



# Ayushman Bharat

Ayushman Bharat Yojana, also known as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), is a scheme that aims to help economically vulnerable Indians who are in need of healthcare facilities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out this health insurance scheme on 23 September 2018 to cover about 50 crore citizens in India and already has several success stories to its credit.

As of September 2019, it was reported that 18,059 hospitals have been enrolled, over 4,406,461 lakh beneficiaries have been admitted and over 10 crore e-cards have been issued.

## Ayushman Bharat Game Changer

The Ayushman Bharat Yojana - National Health Protection Scheme, which has now been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, plans to make secondary and tertiary healthcare completely cashless. The PM Jan Arogya Yojana beneficiaries get an e-card that can be used to avail services at an enrolled hospital, public or private, anywhere in the country. With it, you can walk into a hospital and obtain cashless treatment.

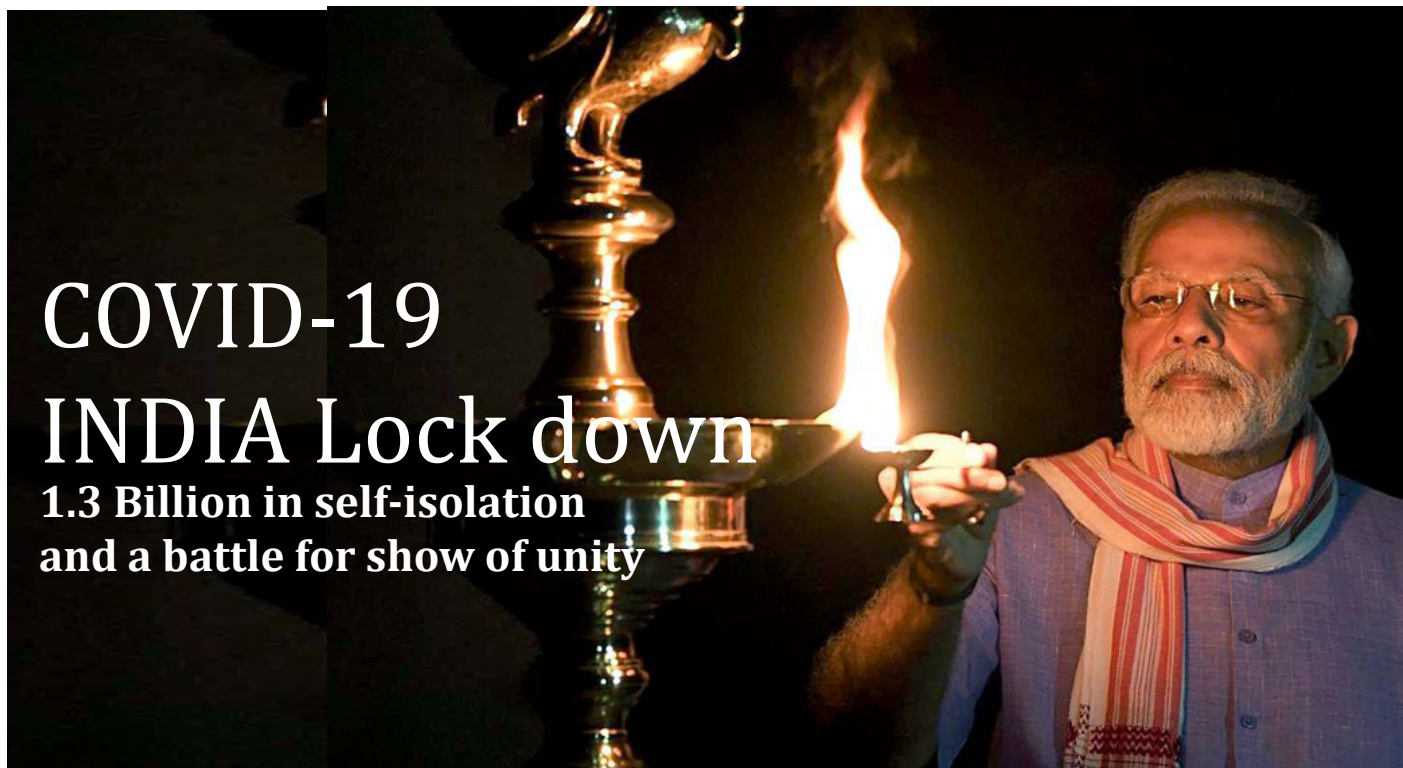
The coverage includes 3 days of pre-hospitalisation and 15 days of post-hospitalisation expenses. Moreover, around 1,400 procedures with all related costs like OT expenses are taken care of. All in all, PMJAY and the e-card provide a coverage of Rs. 5 lakh per family, per year, thus helping the economically disadvantaged obtain easy access to healthcare services.

The Union Health Minister Hon Harsh Vardhan has predicted that under the the scheme more 21,000 Health and Wellness Centres than have become operational, 47 lakh benefited under PMJAY in the first year. He said, "Ayushman Bharat shall prove to be a game-changer".

*The Union Health Minister Hon Harsh Vardhan has announced that under the scheme more than 21,000 Health and Wellness Centres have become operational and 47 lakh benefitted under PMJAY in the first year. He said, "Ayushman Bharat shall prove to be a game-changer".*

**Hon Sri Harsh Vardhan**  
Union Health Minister





# COVID-19 INDIA Lock down

## 1.3 Billion in self-isolation and a battle for show of unity

In the wake of the worldwide spread of the Corona-virus the Prime Minister of India Hon Narendra Modi announced that India's entire population of 1.3bn people would be under lock-down.

The PM explained that unless the people in India practiced social distancing, and the "chain of its spread not broken" within these 21 days, the corona-virus outbreak could push the country back by 21 years, and thousands of families would be devastated forever.

In a video message to the nation, PM Modi appreciated the people for showing discipline and following the ongoing lock-down. Making a special request, PM Modi urged citizens to switch off all lights of our homes on 5th April at 9 PM for 9 minutes and only light a candle, diya or mobile flashlight, as a mark of every Indian's fight against Corona-virus. He also urged people not to gather in the streets and maintain social distancing during the exercise.

PM Modi emphasised on 'social distancing' to fight the COVID-19 menace and applauded the doctors and other health care workers for their untiring efforts. He hailed them as the 'front-line soldiers.' The Prime Minister

said the ongoing lock-down was necessary to break the chain of virus transmission and ensure everyone's safety.

PM Modi said that the entire country was fighting against Corona-virus. He said, "Mahabharata war took 18 days to conclude, the war against Corona-virus will take 21 days." He advised people to follow the lock-down and stay indoors.

Addressing the nation on Corona-virus, PM Modi said the entire world is going through a deep crisis. PM Modi urged citizens to exercise restraint by staying at home and not stepping out as much as possible during the Corona-virus pandemic. "Social distancing measures are very important at this time," he said. PM Modi urged all citizens to follow the 'Janta Curfew'.

While many countries in the world have been facing a steep rise in Covid-19 infection and fatalities, India seemed to have not been moved to the 3rd stage of the pandemic.

Many experts fear that India being large nation with it's relatively large population, the infection spread would be much faster once it picks up speed. The central government and many

state administrations have attempted to impose strict imposition of 'lock-down' and monitoring has began across the nation. The officials say that the government have identified many hot-spots of infected areas and a huge attempt is made to trace movement of those affected by the virus.

There have been serious concerns expressed of lack of protective equipment by front line workers and doctors treating patients.

The health ministry has moved to secure testing equipment and has also setup up regional centers to provide testing facilities.

The Indian Council For Medical Research (ICMR) recently approved a Covid-19 testing kit developed by a private firm, which was claiming to give results in just one hour.

Molbio Diagnostics Private Limited said its testing kits will help the health department get results of Covid-19 suspected people much faster. Much of the tests which were being conducted usually took more than a day or more to show results. be taken anywhere and the patient did not need to travel to a designated hospital to get tested.



In Nirvana Prakaran chapter, 6 in the story of Caudala and Shikhardwaja, Sage Vasishta described the power of collective consciousness.

चेतनचेतानं भुतजातं व्योम तथाखिलाम  
सर्वं चिन्मात्रसन्मात्रं शून्यमात्रं यथा नाभः

*cetanācetaṇaṃ bhūtajātaṃ vyoma tathākhilam |  
sarvaṃ cinmātrasanmātraṃ śūnyamātraṃ yathā nabhaḥ || 6.80.54 ||*

**Individual consciousness adds to the collective  
consciousness through chitta, truthfulness the unmanifest.**



It was claimed that these rapid test kits provided portability and can be taken anywhere so the patient did not have to travel to a designated hospital to get tested. The manufacturer said that device is already being used in the states like Goa and Andhra Pradesh for testing TB cases and expected to be used in Karnataka. The cost of each test was estimated to be under Rs 1,350.

Shortly after Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted his countrymen to light candles and lamps as a gesture of a united fight against Covid-19, polarised reactions poured out on social media.

Critics argued, 'Why is the PM focusing on a seemingly pointless ritual while he needs to be telling the nation the details.'

Sources close to the government justified the action saying that it was

extremely important to keep the morale of a nation high during trying times and this will inspire people and give them hope.

Those more aligned to the political ideology of the 'Hindutva' were keen to point out quotes from the religious scriptures signifying importance of individual consciousness, which when added to the ritual of lighting of traditional lamps becomes the collective consciousness!

The announcement of the lock-down announcement had sparked a state of

panic among those daily wage earners in the cities. With the prospect of no income, thousands began march on foot in the bid to return to the perceived safety of their villages.

Thanks to an army of volunteers and charity bodies help was poured into proving food and aid to these destitute.

India is still bracing for the full force of the spread of the virus and the administration hoping to be ready and well prepared with adequate facilities for providing 'beds' in the hospitals and testing facilities. □

