



*Arun Kumar Panda*

Additional Secretary &  
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भारत सरकार  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय  
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग  
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE  
NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI - 110011

D.O. No.11011/1/2014- NRHM-II  
29<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

As you are aware, this Ministry, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has initiated the development of Bridge Programmes in Community Health for Nurses and Ayurveda Practitioners, so as to create a pool of mid-level health care providers to lead the Health & Wellness Centres. The Bridge Programme in Community Health for Nurses has already been rolled out in 11 States.

I am happy to inform you that IGNOU has agreed to commence the certificate course for Ayurveda Practitioners titled "Bridge Programme (Certificate) in Community Health for Ayurveda Practitioners" in its July, 2017 academic session. I urge your State to make use of this opportunity for developing requisite number of mid-level-health care providers to lead Health & Wellness Centres in your State/UT. A detailed Guidance Note in this regard, including criteria for study centres, faculty and candidates, advertisement templates and a tentative events calendar, etc is enclosed for your reference.

In order to get started with the programme, you may kindly undertake the following activities on priority:-

1. Identify adequate number of suitable District Hospitals (1 DH for 25 candidates) as Programme Study Centres for the Programme and share the names with Ministry by 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 for forwarding to IGNOU,
2. Identify suitable and motivated trainers for enrolling as Academic Counsellors,
3. Initiate activities such as Call for Application, for selection of candidates for the programme, latest by 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

You may also ensure that proposal for training Ayurveda Practitioners in Bridge Programme is submitted under NHM PIP 2017-18.

Yours sincerely,  
Sd/-  
(Arun K Panda)

Addl Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary  
Health & Family Welfare Department  
All States/UTs

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Copy to:

1. Mission Director, NHM(All States/UTs)
2. Director, SOHS, IGNOU
3. Executive Director, NHSRC

  
(Arun K Panda)