

x. Government initiatives for development of Āyurveda

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1. Establishment of Dedicated Administrative Bodies

1.1 Ministry of AYUSH

1. Formation

- Established in 2014 (upgraded from the Department of AYUSH under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare).
- AYUSH stands for **Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy**.

2. Objectives

- Policy formulation**, regulation, and oversight of education and research in the AYUSH systems.
- Standardizing **pharmaceutical** production (e.g., drugs and formulations).
- Promoting **national and international collaboration** for AYUSH-based healthcare.

3. Impact

- Provides **strategic direction**, ensuring Ayurveda's mainstream integration.
- Oversees multiple **autonomous bodies** (research councils, regulatory boards) to coordinate efforts in education, clinical practice, and research.

2. Strengthening Education and Regulation

2.1 National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM)

1. Background

- Replaced the **Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM)** in 2021 under the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Act, 2020.
- Aims to **regulate medical education** and practices in Indian systems of medicine (Ayurveda, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Unani).

2. Roles

- Standardize** the curriculum, syllabi, and quality of teaching institutions.
- Conduct **uniform entrance examinations** (NEET) for admissions into AYUSH undergraduate courses.
- Maintain **academic norms** and ensure ethical practice among registered practitioners.

3. Impact

- Ensures **quality assurance** in Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals.
- Facilitates updating educational content in alignment with **modern scientific** developments.

2.2 National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur

1. Overview

- An autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, designated as a **Deemed to be University** in 2022.
- Offers **UG, PG, Ph.D. programs**, and specialized training in Panchakarma, Dravyaguna, etc.

2. Objective

- Develop into a **Centre of Excellence** for Ayurvedic learning, research, and patient care.
- Collaborate with international universities on clinical research, standardization of Ayurvedic knowledge.

2.3 Other National Institutes

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi & Goa:** Focus on **postgraduate** and **doctoral** education, advanced research, integrative patient care.
- Institute for Post Graduate Teaching & Research in Ayurveda (IPGT & RA), Jamnagar:** A pioneer in **Ayurvedic postgraduate studies** and high-level clinical research.

3. Research and Development Bodies

3.1 Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)

1. Mandate

- Premier organization for **formulation, coordination**, and promotion of Ayurvedic research.
- Operates multiple **research institutes** and regional centers across India.

2. Key Activities

- Conducts **clinical trials** for Ayurvedic formulations in areas like rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, COVID-19, etc.
- Publishes **research monographs**, maintains digital databases of medicinal plants, fosters collaborations with reputed universities/institutions.

3. Impact

- Validates classical remedies through **scientific methodology**, aiding global acceptance.
- Encourages patenting, publication, and integration of Ayurvedic approaches in mainstream healthcare.

3.2 Pharmacopoeial Bodies

- **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H):**

- Prepares and updates the **Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (API)** and **Ayurvedic Formulary of India (AFI)**, establishing **quality standards** for Ayurvedic drugs.
- Ensures consistent **manufacturing practices** and fosters standardization across the Ayurvedic pharmaceutical sector.

4. Healthcare Delivery and Community Programs

4.1 National AYUSH Mission (NAM)

1. Launch & Objectives

- Initiated in 2014 to bolster **AYUSH healthcare** and **educational systems**, integrate AYUSH with mainstream public health.
- Addresses **infrastructure, manpower**, and supply chain gaps for AYUSH services in rural and urban settings.

2. Components

- **AYUSH Services:** Upgrading AYUSH hospitals, dispensaries, co-location of AYUSH facilities in primary health centers (PHCs).
- **AYUSH Educational Institutions:** Providing grants for better teaching facilities, libraries, labs, etc.
- **Quality Control of ASU&H Drugs:** Strengthening state drug-testing labs, enforcement mechanisms.
- **AYUSH eVISA:** Easy visa facilitation for international patients who are seeking Ayush treatment in India. This step is promoting Ayush Wellness Tourism too.

3. Outcome

- Improves **availability** and **access** to Ayurvedic healthcare, particularly in underserved regions.
- Encourages **integration** of Ayurveda in national disease control programs (e.g., for non-communicable diseases, maternal-child health).

4.2 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers

- Under **Ayushman Bharat** (a flagship health initiative), the government has proposed **transforming Sub-centers and Primary Health Centers** into AYUSH Health and Wellness Centers.
- Focus on **preventive** and **promotive** healthcare, emphasizing **Yoga, Ayurvedic lifestyle counseling**, and **basic remedies** for common ailments.

4.3 Integration with Public Health Programs

- Partnerships in **national programs** for **Nutrition, Immunization**, or lifestyle diseases (like diabetes, hypertension) by leveraging **Ayurvedic dietary advice, yoga** for stress control, etc.

- Some states run specialized campaigns (e.g., **Kerala's** Ayurveda-based public health drives) to manage communicable and non-communicable diseases.

5. Global Promotion and Regulations

5.1 International Cooperation

1. MoUs & Bilateral Agreements

- The Ministry of AYUSH signs **memoranda of understanding** with various countries (e.g., Germany, Russia, Japan) to promote **research, training**, and mutual recognition of Ayurveda-based certifications.

2. WHO Collaborations

- India works with the **World Health Organization** on developing **benchmarks** for training in traditional medicine, endorsing safe practices.
- Collaboration to standardize herbal medicines, good manufacturing practices (GMP), etc.

5.2 Ayush Information Cells Abroad

- Government supports **AYUSH Information Cells** or **Ayurveda Centers** in certain embassies and cultural missions, offering **consultation, products**, and informational materials.
- Encourages foreign nationals to adopt **Ayurvedic wellness** programs, fueling global interest.

6. Quality Control and Regulatory Measures

1. Licensing & GMP

- Mandatory **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)** for Ayurvedic pharmaceutical units under **Drugs and Cosmetics Act**.
- Emphasis on **safety, efficacy**, and **quality control** in manufacturing classical and proprietary Ayurvedic drugs.

2. Pharmacovigilance Program

- Launched by CCRAS and Ministry of AYUSH for **monitoring adverse drug reactions (ADRs)** and ensuring consumer protection.
- Building confidence in the **safety** profile of Ayurvedic treatments through systematic data collection.

3. Integration with Digital Health Platforms

- Initiatives like **e-AUSHADHI portal** for licensing, manufacturing, distribution of AYUSH medicines, ensuring transparency.
- Some states propose digital tracking systems for supply chains of herbal raw materials.

7. Education, Awareness, and Research Grants

1. Fellowships & Scholarships

- Government offers **fellowships** for PG and PhD in Ayurveda (ICMR, CCRAS schemes), promoting advanced research.
- Students can explore specialized domains like **dravyaguṇa, panchakarma**, etc.

2. Foundation of 4 center of excellence on 9th Ayurveda day, 2024 -

- Centre of Excellence for Diabetes and Metabolic Disorders at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Ayush for Advanced Technological Solutions, Start-up Support and Net Zero Sustainable Solutions for Rasauashadhi at IIT Delhi
- Centre of Excellence for Fundamental and Translational Research in Ayurveda at Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow
- Centre of Excellence on Ayurveda and Systems Medicine at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

3. Ayurveda Day & Public Awareness

- Ayurveda Day** is observed annually (on Dhanvantari Jayanti) to advocate healthy living and raise public awareness about preventive aspects of Ayurveda.
- Public exhibitions, seminars, and workshops highlight Ayurvedic approaches for common ailments.

4. Collaboration with Modern Institutions



- Joint research projects with **ICMR, CSIR**, and academic institutions bridging Ayurveda and modern biomedicine.
- Encourages **evidence-based** studies on Ayurvedic formulations for lifestyle disorders, immune modulation, etc.

Conclusion

Government initiatives for the **development of Āyurveda** extend across **policy-making, regulation, education, research, and healthcare service delivery**. Establishing the **Ministry of AYUSH** has been pivotal, consolidating multiple efforts under one umbrella. Programs like the **National AYUSH Mission, CCRAS research projects**, integrated **AYUSH Health & Wellness Centers**, and **standardization** measures (pharmacopoeias, GMP, pharmacovigilance) collectively elevate Ayurveda from a traditional system to a **globally recognized** integrative science.

Key Takeaway:

By **strengthening education**, advancing **scientific validation**, improving **infrastructure**, and **enhancing accessibility**, the Indian government (and increasingly, global partners) aims to **preserve, modernize**, and **disseminate** Ayurvedic wisdom, ensuring it remains a **robust, credible, and viable healthcare choice** in contemporary times.