

Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission

October 26, 2021

In news- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

About the mission-

- It is India's largest scheme to scale-up health infrastructure.
- It aims at ensuring a robust system for “detecting, investigating, preventing, and combating public health emergencies and disease outbreaks”.
- It is an addition to the National Health Mission, which will **provide support to 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 ‘high focus’ states and establish 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres** across the country.
- The mission's objective is to “fill critical gaps in public health infrastructure, especially in critical care facilities and primary care in both the urban and rural areas.”
- It will ensure access to critical care services in all districts of the country with over five lakh population through **‘Exclusive Critical Care Hospital Blocks’**.
- The remaining districts will be covered through referral services.
- **Integrated public health labs** will be set up in all districts, giving people access to “a full range of diagnostic services” through a network of laboratories across the country.
- It aims to establish an **IT-enabled disease surveillance system** through a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels.
- All the public health labs will be connected through the

Integrated Health Information Portal, which will be expanded to all states and UTs.

- It will train frontline and healthcare workers to respond to public health emergencies effectively.
- The mission will set up other infrastructure, including a national institution for one health, four national institutes for virology, a regional research platform for WHO's South East Asia region, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, and five regional centres for disease control.