

- [E-Paper](#)
- |
- [Today's Paper](#)
- |
- [SmartInvestor.in](#)
- |
- [BS Hindi](#)
- |
- [BS Motoring](#)
- |
- [BS Books](#)
- |
- [B2B Connect](#)
- |
- [Apps](#)
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- [Sign in](#)
- ↓
- [Register](#)
- 

# Business Standard

Thursday, March 13, 2014 | 02:29 PM IST

- News
- Stock Quote
- Authors

[Advanced Search](#)

- [Home](#)
- [Markets](#)
- [Companies](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Specials](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [Portfolio](#)
- [My Page](#)

- [BS Headlines](#)
- [News Now](#)
- [Economy](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Current Affairs](#)
- [International](#)
- [Management](#)
- [Beyond Business](#)
- [The Strategist](#)
- [Weekend](#)
- [Billionaire Club](#)

[Elections 2014](#) » [News](#) » [News](#)

## Now, a right to health to be Congress trump card

**Manifesto likely to promise health coverage, insurance for all by raising health spend to 3% of GDP from 1.2%**

**Kavita Chowdhury** | New Delhi March 13, 2014 Last Updated at 00:59 IST

### Maternity Health Cover

Affordable Maternity Insurance that Covers All Medical Expense. Apply! [medicclaimindia.co.in/Maternity](http://medicclaimindia.co.in/Maternity)

Ads by Google

[Add to My Page](#)

**Read more on:** [Congress](#) | [Elections](#) | [Polls](#) | [Mnrega](#) | [Upa](#) | [Lok Sabha](#) | [Medical Care](#) | [Health Coberage](#) | [Poll Sop](#) | [Free Medicine](#)



### Related News

- [Food Bill will ensure transparency, accountability in PDS system: Thomas](#)
- [Hazare, crowd ditch Mamata](#)
- [BJP to announce its most crucial list of candidates today](#)
- [BJP's power policy to address 'energy poverty'](#)
- [Kejriwal asks Mumbai supporters to join 'second freedom struggle'](#)

With its back to the wall, the [Congress](#) is pitching for what it hopes could be a game-changer in the [Lok Sabha polls](#): Universal health coverage or, simply put, the right to health. The party hopes this will have the kind of impact that the [MNREGA](#) and the Right to Education have had for the [UPA](#) in the past. It hopes the promise of [free medicine](#), free medical tests at government hospitals, health insurance for the entire population, etc, will pay electoral dividends.

The Congress manifesto, likely to pitch this landmark step, is expected to say that at present the public expenditure on health stands at 1.2 per cent of GDP and scaling it up to 3 per cent will be the party's target should it return to power.

Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi has talked about pushing forward the party's rights-based agenda

through the right to health. The party had unleashed the electoral sop of free medicines in Rajasthan. That, however, did not benefit the Congress in the Assembly polls due to delayed and poor implementation. Now, the party is convinced that a promise to underwrite 100 per cent expenses related to health care would click with the masses. Under the health care section, the manifesto is likely to propose a National Health Mission covering rural as well as urban areas.

## CONG'S PROMISES TO KEEP

### EMPOWERING THE WEAK

- Educational loans without any security for SC students
- Skill development vouchers of Rs 20,000

### HEALTH CARE

- Free medicines and medical tests at govt hospitals, health care centres
- National Health Insurance Programme for all, cashless prepaid insurance
- National Health Mission covering both urban and rural areas
- Five mobile health care vans for each of the 640 districts in the country
- Creation of six million jobs in the sector by 2020

Along with this, a National Health Insurance Programme is likely to be proposed to cover the entire population, which would put in place a cashless prepaid insurance mechanism for all. At present, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana launched by the labour ministry covers only below-poverty-line families. To ensure that medical facilities reach remote areas, the party will promise five mobile health care vans for each district. The party will promise to create six million jobs in the health sector by 2020.

As emphasis on the social sector is an integral part of the Congress's inclusive development agenda, the party has been discussing the possibility of ensuring shelter for all citizens. But, the financial implications of such a proposal have limited the party to settle for promising that the Congress will "work towards providing housing for all".

The Indira Awas Yojana in rural areas and the Rajiv Awas Yojana in urban areas have been proposed to be expanded. The Congress Vice President in his recent interaction with salt workers in Gujarat had put forward his notion of development: "Not just roads but a floor under feet and a roof over your heads", said Rahul Gandhi.

The party's social sops also extends to "Empowering weaker sections", which entails SCs, STs, OBCs. Providing SC students educational loans without any security, skill development vouchers of Rs 20,000 for students from weaker sections and universal access to Rajiv Gandhi Research fellowships.

As the UPA has succeeded in getting passed the Manual Scavenging prohibition bill, the party will propose stringent implementation of it. That apart the Congress will also stringently push for implementation of the four per cent reservation in government procurement for small enterprises owned by SC/STs.

With a bevy of promises that will add to its existing kitty of rights to Food, Education, Employment, the Congress hopes to reverse the pessimistic electoral outcomes that are being predicted by pollsters.

**Read more on:**[Congress](#)[Elections](#)[Polls](#)[Mnrega](#)[Upa](#)[Lok Sabha](#)[Medical Care](#)[Health Coberage](#)[Poll Sop](#)[Free Medicine](#)[Read More](#)

## **[Ex Bihar Congress chief joins Ram Vilas Paswan](#)**

Soon after Kaisar joined the LJP, party chief Paswan announced he will be the LJP nominee from Khagaria

### **HDFC Life™ Term Plan**

Premium Starts at Just Rs. 2000/yr. No Medicals upto 75L Cover\* Buy Now [www.hdfclife.com/Term-Insurance](http://www.hdfclife.com/Term-Insurance)

### **Upload Your CV For Jobs**

Worlds Best Job Portal Now in India Get Employed In Secs. Upload Now. [www.careerbuilder.co.in](http://www.careerbuilder.co.in)

Ads by Google

### Advertisements

- [Computers and IT solutions for Business Know more](#)
- [The Holiday You Take Home With You. Click here](#)

[Add to My Page](#)

[Back to Top](#)

[Back to Top](#)



# Business Standard

Hi

[Click here to go My Page](#)

[iPhone](#)

[iPad](#)

[android](#)

[wap](#)

[facebook](#)

[twitter](#)

[Google+](#)

Latest News

[All News](#)

[In this section](#)

- [Talks with allies progressing smoothly, says BJP](#)
- [Private banks at high risk of losing customers: IBM study](#)
- [Indian Army chief on two-day visit to Nepal](#)
- [Number of voters have declined in Nagaland: EC](#)
- [ECI officials review poll preparation in Tripura](#)
- [Modi to hold 'Chai pe Charcha' with farmers on March 20](#)
- [Cash transactions will be scrutinised by law enforcement agencies: FMC](#)
- [Exports may decline further as India loses preferential status in EU](#)
- [Dr Reddy's recalls heartburn drug in US](#)
- [Coriander down 1.3% on weak demand, adequate supply](#)
- [Talks with allies progressing smoothly, says BJP](#)

[RSS](#)

[Youtube](#)

**Business Standard**

• From BS Website

• [Home](#)

• [Markets](#)

• [Companies](#)

• [Opinion](#)

• [Technology](#)

• [Specials](#)

• [Personal Finance](#)

• [General News](#)

• [General Videos](#)

• [Events](#)

• About BS

• [About Us](#)

• [Code of Conduct](#)

• [Terms & Conditions](#)

• [Disclaimer](#)

- [Number of voters have declined in Nagaland: EC](#)
- [Modi to hold 'Chai pe Charcha' with farmers on March 20](#)
- [BJP downplays Sena attack, calls it 'friendly advice'](#)
- [Alagiri meets PM, dejected over his expulsion from the DMK](#)
- [Leaders refusing to fight on Congress ticket: BJP](#)
- [Sena hits out at BJP, asks it to follow "alliance dharma"](#)
- [Kejriwal taken ill, to skip Vidarbha rally](#)
- [No Modi 'wave' in the country, says Kejriwal](#)
- [Gul Panag to contest from Chandigarh on AAP ticket](#)
- [Support & Contact](#)
- [Partner with Us](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Advertise with Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [E-Paper](#)
- [Portfolio Tracker](#)
- [BS Products](#)
- [BS Hindi](#)
- [BS Motoring](#)
- [BS Books](#)
- [B2B Connect](#)
- [iPhone](#)
- [iPad](#)
- [android](#)
- [wap](#)
- [Connect with BS](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Google +](#)
- [Youtube](#)
- [RSS](#)

[Copyrights © 2014 Business Standard Ltd. All rights reserved.](#)

Most Popular

[Read](#)

[Shared](#)

[Commented](#)

- [Cong-NCP to highlight growth, stable govt and safety in ad campaign](#)
- [Nilekani to quit as UIDAI chief this week](#)
- [The votes are on Facebook](#)
- [I-T department to start monitoring election spend this month](#)
- [Bharat Bhushan: So who's pulling the strings?](#)
- [Kejriwal might contest against Narendra Modi](#)
- [Now, a right to health to be Congress](#)

[trump card](#)

- [LS polls: Former Congress MP Tejaswini joins BJP](#)
- [The votes are on Facebook](#)
- [BJP feels Kejriwal's visit will not sway voters in Gujarat](#)
  
- [Now, a right to health to be Congress trump card](#)
- [BJP to announce its most crucial list of candidates today](#)
- [LS polls: Former Congress MP Tejaswini joins BJP](#)
- [Lalu loyalist joins BJP](#)
- [BJP's power policy to address 'energy poverty'](#)