

Weekly Newsletter
(January 27 – 2 February, 2020)

Dear Reader,

This week we have Union Budget 2020-21 which was presented by the Finance Minister Mrs Nirmala Seetharaman on Saturday February 1, 2020. The FM announced an allocation of Rs 69,000 crore for the healthcare sector in the 2020-21 Union Budget, nearly 10 per cent up from last year. Of this, around Rs 6,400 crore would be for AB-PMJAY scheme, flat from last year. In 2019-20 the FM had announced Rs 62,659.12 crore outlay for the healthcare sector.

Though we do not see a steep hike in public spending in the sector, however, it is promising to note that the government acknowledged and considered NATHEALTH's recommendation on building capacity and skilling, two major challenges of the healthcare sector. Hence, in our post-budget reactions, we welcomed the move. The only damper in the budget for the sector was the proposed imposition of a 5 per cent health cess on Medical Equipment imports. NATHEALTH immediately issued a Press Release urging the government to withdraw the proposed cess on medical equipment imports. Further, NATHEALTH would engage with the government on this matter to explain its wider implications.

NATHEALTH is of the view that a health cess on custom duties for import has been imposed on imported medical devices in the budget presumably to fund viability gap for new healthcare infrastructure in tier 2/3 cities and spur local manufacturing. We firmly believe that 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.

Overall, the healthcare industry hailed the Budget. NATHEALTH President Dr Sudarshan Ballal's reactions got wide media coverage. Reacting to Budgetary provisions Dr Ballal said, "NATHEALTH President H Sudarshan Ballal said the budget accorded priority on capacity building by improving health infrastructure in Tier II & III cities and rural areas. Setting up hospitals on the private-public partnership with the provision of viability gap funding in 112 Aspirational Districts in the country goes a long way in creating a robust health infrastructure especially in areas where Ayushman Bharat benefits have not yet reached especially to the weaker section." His views were flashed by PTI and widely covered in both Online and Print media including HT, Mint, ET Healthword, Deccan Chronical, The Pioneer.

Now healthcare leaders are busy in decoding the Budget and in-depth assessment would provide us with a roadmap to engage with the government meaningfully as a debate on the proposed provisions in the Budget would start from Monday (February 3).

Going forward, we will keep you updated on our efforts on advocacy with governments on Budgetary provisions and other several other critical issues concerning the healthcare industry.

Check out the newsletter to know what is happening in other segments of the healthcare sector.

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NATHEALTH Leadership Series

[Budget 2020: Healthcare industry welcomes govt's move to improve access to medical care in Budget](#)

In addition to initiatives announced to improve access to medical care across the nation and boost human health resources, it was encouraging that vital determinant of good health which includes wellness, nutrition, clean drinking water, and sanitation were at the forefront of this Budget, he added.

[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.

[Budget: Healthcare industry welcomes govt's move to improve access to medical care](#)

The healthcare industry on Saturday welcomed the initiatives announced by the government in Budget 2020-21 to improve the access to medical care across the nation.

[Time to keep healthcare sector healthy to realize health for all : Dr H Sudarshan Ballal](#)

To realize Health for All, keeping the Indian Healthcare healthy needs to be a top priority. The increasing pressure on healthcare sector due to slowing investments and need for higher Government Funding Allocations, Healthcare Industry would be very keen to see reforms taking place through Union Budget 2020-21.

[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). The industry, however, suffers from a limited focus on quality standards and cost pressures driven by high custom duty and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure, reveals a diagnostic study, released by Healthcare Federation of India- NATHEALTH.

Healthcare Policy Updates

[Budget 2020: Experts seek higher govt spending, incentives for healthcare](#)

[Budget 2020 expectations: The healthcare industry also wants the allocation for the sector to go up as the government had promised to earmark 2.5 per cent of the GDP in the National Health Policy](#)

[Budget 2020: More medical colleges, investments for gene pooling; What health sector expects from budget](#)

[With Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman soon to announce the union budget, India's health sector looks forward to better allocations for healthcare.](#)

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[A healthy India is the first priority for all of us. For this Union Budget, the first ask we have is for the allocation to healthcare to go up. The Government has promised 2.5% in the National Health Policy, and that is what we will hope for.](#)

[Insurers cannot discontinue a policy and force customers to take a new cover](#)

[Consumers who have had continuous coverage under a mediclaim policy are suddenly given a rude shock by insurers that their old policy is being discontinued, and they could opt for the new one that is being introduced.](#)

Healthcare Industry Overview

[Healthcare industry expects Budget to boost Make in India, make it affordable for patients](#)

[Healthcare industry players and public health experts expect the 2020-21 Union Budget to take steps to boost local production of devices and make healthcare more affordable. Private hospitals expect the government to address the issue of costly medical equipment in the Budget to be presented on Saturday.](#)

[Global Smart Home Healthcare Market Forecasts to 2025 - Rapidly Growing Healthcare Spending and Rising Geriatric Population Spur Market Growth](#)

[The "Smart Home Healthcare Market By Technology, By Service, and By Application: Global Industry Perspective, Comprehensive Analysis, and Forecast, 2018 - 2025" report has been added to ResearchAndMarkets.com's offering.](#)

[Healthcare Facilities Management Market Applications Analysis 2019-2028](#)

[In 2018, the market size of Healthcare Facilities Management Market is million US\\$ and it will reach million US\\$ in 2025, growing at a CAGR of from 2018; while in China, the market size is valued at xx million US\\$ and will increase to xx million US\\$ in 2025, with a CAGR of xx% during forecast period.](#)

[First-ever mobile learning platform for hospitals in India](#)

[Impelsys Inc, a world's leader in online content and learning solutions enters India with iPC Health, an end-to-end mobile learning and upskilling solution for the healthcare sector. The mobile-first platform](#)

brings a much-awaited solution to impart 'on-the-go' training and education for hospital staff and in turn deliver better outcomes and save lives

Medtech Forum

Proposals on medical device manufacturing will help grow domestic industry: Budget2020

India will see cut in imports and boost in local manufacturing of medical devices following the budget proposal to provide incentives for the medical devices sector.

IIT Hyderabad hosts 'Med Tech' Symposium to boost Medical, Healthcare Technologies

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship hosted a 'Med Tech' Symposium to bring together key leaders in the field of medical and healthcare technologies to discuss the key challenges and developments in the medical devices start-up ecosystem. The event was organized on Saturday (25th January 2020).

What regulatory challenges holding back the adoption of ai in healthcare in 2020

In today's world, where AI impacts almost every aspect of our lives, how can healthcare be left behind? Every other day, we come across a media report of a novel new approach of AI being used in healthcare and life sciences

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