

# Modi slams Bengal, Delhi govts for not implementing Ayushman Bharat

**POLITICAL SABOTAGE.** PM says the ruling parties are not implementing the scheme for political reasons

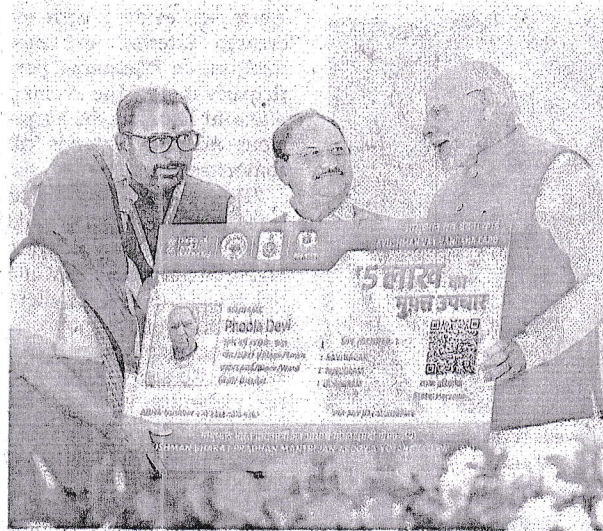
**Our Bureau**  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday broadened the scope of the flagship healthcare scheme — Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) — to the geriatric population, aged 70 years and older, while he attacked the Bengal and Delhi State governments for their failure to participate in the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

## **POLITICAL OBSTACLES**

According to Modi, governments in Bengal and Delhi were not implementing the scheme due to political reasons. Targeting the Trinamool Congress (in Bengal) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), he called their approach “inhumane”

“I am sorry to say that the elderly — those aged 70 years and above — in Delhi



**HEALTH EMPOWERMENT.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Health Minister JP Nadda hand over an 'Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card' to a beneficiary at an event in New Delhi. ANI

and Bengal will not be able to access the benefits of the scheme. The ruling parties there are not implementing the Ayushman Bharat

scheme for political reasons. This tendency to oppress alling people for political reasons does not stand the test of humanity,” he said during

the launch of various healthcare projects. “I can serve the people of this country, but the walls of political interests are preventing me from serving the elderly people of Delhi and West Bengal,” Modi added.

Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme — which promises an annual coverage of up to ₹500,000 per family for secondary and tertiary healthcare — the Central and State governments share the insurance premiums in a 60:40 ratio.

Delhi and Bengal have their own parallel health insurance schemes and have not integrated them with the Centre's. Odisha — previously not on board — has now decided to come ahead and implement the Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme.

## **PROJECT LAUNCHED**

Some 4 crore people have benefited from the Ayushman

Bharat scheme, according to Union Health Ministry officials. In addition, the Prime Minister also launched, inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects related to the health sector worth around ₹12,850 crore.

Reiterating the government's priority to reduce the cost of treatment, the Prime Minister mentioned the launch of more than 14,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (generic medicine pharmacies) across the country where medicines are available at an 80 per cent discount.

Savings are to the tune of ₹30,000 crore as people look at these as alternatives to costly branded pharma products.

According to Modi, the prices of medical devices, including stents and knee implants have been reduced with benefits of nearly ₹80,000 crore accruing to common citizens.