India's 90 cr 'missing middle' lack social health protection: IMA chief

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Dr RV Asokan asserted that teaching MBBS in Hindi is 'impractical'

Indore: Around 65% of India's population, or more than 90 crore people in India, lack social financial health protection schemes owing to coverage gaps and are pushed to procure private insurance for health coverage, said Indian Medical Association (IMA) national president Dr RV Asokan here on Sunday.

"This 'uncovered' population is termed as the missing middle. In India, 35% of people are covered by Ayushman Bharat scheme, 10% are affluent enough to afford their own care but for the middle, comprising around 65%, or approximately 90 crore people, govt has nothing to offer. Instead govt is pushing them to purchase private health insurance and imposing 18% GST for acquiring health insurance. It's exceedingly unfair. The requirement is for a tax-funded universal healthcare system to provide access to healthcare to this substantial section of people," Dr Asokan told TOI during the IMA-Indore chapter conference.

He emphasised that outpatient care, which constitutes 63% of the entire healthcare expenditure in India, is neither covered under Ayushman Bharat nor private medical insurance, thus providing no avenue for reducing catastrophic healthcare expenditure.

"There is a necessity to alter the direction through policy and the govt to acquire holdings in the hospital industry. In India, the focus has shifted from public sector to for-profit hospitals that have now assumed leadership roles. To further compound the existing challenges of the hospital industry, the government has added the insurance industry whose package style is more suited to for-profit hospitals," said Dr Asokan. He said that the insurance industry has also eliminated small and medium hospitals that were vital in maintaining reasonable healthcare costs.

The IMA president said that Indian govt is focused on producing more doctors by establishing new medical colleges but not addressing the crucial need to increase hospital bed capacity through enhanced sector investments. "There are 706 medical colleges in India, producing over just 1 lakh doctors annually. The doctor-population ratio is 1:811, which surpasses WHO's 1:1000. However, no one addresses the shortage of hospital beds and insufficient infrastructure for patient care. There is inadequate commitment from govt to invest in health," said the IMA chief.

Dr Asokan said India has not learnt any lessons from Covid-19 and healthcare remains a non-priority sector. "Investment in health sector has remained stagnant between 1.1% and 1.3% of GDP, which should be at least 2.5%. All neighbouring countries, especially in Southeast Asia like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, are spending around 3% of GDP on healthcare," said Dr Asokan. The IMA chief asserted that teaching MBBS in Hindi is "impractical". "These (decisions) are politically motivated, it's like 'playing to the gallery'. Teaching MBBS in Hindi is not practicable at this stage. In translated books, English words are simply being cut and copied..."

BJP worker's son slaps CISF officer, booked

Times News Network

Bhopal: The son of a local BJP volunteer has been booked for slapping a head constable of CISF in Anuppur district after a dispute arose at a check post.

The incident occurred around 2 pm on Saturday at the Govind Mines barrier under the Kotma police station area.

The accused, Vicky Singh (35), the son of Ram Awadh Singh, was driving a transport vehicle engaged in transportation from the mines.

According to the complaint filed by the head constable, Ganesh Pradhan (52), Vicky Singh's vehicle was stopped for routine checking at the barrier. Pradhan alleged that Singh became aggressive, slapped him, and also threatened him with harm.

"Based on the complaint, a case has been registered against the accused Vicky Singh under relevant sections, including for obstructing a public servant from the discharge of duties," Kotma police station in charge Sundresh Marawi told TOI.

Sources said Vicky Singh's father Ram Awadh is the chairman of Pasan municipality in Anuppur district.

Nadda urges stigma-free conversations on AIDS

Stresses Importance Of Awareness

Times News Network

Indore: Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, J.P. Nadda, called for open discussions and increased awareness on World AIDS Day during an event at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (DAVV) auditorium on Sunday. He urged everyone to actively engage in conversations about AIDS, emphasising the importance of breaking the stigma surrounding the disease. "When I can talk about AIDS, you too must engage in open discussions. Today is a day to dedicate ourselves to the fight against AIDS," Nadda said, encouraging awareness programmes in schools, especially for 9th and 10th grade students, to promote healthy behaviour.

Organised by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), the event focused on this year's theme, "Take the Rights Path," which emphasises equal rights, dignity, and access to healthcare for individuals living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Nadda also highlighted India's healthcare advancements, contrasting them with the long struggle to develop vaccines for diseases like tetanus and tuberculosis, which took decades. He pointed out that under the BJP-led govt, India successfully developed two Covid-19 vaccines within nine months and supplied them globally.

Targeting the opposition, he spoke about the journey of controlling and researching AIDS, as well as the development of the Covid-19 vaccine, since the BJP govt came to power at the Centre. He said, "Yet, some people claim nothing has changed since the BJP govt took charge. I say, everything has changed, but your status remains the same."

BJP president and Union health minister JP Nadda, CM Mohan Yadav visit an exhibition at Hunar Haat, Indore, on Sunday

Nadda, CM launch laddu vending machine at Mahakal

Bhopal: CM Mohan Yadav and Union health and family welfare minister JP Nadda on Sunday inaugurated a laddu prasad vending machine at Mahakal Temple in Ujjain. A release said Mahakal is the first temple in the country with such a facility. Devotees can pay by scanning a QR code and get prasad in 100 gram, 200 gram and 500 gram packets. TNN

CM Mohan Yadav shared a moving story of a young boy who overcame the challenges of living with HIV. Expressing pride in the govt's efforts, Yadav emphasised the importance of compassion, saying, "We must remember to fear the disease, not the patient."

The CM declared that the state aims to eradicate AIDS as a public health threat by 2028, two years ahead of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target.

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Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("SARFAESI Act") read with proviso to Rules 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (acting in its capacity as trustee of NARCL Trust - 0002/2022-23) (the "Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and "No recourse" basis on 19.12.2024, for recovery of INR 1652,26,03,516 (Rupees One Thousand Six Hundred And Fifty Two Crore Twenty Six Lakh Ninety Three Thousand And Five Hundred And Ninety Five Only) as on September 30, 2024 with further interest as per documents at rate from October 1, 2024, till date of realisation.

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Description of the Property	Date & Time	Reserve Price (in INR)	Earnest Money Deposit (in INR)
Immovable Property Land (leasehold) admeasuring 67,750 square meters and Building therein located at Industrial Plot No. 11, Mandideep Industrial Area, Phase-II, Village-Mandideep, Tehsil-Gohargarj, District-Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, PIN-462046 North: Plot No. 11-A-1, South: Plot No. 10 & Open Land, East: Open Land, West: Road.	19.12.2024 between 11.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M.	INR 19,60,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Crores Sixty Lakhs Only)	INR 1,96,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety-Six Lakhs Only)

Encumbrances known:
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For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the Secured Creditor's website i.e. https://www.narcl.co.in/auctions. In case of any discrepancy in the present sale notice published in English and vernacular version of this notice, the contents of English notice in English will prevail.

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HC relief for board students whose results were withheld

Times News Network

Bhopal/Jabalpur: Madhya Pradesh high court has ordered MP Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) to declare results of 410 students of class 10 and class 12 of Thakur Uday Bhan Singh Memorial Higher Secondary School in Bihera town of Sagar district and said that the students also deserve compensation as their results were not declared despite clear instructions of officials.

HC ordered MPBSE to give Rs 5,000 to each of these students, and said that if a student's next session goes waste because of withholding of results, he/she is entitled to ask for extra compensation.

The court has asked MPBSE to comply with the order within a week.

Advocate Deepak Singh, who appeared on behalf of school principal Kishore Dubey, told the court that the students' examination centre was at a govt school in Biharaiya. During a check by flying squad, two persons were caught impersonating two students.

An investigation was ordered, and the school's recognition was suspended and results of class 10th and class 12th students withheld.

MPBSE argued in court that the result was withheld because recognition of the school was suspended.

The court of Justice Vivek Jain, however, said that recognition of the school might have been suspended but students, who have appeared in the exam, are not guilty in any manner and if there were irregularities in the school, their exam results should not have been withheld.

'MY HEALTH, MY RIGHT!'

Students perform a drill during an event organised on the occasion of "World AIDS Day" in Jabalpur on Sunday. This year's theme is "Take the rights path: My health, my right!"

Man gets 7 years' jail for Haj fraud

Bhopal/Jabalpur: A sessions court in Jabalpur has sentenced a man to 7 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 1.50 lakh for cheating aspiring Haj pilgrims by operating a fake tour company.

According to the prosecution, the accused, Mohd Iqbal, is a resident of Surat district in Gujarat. He was a travel agent. He formed a fake tour and travel company and cheated several aspiring Haj pilgrims from Jabalpur.

He took money from 37 people in 2016 to arrange their visit for Haj and Umrah. The people who gave him money reached Mumbai and waited there for a week, but since their visas were not issued, they had to return to Jabalpur. When they asked for their money back, the accused started giving them excuses. The concerned individuals later lodged a complaint at Hanumantal police station, which registered a case against Iqbal for cheating. The court of additional district and sessions judge Rajesh Yadav delivered the verdict. TNN

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BJP completes digitalisation of all booth committees

Bhopal: BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma on Sunday congratulated party workers in Madhya Pradesh for successfully constituting committees at all booths and for the digitalisation of these committees.

In a statement, Sharma expressed confidence that BJP workers in the state would create new history during the ongoing "Sangthan Parv". He also thanked the party's central leadership for their guidance during the membership drive – "Sangthan Parv." Sharma said the campaign began in the state on Sept 3.

"The party workers have been working with great enthusiasm and dedication to increase party membership across the state. Whether it's primary membership or active membership, our workers have exceeded expectations and targets every time," Sharma said.

He further emphasised that all booth committees had been constituted within the set timeframe, and these committees included members from all sections of society — across castes, classes, and age groups. Notably, 33 per cent of these members are women, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "women empowerment".

BJP national president JP Nadda has praised these accomplishments and congratulated the party workers for their efforts, Sharma said. TNN

Thieves steal Army medals, cash from retd officer's home

Jabalpur: Thieves broke into the house of a retired army officer in Jabalpur, stealing his service medals, stars, and other valuables. The stolen items included gold jewellery worth Rs 6.5 lakh and cash amounting to Rs 1.4 lakh. According to police, 65-year-old Yogendra Tiwari, a resident of Lal Bahadur Shastri Ward in Gohalpur, recently lost his mother, Shanti Tiwari.

Upon receiving the news of her passing, Tiwari locked his house and travelled to Belkheda for his mother's last rites. During this time, the thieves cut open the back door and ransacked the property.

The thieves made off with Rs 1.4 lakh in cash, a gold necklace, a gold earring, a gold "mangalsutra", five gold rings, silver anklets, an army medal, and six gold-plated stars.

When Tiwari returned home, he found his house in disarray. He immediately reported the theft to the Gohalpur police. Police are currently examining CCTV footage from the area, but no leads have emerged so far. TNN

3 of family consume contaminated kodo millet, hospitalised

Times News Network

Bhopal: Three members of a family have fallen ill after having an meal of kodo millet in MP's Rewa district, barely a month after 10 elephants died at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve because they consumed fungus-infected kodo.

The patients - Valmiki Saket and Ramdulari Saket, both aged around 70, and their son Akshay lal, 40 -- were admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Rewa on Saturday after their health deteriorated. They are residents of Mangawan village.

Chief medical officer at the hospital, Dr Yatresh Tripathi, said, "The condition of elderly patients is serious, but their son is in better condition." They ate kodo on Friday night, after which their health started deteriorating, he said. Hospital sources said all three are stable on Sunday, although the elderly continue to be in a serious condition.

In late Oct-early Nov, 10 elephants died in quick succession at BTR. The laboratory test reports at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute found that toxins in the samples from the elephants indicated they consumed large quantities of kodo millet, which was infected with a fungus. Govt departments have been trying since then to gauge the extent of spread of fungal infection.

A month ago 10 elephants died at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve because they consumed fungus-infected kodo

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Temple wall collapse kills two workers in Jabalpur

Jabalpur: Two workers were killed after a wall collapsed during the construction of a dome at an under-construction temple in Jabalpur.

The four injured workers, who were trapped under the debris, were rushed to a private hospital. Two of them passed away on Sunday morning. The condition of the remaining two injured workers remains critical. All the workers were residents of Rajasthan. According to Tilwara police station in-charge Brijesh Mishra, the Dayoday Temple is being constructed near Tilwara Ghat.

On Saturday evening, workers were constructing the dome on the second floor of the temple when the newly built wall collapsed. The workers had set up a bamboo and pole scaffold to access the wall.

Suraj Kumar (24), Mohan Singh (35), Akash Sonwal (22), and his younger brother Pankaj Sonwal (22), all from Karauli district in Rajasthan, were injured in the incident.

They were immediately admitted to a private hospital in Madan Mahal for treatment. Mohan Singh and Suraj Kumar succumbed to their injuries on Sunday morning. The two injured brothers remain in critical condition.

Police have sent the bodies for post-mortem and have registered a case. Investigations are ongoing. Preliminary reports suggest that negligence and the lack of safety equipment during the construction work contributed to the tragedy. TNN