

PM TO UNVEIL SCHEME IN RANCHI TOMORROW

Union Ministers Head Home as Govt Goes All Out For Launch of Ayushman Bharat

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New Delhi: To make it a big event and send out a strong political message on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's signature scheme, the Centre has asked cabinet ministers to head to their constituencies or their respective states on Sunday for simultaneous launch of PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) or Ayushman Bharat.

A duty roster has been drawn up for ministers on the day PM Modi will be launching PMJAY from Ranchi along with Union health minister JP Nadda. All NDA chief ministers will be present at the launch ceremonies in their respective states, with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath heading to Gorakhpur and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and deputy CM Sushil Modi launching the scheme in Patna. Home minister Rajnath Singh will be launching the scheme along with UP Governor Ram Naik in Lucknow. Railways minister Piyush Goyal will go to Gurgaon

The Big, Local Reachout



while Nitin Gadkari will be in Nagpur. Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi is going to Pilibhit for the launch.

A special focus is on UP and Bihar that have highest number of beneficiaries at 1.18 cr and 1.09 cr families, respectively. "Over 800 government and private hospitals in UP have been registered to roll out PMJAY from Sunday. Over 2,000 more applications of hospitals are being pro-

cessed for registration," UP health minister Sidharth Nath Singh told ET. He said two weeks of trial run of the scheme has been successfully completed in UP "without any glitches" and third party administrators (TPAs) were in place spread over three UP clusters. "All registered hospitals will have one or two Arogya Mitras," Singh said.

Bihar health minister Mangal Pandey told ET that 337 govern-

ment and private hospitals in the state are empanelled as of now to roll out the scheme from Sunday. "We expect the figure to touch 350 hospitals across Bihar by Sunday. We are doing for a simultaneous launch at all 39 district headquarters besides Patna. All our district hospitals and medical colleges are covered by the scheme," Pandey said. Health officials in both states, however, conceded it was time-consuming to get all private hospitals on board as the process of the National Health Agency for MOUs with private hospitals was "cumbersome".

The BJP ministers in states have also been assigned launch duties in their respective assembly constituencies or districts. "Ayushman Bharat is a game-changer scheme for 2019 given it will touch over 10 cr families with a cashless medical insurance of ₹5 lakh. The purpose behind the grand launch is to send this message across to the beneficiaries who are essentially poor plus raise awareness amongst people for the scheme," a senior BJP leader told ET.