

1. [Pharma industry wants budget to offer tax clarity](#) – The Economic Times

The pharmaceutical industry has asked the government to bring in more clarity in terms of tax structure and provide incentives on research and development (R&D) as part of its budget wish-list. The industry players also want the government to provide a road map towards bringing down corporate income tax down to 25 per cent.

On the other hand, the **Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)**, representing mainly MNC pharma firms, said that with innovation being high on the government agenda, clarity must be provided for incentives under the National Intellectual Property Policy.

"As innovator company, we look forward to this with great excitement. However, greater clarity (is needed) on what elements will be considered for preferential tax incentives, whether it will apply to outsourced R&D, etc. Incentives are also necessary to boost manufacturing capacity of APIs, rather than depend on Chinese imports," OPPI Director General **Kanchana TK** told PTI.

She further said the industry is looking forward to the end of the inverted duty structure as and when GST is implemented.

"We expect that with GST, the inverted duty structure that our industry has to deal with will become a thing of the past. This year, we hope that greater clarity will be provided on whether input tax credits will be refunded if unutilised at the end of the assessment year," Kanchana added.

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- [Pharma industry wants budget to offer tax clarity](#) – The Indian Express
- [Budget 2017: Pharma bosses seek clarification in tax Structure](#) – Dalal Street Investment Journal

2. [Budget Expectations: Govt should provide incentives to boost domestic APIs production, says OPPI](#) – ETHealthworld.com

**The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)** has urged the union government to provide incentives to boost India's manufacturing capacity of APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients), rather than depend on the Chinese imports.

1. [Pharma industry wants budget to offer tax clarity](#) – The Economic Times
2. [Budget Expectations: Govt should provide incentives to boost domestic APIs production, says OPPI](#) – ETHealthworld.com
3. [For innovation in diagnostics, budget should focus on Design for India](#) – Business Standard
4. [Q3 earnings for pharma sector: A potpourri amid US pricing woes](#) – Mint
5. ['We expect govt to focus on home, health insurance in Union Budget'](#) – Business Today
6. [2 GOP senators would let states keep Obama health law](#) – Business Standard
7. [Why India's generic-drug industry has a long way to go to gain US FDA's trust](#) – Mint
8. [Health ministry to come up with draft guidelines on constant upgradation of GMP on par with global regulations](#) – Pharmabiz.com

Speaking about the expectations from the Union Budget 2017-18, **Kanchana T K**, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), said, “Expectations from the Budget are high, in terms of setting the tone and direction. Some of that is about building upon the intent already announced by the government. In past years, the government has said it would bring the corporate income tax down to 25 per cent. At OPPI, we hope to see a roadmap to this end.”

**3. [For innovation in diagnostics, budget should focus on Design for India](#) – Business Standard**

The healthcare sector in India has been on a rapid growth spectrum in the last decade. We have created more technical jobs, prevented brain drain to a certain extent, and most importantly brought in quality healthcare, at par with global services. The 2016-17 union budget was a promising one for the public from a healthcare perspective. We saw increase in pharmacies providing subsidised medicines and a promise of higher insurance covers for the low-income families. But many of the goals yet remain unachieved or unimplemented, pressing matters remain unattended, and this year’s budget should definitely do better than the previous one and see its agenda through. The government should look from being a facilitator of health than be a provider.

Mindful of the fact that diagnostics is the first step towards effective treatment, it is important that all our national health programmes recognise the importance of quality diagnostics. In order to ensure that quality diagnostics reach people through programme verticals; budgetary allocations to diagnostics is much needed. It’s time that the government realises that the sector comprises largely of unregulated players. Anybody can open a laboratory today and start giving out reports and there is nobody to check if our citizens are getting the diagnosis they deserve. Today, accreditation is not mandatory and hence the onus of accuracy, quality or reliability of a test reports lies with a lab. Make allocations for such regulation in the budget. Empower national bodies like NABL to play a bigger role in regulating the most basic function of healthcare.

**4. [Q3 earnings for pharma sector: A potpourri amid US pricing woes](#) – Mint**

The December quarter is likely to be a mixed bag for pharmaceutical industry with pricing pressure and lack of meaningful product approvals in the US, and regulatory issues seen capping earnings growth. For pharma sector as a whole, analysts expect sales growth of 8-11% during the quarter, but growth in profits is seen limited because higher spending on research and development and on remedial measures at manufacturing plants facing compliance issues may hurt margins. Manufacturing facilities of various companies, including Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, Dr. Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd, Cadila Healthcare Ltd, Wockhardt Ltd and Ipca Laboratories Ltd, are under the US Food and Drug Administration’s (US FDA) scanner for violation of good manufacturing practices. These companies are experiencing delays in product approvals in the US. While most Indian generic drug makers are experiencing price erosion in its base business in the US due to increased competition and strong bargaining power of distributors, new product launches and may benefit few companies, analysts said.

**5. ['We expect govt to focus on home, health insurance in Union Budget'](#) – Business Today**

The year 2016 experienced innovations and developments in the insurance industry that brought changes in the sector aimed towards benefiting the customers. The opening of e-insurance account is one such example that will help the customers in the long run. Also, the introduction of selling and buying of insurance policies through e-commerce will certainly bring a new buying behavioural shift which will come with a lot of benefits for both the insurers and the customers. Adding to this, in November, the Government of India announced demonetisation of 500 and 1000 rupee notes. This move will help the industry to move towards digitisation with a view of making government’s 'Make in India' campaign a success. With this, customers are now expected to increasingly opt for electronic payment of their insurance premium. In last year's budget, the announcement of travel insurance as an option while booking railway ticket was announced and the industry saw a good

response from people. Similarly, we expect key announcements that will be made during the Union Budget 2017-18, to be positively accepted by people and industry.

6. [2 GOP senators would let states keep Obama health law](#) – Business Standard

Two Republican senators have said that they'll propose legislation that lets states keep former President Barack Obama's health care overhaul or opt for a new program providing trimmed-down coverage. The plan by Sens. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana and Susan Collins of Maine would retreat from years of GOP cries to repeal Obama's law and replace it with a still undefined Republican alternative. It comes as GOP lawmakers face pressure from President Donald Trump to quickly void and replace the health law and as Republicans continue hunting for a proposal that would unite them. "It has been a Republican principle that power is best held by individuals and states, not the federal government," Cassidy told reporters. Trump has said he wants to keep some of the Obama overhaul's consumer protections, like requiring insurers to cover people with pre-existing medical problems. Collins and Cassidy said their bill preserves many of those.

7. [Why India's generic-drug industry has a long way to go to gain US FDA's trust](#) – Mint

One Indian pharmaceutical firm's nighttime document-shredding and potential manufacturing lapses at two others since December are reigniting concerns that, despite recent efforts, the country's generic-drug industry still has a way to go to gain the trust of US regulators. US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspectors observed paperwork being shredded at 1am in the document storage area of a factory owned by Hetero Labs Ltd., according to a report on the regulator's website. Separately, two other drugmakers, including India's largest, were informed of potential factory violations last month. The news prolongs a four-year wave of unfavourable reports from the FDA for India's pharmaceutical industry that have crimped revenue in its largest export market. It also comes amid speculation the US may try to reduce its reliance on foreign-made pharmaceuticals after President Donald Trump indicated after being elected a need to ensure drugs sold in the US are made there. India supplies 40% of the generic medications consumed in the US, where copycats account for more than 8 in 10 prescriptions.

8. [Health ministry to come up with draft guidelines on constant upgradation of GMP on par with global regulations](#) – Pharmabiz.com

The Union health ministry is planning to frame and release a draft guideline towards constant upgradation of good manufacturing practices (GMP) to align India-specific standards with global regulations. This according to a senior health ministry official will take three months time aimed at taking steps further towards global regulatory harmonisation. Meanwhile, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has submitted a proposal to the Union health ministry to mandate upgradation of Schedule M units across the country to WHO-GMP level under the purview of drug rules towards good manufacturing practices adopted globally. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) also plans to bring about uniformity in inspections of Schedule M units across the country as a part of its programme to upgrade Schedule M units to WHO-GMP standards.