x. Government initiatives for development of Ayurveda

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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

- o 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.
- o Maintain academic norms and ensure ethical practice among registered practitioners.

3. Impact

- Ensures quality assurance in Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals.
- o 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.
- o Offers **UG, PG, Ph.D. programs**, and specialized training in Panchakarma, Dravyaguṇa, etc.

2. Objective

- o Develop into a **Centre of Excellence** for Ayurvedic learning, research, and patient care.
- o 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.

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WHERE CLASSICAL WISDOM MEETS INTELLIGENT LEARNING

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.
- o 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.
- o 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).
- o 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.

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• 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.
- o 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.
- o 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
- o 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 -

- o 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 Rasaushadhies at IIT Delhi
- Centre of Excellence for Fundamental and Translational Research in Ayurveda at Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow
- o 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.
- o Public exhibitions, seminars, and workshops highlight Ayurvedic approaches for common ailments.

4. Collaboration with Modern Institutions

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- 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.

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