Prawns, Rabbits, Patridge Tubers: Garlic, Ginger, Onion, Carrot, Radish, Turmeric, Mainmula Fruits:Papaya Milk products: Butter milk, Butter, Kadhi Other things:clove, Cummin, Asafoetida, Mustard, Coriander, Dried seeds, Pepper Water: Ginger Water, Sandal wood water, Sage water, Honey water, Katha water Pippali, Haritaki In addition to exercising during warm water. Udvartana, or massag sativus), Chandana (Santalum albi (collyrium), Dhooma (smoking),	

Grishma ritu:

Table 3: complete guideline for do and don't in Grishma ritu

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Grishma(summer): Mag	y-july		
General condition	The Grishma (summer) season is roughly defined as mid-May to mid-July. Extreme heat and harmful winds are common in the environment. The plants withered and the river bodies dried up. The most common Rasa is Katu, and Vayu and Agni Mahabhuta dominant. The individual's strength decrease, Vata Dosha is deposited, but the vitiated kapha dosha During this time,is pacified. The person's Agni will continue to be mild.		
Diet regimen	The person's Agni will continue to be mild. Pathya Grains: New rice, Red rice, Sathi rice Vegetables: Bottle gourd, Lady's finger, Snake gourd, Tondali, Dodka, Ghosali, Parvar, Chuka, Chakwat Lrgumes: Green Mung, Lentil, Pegion Pea, Black Gram Meat: Goat, Hen, Duck, Fish, Deer, Rabbit, Patridge Tubers: Potato, Beet, Yam Arum (Aalkudi), Kamalkand, Tapioka, Singhara Fruit: Orange, Sweetlime, Apathya Grains:millet, Corn, Ragi, Barley Vegetables:Brinjal, Drum stick, Bitter gourd, Fenugreek, Red pumkin, Parval, Dill leaves Legumes: Bean, Pea, Koolthee, Sweet Pea Meat: Dry meat, Fish, Roasted — meat Tubers: Turnip Garlic Onion Fruits: Black plum, Jack fruit, Karmal, Hog plum, Wood apple Milk products: Butter — milk, Kadhi, Lassi		



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	C 1 C	A C	
	Cucumber, Sugarcane, Apricot,	Asafoetida, Clove, Mint, Chilly,	
	Date	Dry foods, Sesame	
	Milk butter: Chakka, Ghee,	Water: warm water	
	Piyush, Cream, curd, Butter		
	Other things: Syrum, Jam, Amla,		
	Jam, Coriander, Cumin, Sugar,		
	Jaggary		
	Water: Rose Water, Wala water,		
	Kapur water, Cold water, Water		
	earthen from pot (Matka water)		
Drug of choice	Sariva, Shatavari		
Lifestyle	Wearing light clothing, resting during the day, staying in cool places,		
	and applying sandalwood and other aromatic pastes on the body are		
	all advantageous. In this phase of the night, one can enjoy the cool		
	moon and the breeze. Hard work or excessive exercise should be		
	Avoid excessive sexual indulgence, as well as preparation containing		
	alcohol should be avoided.		

Varsha ritu:

Table 4: complete guideline for do and don't in Varsha ritu

Varsha (rainy)July-september			
General condition	From roughly mid-July until mid-September, Varsha Ritu is observed. During this season, the sky is covered in clouds, and rain falls without any thunderstorms. Water is found in rivers, ponds, and other bodies of water. While this season, the most prevalent Mahabhuta is Agni, Prithvi, and Rasa is Amla (sour). The individual's strength declines as a result of Vata Dosha vitiation and the Pitta Dosha deposition causes Agni to get vitiated as well.		
Diet regimen	Pathya Grains: Red rice, Sathi rice, Wheat, Great millet Vegetables: Brinjal, Dodka, Ridge guard, Parwar, Bottle gourd, Lady's finger, Chuka, Math Legumes: Koolthee, Black gram, Green gram, Pegion Pea Meat: Goat, Rabbit, Hen, Pegion, Patridge Tubers: Garlic, Onion, Ginger, Yam Fruits: Falsa, Grapes, Date, Mahalung, Mango, Amla, Indian jujube, Mullberry, Strawberry, Sour lime, Raw mango, Charoli, Coconut Milk products: Butter milk, Curds, Ghee, Milk Other things: Rock salt, Jaggary, Coriander, Dhane, Cumiu, Mint, Asafoetida, Black pepper Water: Boiled water, Strained	Apathya Grains: Varai, Ragi, Pearlmillet, Maize, Barley Vegetables: Spinach, Bitter gourd, Dhendas, Chavlal, Dry vegetables, Cabbage, Jack fruit Legumes: Dewbean, Lentil, Hyascinth Bean, Pea, Sweet Pea, Gram Meat: Dried meat, Fish Tubers: Potato, Singhada, Tapioka, Carrot, Kamalkanda, Arum Fruits: Water-melon, Cucumber, Sweet musk melon, Karmal, Black plum, Wood apple Milk products: Buffallow's milk, Paneer, Chakka, Piyush Other things: Sweet, fried foods, Shrikhand, Squash of any type Water: Cold water, Unboiled water	



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	water after the mud is settled at	
	bottom Srink warm water,	
	Drink fesh and pure rain water	
Drug of choice	Dadima, tulsi	
Lifestyle	It is advised to properly rub the body with oil after taking a bath in	
	boiling water. In order to eliminate vitiated Dosha, an evacuation	
	An enema called medicated Basti is prescribed. Rain, daytime	
	napping,	
	workout, diligence, sex, wind, and staying on the brink of a river,	
	and other places are prohibited.	

Sharad ritu:

Table 5: complete guideline for do and don't in sharad ritu

Sharad (fall) September	er-novmber	V S		
General condition	observed. The sun is shining brigh with sporadic white clouds. and w or salty, Rasa is the most common. Mahabhuta is the most common. moderate level; vitiation of the V	From mid-September to mid-November (fall), Sharad Ritu is observed. The sun is shining brightly at this time, and the sky is clear with sporadic white clouds. and wet soil covers the ground. Lavana, or salty, Rasa is the most common, whereas Aap and Agni are the Mahabhuta is the most common. The individual's strength stays at a moderate level; vitiation of the Vata Dosha and Pitta Dosha occur.		
Diet regimen	Pathya Grains: Wheat, Rice, Jawar, Pearl Millet, Red Rice Vegetables: Cabbage, Fenugreek, Bitter gourd, Chakwat, Bottle gourd, Lady's finger, Spinach, Math, Chawlai, Tandulja, Parvar, Dodka, Ghosalee, Snake gourd Legumes: Green gram, Bean, Seet Pea, Gram Meat: Goat, Deer, Hen, Duck, Rabbit, Peacock, Pig Tubers: Potato, Sweet Potato, Kamalkand, Amorphophallus, Tapioka, Shingada Fruits: Pomergranet Indian- gooseberry Grape, Date, Dried grape, Fig (Anjir), Banana, Black plum, Sugarcane, Cucumber, Veg. Marrow, Apple, Chiku, Coconut, Apricot Milk products: Milk, Ghee, Butter, Khawa, Paneer, Chakka, Ice cream Other things: Sweets, Coriander, Squashes, Sugar, Jaggary, Honey Water: Cold water, Sandalwood water, water from earthan pot	Mahabhuta is the most common. The individual's strength stays at a moderate level; vitiation of the Vata Dosha and Pitta Dosha occur. Agni rises during this time of year. Pathya Grains: Wheat, Rice, Jawar, Pearl Millet, Red Rice Vegetables: Cabbage, Fenugreek, Bitter gourd, Chakwat, Bottle gourd, Lady's finger, Spinach, Math, Chawlai, Tandulja, Parvar, Dodka, Ghosalee, Snake gourd Legumes: Green gram, Bean, Seet Pea, Gram Meat: Goat, Deer, Hen, Duck, Rabbit, Peacock, Pig Tubers: Potato, Sweet Potato, Kamalkand, Amorphophallus, Tapioka, Shingada Fruits: Pomergranet Indiangooseberry Grape, Date, Dried grape, Fig (Anjir), Banana, Black plum, Sugarcane, Cucumber, Veg. Marrow, Apple, Chiku, Coconut, Apricot Milk products: Milk, Ghee, Butter, Khawa, Paneer, Chakka, Ice cream Other things: Sweets, Coriander, Squashes, Sugar, Jaggary, Honey		
Drug of choice	Amla, Kumari			
Lifestyle	Eating should only be done when there is a great desire to do so. Throughout the day, sunlight and at night, the rays of the			



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moon should purify v	water for drinking, bathing, an	d other uses. It is
advised	to	wear
flower garlands and	Apply Chandana (Santalum al	bum) to the body.
It is thought that mod	on rays are advantageous the fi	irst three hours of
the night to health.		

Hemant ritu:

Table 6: complete guideline for do and don't in Hemant ritu

Hemant (winter)Novmber-janaury			
General condition	Late autumn is Hemanta. From mid-November until mid-January, Ritu is observed. A chill is experienced as cold winds start to blow. At this time of year, the most common rasa is Madhura, and the most common Mahabhuta are Aap and Prithvi. The strength of an individual stays at its peak, thereby calming the vitiated Pitta Dosha.		
Diet regimen	individual stays at its peak, thereby calming the vitiated Pitta Dosha. Agni's is now more active. Pathya Grains: maize, rice, great millet Vegetables: Lady's finger, Snake gourd, Tondali, Parwar, Math, Sour Chuka, Dodka, Fenugreek, Red Pumkin, Chakwat, Spinach, Cauliflower, Tomato Legumes: Black gram Marble Pea (Chavli) Green Gram Meat: Rabbit Deer Hen Patridge Hola Duck Pig Fish Prawn Lobster Meat curry Tubers: Amorphophallus (Suran) Arum (Aalkudi) Carrot Ginger Beetroot Onion Sweet Potato Tapioka Fruits: Walnut Date Apple Apricot Coconut Orange Chiku Melon lime Milk products: Curds Ghee Milk Butter Paneer Cheese Cream Chakka Butter Milk Kharvas Other things: Sugar Sesame (Til) Clove (Lavang) Cashewnut Almond Pista Water: warm water		
Drug of choice	Water: warm water Ashwagandha, Guduchi		
Lifestyle	It is suggested to engage in physical activity, massage your head and body, use warm water, take a sunbath (Atapa Sevana), apply Agaru to your body, wear heavy clothing, have sex with just one person, and live in a warm environment. Avoidable behaviours include exposure to cold and strong winds, as well as daytime sleeping patterns.		

II. DISCUSSION:

In order to attain Swasthya (health) and prevent diseases, the ancient sages used analytical reasoning to develop a regimen for each season.

Ritucharyaserve as a guide for determining other Does and don'ts in the regimen. Environmental factors include the characteristics of the land, water, and various atmospheric phenomenon like



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temperature, humidity, wind, rain, clouds, and atmospheric pressure. No two moments are ever the same in a particular location since all of these environmental elements are ever-changing. Consequently, the temperature increases as the sun rises and rises gradually at night. The highest and lowest throughout the day, temperatures fluctuate, yet they are Winter is the lowest, and summer is the highest. Likewise, each of these elements shows both diurnal and seasonal changes, and these changes for a particular a time frame is called a "season."6A study on the effects of photoperiod on hormone synthesis and immunological function, which impact the emergence of opportunistic disease, found creatures that alter with the seasons. Another study discovered that species that live freely in different places can adjust the release of glucocorticoids according to the season. In other terminology, the amounts of both unstressed and Glucocorticoid levels under stress fluctuate season.⁸Understanding Ritucharya provides first hand insight into the Ayurvedic concept of Kriya-Kala, which explains the phases and mechanisms of disease development in connection to the various Dosha states over time, including Vatu, Pitta, and Kapha. A comprehensive comprehension of it is necessary for prognosis and early diagnosis in order to Set both curative and

Roga (disease) is known to be caused by imbalances in the Doshas of Vata, Pitta, and Kapha. Modifications to Changes in the Tridosha state are caused by nutrition and lifestyle. It will inevitably impact us, leading to conflict and resulting in lifestyle-related illnesses. Ritu similar to Vyanjaka or Nimittakarana, which worsens illness. Vataassociated during the rainy season, illnesses can get worse. Heat stroke in the summer, pollen allergy in the spring, flu and dry skin in the winter, and a high prevalence of waterborne and airborne illnesses the and skin season conditions autumn. Consequently, the Ritucharya concept has been supported by science. 10 Research indicates that the winter season is more likely to get asthma episodes. Contemporary Additionally, research mentions seasonal affective disorder. 11On the other hand, doctors think that a rigorous diet, frequent exercise, and cholesterol-lowering drugs can help prevent lifestyle illnesses. However, Ritucharya's wisdom, we can definitely steer clear of problems by following a routine in keeping with the Ritu to preserve the Tridosha peace and to maintain good health indefinitely. Increasing public awareness, with the government's assistance and Programmers for corporate wellness could be able

preventive measures into action.

to stop the sharp increase in these illnesses' prevalence, saving lives and avoiding expenses of crores of rupees.

The effects of photoperiod on immunological function and hormone synthesis, which impact the emergence of opportunistic disease, were demonstrated in a study conducted on animals with seasonal variations. An additional according to a study, free-living organisms from various locations can regulate the release of glucocorticoids seasonally. Stated differently, the amounts of glucocorticoids under stress and under unstress depending on the season, concentrations vary.

Given seasonal fluctuations and global warming, it makes sense to wonder if Ritucharya is still relevant in the modern background. It should be mentioned that the background on which is the foundation of Ritucharya, that warming and seasonal fluctuations, it makes sense to doubt the Ritucharya's applicability in the modern world. It is crucial to comprehend the context in which Ritucharyais founded, specifically Dosha and theory of Panchmahabhuta. While today's Ritu isn't consistent, the Dosha and Panchmahabhuta levels can be examined to identify the course of action, to which this the knowledge of Ayurveda acts as a guide. These Without a doubt, principles demand more investigation to make things clear.

III. CONCLUSION:

It may produce Dosha Vaishamya if the body is unable to cope with pressures due to changes in the unambiguous pressure of seasons. It could make the body incredibly helpless in the face of one or more issues. As differences according to the modifications, the secret to endurance is Ritucharya; the details of the seasonal practice are in this manner important. With a rise in global temperatures and variations in the way seasons emerge, In the current situation, obtaining knowledge on Ritucharya is essential. Strict dietary guidelines and traditional avoidance activities can go a long way.

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