

## Press Release

### JSA Delhi Unveils People's Health Manifesto Ahead of 2025 Delhi Assembly Election

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*New Delhi:* As Delhi approaches the Assembly election on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) Delhi has released the *People's Health Manifesto*—a comprehensive charter of demands reflecting the urgent healthcare needs of the city's population. The manifesto, created through a consultative process involving health experts, grassroots organisations, trade unions, community-based organisations, and concerned citizens, calls on political parties to prioritise public health in their election agendas.

Despite being one of the wealthiest states in India, with the highest per capita Net State Domestic Product and a robust tax base, Delhi's working-class population continues to face dire challenges in accessing basic healthcare. This is particularly true for marginalised groups living in slums, resettlement colonies, JJ colonies and urban peripheries.

“Delhi boasts state-of-the-art super-specialty hospitals in public as well as private sector. But these facilities are often inaccessible to the vast majority of working-class people, who lack financial protection against high healthcare costs,” said Richa Chintan, Co-convener of JSA Delhi.

The manifesto highlights chronic issues such as low public investment in healthcare, insufficient primary care infrastructure, and the detrimental effects of privatisation. It also addresses the environmental crises that exacerbate public health challenges, including air pollution, heat waves, and inadequate waste management.

“Healthcare in Delhi is plagued by inequities rooted in social determinants like religion, poverty, caste, and gender. Queer and transgender persons face added discrimination. These barriers prevent marginalised groups from accessing even basic healthcare services. We envision a people-friendly, public health-oriented system that prioritises equity and community-driven solutions,” said Jyotsna Singh, Co-convener of JSA Delhi.

“Delhi showcases the glaring contradictions arising from high levels of inequality with respect to the status of health and access to healthcare. While Delhi's rich have access to state-of-the-art healthcare services, the poor, almost half of the population of Delhi, struggle for basics. Their suffering is compounded by the terrible living conditions in slums and low income habitations,” said Dr. Vandana Prasad, Community Paediatrician and Public Health Professional.

Key highlights of the manifesto include:

- **Increased Public Health Investment:** Immediate allocation of 2.5% of GDP to health, to be scaled up to 3.5% eventually.
- **Expanded Primary Healthcare Infrastructure:** Building 4,000 Mohalla Clinics or Urban Sub-Centres, ten times more than those currently functioning.

- **Strengthened Regulation of Private Healthcare:** Enactment of a Delhi Health Act to regulate private sector costs and enforce the Charter of Patients' Rights.
- **Addressing Social Determinants of Health:** Measures to improve sanitation, water supply, and nutrition, alongside tackling air pollution and climate change.
- **Equitable Access to Healthcare:** Focused initiatives for marginalised groups, including women, refugees, migrant workers, and individuals with disabilities.

The manifesto also calls for halting harmful projects, such as the proposed Waste-to-Energy plant in Bawana, until proper environmental impact assessments are conducted.

“Delhi’s healthcare system needs an overhaul. It’s time to move away from the reliance on privatisation and build a robust public health system that serves the people, not profits,” said Chintan.

The *People’s Health Manifesto* represents a call to action for all political parties to recognise healthcare as a fundamental right and prioritise it in their election campaigns.

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