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INDIAN COUNCIL OF
MEDICAL RESEARCH | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE



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**ICMR-MoA programme for
ENHANCING RESEARCH CAPACITY OF AYUSH PROFESSIONALS
(ICMR-MoA - RECAP)
*Research Capacity Building Programme for Ayush professionals in India***

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Background

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the apex body under the Department of Health Research (DHR), formulates, promotes and coordinates high-quality biomedical and health research in India. The ICMR-National Institute of Traditional Medicine (ICMR-NITM) is a premier institute within the ICMR with a vision to positively influence public health outcomes in India through integration of traditional medicine with conventional healthcare system through evidence-based medicine. ICMR-NITM plays a crucial role in the betterment of healthcare by connecting modern healthcare with Ayush systems of medicine. ICMR-NITM offers doctoral and post-doctoral programmes and conducts training and internship to students on various health and research issues. The ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE) is a premier institute under the ICMR with the vision to contribute in enhancing the quality of life of Indian citizens and influencing public health practice and policies through research, education and training. The ICMR-NIE offers public health (two-year Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP) leading to Master of Public Health; FETP certificate courses), Masters in Biostatistics and several online health research courses with national Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform.

ICMR-NITM and ICMR-NIE have conducted training programmes targeting Ayush professionals in the past. ICMR-NITM has conducted many training programs for Ayush personnel, especially on research methodologies. The Institute has recently conducted the “Stakeholders Conclave on Integrative Health Solutions for Infectious Diseases” and “Workshop on Clinical Research in Integrative Medicine”, during which experts, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from both Ayush and conventional medical fields deliberated on innovative approaches to combat infectious diseases through integrative health solutions. Similarly, ICMR-NIE conducted several workshops targeting Siddha professionals from Central Council for Research in Siddha and National Institute of Siddha. Recently, ICMR-NIE completed in-person workshop on “Research capacity building for Ayush professionals” for the team of 21 Ayurveda research officers from various ministries, national institutes and regional research institutes as a part of Ayush-ICMR collaboration.

The utilization of Ayush systems of medicine is increasing in India. The government of India has initiated many initiatives to improve the Ayush system of medicine such as a Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of International Cooperation in Ayush (IC Scheme), Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO-GCTM) and Forum of Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM-Ayush). Further, The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 strongly advocates mainstreaming the potential of Ayush in public health.

One of the key objectives of the MoA is capacity building of AYUSH professionals. In this context, MoA entered into an agreement with ICMR with the aim to promote high-impact research on Integrative Health to generate evidence in priority areas of National importance in healthcare utilizing modern scientific methods. Joint efforts are planned towards establishing Ayush-ICMR Centers for Integrative Health Research (AI-ACIHR) and for conducting high-quality clinical trials on identified areas/disease conditions of national importance with promising integrative therapies to generate evidence for wider acceptance. Currently, publications on Ayush systems are increasing in trend; however, the methodological quality of the conduct and reporting of this research remains a major concern. Similar to this, there is a very less numbers of systematic reviews and meta-analysis were published in Ayush sector. Therefore, there is an urgent and strong need to build capacity to Ayush professionals in research methods, clinical studies, scientific writing and systematic review to fill the gap in the research and improve the skills and knowledge.

In order to address this gap, ICMR-NIE and ICMR-NITM propose a joint ICMR-MoA programme for “Enhancing Research Capacity of Ayush Professionals” (ICMR-MoA–RECAP). The aim of ICMR-MoA is to enhance capacity of Ayush Professionals in three specific areas:

- (1) Research protocol development
- (2) Scientific writing and
- (3) Evidence synthesis (by adopting systematic reviews and meta-analysis)

Call for Applications

ICMR-NITM invites applications from Ayush professionals [Ayurveda and Siddha] in regular cadre under the central research councils, National institutes under the MoA, and those working in State health services and academia (University departments and affiliated institutions).

Number of Participants

Under this program it is proposed to include 20 participants (10 from Ayurveda and 10 from Siddha), as mentees, who are Indian nationals. The engagement will be for a period of two years. The participants retain their existing affiliation and attend fifteen days (divided across three modules) in person modular training in Belagavi/Chennai. Mentees could be Ayush professionals in regular cadre under the central research councils, National institutes under the MoA, those working in State health services and that of academia (University departments and that of affiliated institutions). We do not encourage participants from for profit / private sector. Selection will be competitive. Application from participants who have already

completed or attended such courses will be rejected. Young participants (<40 years) will be preferred. However, this should not discourage others to apply.

Selection Criteria

ICMR-MoA RE-CAP workshops	Selection requirements	
	Nomination by respective heads	Pre-workshop submission requirements
(1) Research protocol development	Yes	Concept paper on a research project Basic Course in Biomedical Research (BCBR)
(2) Scientific writing	Yes	Draft manuscript or outline of a completed research project
(3) Evidence synthesis	Yes	Concept paper on a topic requiring evidence synthesis

Faculty for the course

The course will be facilitated by mentors from ICMR-NITM and ICMR-NIE. In addition, resource persons will be identified as specialists from Ayush-academic and research institutes with relevant expertise.

Program Structure

The proposed capacity-building workshops are designed with the goal of learning by doing. A total of each three in-person workshops will be organized at ICMR-NIE and ICMR-NITM over two years. Each in-person workshop will be held for five days, with online follow-up training sessions through Zoom platform between the workshops.

Time schedule	Activities
May 2025	Introductory session (online) for selected candidates
June 2025	1st workshop - Research protocol development at ICMR-NITM (In-Person)
February 2026	2nd workshop - Scientific writing at ICMR-NIE (in-Person)
August 2026	3rd workshop - Evidence synthesis (In-Person) (Location to be decided later)

What does the participant gain?

- Practical skills for undertaking the entire operational research process from concept to publication.
- The experience of learning and sharing knowledge within a team of motivated participants and talented facilitators in Ayush and Integrative research (who act as mentors).
- Enhances chances of applying for research grants
- Improved their scientific writing skills
- An opportunity to excel and gain visibility in Ayush research and to prepare for research leadership.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to help train and eventually lead others (as mentors) to maximize long term capacity development and impact.

What does the participant's organization gain?

- A person who is well trained in research can undertake relevant areas for research in their own organization in a sustainable manner.
- The approach will strongly complement “innovation” within routine operations and contribute with critical research questions and its impact over time.
- Strengthens research capacity of an organization to synthesize evidence in the Ayush sector

Course follow-up

- In between the in-person trainings, candidates will return to their routine work and in addition collect the data pertaining to their projects.
- Participants will be contacted intermittently after each of the training sessions to determine accomplishments, policy and practice impact of their studies.
- Facilitators will be available to provide guidance throughout and even post-training period.

Sponsorship

- ICMR/DHR will provide a full scholarship to successful applicants (20 numbers). The scholarship includes all tuition fees, study materials, travel expenses, meals and accommodation.

How to apply?

Please read this call for applications document completely before applying

Application along with supportive documents must be submitted online using the online application link provided. We will NOT accept applications over other channels of communication.

In addition to filling the required details in online application link, the supporting documents (all merged into a single pdf) that must be uploaded at the end of the application are:

1. Short one page CV of applicant (template provided) - mandatory
2. Statement from applicant (template provided) - mandatory
3. Statement from reporting authority (template provided) – mandatory
4. Letter of Motivation - on purpose of attending this training program (template provided) – mandatory
5. Concept proposal- Outline of the proposed research activity to be undertaken by the candidate during the tenure (template provided) – mandatory
6. Other research/ experience letters to strengthen your application, if any (no template provided) - not mandatory

For any other clarifications, please email to ICMR-MoA RECAP secretariate (recap.icmrmoa@gmail.com) with a copy to ICMR-NITM office (director.nitm@icmr.gov.in).

Application deadline: 30-04-2025

Link to access the templates for the supporting documents:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G2WfoKwfmamdklojw3qbfIY4ITbSm1IGv?usp=drive_link

Link to submit the application:

<https://forms.gle/7r6a6R35NZ516qi99>

Note:

1. *Failure to provide all the above requested information and documents in the suggested templates will result in the rejection of your application at the stage of screening itself. Incomplete applications will also be discarded at the stage of screening.*
2. *The decision of ICMR-NITM/ ICMR-NIE will be final in matters related to the selection to the course. You will not be able to pursue any dispute related to selection matters legally. Apply to the course only if you agree to this condition.*
3. *Please note that all supporting documents must be merged as a single pdf.*