



v. Important organizations of Ayurveda

v. Important organizations of Ayurveda - National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), Central Council for Research in Āyurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Āyurvedic Pharmacopoeia commission, National Medicinal Plants Board and Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), etc

Important Organizations of Āyurveda

1. National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)

Regulatory Authority for Āyurvedic Education and Practice

- **Establishment:** 2020 (replaced the **Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM)** under the **National Medical Commission Act, 2019**).
- **Mandate:**
 - **Education:** Standardize undergraduate (BAMS) and postgraduate (MD/MS) curricula.
 - **Licensing:** Grant recognition to colleges and enforce **Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME)**.
 - **Ethics:** Regulate professional conduct via the **Āyurveda Medical Council**.
- **Key Initiatives:**
 - **Digital Integration:** Launched **NCISM e-Academy** for online courses and continuous medical education (CME).
 - **Global Benchmarking:** Aligned BAMS with WHO's **Benchmarks for Training in Āyurveda (2019)**.
 - **Interdisciplinary Research:** Collaborations with ICMR for studies on *Prakriti*-based genomics.

2. Central Council for Research in Āyurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)

Premier Research Body for Āyurveda

- **Establishment:** 1978 under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Structure:** 30+ institutes, including **Regional Research Institutes (RRIs)** and **Central Research Institutes (CRIs)**.
- **Core Functions:**
 1. **Clinical Research:** Validate classical formulations (e.g., *Ashwagandha* for stress, *Guduchi* for immunomodulation).
 2. **Drug Development:** Standardize formulations like **Ayush-82** (diabetes) and **Ayush-64** (malaria/COVID-19).
 3. **Public Health:** Implement AYUSH interventions in national programs (e.g., anemia reduction via *Loha Bhasma*).
- **Recent Milestones:**
 1. **COVID-19 Research:** Published RCTs on **Ayush Kwath** (immunity booster) in *Journal of Research in Ayurvedic Sciences*.
 2. **Golden Triangle Partnership:** Collaborative studies with CSIR and ICMR on reverse pharmacology.

3. Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Commission (APC)

Standard-Setting Authority for Āyurvedic Drugs

- **Establishment:** 2010 under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Key Publications:**
 - **Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (API):** 11 volumes (645 monographs) defining quality standards (e.g., *Bacoside A* in *Brahmi*).
 - **The Ayurvedic Formulary of India (AFI):** 985 formulations with GMP protocols.
- **Technological Integration:**
 - **Advanced QC Tools:** HPTLC, HPLC, and GC-MS for marker compound analysis.



- **Digital Tools:** e-API Portal for real-time updates on pharmacopoeial standards.
- **Global Harmonization:**
 - Aligned API with **WHO Herbal Monographs** and **USP Ayurvedic Guidelines**.

4. National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)

Promoting Sustainable Cultivation and Conservation

- **Establishment:** 2000 under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- **Key Functions:**
 1. **Cultivation:** Supports farmers via the **Central Sector Scheme for Medicinal Plants**.
 2. **Conservation:** Identified 15 **Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas (MPCAs)**.
 3. **Market Linkage:** e-CHARAK portal for price monitoring and trade facilitation.
- **Notable Initiatives:**
 1. **FRLHT-ENVIS Database:** Documents 8,000+ species with GIS mapping.
 2. **National Mission on Medicinal Plants (2021-2026):** ₹1,200 crore budget for 1,200 species (e.g., *Sarpagandha*, *Guggulu*).
 3. **2023 Amendment:** Introduced **NDPS compliance** for regulated species (e.g., *Cannabis*).

5. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)

Safeguarding Āyurvedic Knowledge from Biopiracy

- **Establishment:** 2001 (joint initiative of CSIR, AYUSH, and DIPP).
- **Scope:** 3.9 lakh formulations (1.5 lakh Āyurvedic) translated into 34 languages.
- **Key Achievements:**
 - **Patent Prevention:** Blocked 300+ illegitimate claims (e.g., *Turmeric* for wound healing, *Neem* as pesticide).
 - **Global Collaboration:** Access agreements with **USPTO**, **EPO**, and **JPO** to screen patent applications.
- **Recent Expansion:**
 - **TKDL-Access (2023):** Open-access portal for researchers (excluding proprietary knowledge).
 - **AI Integration:** NLP tools to cross-reference traditional texts with modern patents.

6. Other Key Organizations

a. All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)

- **Role:** Premier institute for postgraduate education and research (modeled after AIIMS).
- **Initiatives:**
 - **WHO Collaborating Centre:** For traditional medicine (2022 designation).
 - **Telemedicine:** AIIA e-Sanjeevani for remote consultations.

b. Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT)

- **Role:** Conservation of medicinal plants and community-based healthcare.
- **Key Work:** **ENVIS Centre** on Medicinal Plants (funded by MoEFCC).

c. National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur

- **Role:** Education and research (autonomous under Ministry of AYUSH).
- **Milestone:** **NAAC A++** accreditation (2023).

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

- **Role:** Develops standards for Siddha, Unani, and Homoeopathy alongside Āyurveda.



7. Challenges and Strategic Recommendations

a. Challenges

- **Regulatory Fragmentation:** Overlap between NCISM, APC, and NMPB mandates.
- **Quality Control:** Adulteration in raw materials (e.g., *Shankhpushpi* species confusion).
- **Global Recognition:** Limited acceptance of Āyurvedic drugs in EU/US markets.

b. Future Directions

- **One Health Approach:** Integrate medicinal plant conservation with climate action.
- **AI-Driven Governance:** Predictive analytics for policy-making (e.g., demand forecasting for *Ashwagandha*).
- **Global Diplomacy:** Push for **ISO standards** and WHO ICD-11 integration of Āyurveda.

Conclusion

These organizations form the backbone of India's strategy to position Āyurveda as a **global system of medicine**. Through NCISM's regulatory rigor, CCRAS's evidence-based research, APC's standardization, NMPB's sustainability focus, and TKDL's IP protection, Āyurveda is transitioning from tradition to translational science. Future success hinges on interdisciplinary collaboration and ethical globalization.