

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (Research Unit)

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Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

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"Through PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission an entire ecosystem for services from treatment to critical research will be created in every corner of the country."

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi launched the **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission** in Varanasi on October 25, 2021. The scheme aims at an all-round development of India's healthcare system to provide the best medical treatment to the middle class and the poor segments of the society. The launch of the mission was eagerly awaited, as it is a major step towards achieving a world-class and accessible Indian health care sector.

With an outlay of ₹64,180 crore, PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, announced in the Budget 2021-22, is the largest pan-India Health Infrastructure Scheme that aims to provide a much-needed fillip to India's capacity to address emergent Public Health issues. This will bring about a paradigm shift in India's healthcare infrastructure and make it more resilient. The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission is an addition to the National Health Mission, as a part of the Ayushman Bharat initiative, which aims to provide universal access to equitable, accessible, and high-quality healthcare that is accountable and responsive to the people's needs.

The major objective of this scheme is to fill the gaps in public health infrastructure. The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission seeks to strengthen the critical healthcare network across the Block, District, State and National levels; seamlessly connecting them all to ensure affordable and quality healthcare. It would be helpful and supportive for a total of 17,788 rural health centres and wellness centres in 10 high focus states.

Need:

The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Mission was required to address one of the major shortcomings of our health sector- the inability to fully cater to rural areas and the poor as well as middle class.

At the launch event, the Prime Minister said that in post-independent India, health infrastructure did not get the required attention for a very long time and the citizens had to run from pillar to post for proper treatment, leading to worsening of their condition and financial strain. The Mission will help to plug these gaps.

Timeline:

The present Government has taken sustained steps to improve health facilities in the country. The umbrella pan-India Ayushman Bharat seeks to provide primary, secondary, tertiary, digital and resilient healthcare systems.

• April 2018:

Ayushman Bharat- Health & Wellness Centres launched - 1,50,000 Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres have been proposed to be set up, of which around 79,000 are already functioning.

- September 2018: Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) launched
- September 2021: <u>Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission launched</u>
- October 2021:
 PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission launched

The Ayushman Bharat- Health & Wellness Centres and the PMJAY brought scale, while the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission brings technology to healthcare. The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, in its turn, is the largest ever scheme to scale up the health infrastructure in the country.

Aim of the PM Ayushman Bharat health Infrastructure Mission:

- Provide affordable, quality and accessible healthcare to all
- Universal access to basic diagnostic and treatment services
- Take healthcare closer to communities in both rural and urban areas
- Allow multi-dimensional and multi-modal interventions with focus on critical and primary care
- Facilitate institutional approach to holistic healthcare
- Equip the country to face challenges of any pandemic in future

Major Aspects of the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission:

There are three major aspects to the Mission:

1. Creation of facilities for diagnostics and treatment

- Health and Wellness Centres are being opened in villages and cities, where there will be facilities for early detection of diseases.
- Facilities like free medical consultation, free tests, free medicine will be available in these centres.
- For serious illness, 35000 new critical care-related beds are being added in 600 districts and referral facilities will be given in 125 districts.

2. Testing network for the diagnosis of diseases

- Necessary infrastructure will be developed for the diagnosis and monitoring of diseases.
- 730 districts of the country will get Integrated Public Health labs and 3000 blocks will get Block Public Health Units.
- Five Regional National Centers for Disease Control, 20 Metropolitan units, and 15 BSL labs will further strengthen this network

3. Expansion of existing research institutions that study pandemics

- Existing 80 Viral Diagnostic and research labs will be strengthened
- $\circ~$ 15 Biosafety level III labs will be operationalised
- Four new National Institutes of Virology and a National Institute for One Health are being established
- WHO regional research platform for South Asia will also strengthen this network.



Other planned interventions under the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission:

- Critical Care Hospital Blocks will be established in all 602 districts with population of more than 5 lakhs. Referral linkages will be put in place for other 128 districts.
- Full range of diagnostic services to be available in all districts.
- 17 new Public Health Units will be operationalised and 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry will be strengthened for effectively detecting, investigating, preventing and combating health emergencies and disease outbreaks. These Health Units will be at 50 international points of entry - including 32 airports, 11 seaports, and seven land crossings.
- Building up of trained health workforce
- IT enabled disease surveillance system
- Integrated Health Information Portal



Outcomes:

- The components of the Mission will further strengthen the country's capacity to detect & diagnose new infections.
- The planned interventions will lead to availability of adequately trained manpower who can contribute to diagnosis and research on novel pathogens and biological threats, reducing dependence on foreign partners and laboratories.
- Development of Critical Care Hospital Blocks in 602 districts as proposed under the scheme shall make such districts considerably self-sufficient in providing comprehensive treatment for infectious diseases without disruption to the other essential health services and also augment the critical care capacities in the public health facilities.
- Initiatives such as strengthening of Points of Entry will ring fence our borders against the import of new infectious diseases and pathogens. Health Emergency Operation Centres and the proposed container based mobile hospitals shall further build capacities for effective emergency response during such times.
- Setting up of the national, regional, state, district and block level laboratories integrated into a network for surveillance functions, backed by a robust I.T. based reporting mechanism through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP), shall lead to **self-reliance** for detection, prevention and containment of disease outbreaks.

AG/RC/AR

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