

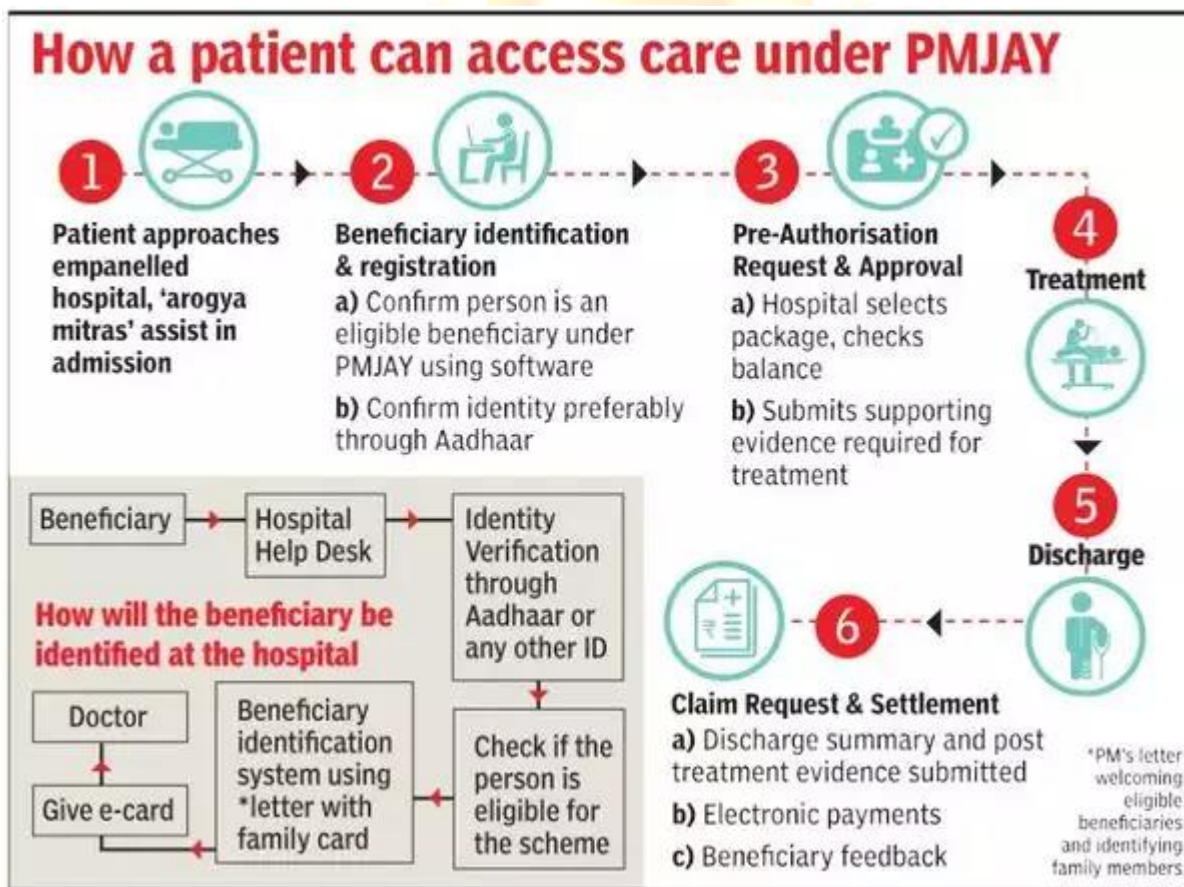


## HEALTH COVER SCHEME: NATIONAL

**NEWS:** PM expands health cover scheme to people aged 70 and over; no income bar

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The PM-JAY scheme now covers all citizens aged 70+ for free hospital treatment up to ₹5 lakh, reducing costs through the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card. New health projects worth ₹12,850 Cr. were launched, including AIIMS infrastructure, e-Sanjeevani services, and medical colleges. PM Modi criticized Delhi and West Bengal for not implementing the scheme, limiting senior citizens' access to free care.



### Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Expansion and Health Sector Projects:

- **Expansion of PM-JAY:** Health coverage under PM-JAY is now extended to all senior citizens aged 70+ nationwide, irrespective of income, covering hospitalization costs up to ₹5 lakh through the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card, significantly reducing out-of-pocket expenses.
- **New Health Initiatives:** PM Modi launched health projects worth around ₹12,850 Cr. on Dhanvantari Jayanti and Ayurveda Day, including the creation of four Ayush centres of excellence, expanded drone and helicopter services, infrastructure at AIIMS centers, medical and nursing colleges, and e-Sanjeevani consultations (over 30 Cr. people served).
- **Technology and Healthcare:** Projects include technology-enabled healthcare and critical care blocks; the government's five health policy pillars are preventive care, early detection,



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affordable treatment, availability of doctors in smaller towns, and health service expansion via technology.

- **AYUSH and Traditional Medicine:** PM highlighted Ayurveda Day's global reach (celebrated in 150+ countries) and recognized 7.5 lakh AYUSH practitioners contributing to national healthcare.
- **Criticism of Delhi and West Bengal Governments:** PM Modi criticized these governments for not implementing PM-JAY, limiting access for senior citizens in those states.

**Source :** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-launches-projects-worth-12850-crore-extends-ayushman-bharat-for-all-over-70-years/article68809852.ece>



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