

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Health

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Secian Herald

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 22/11/20

Ayurveda doctors can now do surgeries

IMA says central govt decision will corrupt the entire health system
 KALYAN RAY
 NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre has allowed postgraduate Ayurveda doctors to perform a variety of general surgical, ENT, ophthalmological and dental procedures. The procedures, including

removal of appendix and gall bladder, excision of benign tumours, amputation of gangrene and dental root canal, can be conducted after receiving proper training. The decision notified by the Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) after receiving sanctions from the central government has drawn flak from the Indian Medical Association (IMA) that described the move as equivalent to "corrupting the entire health system of the country". Those pursuing an MS (Ayurveda) Shalya Tantra (general surgery) will be trained in 39 types of proce-



dures, whereas PG students pursuing MS (Ayurveda) Shalaky Tantra (diseases of eye, ear, nose, throat, head and oro-dentistry) will get training in 19 other procedures. Once

they receive the degrees, they will be able to perform these procedures independently, said the notification. The surgical procedures in which Ayurveda practitioners will receive training include excision of simple cyst, all types of skin grafting, ear lobe repair, all types of suturing, removal of metallic and non-metallic foreign bodies from non-vital organs, operation for anal fistula and cataract operations, besides multiple urological procedures. The IMA, India's biggest association of doctors, condemned the notification, describing the move as ret-

rograde. "Such mixing of the systems will be resisted at all costs. All over India, students and practitioners of modern medicine are agitated over this violation of mutual identity and respect. What is the sanctity of NEET if such shortcuts are devised," it asked. The notification comes at a time when many states witness a severe shortage of specialist surgeons in rural areas and small towns. A 2015 health statistics report by the Health Ministry showed that 74.6% posts of surgeons are vacant in community health centres all over the country.

Ayurveda docs can now perform surgeries

AYURVEDA, FROM PAGE 1
 But doctors are of the opinion that the route chosen by the CCIM is not the best way to bridge the gap. "It's a fraud being committed on the students. Let the two systems thrive independently instead of corrupting the entire health systems of the

country. Why should anybody sit for the NEET if such shortcuts are allowed?" IMA national president Rajan Sharma told *DH*. Surgical disciplines of modern medicine have developed over the last half a millennium. "Corrupting modern medicine by mixing with other systems and poaching the disciplines through

backdoor means is certainly foul play of first order," said the IMA. Other public health experts, however, are not so dismissive of the move. "If they are trained well, they can play a bigger role in the public health system. But it's a short-term measure and a change of medical education is required for an integration of the

two systems," commented public health specialist Meenakshi Gautham, a research fellow at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Such surgical innovations, pointed out Gautham, were in practice in several African countries that experience a shortage in the number of surgeons.