



'Ayushman Bharat' Cards Issued in Bihar | Bihar | 11 Mar 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Bihar Government has decided to provide "free medical treatment up to ₹5 lakh every year to all ration card holders of the state under the [Ayushman Bharat Scheme](#).

Key Points

- Ayushman Bharat cards were issued to **1.03 crore families** in just six days (till 11 am of March 8).
- All ration card holders covered under the [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#) get 5 kg of rice, and can avail free treatment up to ₹5 lakh every year.
- According to data compiled by the state health department, the **maximum number of Ayushman Bharat cards** at 5,99,609 were issued in **Siwan district** in the six-day campaign, followed by 5,44,018 in Muzaffarpur, 5,00,292 in Patna and 4,72,977 in Madhubani.
- Districts where **less than one lakh Ayushman Bharat cards were issued** in the special campaign are Munger (99,984), Kishanganj (76,861), Sheikhpura (58,132) and **Sheohar** (47,288).

Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)

- PM-JAY is the **world's largest health insurance** scheme fully financed by the government.
- Launched in February 2018, it offers a sum insured of **Rs.5 lakh per family for secondary care** and tertiary care.
- Health Benefit Packages covers surgery, medical and day care treatments, cost of medicines and diagnostics.
- **Beneficiaries:**
 - It is an entitlement-based scheme that targets the beneficiaries as identified by latest **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data**.
 - The National Health Authority (NHA) has provided flexibility to **States/UTs to use non-Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) beneficiary family databases** with similar socio-economic profiles for tagging against the leftover (unauthenticated) SECC families.
- **Funding:**
 - The funding for the scheme is shared - **60:40 for all states and UTs** with their own legislature, 90:10 in Northeast states and Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal and Uttarakhand and 100% Central funding for UTs without legislature.
- **Nodal Agency:**
 - The National Health Authority (NHA) has been constituted as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation of PM-JAY in alliance with state governments.
 - The **State Health Agency (SHA)** is the apex body of the State Government responsible for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in the State.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- It was notified on **10th September, 2013**.
- Its objective is to **provide for food and nutritional security** in the human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.

- It covers **75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population** for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- Overall, NFSA caters to 67% of the total population.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Priority Households to be covered under TPDS, according to guidelines by the State government.
 - Households covered under existing **Antyodaya Anna Yojana**.
- **Provisions:**
 - 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains.
 - The existing AAY household will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
 - Meal and maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000 to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth.
 - Meals for children upto 14 years of age.
 - Food security allowance to beneficiaries in case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals.
 - Setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms at the district and state level.

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