

## Certification of Folk Healers in Tripura

It gives me great pleasure to inform that the first ever certification for the Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (commonly known as Folk Healers) has been completed under the Voluntary Certification Scheme for the Traditional Community Healthcare Providers for the healers of Tripura. The Voluntary Certification Scheme for the Traditional Community Healthcare Providers is owned jointly by the Quality Council of India (QCI), New Delhi and the Foundation for the Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions, Bangalore and had its national launch in March 2017.



The 3-days evaluation for the assessment of the knowledge and skills of the Folk Healers was conducted by the QCI approved Third Party Personnel Certification Body – the North East Christian University, Dimapur, Nagaland as per the competence criteria laid down under the Scheme on March 7-9, 2019. A 3-member evaluation team, headed by the Medical Officer from North East Institute of Folk Medicine, Ministry of AYUSH, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh and two senior Folk Healers from Assam, conducted the evaluations.

The evaluation team travelled along with the Certification Head of North East Christian University to Agartala. On Day-1 oral evaluation and demonstration by the healers was conducted at Agartala and on Day 2 & 3, inspection of the healers' practice station for hygiene, medicinal plant garden, record keeping, dispensing of medicines and interacting with their patients was done in 4 districts of Tripura - Dhalai, Unokoti, Shipahijala and Bilonia. The entire certification process was observed by an expert from the Quality Council of India, New Delhi.



It is noteworthy that 9 Folk Healers raised the certification fee from their own resources and applied for the assessment of their knowledge and skill to get certified under the ISO 17024 based Personnel Certification. 8 Folk Healers were declared successful and certified.

These are the first certification under the Scheme in India. It is expected that more certifications would follow shortly not only in Tripura but Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka where state governments have evinced interest in certification of folk healers.