



## Govt favours integrating Ayurveda, biomedical practices

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**Status in India and international scenario**

**Ayurveda in India:** The Indian government is in favour of integrating Ayurveda and current biomedical practices. The Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush) under ministry of health and family welfare has been accorded officially with responsibility to undertake the activities with respect to

production, development, quality assurance and standardization of ayurvedic medicines. Apparently, Ayurveda is also being promoted on the basis of scientific lines by many individuals and organizations such as Banaras Hindu University, Gujrat Ayurveda University, National Institute of Ayurveda and Institute of Ayurveda and Integrated Medicine. Individuals like Dr. Madhulika Banerjee, Ms. Shailaja Chandra, Dr. Ramkumar, Dr. Ram Manohar and many other eminent political scientists and Ayurveda experts have made enormous contribution and continue to do so.

**Ayurveda abroad:** A recently held Global Ayurveda Festival in Kochi during February 2014 saw the remarkable interest raised in principles of Ayurveda by many eminent scientists, public health experts, philosophers etc. A meeting was concluded with the perception to conduct a systemic protocol driven clinical trial in Ayurveda without hampering its original philosophy. One such trial is being conducted in Berlin, Germany on osteoarthritis with respects to ayurvedic management of the same. The other such exemplary project is being conducted by Dominik Wujastyk and others from University

of Vienna on the critique of Charaksamhitas. Mr. Mark Rosenberg and Dr. S N Gupta have made huge positive contribution for recognition of Ayurveda in the European Union.

**A light on past history:** European Union legislation on pharmaceutical products for human use is also applicable to the traditional herbal medicines. In effect of this, the directive of the European par-

liament introduced a simplified procedure for registering herbal medicines for medical use regulated by 'Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive (THMPD)'. The said procedure focuses on safeguarding the public health, eliminating disparity based on status of traditional medicinal products which was existent in past Member States and to facilitate seamless movement of such products by adapting

homogenized rules in this area. However, The International Ayurveda Foundation (IAF) [www.iaf-ngo.org](http://www.iaf-ngo.org) was concerned over this new legislation for which a legal survey was conducted. Currently new opportunities are being explored based on various legal options and remedies. IAF is contemplating legal action at the Human Rights Court depending on the financial resources available.

**Discussions with India's former President of India**

I feel myself much delighted and honoured to have met Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, then President of India during November 2005. Before meeting this Missile Man, I had sent him the bundle of articles written by me on Ayurveda. To my surprise he had read them all due to his commitment to traditional systems of medical systems.

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