

PM- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)

For the COVID-19 public health challenge, the GOI's response has been pre-emptive, proactive and characterized by a 'whole of government' approach. The on-going COVID 19 pandemic has demonstrated that health is a public good and India's health systems need to be better equipped to address public health needs across primary, secondary, and tertiary care levels.

To strengthen the Public Health Infrastructure effectively manage and respond towards any future pandemics and outbreaks, PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) is announced in Budget 21-22 on 1st February 2021. The PM-ABHIM is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with some Central Sector Components, for implementation of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Package for health sector as announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister in May 2020. The objective of the scheme is to fill critical gaps in health infrastructure, surveillance and health research – spanning both the urban and rural areas so that the communities are Atmanirbhar in managing such pandemic/ health crisis. It is the largest Pan-India scheme for public health infrastructure since 2005.

Under the scheme the total financial outlay for the scheme period (2021-22 to 2025-26) is **Rs 64180 Crore** including ME and PMU cost out of which amount of **Rs 54204.78 Crore** is for implementation of **Centrally Sponsored Scheme Components** and amount of **Rs 9339.78 Crores** for implementation of **Central Sector components**.

The components of the PM-ABHIM scheme are:

Centrally Sponsored Components:

- 1. Rural Health and Wellness Centres:** Under PM-ABHIM, provision is available for necessary infrastructure support for construction of 17,788 building less Sub Health Centres level AB-HWCs in rural areas in 7 High Focus States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) and 3 North-eastern States (Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya) cumulatively over a five-year duration from FY 21-22 to FY 25-26.
- 2. Urban Health and Wellness Centres:** Under PM-ABHIM, 11,024 Urban HWCs cumulatively over a five-year duration from FY 21-22 to FY 25-26 are envisaged to be established across all the States & UTs to ensure provision of comprehensive primary health care to the urban population.
- 3. Block Public Health Units:** Under the scheme, it is envisaged to establish 3382 BPHUs in all the Blocks of the 11 EAG States/UTs (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, UT - Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) by 2025-26 with the objective to equip the Block level health units to handle public health emergencies and to respond & monitor the healthcare services.

4. **Integrated Public Health Labs:** An Integrated Public Health Laboratories in all 730 districts will be set-up under the scheme to optimise access to laboratory services, quality assurance efforts, cost-effectiveness, and efficient use of human resources. The objectives of IPHL are to strengthen the infectious and non-infectious disease surveillance system, to provide accurate data for enhancing timely response for disease outbreak, to provide mentorship to block Public Health Lab and serve as diagnostic hub for block CHC labs (spokes) and to support laboratory investigations of outbreaks.

5. **Critical Care Hospital Blocks:** Under PM-ABHIM, support is available to establish 602 Critical Care Hospital Blocks (100/75/50-bedded) in all districts with population more than 5 lakhs and with referral linkages in other districts. Objective of the critical care blocks is to augment the capacity of the district for assured treatment and management of patients with infectious diseases or critical illnesses by creating Critical Care Hospital Blocks /Wings at District Hospitals/ Medical Colleges and to ensure health system preparedness for future outbreaks.

Operational Guidelines on the CSS components of the scheme and the Technical Guidelines on the components of District Integrated Public Health laboratory and Critical Care Hospital Blocks under PM-ABHIM have been disseminated to States/UTs for the implementation of the PM-ABHIM.

The link for accessing the operational guideline and technical guidelines is as under:

State wise Approvals for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 under PM-ABHIM is available at <https://nhsrcindia.org/pradhan-mantri-aatmanirbhar-swasthya-bharat-pm-asby/state-wise-physical-and-financial-deliverables>

Central Sector Components

1. 12 Central Institutions as training and mentoring sites with 150 bedded Critical Care Hospital Blocks;
2. Strengthening of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), 5 New Regional NCDCs and 20 metropolitan health surveillance units;
3. Expansion of the Integrated Health Information Portal to all States/UTs to connect all public health labs;
4. Operationalisation of 17 new Public Health Units and strengthening of 33 existing Public Health Units at Points of Entry, that is at 32 Airports, 11 Seaports and 7 land crossings;
5. Setting up of 15 Health Emergency Operation Centres and 2 container based mobile hospitals; and
6. Setting up of a national institution for One Health, 4 New National Institutes for Virology, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region and 9 Bio-Safety Level III laboratories.