

National Medicinal Plant Board: National

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), under the Ministry of AYUSH, promotes conservation, cultivation, and sustainable use of medicinal plants, supporting livelihoods and the herbal industry. It funds research, develops quality planting materials, and strengthens medicinal plant value chains across India.

National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB)

Established November 2000. Nodal Ministry: Ministry of AYUSH (earlier under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare). Apex body for policy formulation, conservation, cultivation, trade, and export promotion of medicinal plants. Strengthens supply chains for AYUSH medicine manufacturing.

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) signed two MoUs aimed at

1. Strengthening conservation of medicinal plants.
2. Promoting public awareness and sustainable supply for the AYUSH industry.
3. Integrating traditional knowledge with modern scientific approaches.

MoU 1 – NMPB & IshVed-Bioplants Venture

Objective

Conserve and maintain germplasm of Rare, Endangered, and Threatened (RET) medicinal plants using advanced tissue culture technology. Develop cultivation & maintenance protocols to ensure sustainable commercial supply. Ensuring availability of critical medicinal plants to the AYUSH pharmaceutical sector without overexploiting natural habitats.

Examples of RET Medicinal Plants in India:

1. Himalayan Yew (*Taxus wallichiana*) Status: Endangered – IUCN Red List. Use: Source of Taxol (paclitaxel), an anti-cancer drug.
2. Aconite (*Aconitum heterophyllum*) Status: Endangered – IUCN Red List. Use: Treats fever, rheumatism, asthma in traditional medicine.
3. Red Sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) Status: Endangered – IUCN Red List. Use: Medicinal value in Ayurveda, valuable timber.

MoU 2 – NMPB, AIIA & AIIMS

Objective

Establish a National Medicinal Plants Garden at AIIMS, New Delhi in collaboration with the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA). Create demonstration and educational spaces for medicinal plants.

1. Raise public awareness among patients, students, visitors.
2. Showcase integration of traditional healing knowledge with modern medical research.

Key Initiatives of NMPB

1. e-CHARAK Portal & Mobile App

Online trading platform for medicinal plants. Facilitates B2B linkages between cultivators and buyers.

2. Global Ayush Innovation & Investment Summit

Buyer-seller meets to promote medicinal plant trade.

3. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Campaign

Distributed over 91 lakh saplings across 30 states/UTs. Initiative: "Ayush Aapke Dwaar" to promote household cultivation.

4. R&D Funding under Central Sector Scheme

Supports research on conservation, development, and sustainable management of medicinal plants.

5. Medicinal Plants

Plant species with therapeutic properties used in traditional & modern healthcare systems. Significance includes, Raw material for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homoeopathy, Supports preventive healthcare, wellness, and herbal industries.

6. Popular Medicinal Plants Promoted by Ministry of AYUSH

Plant	Application
Ashwagandha	Reduces stress, boosts immunity, improves vitality
Tulsi	Adaptogen; beneficial in respiratory disorders, immunity
Amla	Vitamin C-rich; supports digestion, skin, immunity
Giloy	Detoxifying, fever management, immunity enhancer
Shatavari	Supports reproductive health, acts as adaptogen

7. Significance of MoUs

Conservation Impact

Addresses the risk of extinction of RET species through scientific propagation.

Economic Benefit

Reduces dependency on imports of rare medicinal plants. Supports AYUSH pharma sector in raw material security.

Educational Value

The National Medicinal Plants Garden will serve as a learning hub for students, researchers, and the public.

Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/national-medicinal-plants-board-signs-two-mous-to-boost-conservation-and-awareness/>