

WE ARE WHAT WE EAT

EDITOR'S NOTE



GUT. IMMUNITY. GLOWING SKIN.

The 'gut feeling' that refers to a strong intuition is not merely a phase. A clear gut is like a passport to stress-free living as your mind and body are always in sync.

On the external side, if your gut is clear, your body will feel lighter and your skin will glow; the genesis of what we call as beautiful inside out.

An interesting fact: our gut produces more than 90 percent of the body's serotonin, a hormone that helps regulate our mood or emotions. Our gut is filled with nerve cells that receive and provide information to the brain (basis of mind-body alignment). A clogged gut affects the way our body communicates with our brains, further clouding our judgments and decisions making skills.

It is, therefore, important to ensure that we nourish, soothe and fortify our gut. And if you are wondering where to begin, here's an edit of Immunity-Boosting & Gut-Friendly recipes.

Aparrae Gupta

About Aparrna Gupta:

Aparrna Gupta is a renowned beauty columnist/writer and a Consulting Beauty Editor. An ex-beauty editor at the Times Luxury Division and Verve, she has years of expertise in wellness and scientific world of beauty, and regularly contributes to prestige and luxury magazines like Vogue, Lifestyle Asia and Livingfoodz.

Preface

Why do we need an immune-boosting diet?

Did you know that our immune system's biggest exposure to the outside world is through what we eat? Of course, regular exercise, emotional endurance and mental tenacity impact our immune system but it is necessary to understand that 70% of our immune system is in our gut. Every bite of food we eat is either building us up or taking us down. Now more than ever, we need to eat in a way that does not challenge our immune system.

The concept of immunity in Ayurveda

When we dive a little into the 7000 years old Vedic culture of India, Charaka defined Ayush (life) as a combination of the body, sense organs, mind, and soul. Concepts related to health, nutrition, and immunity are discussed with detail in nearly all classical texts of Ayurveda. According to Ayurveda, strong immunity is a product of good digestion, strong agni (the metabolic fire), quality liver functioning, and a balanced endocrine system (which includes appropriately balanced hormones). Immunity is also connected to mental health. In fact, our mind is more powerful than any other system in the body. Strengthening the mind, cleansing and de-stressing the mind is equally important.

What is a gut-friendly diet?

Our microbiome is in constant communication with all of our systems -- the immune system, the hormonal system and the cellular systems including those that manage our skin. The health of our microbiome dictates our overall health. And how we look, feel and think. It is important to maintain balance and diversity in our microbiome. The way to ensure that is to eat the things needed to promote gut health and diversity.

The Daughter Earth Glow-Guide

This ebook is a result of our extensive interactions with professionals in the medical community, Ayurveda, and nutrition. In this ebook, we have outlined the eating attitude mentioned in Charaka Samhita and compiled a comprehensive list of immunity-boosting, gut-resetting and detoxing recipes with an overarching objective of boosting the immune system through intelligent food choices.

Explore the Recipes >>

Excerpt from Charaka Samhita:

- Eat only when you feel hungry and after the previous meal is completely digested.
- One should be very mindful and consume the food consciously, with awareness of every bite.
- Diet should be balanced and must contain oils and fats.
- Take your time to eat without any anxiety.

01 TAMARIND RICE

Tamarind rice is a perfect meal to cook when you want something nutritious, easy and quick.

Ingredient List

2 cups of rice ½ tsp red chilli powder

½ cup tamarind 10 peanuts

3 whole red chillies 1 tsp salt

1/4 cup curry leaves 1/4 tsp turmeric powder

1 tsp mustard seeds ½ tsp jaggery

1 tbsp chana dal a pinch of asafoetida (heeng)

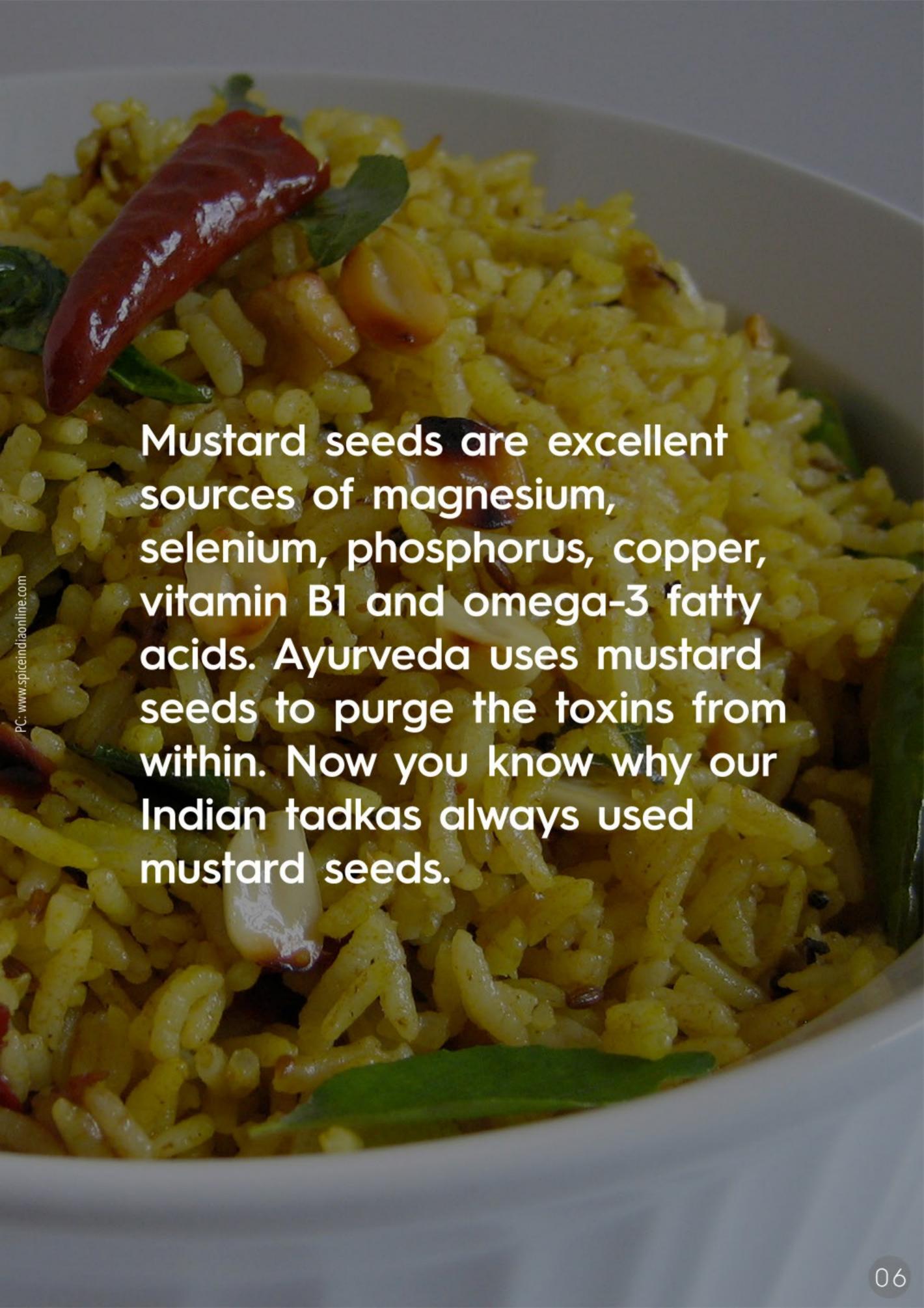
1 tsp urad dal 2-3 tbsp cooking oil (mustard/coconut)

¼ tsp fenugreek (methi) seeds

Directions:

- 1. Heat oil and roast peanuts along with both the dals.
- 2. Saute till the dals splutter and slightly colored.
- 3. Now add curry leaves and whole red chillies. Mix them well.
- Add salt, heeng, red chilli powder, and turmeric powder. Saute them well.
- 5. Add jaggery to the cooked mix and saute well.
- 6. Then add the tamarind pulp to the mix and saute till it becomes a semi-thick gravy.
- 7. Add this to the cooked rice and mix. Serve hot.

Editor's note: Tamarind is a natural laxative rich in Vitamin C that stimulates your metabolism and further keeps your digestive system strong.



02 RAGI DOSA

This healthy alternative to the usual Dosas, specially curated for diabetics by our in-house Ayurvedic experts, has a low glycemic index and helps in controlling blood sugar levels.

Ingredient List

1 cup ragi powder

2-3 cups of buttermilk till its thick enough for a dosa batter 1 green chilli chopped Jeera and Salt to taste

Directions:

- Soak ragi powder in buttermilk with green chilli, jeera, and salt overnight.
- On the next day, heat the non-stick pan and grease it lightly with oil.
- 3. When hot, pour a ladleful of the dosa batter, spread using a circular motion to make a thin dosa and cook till crisp.
- 4. Add ghee if you like.

Editor's note: Apart from being gluten-free, ragi or nachni contains fiber and is a rich source of iron, calcium and other minerals. Butyric acid in ghee helps to maintain a healthy intestinal microbiome, which in turn improves the gut health. Butyric acid is known to lower blood cholesterol as well as triglycerides, and that indicates it is a potent anti-inflammatory agent.



03 MORINGA & METHI CHAPATIS

This protein-rich Drumstick (Moringa) and Methi Chapati will make for a quick wholesome breakfast.

Ingredient List

1 cup whole wheat or multigrain flour ½ cup finely chopped drumstick leaves ½ cup finely chopped methi leaves ¼ tsp ajwain (carom seeds) ½ tsp red chilli powder ¼ tsp turmeric powder ½ tsp garam masala (optional) salt, to taste

2 tbsp oil or ghee to cook parathas, to knead the dough

Directions:

- In a bowl add finely chopped moringa leaves, methi leaves, ajwain, red chilli powder, turmeric powder, wheat flour, oil, and salt. Mix well.
- 2. Add some water and keep kneading till you get the smooth dough.
- 3. Roll the parathas semi-thick/ thin by dusting some dry flour.
- 4. Heat up a tawa/skillet on medium heat and place the paratha and let it cook and drizzle some ghee on top.
 Serve this 'Moringa and Methi' paratha with some tangy mint-coriander chutney to get a fill of your daily greens.

Editor's note: Moringa and methi both are great sources of plant-based protein for vegans. Moringa is rich in beta-carotene (vitamin A) and vitamin C and minerals such as iron and potassium. Methi or fenugreek is also a source of Vitamin K which helps in bone health and wound healing.



04 RAGI JAVA

Ragi Java is a popular probiotic drink from the South that is great for gut health. It is a nutritious gluten-free beverage that is high on fibers while being extremely filling and delicious.

Ingredient List

4 tbsp ragi flour

3 cups water

5 cups buttermilk

1/4 tsp roasted cumin powder

10-12 curry leaves

2 chopped green chillies

1 tsp freshly chopped coriander

Salt to taste

Directions:

- Mix a spoon of ragi flour in 1/2 cup of water. Make sure there
 are no lumps in the mixture.
- 2. Heat 2.5 cups of water in a pan. Once it comes to a rolling boil, slowly add the ragi mixture to the boiling water. Cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring continuously to avoid the formation of lumps.
- Once cooled, slowly add the ragi mixture to buttermilk and whisk nicely.
- 4. Add salt, roasted cumin powder, curry leaves, and green chilli and mix well. Garnish with chopped coriander leaves.

Editor's note: According to Ayurveda, buttermilk is preferred to curd, as it is easier to digest, and has similar probiotic benefits. Addition of jeera and curry leaves makes it even better for the gut. When ragi or nachni is mixed with the classic buttermilk, it is like a meal in a glass as you also get a boost of fibre and calcium, which keeps you satiated and energetic for a long time.



05 RADISH BUTTER MILK

This Andhra style *Majjiga Charu* is a gut-friendly and probiotic drink which is tad spicy but tastes awesome! It can be savoured with rice as a side dish as well as a warm spicy drink in between meals.

Ingredient List

1 cup of finely grated radish (white or red)

4 cups of buttermilk

1 onion chopped

2-3 strands of curry leaves

1 green chilli

4 garlic cloves either chopped or mashed

½ tsp jeera

¼ tsp each mustard and methi seeds

2 nos dried red chilli

1 tsp ginger and garlic paste,

Salt, turmeric and pepper to taste

Directions:

- 1. Heat oil, saute the onions, curry leaves and green chilli.
- 2. Add the spices along with the ginger-garlic paste.
- 3. After two minutes, add grated radish and simmer for a few minutes. Add salt, turmeric, and pepper to this and four cups of buttermilk while stirring.
- 4. Keep stirring and do not overheat once you add buttermilk as it might curdle and separate. Switch off and serve while warm.

Editor's note: Radishes are high in potassium, along with Vitamins A, C, E, B6, and natural minerals. They support the generation of collagen, which helps keep blood vessels healthy and our skin youthful. Radishes also cleanse your kidneys, control damage to red blood cells and help hydration.



06 MOONG DAL PAYASAM

This Indian lentil pudding is a traditional vedic recipe that brims with nutrition and taste. Perfect for some guilt-free indulgence.

Ingredient List

1 cup yellow moong dal

1 cup jaggery

2 cups coconut milk

1 tbsp cashews and raisins each roasted in ghee

Directions:

- Dry roast the moong dal for about 4 to 5 minutes, until it turns a light brown in colour and acquires a nutty flavour. Allow to cool.
- Wash moong dal and cook it with 2 & 1/2 cups of water for about 2 whistles in a pressure cooker.
- **3**. After the pressure comes down, add jaggery and cook till it turns thick, this should take about 12 to 15 minutes.
- 4. Stir coconut milk in a separate container till it's boiling. Mix it to the moong dal paste.
- 5. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes and then turn off the heat. In a small seasoning pan, heat ghee, add cashews and raisins and roast them till they are light brown.
- Add these roasted dry fruits and powdered cardamom for seasoning.

Editor's note: Processed white sugar is high in fructose and can overload the liver, turning the fructose to fat. What's more, sugar is addictive which leads to cravings and overeating. Since white sugar does not provide the body with any nutritional benefits except energy, it's best to swap it with natural nourishing alternatives such as jaggery, coconut, resins and dates.



07 AMLA SHOTS WITH JEERA

Drinking the juice of fresh amla is the best way to reap the benefits of this fruit, which is revered for its vitamin C content and rejuvenating benefits.

Ingredient List

5 Amla/ gooseberries

½ tsp jeera

ginger to taste

¼ tsp pepper

1 tbsp jaggery/ honey (optional)

2 cups of water

Directions:

- 1. Remove the core, and chop the rest of the amla into pieces.
- 2. Blend amla, water, and ginger and pour them into cups.
- 3. Sprinkle some pepper and add jaggery. Serve fresh.

Editor's note: Rich in Vitamin-C, amla or Indian gooseberry, is your super antioxidant and saviour against common flu, allergies, and infections. It is an exceptional immunity booster. Together with detoxifying and cleansing jeera or cumin seeds, amla shots are a great addition to your daily nutrition.



08 CUMIN-DHANIYA KASHAYAM

This five-spice kashayam is an Ayurvedic potion constituting aromatic spices - Jeera, Dhania, turmeric, ginger and pepper; balancing vāta, pitta and kapha, or tridha tu sa mya. It helps maintain the digestive fire, cures cold and flu and supports gut-cleansing.

Ingredient List

- ½ tablespoon cumin powder (jeera)
- ½ tablespoon dhaniya powder
- ½ tsp turmeric powder
- ½ tsp grated or mashed ginger
- ¼ tsp pepper

Directions:

- 1. Mix the above in 2 cups of water.
- 2. Boil this concoction till only 200 ml is left.
- 3. Consume this first thing in the morning on an empty stomach.

Editor's note: Rich in antioxidants, skin-friendly minerals, and vitamin C, coriander, evokes the digestive fire while it also simultaneously soothes and removes excess heat in the body. Cumin eliminates natural toxins, enhances immunity and supports good sleep.



09. ASHWAGANDHA-TURMERIC LATTE

We'd encourage you to accompany this detoxifying blend with some journaling and meditation for the utmost in zen and good vibes.

Ingredient List

1 tsp of Ashwagandha powder

1 grated potato

½ tsp of grated ginger

2 cup of water

1 cup boiled milk (or almond milk)

1 tsp pure cow ghee (or olive oil)

2-3 peppercorns

6-7 mint leaves

Salt, turmeric and pepper as per taste

Directions:

- 1. Heat ghee/olive oil.
- 2. Add grated potato, ashwagandha, ginger, peppercorns, and water. Let it simmer for 7-10 minutes.
- 3. Add milk, salt, turmeric, and pepper in the end.
- 4. If you like, add basil, thyme and rosemary flakes for flavor.

Editor's note: Ashwagandha is an adaptogen and is also known as "Strength of the Stallion" because it was traditionally used to boost one's immune system. It increases energy and mental clarity, fighting adrenal fatigue and improving thyroid health. When combined with the natural anti-inflammatory properties of turmeric root, we've got a recipe of success.



10. MORINGA RASAM

With the added goodness of Vitamin C rich Tamarind, this healthy South Indian Rasam makes for a fulfilling supper.

Ingredient List

One bunch of moringa leaves or 2 tsp moringa powder 20 gm tamarind soaked in water and pureed 4 garlic cloves 2 chopped tomatoes Few curry leaves ½ bunch of coriander leaves a pinch of jeera Salt, black pepper, turmeric, and ginger paste to taste

Directions:

- Boil Tamarind juice with moringa leaves, tomatoes, grated ginger, pepper, jeera, salt, and turmeric. Let it reduce to 3/4th quantity.
- 2. Take a few drops of cooking oil and saute mashed garlic, coriander leaves, curry leaves, grated ginger under a slow flame.
- Add the boiled tamarind and moringa rasam to this, and let it boil again till the quantity reduces to half the original quantity.

Editor's note: Moringa leaves are high in vitamins A and C, calcium, zinc, iron, magnesium and potassium. They contain phytochemicals that make your body more resistant to toxins, improve gut-health while the antioxidants help in fighting free radicals to elevate your skin health.



11. PROBIOTIC RICE FERMENT WITH CURD (SADDI ANNAM)

Made with precooked rice, curd (yogurt), onions and green chilli, it easily fulfills the daily nutritional requirements of the body. In the south, this is a recommended breakfast for pregnant women. It's best to have it as the first meal of the day.

Ingredient List

Precooked rice - 1.5 cups (from previous night)

½ cup curd

1½ cups water

2 green chilies

1 onion chopped

salt to taste

For tadka (optional):

2 tbsp grated raw mango
asafoetida/ heeng - a pinch
5-6 peanuts/ moongfali

A handful of curry leaves

1 tbsp mustard seeds/ rai

Directions:

- Mix pre-cooked rice with water, milk and curd in a vessel. Add chopped onion and cut green chilli to this. Leave this for twelve hours.
- 2. Heat oil in a pan. Add tadka ingredients to this. Saute for 2 minutes till they get roasted well.
- 3. Add this tadka to the rice mixture and mix well.

Editor's note: Curd helps in digestion as it contains the good bacteria needed to boost gut health. Probiotics in curd act as a mild laxative and when mixed with rice, they help in gut reset and building immunity.



12. RICE KANJI

This sattvic rice kanji cures your intestinal flora, tonifies the blood and soothes inflammation. It makes for a hearty snack or a brunch recipe. It's ideal for adults, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Ingredient List

1 cup rice

4 cups water

1 teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon sesame seed

1 teaspoon grated ginger

6 peppercorns

½ teaspoon turmeric

½ teaspoon red chili powder or flakes

1 teaspoon coconut oil

2 cups milk or yogurt

1 tsp chia seeds (presoaked in ¼ cup of water for 2 hours)

Directions:

- 1. Soak rice in warm water for an hour.
- Drain water and crush rice coarsely in a blender. Do not add any water.
- 3. In a heavy bottom vessel, add 4 cups of water to boil.
- 4. Add crushed rice, grated ginger, crushed peppercorn. Cover and cook stir frequently.
- 5. Turn off heat when rice is cooked.
- 6. In a separate pan, add coconut oil, red chili flakes, and turmeric powder. Keep it on low heat for 30-45 seconds before turning it off the flame.
- 7. Add to the rice mixture.
- 8. Stir in yogurt and chia seeds.

Editor's note: Chia seeds are an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids, rich in antioxidants, and they provide fiber, iron, and calcium. Water-soaked chia seeds are easier to digest and the nutrients are better absorbed and assimilated in your body.



13. GOTU KOLA SOUP

(REPLACE GOTUKOLA WITH SPINACH)

This creamy Gotu Kola soup is both tasty and nutritious. Blended with fresh coconut milk that is rich in vitamins and minerals, this soup is creamy and appeals to your palette with a sprinkle of turmeric, pepper and a dash of garlic and ginger.

Ingredient List

1 cup fresh gotu kola/ spinach leaves

1 cup coconut milk

¼ tsp ghee or olive oil.

¼ tsp grated slices of ginger

2 buds of garlic

a pinch of turmeric powder

a pinch of pepper

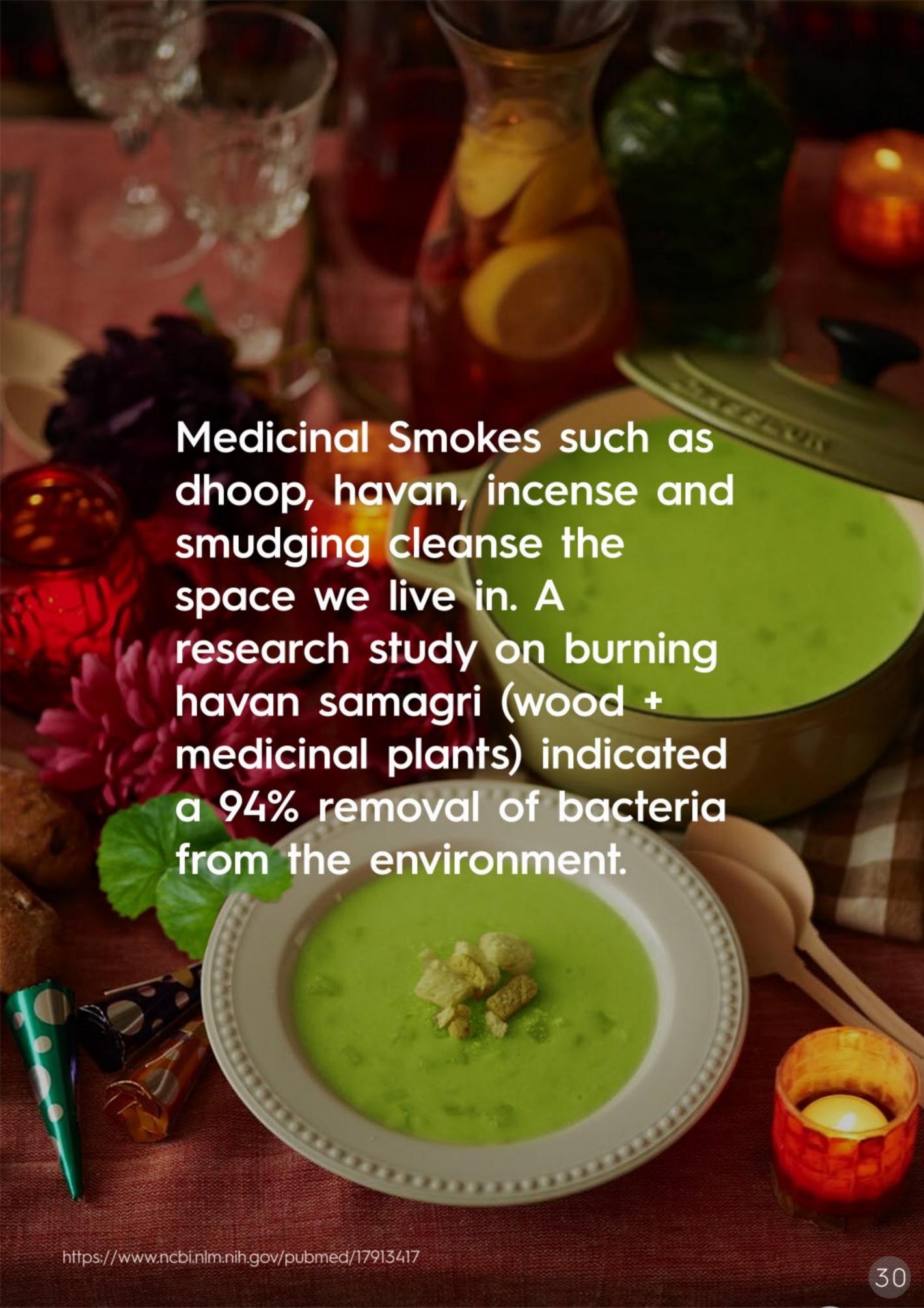
Salt to taste or ½ tsp.

(Size: Two Servings)

Directions:

- 1. Wash the Gotu Kola leaves.
- 2. In a low flame, stir fry the leaves for 5 mins along with grated ginger and garlic buds in a few drops of ghee or olive oil.
- Blend this mixture with a cup of water and reheat along with a cup of coconut milk for about five minutes.
- Add salt, pepper, and turmeric. Serve this healthy rejuvenating soup.

Editor's note: Known as the herb of longevity and enlightenment, Gotu Kola is an adaptogen (helps with stress) and also helps detox the body.



14. COCO-TURMERIC BEBIDA

This sumptuous and nutritious bebida made of coconut milk and turmeric is a mildly spicy and activates your palate.

Ingredient List

1 cup fresh coconut milk

½ cup water

½ tsp turmeric powder

½ cinnamon stick (about an inch)

½ tsp of grated ginger

4 peppercorns

1 clove

A few mint leaves Salt to taste

Directions:

- Boil water with cinnamon, peppercorns and grated ginger for five minutes and simmer.
- Add coconut milk and turmeric to this and keep stirring for a few minutes till the flavours blend together.
- **3**. Strain this into a cup, add salt to taste and garnish with coriander leaves. Can be served hot or cold.

Editor's note: Coconut milk is rich in vitamins, minerals and essentials fats while turmeric is an exceptional antioxidant and a detox ingredient. Additional spices like clove buds, peppercorns, and cinnamon help improve the gut fire by adding spicy taste to this drink that can be served both hot and cold.



15. IRANI CHAI DECOCTION

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Irani Chai defines the soul of Hyderabad. Introduced by settlers from Persia, the beverage was a hot favourite of the Nizams and commoners alike. When you are in Hyderabad, try out the Irani Chai near Charminar. You can thank us later.

Ingredient List

3 tablespoon tea leaves or

2 tbsp tea powder,

½ tsp dry rose petals (optional)

1 cup almond milk/coconut milk

½ star anise

4 cardamom pods

1 inch cinnamon stick

5 cloves

½ teaspoon whole black peppercorns

2 tbsp brown sugar/jaggery

2 cup water

Directions:

- In a saucepan, add water, tea leaves and all the spices (star anise, cardamoms, cinnamon, cloves, and pepper). Allow this to boil until the decoction is reduced to half. Ensure that this is steam cooked, and not left open to boil
- 2. And add brown sugar/jaggery as per your taste.
- 3. Pour equal amounts of decoction and almond milk into a cup and enjoy. Traditionally, Irani Chai is taken with condensed milk (milk boiled till it is reduced to half its original volume), but it's equally delicious when taken with almond milk.

Editor's note: Intensely cooked with spices in the Irani Dum format, this Hyderabadi delicacy is a must-try. We suggest this nourishing beverage as an occasional alternative to your regular cup of tea.



16. PLANTAIN CURRY

This simple and quick plantain recipe is both delicious and nutritious. Plantain has a low Glycemic Index and has high resistant starch making it suitable for the diabetics.

Ingredient List

2 small green bananas, peeled and cut into cubes

¼ tsp cumin and mustard seeds

1 tsp salt

1 tsp turmeric powder

½ tbsp moong dal soaked for about fifteen minutes

1 tsp ginger garlic paste

1 small onion finely chopped

½ cup water

2 green chillies chopped

5-6 curry leaves

2 tbsp cooking oil

Directions:

- Heat oil and add cumin seeds, mustard seeds, curry leaves, chopped onion, chillies and ginger-garlic paste. Fry until the raw smell disappears.
- Add plantain cubes and slow cook under medium flame. After a few minutes.
- 3. Add salt, turmeric and soaked moong dal.
- Cover and cook on a low flame till the cubes are cooked well.
- 5. Serve Plantain curry with steamed rice or tamarind rice.

Editor's note: Plantains or Raw bananas are high in fibre, protein, and potassium. Ayurveda recommends this as a summer food and has been used in the past to treat various illnesses.



17. CINNAMON TEA

Cinnamon Tea with lemon and honey is an aromatic and soothing beverage which offers a wide range of health benefits. That includes its ability to regulate blood sugar, improve digestion, strengthen the immune system, and boost cognitive function.

Ingredient List

1½ cups of water1 tsp of cinnamon powder/1 stick of cinnamon1 tsp of honey1 tsp of lemon juice

Directions:

- 1. Boil water in a pan and put cinnamon stick.
- 2. Boil it for another 2-3 minutes before taking them out.
- Now add lemon juice and honey to the tea mix and stir well. Serve hot.

Editor's note: Cinnamon is loaded with antioxidants and shows an anti-inflammatory property. It has been shown to reduce fasting blood sugar levels, having a potent anti-diabetic effect at 1-6 grams or 0.5-2 teaspoons per day. Honey boosts immunity, relieves cough and cold while combating sweet craving.



About Daughter Earth

Daughter Earth is a science-driven, natural beauty brand that develops clean and clinical prescription-strength formulas using botanicals by combining advanced green biochemistry and ancient Ayurveda.

Our aim is to create cutting-edge products, here in India - products that are exceptional in their scientific rigour, ingredients and performance - all while being ethical, cruelty-free and sustainable.

Daughter Earth is born out of a mission to build a business that is designed to give and created to conserve.

10% of our earnings go to the two causes we deeply care for: nature conservation and girl child education. Every other penny is reinvested in R&D.



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