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Ministry of AYUSH works on developing new drugs

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In a move to popularise Indian traditional medicinal systems, the AYUSH Ministry is working relentlessly to develop several new drugs for the treatment of both communicable and non-communicable diseases on scientific lines.

These medicines are being developed by newly constituted Central Research Councils — Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH), Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), and Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) — which function under the Ministry of AYUSH.

CCRAS is developing eight new drugs for treatment of diseases or problems related to old age, bronchial asthma, diabetes mellitus, lymphatic filariasis, ovarian cancer, dengue, wound healing and migraine. The CCRH is developing 12 new drugs for various diseases including dengue, malaria, leishmaniasis and diarrhoea.

Similarly, the CCRUM is developing drugs against diseases including vitiligo and essential hypertension through multi-centric randomized controlled trials. The CCRS is developing a drug which has been proved to be effective in curing type-II diabetes.

A total of 626 colleges have been opened across the country that are involved in the education of AYUSH healthcare system, out of which — 341 colleges are for Ayurveda, 10 for Siddha, 52 for Unani, 204 focused on Homeopathy and 19 on Naturopathy. The government has received 65 proposals for starting new Ayurveda colleges as on July 26, 2017.

Under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), the government has earmarked Rs 440 crore for upgradation and setting up of new AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries in the current current year.