



## Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

**For Prelims:** Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, Sandbox, Unified Payments Interface, Digital Health IDs.

**For Mains:** Government Policies & Interventions, Central Sector Schemes, Health, Human Resource, Significance of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

### Why in News?

Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved the countrywide implementation of the [Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission \(ABDM\)](#) with the budgetary allocation of **Rs 1,600 crore for five years**.

- Under the mission, citizens will be able to create their Ayushman Bharat health account numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked.
- [Ayushman Bharat](#) is a flagship scheme of India which was launched as recommended by the **National Health Policy 2017**, to achieve the vision of [Universal Health Coverage \(UHC\)](#).

### What is Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission?

- It was launched in September 2021 by the Prime Minister through a video conference.
- It aims to provide **digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically** when required.
- The pilot project of the Mission had been announced by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the **Red Fort on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020**.
  - The project is being implemented in the pilot phase in six States & Union Territories.
- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will be the implementing Agency.

### What are the Features of the Mission?

- **Health ID:**
  - It will be **issued for every citizen that will also work as their health account**. This health account will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken and the diagnosis.
  - Health ID is free of cost, voluntary. **It will help in doing analysis of health data** and lead to better planning, budgeting and implementation for health programs.
- **Healthcare Facilities & Professionals' Registry:**
  - The other major component of the programme is creating a **Healthcare Professionals' Registry (HPR)** and **Healthcare Facilities Registry (HFR)**, allowing easy electronic access to medical professionals and health infrastructure.
  - The HPR will be a **comprehensive repository of all healthcare professionals** involved in delivering healthcare services across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.
  - The HFR database will have records of all the country's health facilities.
- **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Sandbox:**
  - The **Sandbox**, created as a part of the mission, will **act as a framework for technology**

**and product testing** that will help organisations, including private players intending to be a part of the national digital health ecosystem become a Health Information Provider or Health Information User or efficiently link with building blocks of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

## What are the Benefits and Related Concerns?

### ▪ Expected Benefits:

- Ensure **ease of doing business** for doctors and hospitals and healthcare service providers.
- Enable access and exchange of longitudinal health records of citizens with their consent.
- Create integration within the digital health ecosystem, similar to the role played by the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** in revolutionising payments.
- The mission will improve "**equitable access**" to **quality healthcare as it'll encourage the use of technologies** such as telemedicine, and enable national portability of health services.

### ▪ Concerns:

- The **lack of a data protection bill** could lead to the misuse of data by private firms and bad actors.
- **Exclusion of citizens and denied healthcare** due to faults in the system are also a cause of concern.



## Way Forward

- The [National Digital Health Mission \(NDHM\)](#) still does not recognize Health as a justiciable right. There **should be a push draft at making health a right, as prescribed in the draft National Health Policy, 2015.**
- In addition, the failure of a similar National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom **must be learnt from and the technical and implementation-related deficiencies must be proactively addressed** prior to launching the mission on a pan India scale.
- The standardisation of NDHM architecture across the country will need **to find ways to accommodate state-specific rules.** It also needs to be in sync with government schemes like Ayushman Bharat Yojana and other IT-enabled schemes like [Reproductive Child Health Care and NIKSHAY](#) etc.

[Source: TH](#)

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