

No.A.17020/1/2020-E.1
Government of India
Ministry of AYUSH

AYUSH BHAWAN, B Block,
GPO Complex, INA, NEW DELHI – 110023
Dated:2nd April, 2020

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Constitution of an “Interdisciplinary Ayush Research and Development Task Force” in the Ministry of AYUSH for initiating, coordinating and monitoring the R & D activities in the AYUSH Sector related to SARS-Cov-2 virus and the COVID-19 disease

Hon'ble Prime Minister during interaction with Ayush Stakeholders on 28th March, 2020 advised to generate awareness about Indian traditional medicines being in vogue and practised across the globe. He emphasised that there is a need for AYUSH Scientists, ICMR, CSIR and other research institutions to come together and carry out evidence-based research on the impact of AYUSH medicines. If such a collaboration can lead to some solution for the patients of Covid-19, it would be a boon to the country and the world.

2. The Competent Authority has decided to set up an “**Interdisciplinary Ayush Research and Development Task Force**” under Ministry of AYUSH to examine the proposals forwarded by screening committees of AYUSH Research Councils or identified through pro-active approach and further to coordinate for collaboration with other research bodies like ICMR, CSIR, AIIMS, DRDO, DBT, DST, AYUSH Industry, Pharmaceutical Industry, IT industry, State Governments etc. after vetting from the related mechanisms of GOI.

3. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Task Force would be as follows:

- i. Identification of potential preventive therapy and therapeutic approaches from AYUSH systems for different stages of treatment of COVID 19 as standalone and/or add-on interventions to conventional care.
- ii. Examination of crowd-sourced suggestions / proposals received through website of Ministry of AYUSH which have been screened by the respective Central Research Councils for their validation and recommendation for further action.
- iii. Identification of potential preventive therapy and therapeutic approaches from AYUSH systems for different stages of treatment of CoVID 19 as standalone and/or add-on interventions to conventional care. These approaches will be vetted by related mechanism, set up by

- Government of India to coordinate among science agencies, scientists and regulatory bodies.
- iv. Formulation of a strategy for calling the research proposals through pro-active and reactive approaches, through identifying the potential institutes/industries/research personals and by advertisement under the ambit of EMR Scheme of AYUSH. Evolving methodology and approaches for prioritising the research areas such as in-vitro studies for generating leads, in-vivo studies for efficacy in experimental animals and studies involving human participants etc.
 - v. Advocating the approaches for pooling of resources for carrying forward the research initiatives.
 - vi. Formulating National ethical guidelines and regulatory mechanism for integrative management (AYUSH/Conventional) of CoVID 19 in human participants.
 - vii. Development of road map for utilisation of national resources from AYUSH institutions setups and infrastructure. (State AYUSH Directorates /AYUSH colleges / AYUSH Industry / Private Hospitals / other resources)
 - viii. Evolving an approach and roadmap for finalising the proposals and also proposals may be called for interventions at different levels;
 - a) Survey and documentation of Reported Medical Practices of AYUSH based interventions for Prevention and Management of COVID 19 from AYUSH medical practitioners
 - b) Experimental studies (In vitro and in vivo studies) for generating leads preferably from existing classical Ayurveda/other AYUSH interventions under the provision of D&C act
 - c) Prevention through AYUSH Care from CoVID-19 in healthy individuals.
 - d) Development of any intervention/technology for milder symptoms found in CoVID-19
 - e) Development of any intervention/technology for preventing severe form of CoVID-19
 - f) Adjuvant or as add on therapy with contemporary treatment for severe stage of CoVID-19
 - g) Developing prophylaxis clinical studies and prioritize in healthcare workers

4. The composition of the **Inter-disciplinary Ayush R & D Task Force** will be as follows:

Sl.N o.	Name	Organization / Designation	
1	Prof Bhushan Patwardhan	Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC)	Chairman

2	Dr V M Katoch	Former Secretary, DHR and DG, ICMR	Member
3	Dr P R Krishnakumar	MD, AVP Research Foundation	Member
4	Dr P Ram Manohar	Head-Research, Amrita Ayurveda Institute	Member
5	Dr B S Prasad	Principal, BVK Ayurveda College of KLE Deemed University	Member
6	Prof Rama Jayasundar	Professor, AIIMS, New Delhi	Member
7	Dr Vishwajanani S	Representative from CSIR	Member
8	Representative from ICMR not below Scientist G		Member
9	Mohammad Aslam, Scientist G, DBT		Member
10	Prof Tanuja Nesari	Director, AIIA, New Delhi	Member
11	Dr Geethakrishnan	Traditional Medicine Unit, WHO	Member
12	Prof M S Baghel	Former Director IPGTRA	Member
13	Prof K S Dhiman	DG, CCRAS	Member
14	Dr. K. Kanakavalli	DG CCRS	Member
15	Prof Asim Ali Khan	DG CCRUM	Member
16	Dr Anil Khurana	DG, CCRH	Member
17	Dr J LN Sastry	CEO, NMPB	Member Secretary

5. The Chairman is empowered to co-opt any expert if necessary.
6. Dr. Rajeshwari Singh, OSD (Technical) will participate in the meetings as representative of O/o Secretary AYUSH.
7. The Task Force will fast track the assigned work looking at the crisis of pandemic and urgent requirement to find possible solutions.
8. NMPB will facilitate the necessary secretarial assistance for the Task Force, and the expenditures in this regard shall be borne by CCRAS.

This issues with the approval of Hon'ble MoS(IC) AYUSH.

Vijayalakshmi

(Vijayalakshmi Bharadwaj)

Deputy Secretary to Government of India

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To

- 1 -17. Chairman and Members of the Interdisciplinary Task Force
18. PS to Hon'ble MoS (I/C) AYUSH

19-22 PPS to Secretary (AYUSH), Additional Secretary (AYUSH), JS (RJ), JS (PNRK).
23. DG, CCRAS
24. CEO, NMPB

Copy to:

1. Dr V. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog (with C/L)
2. Dr K. Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt. of India (with C/L)
3. Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology (with C/L)
4. Dr Shekhar C. Mande, DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR (with C/L)
5. Prof Balram Bhargava, Secretary DHR and DG ICMR (with C/L)