Dear Reader

As we prepare to close year 2019 soon, NATHEALTH takes this opportunity to once again thank you all for continuous support throughout the year and wishes a very healthy and prosperous 2020. We are closing the last week of the year with a very promising note as our key recommendations to the government for the coming Union Budget get extensive coverage in media.

Apart from our own Pre Budget recommendations, we also submitted a memorandum to the government jointly with FICCI suggesting Goods and Services Tax (GST) relief for healthcare services.

PTI prominently flashed NATHEALTH's pre budget recommendations. ET Healthworld, The Economic Times, Financial Express and other print and online media platform also covered and highlighted our recommendations which aimed at addressing key challenges of the Healthcare Sector.

It is pertinent to note that Union Budget would be presented by the Government on February 1, 2020 and the Finance Ministry has been consulting stakeholders from all sectors to solicit their views. Hence, our timely release of Pre Budget Recommendations to media is expected to draw attention of the government. Let us hope, the government considers our key recommendations to give new momentum to the sector. We will keep you updated on this front through our weekly newsletter.

*As we prepares for 2020, let us briefly review our efforts so far. We achieved several milestones in terms of forming bigger collaborations with National Health Authority (NHA) for Ayushman Bharart-PMJAY, NASSCOM, Welltech, Genesis Rehabilitation Services India, Roche Diagnostic, Startup Nation Central of Israel, and AHPI. Our **Annual Summit 2019 on the theme– Reimagining Collaboration to Strengthen India's Healthcare Growth Trajectory- held on November 28-29 mainly focused on s**trengthening the four pillars for Healthcare- Investments, Digital Health, Skill Development and Innovations. In 2020, we would continue to strengthen these pillars with the same zeal.*

On policy front, health has been positioned as one of the top priorities of the government. While inaugurating the OPD services at AIIMS Bhatinda this week, Union Health & Family Welfare Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said that the government through its continual efforts aims to ensure that assured, affordable and quality health services are provided to all.

This week also witnessed Union Health Minister's attention on shortage of Doctors in the country. At the 20th Convocation of National Board of Examinations, Dr Harsh Vardhan said the government is committed to providing assured affordable quality healthcare service to all, He said that the government is setting up 157 Medical Colleges mainly in the aspirational districts of the country to ensure that people here are provided superior health services.

Check out the newsletter to know what is happening in other segments of the healthcare sector. Follow us on twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook for real times updates.

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NATHEALTH Leadership Series
Budget 2020: NATHEALTH urges govt for zero-rating GST on health services

Healthcare Federation of India (NATHEALTH) on Thursday urged the government for bringing in zero-rating GST for healthcare services and making it a priority sector to meet its long-term funding and financing requirements.

NATHEALTH suggests a zero-rating GST for healthcare services

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NATHEALTH Recommends GST Relief For Healthcare Sector

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हेल्थकेयर फेडरेशन ने स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं पर जीएसटी शून्य करने का सरकार से आग्रह किया

शीर्ष स्वास्थ्य संगठन हेल्थकेयर फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (नेटहेल्थ) ने सरकार से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के लिए जीएसटी को शून्य करने और पूंजी जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए क्षेत्र प्राथमिक क्षेत्र बनाने का बृहस्पतिवार को आग्रह किया।

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Healthcare Policy Updates

In 2-3 years, 'every Indian may get public health cover

According to National Health Authority (NHA) officials, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), popularly known as Ayushman Bharat, which currently covers 40 per cent of the population, is likely to be extended to all citizens.

Niti Aayog calls healthcare system a 'sinking ship,' urges private participation in Ayushman Bharat

India's top think tank said Thursday that the country's healthcare system resembled a "sinking ship" and desperately needs more private participation in smaller towns to run the government's ambitious Ayushman Bharat program efficiently.

Year-end review of key developments in the health sector

This year saw significant strides in the health sector whether it was getting new legislation passed or fine-tuning policies or devising new programmes/strategies or improving programme implementation.

[Universal Health Coverage: Health Ministry looks at innovative tips](#)

Following a unique brainstorming initiative earlier this month, the Union Health Ministry is looking at some outside-the-box recommendations, including passbooks for health and wellness centres and a "Lal Path Lab-like" model for diagnostic services.

Healthcare Industry Overview

[Why Asia Healthcare Holdings is backing Indian doctor entrepreneurs to address the supply deficit](#)

While Indian healthcare has made serious strides in the recent years, the country is still a very underserved market. According to the Association of Healthcare Providers (India) the total number of beds per thousand people is a dismal .9. According to the National Centre for Biotechnology Information the number of doctors per thousand people is only 1.34.

[Healthcare Regulatory Affairs Outsourcing Market Size – Technological Advancement And Growth Analysis With Forecast To 2025](#)

Advanced report on 'Healthcare Regulatory Affairs Outsourcing Market' Added by DataIntelo.com, offers details on current and future growth trends pertaining to the business besides information on myriad regions across the geographical landscape of the 'Healthcare Regulatory Affairs Outsourcing Market'.

[Asia-Pacific 3D Printing in Healthcare Market Demand, Scope, Future Expectations, Market overview by 2023](#)

KD Market Insights has published a new report titled "Asia-Pacific 3D Printing in Healthcare Market – By Product Type (Epoxy, Polyaspartics, Others), By Application (Indoor, Outdoor) & Global Region – Market Size, Share, Trends and Forecast 2018-2023".

[Israel keen to support growth of Indian semi-conductor industry](#)

With a growing demand in electronics and manufacturing in India and limited domestic manufacturing, semiconductor chips will soon become a significant import item for India.

Medtech Forum

[Biometrics in Healthcare: How It Keeps Patients and Data Safe](#)

With a touch, a glance or a few spoken words, a person's physical characteristics can offer a key step for authentication in healthcare.

[Technology can plug the gaps in last mile healthcare delivery](#)

A 65-year old woman in a small village in Pune had to be carried over a makeshift stretcher for about 2 hours across 8 kms to get basic primary healthcare after a snake bite.

[Medtech manufacturing lags pharma in emerging markets, McKinsey report says](#)

Most medtech companies are struggling with expensive and fragmented manufacturing and distribution footprints, often due to growth through acquisitions, according to a new analysis by McKinsey.

Medical device tax disappears, capping decade of industry lobbying

A years-long push to permanently repeal the medical device tax is set to culminate with President Donald Trump slated to sign on Friday a wide-ranging spending bill containing the provision before government funding runs out.

Insurance Forum

Planning to buy health insurance? Take a look at key norms that changed in 2019

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) introduced various health insurance regulations that brought in many developments in the health insurance industry. Here are some of the key changes in the health insurance industry in India in 2019

Smart, cost-effective way to increase your health insurance cover

One of the most common mistakes that people make when it comes to health insurance is depending on that one policy offered by the employer. It's important to understand that medical costs are skyrocketing and porting from a corporate health plan to a personal cover is quite cumbersome.

Health Insurance: This policy provides coverage up to Rs 3 crore; OPD facility and much more

Insurance gives us financial protection in times of need. Depending on the types of insurance, the policyholder gets financial protection in times of accident, serious health issues, untimely death, or property loss.

Explainer| The third party administrator in health insurance

Recently, the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI) allowed health insurance policyholders to choose their third party administrator (TPA) while buying the cover or at the time of renewal.

Diagnostics Forum

J&K govt to set up NCDC for boosting lab diagnosis of emerging diseases

The centre will come up in Jammu region; authorities have shortlisted two locations — Vijaypur or Chowadi Jammu and Kashmir will setup a National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to give impetus to laboratory diagnosis of emerging diseases of public health importance in the Union Territory.

Rushing unregulated AI into healthcare raises patient risks: 'I don't think we want to fail fast'

3Not only do many artificial intelligence-enabled healthcare products and services fail to live up to marketing claims, but a significant number should not be classified as AI at all and, furthermore, pose great dangers to users, according to a report from Kaiser Health News and Scientific American.

Fatal Cystic Fibrosis eludes diagnosis, experts push for awareness

Doctors across India are still struggling to diagnose a fatal monogenic disease, Cystic Fibrosis, which has affected approximately 75,000 people worldwide.

Healthcare start-up Qure.ai develops software to provide fast and accurate diagnosis of Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis kills around 1.5 million people every year in India and one of the reasons behind this is a late

diagnosis of the infectious disease, reports reveal.