

1. [India Inc cheers rural thrust, rues status quo on corp tax](#) – Business Standard

The thrust given to rural and infrastructure sectors will have a multiplier effect on the economy but the Budget has failed on the corporate taxation front, India Inc said today.

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) said the expectations from the Union Budget were higher and there is no specific provision that merits attention. "While healthcare has been named one of the nine pillars of the Union Budget, there are relatively few salutary provisions for this sector," it said.

PwC India Partner and

Leader- Healthcare Rana Mehta said that contrary to the belief the actual expenditure on health in 2015-16 was 1.3 per cent of GDP, higher than 1.2 per cent of GDP in 2014-15.

Another [Business Standard story](#) (Murtaza Khorakiwala, Managing Director, Wockhardt Limited)

2. [Healthcare has finally taken centre stage in Budget](#) – Business Standard

Plans to launch new health protection scheme and making quality medicines available at affordable prices with plans to launch 3,000 Jan Aushadhi stores proposed in the Budget will help more people in getting access to proper healthcare, say industry players.

Reacting to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's proposals in the Budget 2016-17, Apollo Hospitals Group Chairman Prathap C Reddy said: "Healthcare has finally taken the centre stage in the Budget.

1. [India Inc cheers rural thrust, rues status quo on corp tax](#) – Business Standard
Another [Business Standard story](#) (Murtaza Khorakiwala, Managing Director, Wockhardt Limited)
2. [Healthcare has finally taken centre stage in Budget](#) – Business Standard
Also appeared in [The Economic Times](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [The Financial Express](#)
3. [Budget 2016: Pharma companies to benefit from push to patents but cut in tax sops for R&D criticized](#) – The Economic Times
4. [Budget 2016: Steps to encourage domestic patent regime proposed](#) – The Economic Times
5. [Budget 2016: Health insurance for all](#) – Mint
Other stories in Mint on Budget 1) [Mint](#), 2) [Mint](#)
6. [Opinion: Budget 2016 and the social sector](#) – Mint
7. [A give and take on research sops](#) – The Hindu Business Line
8. [Increase in healthcare is great but public spending must go up](#) – The Times of India
Another [TOI Story](#)
9. [Measures may have modest impact on dialysis costs](#) – The Hindu
Another [Hindu Story](#)
10. [Top view Budget 2016: Allocation for healthcare inadequate](#) – The Financial Express
11. [Budget Again Disappoints On Larger Schemes For Healthcare Sector](#) – Business World
12. [Big fillip to economy, but disappointing for pharma](#) – Business Today

The Health Protection Scheme of Rs 1 lakh to cover unforeseen illness in poor families with an additional Rs 30,000 for senior citizens is a long-awaited and welcome step in deepening access."

In addition, the government's plan to add 3,000 pharmacies under the Jan Aushadhi Yojana to provide generic drugs at affordable rates is a commendable move, he added.

Also appeared in [The Economic Times](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [The Financial Express](#)

3. [Budget 2016: Pharma companies to benefit from push to patents but cut in tax sops for R&D criticized](#) – The Economic Times

Large Indian and global drug makers are set to benefit from the budget announcement by finance minister Arun Jaitley for a 10 per cent tax rebate on earnings from global patent filings. The move may help to Indian drug makers like Sun Pharma, Dr Reddy's, Lupin and WockhardtBSE -2.50 % among others who are expanding their global business through new drug filings. "Research is the driver of innovation and innovation provides a thrust to economic growth. I propose a special patent regime with 10 per cent rate of tax on income from worldwide exploitation of patents developed and registered in India," Jaitley noted as part of his speech. Experts noted in general the taxes are around 35 per cent but the 10 per cent tax will be a significant boost. A few years ago the UK government had proposed a similar step to boost local innovation and manufacturing.

4. [Budget 2016: Steps to encourage domestic patent regime proposed](#) – The Economic Times

In order to encourage R&D in India, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley today proposed a special patent regime under which 10 per cent tax on income will be charged on commercial exploitation of patents developed and registered in India.

"I propose a special patent regime with 10 per cent rate of tax on income from worldwide exploitation of patents developed and registered in India," he said in the Budget speech.

The Budget memorandum said "in order to encourage indigenous research and development (R&D) activities and to make India a global R&D hub, the government has decided to put in place a concessional taxation regime for income from patents".

5. [Budget 2016: Health insurance for all](#) – Mint

The biggest takeaway for healthcare from the budget was a signal of the government's continued commitment to providing health insurance. This should put at rest speculation on the direction the National Health Mission (NHM) would take. Budgetary allocation to health insurance has increased sharply.

Allocation for health insurance in the 2016-17 budget was Rs.1,500 crore. A revised estimate for the current financial year shows expenditure of Rs.595 crore. This is an increase of 152% within one year for the Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, or National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), a new nomenclature for the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). Under the NHPS, the finance minister announced a cover of Rs.1 lakh per family. An additional cover of Rs.30,000 was announced for senior citizens.

Another 1) [Mint story](#), 2) [Mint](#)

6. [Opinion: Budget 2016 and the social sector](#) – Mint

From the perspective of social policy in India, there is some cheer and many disappointments in Monday's budget. The cheer comes from the fact that in a marked departure from the previous two budgets, this year's budget speech began with a clear commitment to enhancing social spending and listing social sector—healthcare and education—high in the key priorities of this government. Thus it's worth examining the budget fine print to see if it is indeed the case.

A quick look at the budget numbers presents an interesting story. While there has been an overall increase in social sector allocation, these are by no means significant—particularly for core social sector programmes.

7. [A give and take on research sops](#) – The Hindu Business Line

For the pharmaceutical sector looking for a strong statement of support on research and innovation, all it received was a give and take on sops.

Budget 2016 proposed a special patent regime with 10 per cent tax on income from the worldwide exploitation of patents developed and registered in India.

Novartis India chief Ranjit Shahani puts it eloquently. “The Budget is a journey and one year does not tell the entire story.”

However, he adds, this is Budget Number Three from this government and should have shown more big ticket initiatives. The proposals for healthcare, for example, are inadequate compared to the actual requirement. The much-awaited increase in the government’s healthcare spending was not visible either, he observed.

8. [Increase in healthcare is great but public spending must go up](#) – The Times of India

Many of the announcements in the health budget are very welcome. The allocation for health in Union Budget 2016 has been increased by 22% over the previous year's budget estimate to Rs 39,533 crore. This is a very significant move given that last year, the allocations for health were substantially reduced, said Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, Population Foundation of India. More specifically, the budget for family welfare budget (which includes family planning) has been increased by 67% over previous years. Though details of eligibility are not yet known, the announcement in the Budget to finance a health insurance scheme that offers financial protection of Rs 1 lakh per family is a good move.

[Another TOI Story](#)

9. [Measures may have modest impact on dialysis costs](#) – The Hindu

Proposal to start a ‘National Dialysis Services Programme’ gets positive response

The special attention dialysis got in the Union Budget on Monday was not without reason, and while the measures announced, including a waiver of customs duty and excise on certain parts of dialysis equipment, were long-awaited they may not bring down costs significantly.

For starters, the government had only last year imposed a heavier levy on consumables used in dialysis, spiking the procedure rates by 17 to 20 per cent, and increased the equipment cost a couple of years ago: moves that had led to various associations of nephrologists seek a reversal.

[Another Hindu Story](#)

10. [Top view Budget 2016: Allocation for healthcare inadequate](#) – The Financial Express

Budget 2016 has been a mixed bag overall. The focus on infrastructure, rural development and social sector spending are important catalysts for boosting the economy’s growth rate.

The enhanced expenditures in these priority areas are a step in the right direction, but the measure of their success will be determined by the implementation and execution of their schemes.

On the healthcare front, the budgetary emphasis on the sector was fairly muted. While certain initiatives such as the new health insurance scheme or the National Dialysis Services programme are good, perhaps a more holistic, well-rounded thrust would have served the sector better in delivering good health to those in need of it.

11. [Budget Again Disappoints On Larger Schemes For Healthcare Sector](#) – Business World

The Union Budget 2016-17 announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, though spelt out incremental schemes for improving healthcare coverage and some duty soaps for selected treatment segment, it has again disappointed the sector on the larger schemes such as National Health Mission and universal coverage.

The Budget proposal has mentioned increased allocation of funds for covering serious illnesses through a healthcare protection scheme for low income families, opening of 3000 more Jan Aushadhi stores and National Dialysis Programme along with excise duty waiver for dialysis equipment. While the larger schemes like increased national spend for overall healthcare, larger insurance coverage, infrastructure development and increased access to primary and secondary healthcare were left unattended once again.

12. [Big fillip to economy, but disappointing for pharma](#) – Business Today

It is big fillip to the economy as the budget focuses more on boosting the rural economy, especially in the backdrop of two consecutive monsoon failure in the past two years.

Through the various schemes, about Rs 1 lakh crore is going to the rural areas and this will spur the rural economy growth story. From the pharma and healthcare point of view, there is nothing to cheer, except the new health insurance scheme for the BPL families, which will extend healthcare to poorest of the poor. It is a setback for research-based drug companies as weighed deduction on R&D has been brought down from 200 per cent to 150 per cent.