

Game changer, says FM as Modicare crosses 100 days

7 Lakh Patients Given Treatment, 5,000 Claims Settled Daily

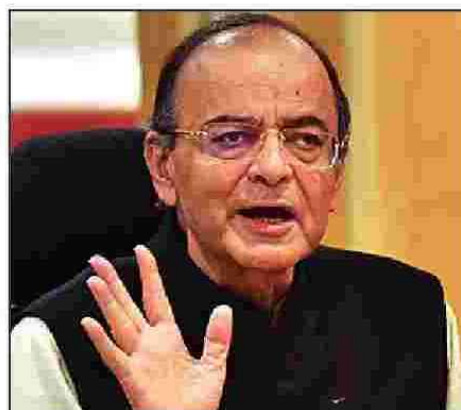
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Calling Ayushman Bharat a “game changer”, finance minister Arun Jaitley said the scheme has brought “the most significant steps” towards improving healthcare within 100 days of its launch.

A total of 6.85 lakh patients have been provided hospital treatment and an average 5,000 claims are being settled every day since its roll out on September 23, 2018, Jaitley said.

While many people from the weaker sections avoided hospital treatment earlier, now 40% of India’s poorest are assured of treatment in a hospital without incurring any expenditure of their own, Jaitley said.

In a Facebook post titled ‘100 days of Ayushman Bharat’, Jaitley wrote, “These 100 days have witnessed the most significant steps in improv-



ing healthcare for the poor ever since Independence”.

Although government employees, armed forces personnel and some corporate employees have healthcare support facilities, but 62.58% of the Indian population has to pay their healthcare bills themselves and most find it unaffordable.

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The government’s flagship health insurance

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ARUN JAITLEY | Union finance minister

scheme — launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23 in Ranchi — aims to provide an annual health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family to around 50 crore beneficiaries from nearly 10.74 crore deprived families.

Jaitley said the launch and implementation of the scheme, which is cashless and paperless, has been relatively problem free.

This scheme also supports the hospitals as an institution by ensuring patients for them. This will lead to more hospitals (espe-

cially in Tier II and III cities), and those with better equipment, according to Jaitley. He added, the scheme will also lead to more jobs.

Currently, over 16,000 public and private hospitals are empanelled under the scheme. While more than 50% of the implementing hospitals are in the private sector, more hospitals are expected to join the scheme.

Jaitley said the Ayushman Bharat scheme will also lead to an accountable health system because beneficiary feedback is an integral part of its implementation.