



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
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Strengthening Healthcare in North East India

(Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region)
&
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

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“It is my conviction to bring North-East at par with the other developed regions of the country.”

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi¹**

One of the most important basic human needs for the citizens of any civilized society are food and nutrition, water and sanitation, housing, health care facilities, and education. The North Eastern Region of India, because of its geographical location, difficult terrain, high rainfall, vast hilly region, large forest areas and large number of ethnic groups, is not a very homogenous territory for easily providing normal health care services round the clock to all people of the region. However, in the last few years, **large scale development in the healthcare and medical sector has taken place in the North East due to the sustained efforts of the Government of India.**

1. Ayushman Bharat

Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)²

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.

In **February 2018**, the Government announced the



¹ <https://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-at-inauguration-of-65th-plenary-session-of-north-east-council-483603>

² <http://ab-hwc.nhp.gov.in/>

transformation of **1.5 lakh** Sub-Health Centres (SHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across the country into **Ayushman Bharat- Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)** by December, 2022.³ These HWCs **will bring health care systems closer to the homes of the people** by providing comprehensive health care, including non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services, as well as **free essential drugs and diagnostic services**.

The establishment of Ayushman Bharat HWCs in the North-Eastern states has achieved steady progress, thus strengthening the primary healthcare system as envisaged under the initiative. A large number of health screenings are being performed in these centres.

[Progress in Establishment of AB-HWCs in North-East India in FY 2021-22 \(as on May 8, 2022\)](#)⁴

A total of **7,246 Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)** have been proposed for the NE till **December 2022**. All seven states initiated the upgradation of Sub Health Centres (SHC) and Primary Health Centres (PHC) to HWCs in **2018**.

Arunachal Pradesh

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Arunachal Pradesh is 290 and 2,68,100 screenings have been performed.

Target	291
Total no of operational HWCs	290
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	83
Total no of screenings	2,68,100



Assam

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Assam is 3,426 and 73,77,375 screenings have been performed.

Target	4,323
Total no of operational HWCs	3,426
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	1,646
Total no of screenings	73,77,375



Manipur

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Manipur is 326 and 18,77,966 screenings have been performed.

Target	403
Total no of operational HWCs	326
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	107
Total no of screenings	18,77,966



³ <https://ab-hwc.nhp.gov.in/home/aboutus>

⁴ <https://ab-hwc.nhp.gov.in/>

Meghalaya

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Meghalaya is 379 and 9,39,418 screenings have been performed.

Target	425
Total no of operational HWCs	379
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	204
Total no of screenings	9,39,418



Mizoram

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Mizoram is 294 and 3,60,461 screenings have been performed.

Target	348
Total no of operational HWCs	294
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	137
Total no of screenings	3,60,461



Nagaland

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Nagaland is 330 and 5,10,913 screenings have been performed.

Target	370
Total no of operational HWCs	330
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	153
Total no of screenings	5,10,913



Sikkim

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Sikkim is 127 and 1,74,634 screenings have been performed.

Target	141
Total no of operational HWCs	127
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	45
Total no of screenings	1,74,634



Tripura

The total number of functional AB-HWCs in Tripura is 548 and 17,88,820 screenings have been performed.

Target	945
Total no of operational HWCs	548
Total no of HWCs with geo coordinates	210
Total no of screenings	17,88,820



Tripura

AB-HWCs in the North East at a Glance



[Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana \(AB-PMJAY\)](#)⁵

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), launched in 2018 as one of the pillars under Ayushman Bharat, is the **world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government**. It provides 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. 5 lakh per family per year** (on a family floater basis).

More than **10.7 lakh hospital admissions**⁶ have been authorized under this scheme during the financial years 2018-19 to 2021-22 in the North East.

S. No.	State	No of authorized Hospital Admissions under AB-PMJAY (2018-22)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,836
2.	Assam	3,92,547
3.	Manipur	54,743
4.	Meghalaya	3,95,021
5.	Mizoram	65,694
6.	Nagaland	23,510
7.	Sikkim	6,158
8.	Tripura	1,35,665
Total		10,75,174

[Ayushman Bharat – Digital Mission](#)⁷

Ayushman Bharat – Digital Mission was **launched on 27 September, 2021**. The objective of the scheme is to create **a seamless online platform that will enable interoperability within the digital healthcare ecosystem**. 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 creation of health records for individuals across various healthcare providers, and improve clinical decision making by healthcare providers.

As on March 28, 2022, a **total of Rs. 27,07,588 Health IDs** (ABHA number) have been created in the North East.

S. No.	State	No of health IDs created under AB-DHM
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,70,302
2.	Assam	8,78,814
3.	Manipur	3,65,737
4.	Meghalaya	1,24,416
5.	Mizoram	2,89,404
6.	Nagaland	2,38,794
7.	Sikkim	2,90,831
8.	Tripura	3,49,290
Total		27,07,588

⁵ <http://pmjay.qcin.org/pm-jay>

⁶ <https://pqars.nic.in/annex/256/AU3756.pdf>

⁷ <https://abdm.gov.in/>

PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission⁸

The PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission was **launched on October 25, 2021**. The objective of the scheme is **to strengthen the public health infrastructure**. It envisages a new generation of reforms to integrate and strengthen health service delivery and public health action including health research so that the communities are Atmanirbhar in managing such pandemics or health crisis.

As on March 17, 2022, **a total of Rs. 73.51 crore⁹** has been allocated under PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission during FY 2021-22 to the North Eastern states.

S. No.	State	Allocation (In Rs. Crore)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.56
2.	Assam	57.90
3.	Manipur	4.56
4.	Meghalaya	9.65
5.	Mizoram	0.28
6.	Nagaland	0.28
7.	Sikkim	0.00
8.	Tripura	0.28
Total		73.51

2. North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)¹⁰

North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)¹¹ was approved by the Government of India as a **new Central Sector Scheme on 15.12.2017**. Under the Scheme guidelines of NESIDS, **100% centrally funding is provided to the State Governments of North Eastern Region** for the projects of physical infrastructure relating to water supply, power and connectivity enhancing tourism and social infrastructure **relating to primary and secondary sectors of education and health**. During the last two financial years i.e. 2019-20 and 2020-21, **54 projects worth Rs. 1320.49 crore¹²** have been sanctioned under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS).

Major Healthcare and Medical Achievements under NESIDS in the Last Eight Years

Arunachal Pradesh

- Procurement of hospital equipment to prepare 10 District Hospitals to fight COVID-19 in Arunachal Pradesh at Rs. 51.69 crore.
- Procurement of equipment for District Hospitals & CHCs (Pakke Kessang, Likabali, Basar, Shi Yomi, Boleng, Raga, Doimukh, Palin, Koloriang, Daporijo, Anini, Roing, Anjaw and Longding) in Arunachal Pradesh at Rs. 18.18 crore.

⁸ https://www.nhp.gov.in/pm-ayushman-bharat-health-infrastructure-mission_pg

⁹ <https://pqaRs.nic.in/annex/256/AU2176.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://nesids.mdoner.gov.in/>

¹¹ <https://mdoner.gov.in/activities/nesids-background>

¹² [List of projects sanctioned under NESIDS \(pib.gov.in\)](http://pib.gov.in)

Assam

- Upgradation of 24 numbers of existing district hospitals for setting up of ICUs for treatment of COVID-19 patients in Assam at Rs. 97.49 crore.
- Improvement / Special Infrastructure development of JSB Civil Hospital in Chirang District, Assam at Rs. 22.99 crore.

Manipur

- Construction of District Hospital Imphal West at Mayang, Imphal, Manipur at Rs. 53.40 crore.
- Provision of paid/private Ward in Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Science (JNIMS) Imphal East, Manipur at Rs. 12.93 crore.
- Establishment of Infectious Disease Centre at Porompat, Imphal East, Manipur at Rs. 20.04 crore.

Meghalaya

- Setting up of Corona Care Centre for Management of Covid-19 in Meghalaya at Rs.10.02 crore.
- Strengthening of Diagnostic Services: State of the Art Diagnostic Centre at Pasteur Institute in Meghalaya at Rs. 20 crore.

Mizoram

- Construction of two Residential Hostels at Zoram Medical College, Falkawn, Mizoram at Rs. 20 crore.
- Strengthening Health Infrastructure for Comprehensive response to possible outbreak of COVID-19 in Mizoram under NESIDS at Rs. 16.16 crore.

Nagaland

- Strengthening of Health Infrastructure of various Health Facilities in Nagaland in Nagaland under NESIDS at Rs. 21 crore.
- Strengthening health Infrastructure for Comprehensive response to possible Outbreak of COVID19 in Nagaland at Rs. 17.96 crore.

Sikkim

- Construction of 70 bedded District Hospital at Mangan, North Sikkim, Sikkim at Rs. 10 crore.

Tripura

- Procurement of 26 Advance Life Support and Patient Transportation ambulances under Directorate of Health Services in Tripura at Rs. 4.19 crore.
- Procurement of Pulse Oximeter and Antigen Tests Kits etc. for combating COVID-19 pandemic in Tripura at Rs. 3.9 crore.

3. Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources - NLCPR¹³

The Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)¹⁴ Scheme came into existence in 1998 under then Planning Commission. Subsequently, it was transferred to DoNER in 2001. The objective of NLCPR Scheme is to fill the gap in infrastructure sector of the North Eastern Region through sanctioning the projects prioritized by the State Governments.

Major Healthcare and Medical Achievements under NLCPR in the Last Eight Years

- Construction of Medical College at Nalbari under NLCPR in Assam at Rs. 217.82 crore.
- Construction of 50 Bedded Hospital in Lawngtlai in Mizoram at Rs. 11.92 crore.
- Dhalai District Hospital: Phase-II (Hospital Quarters), Tripura at Rs. 11.32 crore.
- North District Hospital: Phase-II (Hospital Quarters), Tripura at Rs. 11.10 crore.

4. Major plans for Boosting AYUSH Initiatives in Northeast¹⁵

In a major boost to promote traditional medicinal practices in the North East, a number of major initiatives were announced on 28 August, 2021 by the Union Minister of AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. The major initiatives are as follows:

- **1000 Health & Wellness Centres (HWC) and 100 new AYUSH dispensaries to be opened in the North Eastern states** for growth and development of AYUSH schemes
- Rs 70 Crores financial provision for a new Ayurvedic College at Dudhnoi in Goalpara, Assam
- Financial grant of Rs 10 Crores for Ayurvedic College, Guwahati, Assam to be developed as Centre of Excellence
- A facilitation Centre for Semi Processing of raw material to be opened up in NE.
- Setting up of a Regional Raw Drug Repository (RRDR) in NE states in collaboration with National Institute of Bio-Resources and Sustainable Development in Imphal, Manipur under Department of Bio-Technology.
- The AYUSH medical facilities under North-Eastern State Governments, Central Government and teaching hospitals in AYUSH colleges will be brought under Ayush Health Management Information System (AHMIS)¹⁶ so as to develop digital data base of AYUSH interventions in various disease management.

All of these initiatives will be undertaken under the Central Sector Scheme run by the National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH.

5. Combating COVID-19 Pandemic in the North East¹⁷

- To mitigate the difficulties of people in the NE, the Ministry of DoNER/ NEC sanctioned untied funds amounting to Rs. 26.09 crore to combat COVID-19 pandemic.

¹³ <https://nlcpr.mdoner.gov.in/>

¹⁴ <https://mdoner.gov.in/activities/nlcpr-background>

¹⁵ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1749919>

¹⁶ <https://ehr.ayush.gov.in/ayush/#&panel1-1>

¹⁷ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737706>

- Projects worth Rs. 36.50 crore have also been sanctioned to North Eastern Region States for livelihood generation for returnee migrant workers due to COVID-19.
- 11 projects amounting to Rs. 313.98 crore have been sanctioned by the Ministry of DoNER under the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) for strengthening health infrastructure of North Eastern States, especially for fighting COVID-19 pandemic.
- During 2020-21, Rs. 322.89 crore was released to the North Eastern States towards the India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Packages through National Health Mission (NHM).
- During 2019-20, an amount of Rs. 111.34 crore was released to North Eastern States under National Health Mission.
- For the containment measures allowed under SDRF, State Government were allowed to spend up to 35% of the annual allocation of SDRF during the financial year 2019-20. The ceiling of 35% was further enhanced to 50% during the financial year 2020-21 and 2021-22.

6. Recent Initiatives for Medical Infrastructure in the North East

(i) [PM-DevINE Scheme](#)¹⁸

The [Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, PM-DevINE](#)¹⁹ was announced by the Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs while presenting the **Union Budget 2022-23**. An initial allocation of Rs 1,500 crore was made for PM-DevINE for the year 2022-23. One of the major projects identified under this scheme is the “**Establishment of Dedicated Services for the Management of Paediatric and Adult Haematolymphoid Cancers in North-East India**”, to be located at Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI) Guwahati at an **estimated cost of Rs 129 crore**. This initiative is expected to give a huge boost to cancer care in the region given that in the last 11 years, 3,855 childhood and adult Haematolymphoid cancer patients reported to BBCI for treatment.

(ii) Prime Minister dedicated to the nation seven cancer hospitals in Assam

Assam Cancer Care Foundation, a joint venture of Government of Assam and Tata Trusts, is executing a project to build South Asia's largest affordable cancer care network with 17 cancer care hospitals spread across the state. Under the Phase 1 of the project, out of 10 hospitals, the construction of seven hospitals have been completed while three hospitals are at various level of construction. These cancer Hospitals are built at Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar, Barpeta, Darrang, Tezpur, Lakhimpur, and Jorhat. Phase 2 of the project will witness construction of seven new cancer hospitals at Dhubri, Nalbari, Goalpara, Nagaon, Sivasagar, Tinsukia and Golaghat. **The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation [seven cancer hospitals in Assam at a function in Dibrugarh on 28 April, 2022](#)**²⁰. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of seven new cancer hospitals to be constructed under phase 2 of the project.

¹⁸ <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1800846>

¹⁹ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1794156&msclkid=522254cfcf7311ec988962290b3a4136>

²⁰ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1820983>



(iii) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Guwahati to be Established²¹

Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) setting up of 22 new AIIMS has been sanctioned. AIIMS, Guwahati, is a part of the new prestigious institutions that were conceived under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)²². **The institution received cabinet approval on 24 May, 2017.**

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²¹ <https://main.mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/FinalforNetEnglishMoHFW040222.pdf>

²² <http://pmssy-mohfw.nic.in/>