

Weekly Newsletter
(3rd February to 9th February 2020)

Dear Reader

We are still in the process of decoding the Budget proposals pertaining to the healthcare sector. However, post-budget we responded immediately and acknowledged the government's consideration on NATHEALTH's recommendations especially on capacity building and skilling. However, the proposed imposition of a 5 per cent health cess on Medical Equipment imports remains a pain point for the sector.

During this week, we strongly urged the government to withdraw the proposed cess on medical equipment imports. Our press statement on this received media attention and ET Healthworld, Express Healthcare, Drug Today Medical Times, and Pharmbiz prominently carried our views on this critical issue. We have chalked out an advocacy plan to engage with the government and other stakeholders.

As you are aware Coronavirus is the biggest health threat in the country presently and all stakeholders are engaged to face this challenge.

On the policy front, High-level Group of Ministers constituted on directions of the Prime Minister this week to review the management of Novel Coronavirus. A review meeting was also held to take stock of the situation relating to the Corona Virus in the country and the arrangements for the approximately 600 evacuees. A high level Group of Ministers is constituted comprising of Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Minister of Civil Aviation, External Affairs Minister, Minister of State for Home, Minister of State, Health & Family Welfare and Minister of State (I/c), Shipping to review, monitor and evaluate the preparedness regarding management of Novel Coronavirus in the country. Later on Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW) also took a review on the current situation with concerned officials. She discussed the present status and preparedness on the issues of the spread of novel Coronavirus disease.

Lawmakers are at work during the Budget session of Parliament which began on January 31, 2020. Union Health Ministry updated both the Houses on various issues such as Ayushman Bharat and latest status of PM-JAY, Capacity building, Skilling and other critical issues pertaining to the healthcare sector.

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.

<https://twitter.com/nathealthindia>

<https://www.facebook.com/nathealthindia/>

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Check out our previous newsletters [Here](#)

NATHEALTH Leadership Series

NATHEALTH urges government to withdraw cess on Med Tech customs duties

Decoding the implications of provisions announced in the Union Budget 2020-21, the apex healthcare industry body NATHEALTH has urged the government to withdraw imposition of a cess on custom duties for import of Medical Technologies (Med Tech) and said the 'Make in India' programme has to be built on a broader vision that builds demand and supply-side incentives through a longer-term policy framework to spur long term investments.

Govt. urged to withdraw cess on Med Tech customs duties

According to a NATHEALTH statement, "While there is a stated need to build new infrastructure, India should earmark direct infrastructure funds out of Government's healthcare spend and not tax medical equipment which are essential components for affordable healthcare

NATHEALTH urges government to withdraw cess on customs duties for import of Med Tech

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Indian diagnostic industry critical in achievement of UHC, SDGs: NATHEALTH Study

The Indian diagnostic industry plays a critical role in the achievement of the vision of universal health coverage (UHC) as well as the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Healthcare Policy Updates

Health Secretary reviewed the Novel Coronavirus disease situation

Preeti Sudan, Secretary (HFW) took a review on the current situation today with concerned officials. She discussed the present status and preparedness on the issues of spread of novel Coronavirus disease.

Patients to bear the brunt of additional 5% health cess on device imports

In the 2020-21 Union Budget statement, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced an additional 5 per cent health cess on imports of medical devices.

Will Burden of User Charges in Healthcare Lead to Pauperisation?

The NITI Aayog's proposal to run district hospitals under public-private partnership (PPP) model has kicked up a storm with public health experts pointing to the evidence that PPPs in health sector in India have failed massively.

Union Budget & Health sector

The Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, presented the general budget for the FY 2020-21 in the Lok Sabha on February 1, 2020 allotting 2.27% share of the total budget (Rs 30.42 trillion) to the health

sector.

Healthcare Industry Overview

[Home Health Hubs Market Analysis 2020 by Top Companies like OnKol, Insung Information Co., Ltd., IDEAL LIFE INC., iHealth Labs Inc.](#)

This TIP report offers a thorough analysis of the Global Home Health Hubs Market. The primary objective of the report is to analyze the current market landscape and its future potential.

[Global Vials Market Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends & Forecast 2019-2027 - ResearchAndMarkets.com](#)

A market study recently published on the global market for vials. The study provides detailed assessment on key market dynamics, including the drivers, trends, opportunities restraints, and detailed information about the structure of the vials market.

[Health Beverage Market Size and Share 2020 | Global Industry Analysis By Trends, Key Findings, Future Demands, Growth Factors, Emerging Technologies, Prominent Players and Forecast Till 2026](#)

The report “Global Health Beverage Market” intends to provide cutting-edge market intelligence and help decision makers take sound investment evaluation. Also identifies and analyses the emerging trends along with major drivers, challenges, opportunities and entry strategies for various companies in the global Health Beverage Industry.

Medtech Forum

[DNA Testing Health-Tech Company ‘Ancestry’ Lays Off 6% Of Workforce](#)

The largest for-profit genealogy company in the world, Ancestry has announced layoffs that will be affecting 6% of its workforce. The company reportedly has more than 3000 employees in 3 locations and if these numbers are right, they are laying off around 100 employees.

[AMA: Growing numbers of docs embracing digital health tech](#)

Adoption of digital health tools by physicians in the last three years has grown significantly, according to an American Medical Association survey of more than 1,300 doctors.

[World Cancer Day: India’s Healthtech Startups Fight The Battle](#)

Cancer. It’s a single word but loaded with so much more. From the early pains to the journey of fighting the disease and the resultant trauma and the battle for survival — cancer is as tough as it gets and given that there are so many different types of cancers, the medical battle against cancer is just as difficult.

Insurance Forum

[How is lack of health insurance affecting the poorest in India?](#)

[No doubt, health insurance has become a necessity, but still, a lot of Indians do not understand this and keep playing with their health. According to the recent survey conducted by 'Largest National Survey' on consumption, only one-fifth of the Indians are insured under health insurance.](#)

[Religare Enterprises to divest stake in health insurance arm to Kedaara for ₹200 cr](#)

[Religare Enterprises on Friday said it has entered into a pact with Kedaara Capital for divesting 6.76 per cent stake in its arm Religare Health Insurance Company \(RHICL\) for ₹200 crore.](#)

[Ten Updates Made by the IRDAI in the Health Insurance Sector](#)

[For the longest time, buying health insurance was not something everyone considered. The insurance industry levied premiums as they pleased, making one take their chances with hospital bills. The sector had total control over the coverage they wished to offer and the premiums they wanted to charge.](#)

Diagnostics Forum

[A novel diagnostic device for cervical cancer screening in India](#)

[Cervical cancer or cancer of the cervix is the cancer of the entrance to the uterus. The cervix is the narrow part of the lower uterus, often referred to as the neck of the womb. Cervical cancer occurs most commonly in women over the age of 30.](#)

[Priced at Rs 140, Padma Shri Awardee's Kit Can Diagnose Dengue in 15 Minutes!](#)

[Dr Navin Khanna, India's top dengue expert, was in New York on January 25, when he received a phone call late in the night from India's Ministry of Home Affairs informing and congratulating him for receiving India's fourth-highest civilian award.](#)

[India leads breakthrough study on cancer detection](#)

[A new study by scientists from India, USA, and UK has presented clinical evidence for an innovative test that can detect clusters of cancer cells in the blood of asymptomatic individuals as a non-invasive screening and diagnostic test.](#)

Healthcare Events (February 2020)

AIOC 2020: 78th Annual Conference of All India Ophthalmological Society

Feb 13 - 16, 2020 | Gurugram, Haryana

International Conference on Nutrition & Health (ICNH)

15/02/2020/New Delhi, India

27th International Conference of Indian Association of Palliative Care (IAPCON 2020)

Feb 14 - 16, 2020 | INR ₹5500 | Guwahati (Gauhati), Assam

International Conference on IACS-India section meeting (Cardiology)

Feb 21 - 23, 2020 | New Delhi, Delhi

Biologics World India 2020 (Biotechnology | Bioinformatics)

Feb 26 - 27, 2020 | Pune, Maharashtra

Links

https://www.google.com/search?q=healthcare+events+in+india+2020&rlz=1C1CHBD_enIN865IN865&oq=Healthcare+events+&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0l7.14518j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&ibp=htl;events&rciv=evn&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwif3LmSrb_nAhUGwTgGHe5jCvkQ5bwDMAB6BAgLEAE#fpstate=tldetail&htidocid=TB8VL7AKEiRxLd6aJpA8-A%3D%3D&htivrt=events

<https://www.emedevents.com/india-medical-conferences>