

## **Jan Arogya Abhiyan state level shibir on 'People's Health Manifesto-2024'**

Jan Arogya Abhiyan (JSA Maharashtra) organised a state level shibir on **'People's health manifesto and campaign building'** at Pune on 29th and 30th December 2023. Nearly 50 activists associated with JAA in Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Osmanabad, Beed, Nanded, Solapur, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nashik and Pune districts participated in the workshop. Detailed presentations and discussions were organised around various components of the proposed **'People's health manifesto-2024'** which would be widely publicised in context of the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections. Sessions related to developing the manifesto included in-depth deliberations around the following themes:

- Context for the Manifesto – Multi-dimensional health system crisis in today's Maharashtra exemplified by Nanded incident, our vision of establishing 'Right to health care and health for all'
- Strengthening of Public Health System – Direction for massive increase in public health expenditure; major improvement in coverage, quality, sensitivity, accountability of public health services; adoption of Tamil-Nadu type model for medicine procurement and supply in public health system; generalising Community based monitoring and planning of health services; mental health related services and policy, health services for various marginalised social groups
- Comprehensive Health Humanpower policy towards ensuring transparency and fairness in recruitment, transfers and promotions, filling all vacancies; abolition of contractualisation, sharing by representatives of Health worker unions including NHM contractual health workers
- Regulation and accountability of Private healthcare sector and promotion of patient rights
- Urban health system - People centred policy framework
- Analyzing current health insurance schemes and PPPs, proposing alternatives
- Regulation of pharmaceutical industry and medical education, issues related to pharma policy
- Social determinants of Health
- System for Universal health care and Right to Healthcare act in Maharashtra – Our proposals for Maharashtra based on experiences of other states



Based on an existing draft outline for the manifesto and rich discussions during the workshop, now a sub-committee has been formed to collate all points and prepare a final draft for the manifesto. This was followed by review of the **State-wide health rights campaign (Arogya Adhikar Andolan)** which has been launched on behalf of Jan Arogya Abhiyan since October 2023. As part of this campaign, district level 'Arogya Hakka Parishad' conventions are being held in various districts; so far Nanded, Amaravati and Solapur have successfully organised such programmes. Upcoming district conventions planned in January 2024 include Kolhapur (2<sup>nd</sup> January), Sangli (3<sup>rd</sup>), Pune (12<sup>th</sup>), Nashik (13<sup>th</sup>) and Osmanabad (15<sup>th</sup> January). Decision was also taken, and planning was initiated for organising the **State level health rights assembly** in end-January or first half of February 2024, where the People's health manifesto would be released and dialogue around this would be conducted with representatives of various political parties, to ensure that these health issues are taken up on the political agenda in 2024 elections.

Activists who made presentations and moderated sessions in the workshop included - Trupti Malti, Anant Phadke, Abhijit More, Javed Shaikh, Ranjana Kanhere, Kishor Khilare, Shailaja Aralkar, Deepak Jadhav, Hemlata Pisal, Pratap Parbhankar and Abhay Shukla.