

DAILY PT POINTERS

12 September, 2024



The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

Union Cabinet approves health cover for all aged 70 and above

Bindu Shajan
Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above irrespective of income under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

This will benefit nearly 4.5 crore families with six crore senior citizens by providing ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover on a family basis.

New card

This scheme was one of the promises made in the BJP manifesto.

With this approval, persons aged 70 and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, will be eligible to get the benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

The eligible senior citizens will be issued a new distinct card under the



Eligible senior citizens will get a new distinct card under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

scheme.

Senior citizens belonging to families already covered under the AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover up to ₹5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with other members of the family who are below the age of 70).

All other senior citizens aged 70 and above will get a cover up to ₹5 lakh per year on a family basis. Senior citizens who are already getting benefits of other public health insurance

schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.

It has been clarified that senior citizens aged 70 and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to get benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

"The AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, which provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families," the Union government said in a release.

The expansion of cover to persons aged 70 and above was announced by Mr. Modi in April.

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to include all senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of income. This expansion will provide ₹5 lakh in health insurance coverage per year on a family basis to nearly 4.5 crore families, benefiting about 6 crore senior citizens.
- Eligible senior citizens will receive a new distinct card under the scheme.
- Those already covered under AB PM-JAY will receive an additional ₹5 lakh cover specifically for themselves, separate from their family's coverage. Senior citizens who are part of other public health schemes can choose between their existing scheme and AB PM-JAY
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The Hindu –Defence(GSIII)Page 10

‘Developed border areas act as deterrence to adversary’s claims’

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The objective of the government is to transform villages along the northern borders, especially in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh, which are suffering from limited connectivity and infrastructure, into model villages, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday. “We aim to connect them to the mainstream of development,” he added.

Describing border area development as a core component of national security, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said a developed area with a strong economic and tourist activity acts also as a deterrence



Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi presents a memento to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday. ANI

to the adversary. “It basically discredits adversary claims or who otherwise claim this is theirs. People are there on ground to confirm what is correct and what is not,” he said.

The Union government has approved the Vibrant Village Programme (VVP)

for development of border villages as a Centrally sponsored scheme on February 15, 2023, with financial outlay of ₹4,800 crore for the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26, for the development of the 2,967 villages in 46 blocks in 19 districts bordering China and Nepal

in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Talking of the progress achieved in border area development, Mr. Singh said, “The Border Roads Organisation has constructed over 8,500 km of roads and more than 400 permanent bridges. Atal Tunnel, Sela Tunnel and Shikun-La Tunnel, which is going to be the world’s highest tunnel, will prove to be milestones in border area development.” He said the ongoing efforts have not only ensured prompt military deployments in sensitive regions, but have also connected the people residing in border areas with the rest of the country.

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- The VVP was approved on February 15, 2023, as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- The program has a financial outlay of ₹4,800 crore for the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- It aims to develop 2,967 villages in 46 blocks across 19 districts in Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh, bordering China and Nepal.

The Hindu –Geography(GSI)-Page 12

Centre gives clearance for 'Mission Mausam'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet approved 'Mission Mausam' on Wednesday with an outlay of ₹2,000 crore over two years.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be the nodal body implementing the mission. The aim of the programme will be to bolster research and development, and capacity in atmospheric sciences, weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting, and management.

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The Hindu-Environment (GSIII)-Page 13

Cabinet approves ₹10,900-cr. scheme for e-mobility push

PM E-Drive scheme aims to enable procurement of e-buses, setting up 72,000 charging stations; plan offers subsidies or demand incentives worth ₹3,679 crore, says Ministry of Heavy Industries

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a scheme with an outlay of ₹10,900 crore to provide for procurement of e-buses as well as for setting up more than 72,000 charging stations for EV batteries in cities and on highways to address 'range anxiety' among buyers.

The scheme, named PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-Drive), will be valid for two years.

Charge booster

PM E-Drive scheme, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to address range anxiety among EV buyers

- Scheme, valid for two years, will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, 14,028 e-buses

- ₹4,391 cr. for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by State transport undertakings of 9 cities

- ₹2,000 cr. to set up charging stations in cities with high EV penetration and on some select highways



According to a press statement from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the scheme also offers subsidies or demand incentives

worth ₹3,679 crore for e-two wheelers (e-2Ws), e-three wheelers (e-3Ws), e-ambulances, and e-trucks to buyers. The scheme will

support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses, the Ministry added. A total of ₹4,391 crore will be set aside under the scheme for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state transport undertakings for 9 cities with a population of more than 40 lakh, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad.

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The Hindu-IR(GSII)

Afghanistan set to begin work on TAPI pipeline

The \$10-billion natural gas pipeline traversing Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India is the most significant development project for Taliban authorities since they seized power in 2021

Agence France-Presse
ISLIM CHESHMA

Afghanistan said on Wednesday that work would begin on a \$10-billion gas pipeline traversing South Asia as officials joined dignitaries in neighbouring Turkmenistan to celebrate its completion on that side of the border.

Progress on the TAPI pipeline – running through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India – has been repeatedly delayed because of security issues in conflict-ravaged Afghanistan.

“From today the operations will start on Afghanistan’s soil,” Taliban government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said in comments broadcast by Afghan state television.

At the border ceremony in Islim Cheshma in Turkmenistan, officials on both sides, including Afghan Prime Minister Hassan Akhund, hailed the project.

“This project will benefit not only the economies of the countries participating but also the countries of the whole region,” the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow said in a video broadcast live at the ceremony.

However, experts warned that the project – which is still not fully funded – is unlikely to be operational for another decade.

In the Afghan border



Slow progress: Work on the pipeline has been delayed by security issues in Afghanistan. FILE PHOTO

holiday was declared to mark the occasion, with posters celebrating the project plastered around the capital of the same name.

The pipeline will see around 33 billion cubic metres of natural gas each year extracted from the Galkynysh gas field in the south-east of Turkmenistan.

It will be pumped through a 1,800-kilometre pipeline traversing Afghanistan, including Herat and Kandahar in the south, before crossing into restive Balochistan province in Pakistan and ending in Punjab in India.

Pakistan and India will each purchase 42% of the gas deliveries, and Afghan-

also benefit from lucrative transit fees of around \$500 million per year, according to Afghan media.

Work on the Turkmen side began in 2015 and was initially scheduled to start in Afghanistan in 2018, but has been repeatedly delayed.

Stumbling blocks

India’s commitment to the pipeline has also previously been questioned over its relationship with Pakistan and easy access to liquefied natural gas markets, which are seen as potential stumbling blocks.

It is the most significant development project for Taliban authorities since they seized power in 2021, ending their two decade-

the foreign-backed government.

The pipeline gives the government, which is not officially recognised by any nation, a strategic role in regional cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia, which is facing huge energy deficits.

Afghanistan, although still under economic and financial sanctions from the West, is currently trying to relaunch ambitious projects, particularly in energy, mines and infrastructure.

At the end of July, Afghanistan and China officially relaunched a major copper-extraction project in the world’s second-largest known deposit, near Kabul, which had been

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Indian Express-Health(GSII)-page 8

Niti Aayog group pitches for new Act to tackle public health crisis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 11

AN EXPERT group constituted by NITI Aayog has recommended a new Public Health Emergency Management Act (PHEMA) to deal with the public health crisis, which would create health cadres at national and state levels and also empower public health agencies to take urgent action.

The group, headed by Dr Renu Swarup, former secretary at the Department of Biotechnology,

was formed in June 2023. On Wednesday, its 'Future Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response: A Framework for Action' report was made public.

"A Public Health Emergency Management Act can address various aspects beyond epidemic, including non-communicable diseases, disasters, and bioterrorism. It allows for a holistic approach to health management, covering prevention, control, and disaster response," the report states.

The group also recommended creation of an Empowered Group

of Secretaries on Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response (PPER) chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. A first responding lead agency responsible for implementing this Act should be identified, it said. "This allows for immediate rapid response by all health agencies, organisations and departments with no time lag. This also allows building a workforce which is always trained and in peacetime has full preparedness to be the first responder."

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

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- "A Public Health Emergency Management Act can address various aspects beyond epidemic, including non-communicable diseases, disasters, and bioterrorism. It allows for a holistic approach to health management, covering prevention, control, and disaster response," the report states.

Cabinet approves construction of 62,500 km roads under PM Gram Sadak Yojana-IV

The Cabinet, Chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal for the financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29 with a total outlay of Rs 70,125 crore, a statement said.

- The Union Cabinet approved the implementation of the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-IV) for the construction of 62,500 km of new roads providing all-weather connectivity to 25,000 villages.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched by the Govt. of India to provide connectivity to unconnected Habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy. Govt. of India is endeavoring to set high and uniform technical and management standards and facilitating policy development and planning at State level in order to ensure sustainable management of the rural roads network.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB-Miscellaneous

President's Secretariat

PRESIDENT OF INDIA PRESENTS NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE AWARDS 2024

Posted On: 11 SEP 2024 1:35PM by PIB Delhi

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024 to the Nursing professionals today (September 11, 2024) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The National Florence Nightingale Awards were instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to recognise and honour the meritorious services rendered by outstanding nursing personnel.



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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Defense(GSIII)

Ministry of Defence

IAF AIRCRAFT SET COURSE FOR EXERCISE EASTERN BRIDGE VII AT OMAN

Posted On: 11 SEP 2024 3:22PM by PIB Delhi

An IAF contingent comprising MiG-29s, Jaguars and C-17s is ready to set course to participate in Exercise Eastern Bridge in Oman. This is the seventh edition of the Exercise that is scheduled from 11 to 22 September 2024 at Air Force base Masirah, Oman.

The bilateral exercise endeavors to enhance interoperability between Royal Oman Air Force and the Indian Air Force and shall provide a platform for both teams to engage in a series of joint training missions designed to strengthen strategic cooperation and operational readiness.

Exercise Eastern Bridge VII aims to improve tactical and operational skills, foster mutual understanding and bolster the ability of both air forces to collaborate effectively in diverse scenarios. The exercise will include complex aerial maneuvering, air to air and air to ground operations, and logistical coordination, reflecting the evolving defense needs and strategic interests of both nations.

Underscoring the enduring partnership between the Royal Oman Air Force and the Indian Air Force, this exercise highlights their commitment to regional security and stability. The participating teams are expected to benefit from the shared expertise and operational experience gained during this extensive training period.

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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-Economy(GSIII)

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Union Minister Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh launches and unveils today a series of initiatives and projects aimed at transforming the fisheries sector at the 4th Anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna in New Delhi

States/UTs fisheries' departments to come forward and make concerted efforts to utilise the allocated funds, registration of fish workers on NFDP: Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh

Union Minister emphasises the visionary and futuristic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government has been working towards development and welfare of 3 crore fisheries' stakeholders:
Union Minister

Shri Rajeev Ranjan highlightes socio-economic welfare, various initiatives such as Group Accident Insurance Scheme and transponders on fishing vessels for Vessel Communication & Support System

Union Minister launches the National Fisheries Development Program Portal and releases the PM-MKSSY Operational Guidelines

Shri Rajiv Ranjan distributes the Registration Certificates to the beneficiaries Registered on National Fisheries Development Program Portal

Union Minister also releases the Standard Operating Procedure on Production and Processing Clusters under the Fisheries Cluster Development Program

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- The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing a flagship scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) with an investment of ₹20050 crore in all the States and Union Territories (UTs) for a period of 5 years with effect from the financial year 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 for holistic development of the fisheries sector in the country
- PMMSY provides for establishment of a robust fisheries management framework and provides need-based support to States/UTs for formulation and implementation of fisheries management plans

Air-Governance(GSII)

Inner Line Permit Implements For Three Districts Of Nagaland

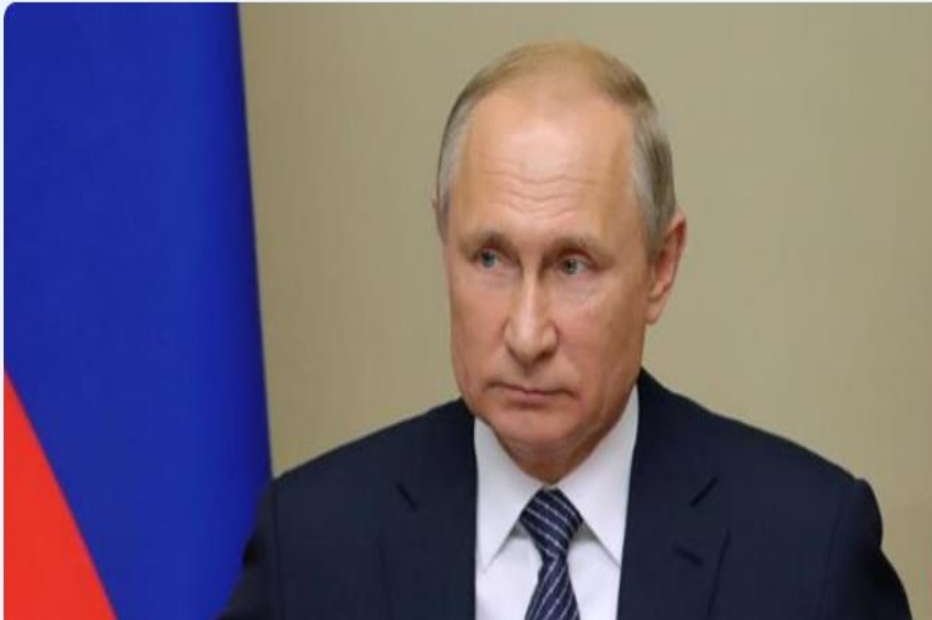


- Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit for entering into the protected state.
- The document is an effort by the government to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India. This is an offshoot of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873, which protected Crown's interest in the tea, oil and elephant trade by prohibiting "British subjects" from entering into these "Protected Areas" (to prevent them from establishing any commercial venture that could rival the Crown's agents). The word "British subjects" was replaced by Citizen of India in 1950. Despite the fact that the ILP was originally created by the British to safeguard their commercial interests, it continues to be used in India, officially to protect tribal cultures in northeastern India.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Air-IR(GSII)

Russia Launches Largest Naval Drill In Decades Involving All 5 Fleets



- Russia has launched its largest naval drill in decades, involving all 5 fleets. The “Ocean 2024”, which began yesterday, will be held simultaneously in the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, as well as the Mediterranean, Caspian, and Baltic Seas.
- The exercises will involve more than 400 battleships, submarines, and support vessels from the auxiliary fleet, along with over 120 aircraft and more than 90,000 personnel.
- China is also participating in the drills, contributing four vessels and 15 aircraft from the People’s Liberation Army. Mr. Putin noted that representatives from 15 other nations were invited to observe the drills.
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