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Govt launches PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

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The aim is to strengthen the critical healthcare network from village to block to the district to the regional and national level in the next 4-5 years



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission on 25 October. He also inaugurated various development projects worth around Rs 5200 crore for Varanasi.

Describing the initiative taken by the government under the new Mission, the Prime Minister said that there are three major aspects of the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission to address the different gaps in the health sector of the country.

The first is related to the creation of elaborate facilities for diagnostics and treatment. Under this, Health and Wellness Centres are being opened in villages and cities, where there will be facilities for early detection of diseases. Facilities like free medical consultation, free tests, free medicine will be available in these centres. For serious illness, 35,000 new critical care-related beds are being added in 600 districts and referral facilities will be given in 125 districts.

The second aspect of the scheme is related to the testing network for the diagnosis of diseases. Under this mission, the necessary infrastructure will be developed for the diagnosis and monitoring of diseases. 730 districts of the country will get integrated public health labs and 3000 blocks will get block public health units. Apart from that, five regional national centres for disease control, 20 metropolitan units, and 15 BSL labs will further strengthen this network.

The third aspect is the expansion of existing research institutions that study pandemics. Existing 80 viral diagnostic and research labs will be strengthened, 15 biosafety level 15 labs will be operationalised, four new National Institutes of Virology and a National Institute for One Health are being established. WHO regional research platform for South Asia will also strengthen this network.