

Link: <https://www.expresspharma.in/pharma-sector-reacts-to-union-budget-2021/>

EXPRESS PHARMA

avantor JT Baker Reagents for Trace Metal Analysis
Designed for Parts-Per-Trillion Elemental Analysis [Learn more](#)

HOME COVER STORY FEATURES SPECIALS GUEST BLOGS INTERVIEWS EDITOR'S NOTE EVENTS VIDEOS MORE

DRUG APPROVALS DEALS POLICIES TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP RESEARCH LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE MARKETING HR BIOTECH MORE

me » Latest Updates » Pharma sector reacts to Union Budget 2021

Pharma sector reacts to Union Budget 2021

By  Usha Sharma — Last updated Feb 2, 2021

LATEST UPDATES



'Healthcare allocation as percentage of GDP dismal; many good measures' -Sharad Tyagi, President, OPPI

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) welcomes the Finance Minister's proposal to increase the Budget outlay for healthcare marginally from last year's revised estimates of Rs 69, 234 crore to Rs 71,269 crore. It is also a welcome step that Rs 35,000 crores is allocated for COVID-19 vaccine and the assurance that any additional spending required would be allocated for vaccines.

It has been the demand of the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors to increase the public spending on healthcare from the below one per cent of GDP level to at least 2.5 per cent of GDP. OPPI is glad to note the Rs 64,180 crore PM *AtmaNirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana* over six years to develop capacities of primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare systems, strengthen existing institutions, new institutions, and focus on detection and cure of new diseases.

OPPI also welcomes the support to rural and urban health and wellness centers, public health labs, strengthening the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC, connecting the Integrated Health Information Portal to public health labs, setting up new public health units at the borders and in the country, setting up emergency operation centers, bio-safety laboratories and regional virology centres.

OPPI also welcomes the proposal to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 to increase the permissible FDI limit in insurance sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent to allow foreign ownership and control with safeguards. This would help global health insurance companies to have a focused interest in the country. However, it has been disappointing that the Finance Minister has not specifically laid out any modalities to improve bio-pharmaceutical research. OPPI hopes the five-year outlay of Rs 50,000 crores to strengthen the overall research ecosystem and to identify national-priority thrust areas would have a focused approach to improve bio-pharmaceutical research in the country.