




Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

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Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister launched the **Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**.

Key Points

- **About:**

- It is one of the **largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure** across the country.

It is in addition to the **National Health Mission**.

- It will provide **support to 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 'high focus' states** and **establish 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres** across the country.
- Through this, **critical care services will be available in all the districts of the country with more than five lakh population** through exclusive critical care hospital blocks, while the **remaining districts will be covered through referral services**.
- Under the scheme, **a national institution for one health**, four new national **institutes for virology**, a **regional research platform** for **WHO (World Health Organization)** South East Asia Region, nine **biosafety level-III laboratories**, and five new **regional national centres for disease control** will be set up.

- **Objectives:**

- To **ensure a robust public health infrastructure in both urban and rural areas**, capable of responding to public health emergencies or disease outbreaks.
- To **establish an IT-enabled disease surveillance system** through a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels.

All the public health labs will be connected through the **Integrated Health Information Portal**, which will be expanded to all states and UTs.

- **Significance:**

- India has long been **in need of an extensive healthcare system**. A study ('State of Democracy in South Asia (SDSA)–Round 3') by Lokniti-CSDS in 2019 highlighted how access to public health care remained elusive to those living on the margins.

The study found that 70% of the locations have public healthcare services. However, availability was less in rural areas (65%) compared to urban areas (87%).

- Schemes like **Swachh Bharat Mission**, **Jal Jeevan Mission**, **Ujjwala**, **Poshan Abhiyan**, **Mission Indradhanush** have saved crores of people from disease. More than 2 crore poor people got free treatment under **Ayushman Bharat Yojana** and many health related issues are being solved through **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**.

- **Other Related Initiatives:**

- **PM Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Scheme**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**.
- **Jan Aushadhi Yojana**.

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