



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Transforming Healthcare: Six Years of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY

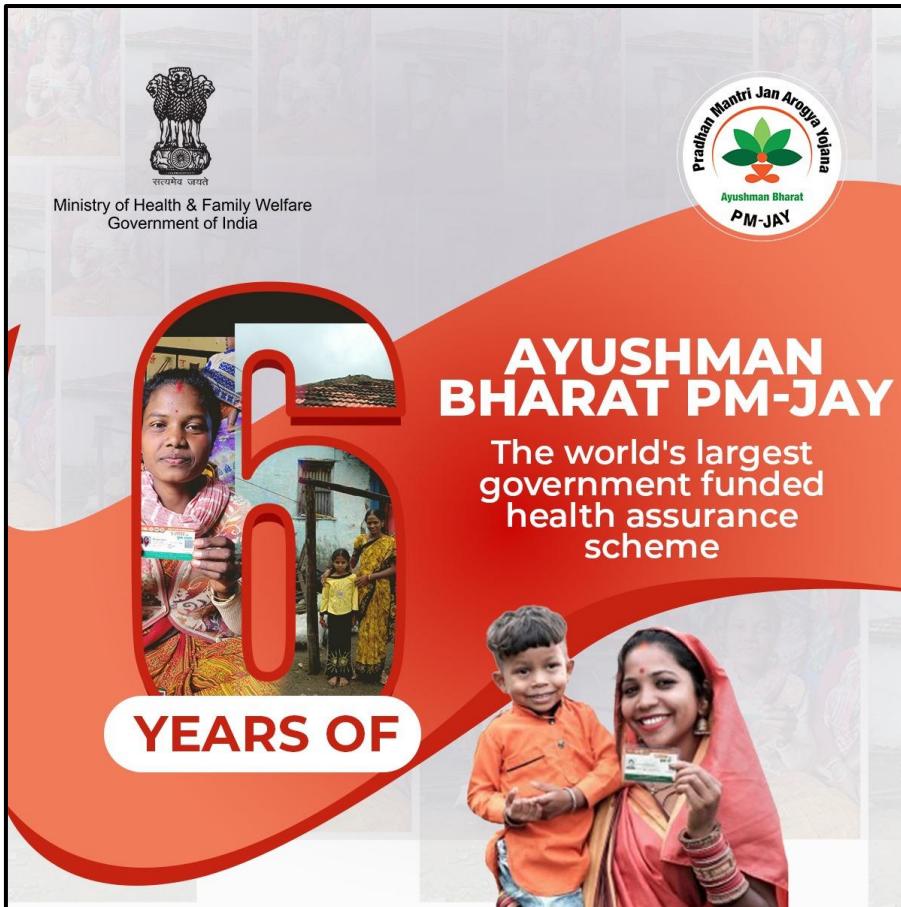
Enhancing Healthcare Access for 12 Crore Families with ₹5 Lakh Coverage

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

September 23, 2024

Introduction

Launched on September 23, 2018, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has been a cornerstone of India's commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). As a key component of the Ayushman Bharat initiative, which emerged from the National Health Policy 2017, PM-JAY has transformed the healthcare landscape by providing health coverage to the country's most vulnerable. With an ambitious goal of covering over 12 crore families, or nearly 55 crore individuals, PM-JAY has become the largest health assurance scheme in the world, offering comprehensive secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation benefits of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually.



Over the past six years, PM-JAY has sought to address the deep-rooted health inequities in India, prioritising the poorest 40% of the population based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011. This initiative marked a paradigm shift from segmented healthcare services to an integrated, need-based approach, aligning with the nation's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring that "no one is left behind."

Key Features of PM-JAY

- ❖ **World's Largest Health Assurance Scheme:** PM-JAY stands as the largest health insurance/assurance initiative globally, fully financed by the Government of India, offering broad healthcare access to the vulnerable
- ❖ **Health Coverage of ₹5 Lakh:** Each entitled family receives an annual health cover of ₹5 lakhs for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- ❖ **Coverage for Over 12 Crore Families:** Around 55 crore beneficiaries from 12 crore poor and vulnerable families are eligible for the scheme's benefits, ensuring protection for the most underserved.
- ❖ **Cashless Access to Healthcare:** Beneficiaries enjoy cashless healthcare services at the point of care, eliminating the need for out-of-pocket payments during treatment.
- ❖ **Mitigating Catastrophic Health Expenditure:** By covering significant medical costs, PM-JAY helps prevent over six crore Indians from falling into poverty yearly due to healthcare expenses.
- ❖ **Pre- and Post-Hospitalization Coverage:** The scheme covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days of post-hospitalization expenses, including diagnostics and medications.
- ❖ **No Family Size or Age Restrictions:** PM-JAY imposes no restrictions on family size, age, or gender, ensuring inclusivity for all.
- ❖ **Coverage from Day One:** All pre-existing medical conditions are covered from the very first day of enrolment, ensuring timely treatment.
- ❖ **Nationwide Portability:** Beneficiaries can access cashless treatment at any empanelled public or private hospital across India, ensuring flexibility and ease of care.

- ❖ **Comprehensive Service Package:** AB PM-JAY offers comprehensive coverage across 1,949 medical procedures spanning 27 medical specialties, including General Medicine, Surgery, Oncology, and Cardiology. Beneficiaries receive hospital services such as free drugs (including 15 days of post-discharge medication), diagnostics (up to 3 days before admission), food, and lodging at no cost.
- ❖ **Equal Reimbursement for Public and Private Hospitals:** Public hospitals receive reimbursements for healthcare services at par with private hospitals, ensuring equitable care delivery across all sectors.

Free Health Coverage for All Seniors 70+

In a landmark decision, the Union Cabinet approved an expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) on September 11, 2024, offering comprehensive health insurance to senior citizens aged 70 and above. This move will provide free health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family, regardless of income, benefiting around 6 crore senior citizens across 4.5 crore families.



*World's Largest
Health Insurance Scheme Becomes Bigger!*

- Icon:** A shield with a heart inside. **Text:** Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to provide Health Coverage to **all Senior Citizens of 70 years & Above** irrespective of their income
- Icon:** Two people walking. **Text:** **4.5 Crore families with 6 crore senior citizens** to be benefitted
- Icon:** A person in a wheelchair. **Text:** ₹ 5 Lakh free health cover per family
- Icon:** A clipboard. **Text:** Issuance of a **new Distinct Card** under AB PM-JAY
- Icon:** A wallet with a plus sign. **Text:** Additional top-up of ₹ 5 Lakh to seniors aged 70+ belonging to families under AB PM-JAY

Under this expansion, all senior citizens in this age group will receive a new distinct card under AB PM-JAY to access the scheme's benefits. For senior citizens aged 70 and above who already belong to families covered by AB PM-JAY, an additional top-up cover of ₹5 lakh per year will be provided exclusively for their use, separate from the rest of the family. Those who are not part of the existing scheme will receive ₹5 lakh of annual coverage on a family basis.

Moreover, senior citizens already covered under public health insurance schemes like the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), or Ayushman CAPF will have the option to either continue with their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY. Additionally, those under private health insurance policies or the Employees' State Insurance scheme will also be eligible to avail of the benefits of AB PM-JAY.

Achievements of AB PM-JAY

As of September 9, 2024, the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) has significantly improved healthcare accessibility across India. Over 35.4 crore Ayushman cards have been issued, empowering millions of families with health coverage. The scheme is operational in 33 States and Union Territories, except NCT Delhi, West Bengal, and Odisha.

A key accomplishment is the authorisation of 7.79 crore hospital admissions, providing ₹1,07,125 crores in financial coverage. Gender-wise utilisation shows that 49% of the Ayushman cards have been issued to women, and 3.61 crore hospital admissions have been utilised by women, reflecting the scheme's role in supporting gender equity in healthcare.



The scheme's portability feature allows beneficiaries to avail treatment at any empanelled hospital across India, regardless of their home state. Notably, 11.9 lakh hospitalizations worth ₹3,100 crores have been authorized under this portability feature, enhancing accessibility for beneficiaries nationwide.

Furthermore, AB PM-JAY has successfully empanelled 30,529 hospitals across the country, with 17,063 public and 13,466 private hospitals, ensuring beneficiaries have a wide network of healthcare facilities to choose from.

As of September 1, 2024, the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY has facilitated a diverse array of medical procedures, with significant hospital admissions authorized across various specialties. Here's a detailed breakdown of some key procedures and their associated hospital admission counts and financial coverage:

Procedure Name	Total Authorized hospital admission count	Total Authorized hospital admission amount (in ₹ in Crs)
Heart Bypass Surgeries	60,221	904.49
Coronary Angioplasty	4,71,519	4635.23
Heart Valve Surgeries	31,462	720.07
Gall Bladder Removal Surgeries	18,168	20.36
Cataract Surgeries	22,43,765	1692.96
Removal of Appendix	1,40,638	253.94
Head Surgeries	66,219	179.05
Deliveries for High-Risk Pregnancy	1,69,196	206.88
Knee Replacement surgeries	1,54,538	1319.04
Hip Replacement Surgeries	72,345	787.54
Cleft Lip Surgeries	2,281	3.98
Urinary Tract Stone Removal	3,77,904	1423.20
Lung Cancer	1,60,089	220.21
Oral Cancer	24,645	159.74
Breast Cancer	5,61,350	808.17

A Legacy of Transformation

Celebrating six years of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) highlights the countless lives touched and the communities empowered by this transformative initiative. The strides made toward a more inclusive healthcare system are evident in the positive changes experienced across the nation.

#6YearsOfAyushmanBharat



FAMILIES SAVING MORE, STRESSING LESS ON HEALTHCARE

Ayushman Bharat program associated with :

21% DECLINE
in out-of-pocket
health expenditure

8% DECLINE
in the tendency to
borrow emergency
loans for health
purposes



Source: SSRN

Families Saving More, Stressing Less on Healthcare

The Ayushman Bharat program has led to a remarkable 21% reduction in out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures and an 8% decrease in the incidence of emergency loans taken for health-related expenses. This relief allows families to focus on their well-being without the burden of financial stress.

Life-Saving Treatments Now Affordable

Under PM-JAY, access to high-frequency, low-cost, life-saving procedures, such as dialysis, which typically costs ₹10,000-15,000 per session, has become significantly more affordable for low-income families. This initiative has alleviated financial burdens, ensuring that essential treatments are within reach.

#6YearsOfAyushmanBharat



LIFE-SAVING TREATMENTS NOW AFFORDABLE

High-frequency,
low-cost
life-saving
procedures
**done under
PM JAY**

Procedures
costing around
₹10,000- 15,000
per session like
dialysis

Helped
save poor
families a
**huge amount
of money**



Source: Economy Survey

District Hospitals Get Serious Cash Flow

District hospitals have experienced substantial financial gains, with an annual net benefit of \$26.1 million. Projections suggest potential growth could increase this figure to \$41.8 million, resulting in average net annual earnings of \$169,607 per hospital. This financial boost enhances the capacity of hospitals to serve their communities effectively.

#6YearsOfAyushmanBharat

DISTRICT HOSPITALS GET SERIOUS CASH FLOW

Financial Gains for District Hospitals:
Annual net benefit of \$26.1 million

Potential Growth:
Benefits could rise to \$41.8 million

Average Gains for a District hospital: **Net annual earnings of \$169,607**

Source: Lancet Study



Impact of Ayushman Bharat on Finances

Without AB PM-JAY, the total cost of treatment would have been 1.5 to 2 times higher, leading to savings of over ₹1.25 lakh crore in out-of-pocket expenses and facilitating 7.37 crore free hospital admissions. This impact underscores the scheme's role in transforming healthcare access and affordability.

Increase in Eye Care Procedures: Enhancing Vision for More Lives

The legacy of PM-JAY is also reflected in the significant increase in eye care procedures, enhancing vision for countless individuals and reaffirming the commitment to comprehensive health coverage for all. The transformative impact of PM-JAY continues to pave the way for a healthier, more equitable society.

Conclusion

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) stands as a testament to India's commitment to equitable healthcare for all, particularly the most vulnerable populations. Over the past six years, this pioneering initiative has significantly transformed the healthcare landscape, providing essential coverage to millions and reducing financial burdens associated with medical expenses. The expansion of benefits to senior citizens and the comprehensive nature of the scheme underscores its commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. As PM-JAY continues to evolve, it not only addresses the immediate healthcare needs of families but also lays the groundwork for a healthier future, ensuring that no one is left behind. The legacy of PM-JAY is one of hope and resilience, as it strives to build a robust healthcare system that prioritizes the well-being of every citizen in India.

References:

- ❖ <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2053881>
- ❖ <https://nha.gov.in/PM-JAY>
- ❖ <https://x.com/mygovindia/status/1838073809200357814>
- ❖ <https://x.com/AyushmanNHA/status/1838095673251553668>
- ❖ <https://dashboard.pmjay.gov.in/pmj/#/>

Santosh Kumar/ Ritu Kataria/ Saurabh Kalia