

Press Release

## **Increased public spending on healthcare and sustainable financing mechanisms will improve Access to Healthcare in India**

Mumbai, August 07, 2015: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) hosted its Fourth Healthcare Access Summit today. This event built upon the themes of previous summits, bringing together policy-makers, leaders from the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, healthcare experts and other distinguished professionals. Participants discussed diverse aspects of healthcare access and potential solutions, at the day-long event.

Sustainable healthcare financing was an important topic of discussion. At 1% cent of GDP, public spending on healthcare in India is among the lowest in the world. **Dr Shailesh Ayyangar, President, OPPI, and Managing Director, India & Vice President, Sanofi India said,** “Investment in healthcare will also contribute to economic development; through improved productivity, capital accumulation and reduced disease burden.”

An IMS study has found that access to healthcare begins with proximity, quality and functionality of healthcare infrastructure. India’s healthcare infrastructure is among the poorest in the world and has remained stagnant for many years. Moreover, private health insurance is low, at 5% of the total population; an additional 12% have some cover under government schemes. Most healthcare costs are still borne by patients, as out-of-pocket expenses. Clearly, effective financing mechanisms are a critical requirement for improving access to healthcare.

**Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, said** “after decades of low public spending on healthcare, Government must now accord priority to this sector. A meaningful budget allocation will enable a healthcare model that delivers healthcare access for all. We also need sustainable policy solutions to support healthcare financing, infrastructure and human resource challenges, among others”.

At this summit, OPPI also recognised Padma Bhushan Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Chairman and Founder of Narayana Health, with the OPPI Healthcare Access Award 2015. Dr Shetty leads the way in providing world-class treatments for heart ailments, at affordable costs.

The OPPI Paper on Healthcare Financing is available at <http://www.indiaoppi.com/sites/default/files/PDF%20files/OPPI%20Paper%20on%20Healthcare%20Financing%20-%20August%202015.pdf>

**About OPPI**

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) was established in 1965. OPPI represents the research-driven pharmaceutical companies in India and remains committed to supporting the nation's healthcare objectives, collaborating with the Indian Government and other stakeholders to find sustainable solutions; solutions that balance the need for innovation with the necessity for more accessible medicines, within a robust IP environment. A holistic approach is needed to expand healthcare in India and OPPI believes the pharmaceutical industry can form part of the solution. OPPI supports the Indian government's quest for more accessible and affordable medicines and welcomes a more comprehensive dialogue between private and government stakeholders. For more information, please visit [www.indiaoppi.com](http://www.indiaoppi.com)

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