

## Launch of Ayushman Bharat Yojana

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently rolled out the Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) from Ranchi, in Jharkhand. The scheme aims to benefit over 10 crore families by providing them cashless health assurance up to Rs 5 lakh every year without paying any premium.

Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that this launch has been done with a vision to provide the poorest of the poor, and the underprivileged sections of society, with better healthcare and treatment. He said this scheme, which envisions health assurance of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year, will benefit over 50 crore people, and is the world's biggest health assurance scheme. He said the number of beneficiaries of this scheme is roughly equal to the population of the European Union, or the population of America, Canada and Mexico, taken together.

He said the first part of Ayushman Bharat - the health and wellness centres, was launched on Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary, and the second part - the health assurance scheme, is being launched two days before Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary.

Describing it as a "game –changer initiative to serve the poor", the Prime Minister said it would cover 1300 illnesses, including serious illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. He said private hospitals too would be part of this scheme. He said it is a step towards serving the poor people of the country.

The Prime Minister said that the amount of 5 lakhs would cover all investigations, medicine, pre-hospitalization expenses etc. He said it would also cover pre-existing illnesses. The PM further urged the people to memorise the helpline number of the scheme which is 14555 and it should be memorise by one and all. The Prime Minister said that for the States that are a part of PMJAY, people can get the benefit of the scheme in whichever of these States they go to. He said more than 13,000 hospitals across the country have joined the scheme so far.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the 10 health and wellness centres inaugurated today. He said the number of such centres across the country has reached 2300. He said the aim is to have 1.5 lakh such centres in India within four years. The Prime Minister said that the Union Government is working with a holistic approach to improve the health sector in the country. He said the focus is on both "Affordable Healthcare" and "Preventive Healthcare."

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that through the efforts of all those involved with PMJAY, and the dedication of the doctors, nurses, healthcare providers, ASHAs, ANMs etc, the scheme would become a success.

Please contact for any query related to this mail to Ms. Aarti Jhunjhunwala, Research Associate at [Aarti.jhunjhunwala@phdcci.in](mailto:Aarti.jhunjhunwala@phdcci.in) with a cc to Dr. S P Sharma, Chief Economist at

[spsharma@phdcci.in](mailto:spsharma@phdcci.in) and Ms. Megha Kaul, Economist, [megha@phdcci.in](mailto:megha@phdcci.in), PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Warm regards,

Dr. S P Sharma  
Chief Economist

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PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area  
August Kranti Marg, New Delhi-110016  
Ph.: + 91-11-26863801-04, 49545454  
Fax: +91- 26855450, 49545451  
Email: [spsharma@phdcci.in](mailto:spsharma@phdcci.in)  
Website: [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in)

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PHD House, 4/2 Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 (India) • Tel.: +91-11-2686 3801-04, 49545454, 49545400  
Fax: +91-11-2685 5450 • E-mail: [research@phdcci.in](mailto:research@phdcci.in) • Website: [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in), CIN: U74899DL1951GAP001947

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