AYUSHMAN BHARAT

Holistic Healthcare for India

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

“Ayushman Bharat scheme is for the poor, for the middle class and for the common families. We have adopted a holistic approach in our healthcare system. Today our focus is not only on health, but equally on wellness.”

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

April 30, 2022

What is Ayushman Bharat?

India's commitment towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is clearly reflected in its policies and institutional mechanisms, which are directed towards increasing coverage and access to health services. In 2018, India launched Ayushman Bharat, one of the most ambitious health missions ever to expand universal health coverage, especially in rural and vulnerable populations. This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlying commitment, which is to "leave no one behind.” Ayushman Bharat is an attempt to move from sectoral and segmented approach of health service delivery to a comprehensive need-based health care service. Ayushman

1 https://www.nhp.gov.in/ayushman-bharat-yojana_pg
Bharat aims to undertake path breaking interventions to holistically address health at primary, secondary and tertiary level.

The aim is to provide essential health services throughout the country, through the four pillars of this programme:

- Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres

The Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) mark an attempt to move from a selective healthcare approach to a more comprehensive range of services, comprising preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative care for all ages. The National Health Policy of 2017 envisioned these centres as the foundation of India’s health system. These centres deliver a range of comprehensive health care services like maternal and child health, services to address communicable and non-communicable diseases and services for elderly and palliative care.

AB-HWCs provide free essential medicines and diagnostic services, tele-consultation, and health promotion including wellness activities like yoga, meditation, zumba, etc. It is envisaged that these centres will not only be the point of delivery for healthcare services, but at the same time enable the community to take health in their own hands.

- The first Health and Wellness Centre under Ayushman Bharat was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi at Jangla, Bijapur, in Chhattisgarh on 14

2 https://ab-hwc.nhp.gov.in/
April, 2018. The Union Health Ministry had announced that **1.5 lakh** Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres will be established by December 2022 for providing Comprehensive Primary Health Care.³

- India marked a key milestone in universalising Primary Health Care when the planned target of operationalising 70,000 Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) by 31 March 2021 was achieved ahead of its time on 21 March 2021.⁴

- A ‘Fit Health Worker’ Campaign⁵ was also launched at these centres to enable the screening and early detection of non-communicable diseases in the Frontline-Health Care Workers. This enabled the screening of more than **13 lakhs in 537** districts till 20 December 2021 to enable them to take preventive, promotive and curative measures and also caution them towards their risk categorization towards COVID-19 as these Frontline Workers (FLWs) were not only involved in ensuring essential services at these centres but also played a crucial role in community-based surveillance and pandemic outbreak management related activities in the community.

**Achievements under AB-HWCs:**

- So far, approvals for around **1,52,130** Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres have been accorded to the States/UTs (except Delhi)⁷ and as reported by the States/UTs on the AB-HWC Portal, **1,18,150 Health & Wellness Centres** have been operationalized till 28 April, 2022 which includes 90,509 SHC level AB-HWCs, 22,922 PHC level AB-HWCs and 4,719 UPHC level AB–HWCs.

- As on 28 April 2022, more than 19 crore screenings have been done for hypertension and around 15.73 crore screenings done for diabetes at these AB-HWCs. Similarly, these functional AB-HWCs have done more than 10.33 crore screenings for oral cancer, more than 3.41 crore screenings for cervical cancer in women and more than 5.06 crore screenings for breast cancer in women.

- The screening, prevention and management of chronic illnesses including Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Tuberculosis (TB) and Leprosy have been introduced as part of comprehensive primary healthcare at AB-HWCs.

- The telemedicine guidelines have also been provided to the States to initiate specialist consultations from the PHCs to the Hub Hospitals. As on 31 March 2022, 2.34 crore teleconsultations have been conducted at AB-HWCs. Record 3 lakh teleconsultations through e-Sanjeevani platform were done in a day at AB-HWCs on 16 April 2022. This has been the highest number of teleconsultations ever done at AB-HWCs on a single day, surpassing its earlier record of 1.8 lakh teleconsultations per day.

**Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana**

The second component under Ayushman Bharat is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or PM-JAY. This scheme was launched on 23 September, 2018 in Ranchi, Jharkhand by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**

is the world’s largest health insurance/assurance scheme fully financed by the government. It will provide financial protection (Swasthya Suraksha) to 10.74 crore poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational categories of urban workers’ families as per the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data (approx. 50 crore beneficiaries). It offers a **benefit cover of Rs. 500,000 per family per year** (on a family floater basis). PM-JAY will cover medical and

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8 [https://nha.gov.in/PM-JAY](https://nha.gov.in/PM-JAY)
9 [https://www.nhp.gov.in/ayushman-bharat-yojana_pg](https://www.nhp.gov.in/ayushman-bharat-yojana_pg)
10 [https://pmjay.gov.in/about/pmjay](https://pmjay.gov.in/about/pmjay)
hospitalization expenses for almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures. Services include approximately a range of procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.\textsuperscript{11}

To ensure that nobody is left out (especially girl child, women, children and elderly), there will be no cap on family size and age in the Mission. The scheme is cashless & paperless at public hospitals and empanelled private hospitals. The beneficiaries will not be required to pay any charges for the hospitalization expenses. The benefit also includes pre and post-hospitalization expenses.

**Achievements under PM-JAY:**

- More than **3.28 crore persons** have been treated free of cost (as on 7 April 2022).\textsuperscript{12}
- Over **18 crore Ayushman cards** have been issued (as on 7 April 2022).\textsuperscript{13}
- As on 01.12.2021, 33 States/Union Territories are implementing the scheme. As on 14.11.2021, a total of 2.92 lakh hospital admissions worth over Rs. 644.5 crore have been authorized under the inter-State portability feature.
- National Health Authority (NHA) launched the new version of Health Benefit Package (HBP) 2022 under the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**\textsuperscript{14} (AB PM-JAY) scheme. The new version has added 365 new procedures taking the total package count to **1949**. With HBP 2022, differential pricing is being introduced for the first time under the scheme based upon the type of city and level of care.

\textsuperscript{11} https://pmjay.gov.in/about/pmjay  
\textsuperscript{12} https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1511942326285123589?s=20&t=_jX9Ccb7pMN0c2T_bTx0dw  
\textsuperscript{13} https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1511942326285123589?s=20&t=_jX9Ccb7pMN0c2T_bTx0dw  
More than 1.17 lakh PMJAY golden cards have been created across India, with maximum created in Karnataka (22,091)\(^\text{15}\).

**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**

On 27 September, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the nationwide rollout of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**\(^\text{16}\) (ABDM) (earlier known as National Digital Health Mission) with a budget of **Rs. 1,600 crore for five years**. It aims to develop the backbone to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country. It will bridge the existing gap amongst different stakeholders of the healthcare ecosystem through digital highways. As on 5 April 2022, **Rs 45 crore**\(^\text{17}\) has been released to National Health Authority (NHA) for implementation of ABDM.

Based on the foundations laid down in the form of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM) trinity and other digital initiatives of the government, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is creating a seamless online platform through the provision of a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems while ensuring the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.\(^\text{18}\)

Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to create their **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers**, to which their digital health records can be linked. This will enable

\(^\text{15}\) https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1820229
creation of longitudinal health records for individuals across various healthcare providers, and improve clinical decision making by healthcare providers. The mission will improve equitable access to quality healthcare by encouraging use of technologies such as telemedicine and enabling national portability of health services.

The pilot of ABDM was completed in the six Union Territories of Ladakh, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep with successful demonstration of technology platform developed by the NHA. During the pilot, digital sandbox was created in which more than 774 partner solutions are undergoing integration.

Achievements under ABDM:

- **21.63 croreAyushman Bharat health accounts** have been created (as on 29 April 2022).  
- **11,677 healthcare providers** are registered under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (as on 29 April 2022).
- **26,694 health facilities** (hospitals, labs etc.) have been registered under ABDM (as on 29 April 2022).
- **More than 3.66 lakh ABHA IDs** have been created across India, with the maximum number created in Maharashtra (56,321).

**PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**

Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (earlier known as Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana scheme) with an outlay of about Rs. 64,180 crore till FY 2025-26 was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 October, 2021. This is
the largest pan-India scheme for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country.

The measures under the scheme focus on developing capacities of health systems and institutions across the continuum of care at all levels viz. primary, secondary and tertiary and on preparing health systems for effective response to the current and future pandemics/disasters.

The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) targets to build an IT enabled disease surveillance system by developing a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels, in Metropolitan areas & strengthening health units at the Points of Entry, for effectively detecting, investigating, preventing, and combating Public Health Emergencies and Disease Outbreaks.

Increased investments are also targeted to support research on COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, including biomedical research to generate evidence to inform short-term and medium-term response to COVID-19 like pandemics and to develop core capacity to deliver the One Health Approach to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks in animals and humans.
References:

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- https://www.narendramodi.in/text-of-pm-s-speech-at-the-valedictory-function-of-arogya-manthan--546743
- https://ab-hwc.nhp.gov.in/download/document/340b49eb2c0937ec7b79ad8c1d6b975ad.pdf
- https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/1511942326285123589?s=20&c=X9Ceb7qMNQcZT_bTxJ0

Video links:

- DD News: Uttar Pradesh: PM Modi launches ‘PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission’
- PIB India: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - Ayushman Bharat
- PIB India: PM Narendra Modi launches Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission
- AyushmanNHA: Let’s know Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

Twitter links:

- https://twitter.com/mygovindia/status/1452544131209278000
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