

v. Important organizations of Ayurveda

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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.