During the recent past, inclination of populace towards AYUSH System of medicine has been observed. To meet the increasing demand of AYUSH medicines, and to provide AYUSH medicines of reasonably good quality, there is a need to have licensed pharmacies for AYUSH medicines with good manufacturing practices. Prior to 2007, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) was mandatory for the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drug manufacturing units only. It was also made mandatory for Homoeopathy in 2007.

As on 01.04.2012, there were 8,785 AYUSH drug manufacturing units (licensed pharmacies) in the country. Out of these, 99.6% of the licensed pharmacies were controlled by non-government bodies, and only 0.4% licensed pharmacies were in Government sector. System-wise distribution of these units were quite uneven as 87% licensed pharmacies belonged to Ayurveda, whereas, 5%, 4% and 4% were under Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy systems respectively.

There were 28 states and union territories of the country which have AYUSH licensed pharmacies as on 1.4.2012. No AYUSH drug manufacturing unit have been reported in states of Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and in Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep. Uttar Pradesh has the Maximum number 2,254 of AYUSH licensed pharmacies. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh each were having more than 5% of AYUSH licensed pharmacies. Maximum number of Ayurveda and Unani pharmacies, viz., 1981 and 237 respectively are existed in the Uttar Pradesh. Licensed pharmacies under Siddha systems existed in the states of Tamil Nadu (332) Puducherry (10) and Kerala (4). A majority of Homoeopathy licensed pharmacies 18.87% existed in the state of West Bengal followed by Bihar (13.58%), Maharashtra (12.91%), Andhra Pradesh (12.25%) and Uttar Pradesh (11.92%).

The States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D&M Haveli and Lakshadweep reported to have no licensed pharmacy under any AYUSH system. Besides, there was no Homoeopathy licensed pharmacy in Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and Daman & Diu.
Unani licensed pharmacies existed in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Except Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, A&N Islands, D&N Haveli and Lakshadweep; rest of the states have pharmacies with Good Manufacturing Practices. Out of all drug manufacturing units, GMP-compliant units comprised 76.1% (Non-GMP-compliant units comprises 23.9%) of the total drug manufacturing units, and within the total GMP-compliant units; 92.4% were Ayurveda drug manufacturing units and only 3.4%, 1.3% and 2.9% were Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy drug manufacturing units respectively. The states/UTs having cent-percent GMP-compliant drug manufacturing units were Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep. The other states having higher (greater than 75%) proportion of GMP-compliant units were Andhra Pradesh (97.11%), Haryana (85.21%), Karnataka (94.39%), Punjab (96.55%), Rajasthan (98.40%), Uttar Pradesh (91.48%), Uttarakhand (81.38%), West Bengal (91.40%) and Daman & Diu (88.89%), Whereas, the states / union territories having less than 25% GMP-compliance was Tamil Nadu only, There had been a significant system-wise variation in the proportion of GMP-compliant units, as there were 80.52%, 49.02%, 25.43% and 63.58% GMP-compliant drug manufacturing units under Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy systems respectively.

The States/ UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Puducherry were having cent-percent GMP-compliant drug manufacturing units under Ayurveda system. Other states which have higher (greater than 75%) proportion of GMP-compliant units under Ayurveda were Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Daman & Diu. All Unani drug manufacturing units were GMP-compliant in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. All Siddha drug manufacturing units were GMP-compliant in the states of Kerala and Puducherry, whereas, only 22.29% were GMP-compliant in the state of Tamilnadu.
Likewise, in the States of Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Puducherry; all Homoeopathic drug manufacturing units were GMP-compliant.

During the period 1992-2012, the variation in distribution of licensed pharmacies under various systems of AYUSH has been observed. The proportion of Ayurveda licensed pharmacies increased from 80.8% in 1992 to 87.4% in 2012, whereas, proportions of Siddha and Homoeopathy licensed pharmacies decreased from 4.6% and 9.9% in 1992 to 3.9% and 3.0% in 2012 respectively.

A trend of 0.05% per annum has been observed in the number of licensed pharmacies under AYUSH systems during the period 1992-2012. An average annual growth rate of 0.44% was realized in Ayurveda pharmacies and in Unani is 0.48%, whereas, Siddha and Homoeopathy pharmacies declined at average annual rates of 0.72% and 5.08% respectively. During 2011-12, the annual growth rate of AYUSH pharmacy industry has declined by 1.2%. The annual growth rates of 2011-12 in Unani has been increased to be 5%, However, the annual growth rate of others i.e. Ayurveda and Homoeopathy pharmacies have been declined to be 0.3% and 27.1% respectively.