

OPPI Coverage Dossier

January 2025

INDEX

S.no	Date	Publication	Edition	Link
Financials				
1	3-Jan	Business Standard	Print	Budget wishlist: Pharma firms seek simplified taxes, stronger PLI scheme
2	3-Jan	Business Standard	Online	Budget wishlist: Pharma firms seek simplified taxes, stronger PLI scheme
3	3-Jan	The Financial Express	Online	What's in store for pharmaceutical sector in 2025?
4	7-Jan	The Economic Times	Print	Budget 2025: Tax cuts, sops on Pharma Inc's wish list - The Economic Times
5	7-Jan	The Economic Times	Online	Budget 2025: Tax cuts, sops on Pharma Inc's wish list - The Economic Times
6	20-Jan	The Economic Times	Online	Budget 2025: Pharma industry lays out a plan to curb Chinese dependence
Trade and Online				
7	3-Jan	Biospectrum India	Online	OPPI seeks policy-level clarifications for reducing treatment costs from Budget 2025
8	7-Jan	ET Pharma	Online	Budget 2025: Pharma Sector Calls for Tax Breaks, R&D Support, and Patent Box Overhaul
9	6-Jan	Bio Voice	Online	Budget 2025: OPPI seeks special incentives
10	7-Jan	Express Pharma	Online	Association leaders share their expectations from Budget 2025-26
11	7-Jan	India Med Today	Online	Prioritise increased public spending on health initiatives: Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI on Budget 2025
12	10-Jan	Pharma Outlook	Online	Pharma and Hospital Executives Push for Key Demands in Union Budget 2025
13	18-Jan	Pharmabiz	Online	Indian pharma hopes for policy-level clarifications & simplifying APA procedures in Union Budget 2025

FINANCIALS

Publication	Business Standard
Date	3 rd January 2025
Edition	Print
Headline	Budget wishlist: Pharma firms seek simplified taxes, stronger PLI scheme Budget 2024 News

Pharma firms seek booster shot to PLI

SANKET KOUL
New Delhi, 3 January

The pharmaceutical sector has rolled out a robust wish list for the upcoming Budget, with import duty exemptions, simplification of tax procedures, and strengthening of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme among major demands.

Commenting on the industry's expectations, Anil Matai, director general, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents multinational pharma companies working in India, said that policy-level clarifications, such as expanded exemptions for life-saving drugs and oncology medications from import duty, are vital for reducing treatment costs.

Pharma bodies have also asked for simplified tax laws, with expansion of the scope of Section 115 BAB of the Income Tax Act, which enables new manufacturing entities to opt for a lower corporate tax rate scheme of 15 per cent, to companies solely engaged in pharma research and development (R&D).

"Mandatory timelines for disposing of appeals, particularly by income tax appellate authorities, and removing turnover criteria for safe harbour provisions for R&D will also encourage innovation and investment," Matai added.

Among other demands is the removal of Section 194R related to marketing samples that would ease business operations.

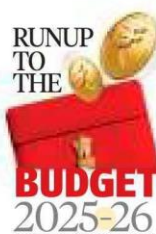
Further, the industry has also demanded incentives for AI (artificial intelligence) research in the pharmaceutical sector, building on AI Centres of Excellence, and medical device training from the upcoming Budget.

Commenting on the same, Nikkhil Masurkar, chief executive officer (CEO), Entod Pharmaceuticals, said that increased funding for R&D, particularly in next-generation molecules and AI-driven drug discovery, could drive investment and innovation.

Sudarshan Jain, secretary general, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), which represents the leading drug firms in the country, added that prioritising innovation, ease of doing business, and policies that strengthen the life sciences ecosystem can position India among the top-5 innovators in the world.

"It would be encouraging if the Budget allocates at least 10 per cent of the National Research Fund to life sciences, reinstates 200 per cent weighted deductions for R&D expenditure, and expands the patent box regime to include income from patents abroad," Jain added.

The industry has also asked for strengthening of the PLI scheme for active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and high-value pharma products.



Publication	Business Standard
Date	3 rd January 2025
Edition	Print
Headline	Budget wishlist: Pharma firms seek simplified taxes, stronger PLI scheme Budget 2024 News

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Publication	The Financial Express
Date	3 rd January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	What's in store for pharmaceutical sector in 2025?

Impact of Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP)

The year 2024 has been a defining moment for India's healthcare sector, laying a strong foundation for a transformative shift toward innovation and patient-centricity.

"Milestone initiatives such as the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and the PRIP scheme to boost domestic manufacturing of key starting materials (KSMs) and APIs, reflected the government's commitment to building an inclusive healthcare ecosystem in 2024," Anil Matai, Director General, Organisation Of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) told *Financial Express.com*.

According to Matai, the efforts made to improve access, affordability and ethical practices continued to strengthen the foundation of the sector. "The introduction of the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) emphasized the government's commitment to transparency and ethical standards within the pharmaceutical landscape. Though the functioning SEC still requires fine-tuning, there has been significant improvement in their efficiency and structure," he said.

ALSO READ

[Healthcare sector to touch \\$320 billion by 2028: Report](#)

As we step into 2025, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is primed for revolutionary growth, powered by the intersection of visionary government policies and industry-led initiatives, he revealed.

Publication	The Economic Times
Date	7 th January 2025
Edition	Print
Headline	Budget 2025: Tax cuts, sops on Pharma Inc's wish list - The Economic Times

Tax Cuts, Sops on Pharma Inc's Wish List

Asks govt to boost affordability of drugs, prioritise innovation & ease of doing business

Teena Thacker

New Delhi: Higher spending towards public healthcare, incentives for research and development and tax exemptions for more life-saving drugs are among the key demands of pharmaceutical and hospital sector executives ahead of the upcoming Union budget.

Healthcare industry executives said expanding the list of life-saving drugs eligible for GST/ import duty exemptions will help improve affordability for patients. They want all oncology medications to get the benefit. Hospital operators urged the government to reduce customs duties on essential medical equipment and consumables. Tax rates on essential medicines in India vary depending on the type of medicines and whether they are imported or not.

"Increasing public healthcare

spending to at least 2.5% of GDP is crucial for strengthening our infrastructure and ensuring universal coverage," said Fortis Healthcare managing director and chief executive Ashutosh Raghuvanshi.

Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India director-general Anil Matai urged the government to explore methods to incentivise R&D investments, such as tax deductions on R&D expenses, research-linked incentives for multinationals and corporate tax concessions to accelerate.

"Recognising the high-risk, long-gestation nature of R&D, we suggest extending the scope of Section 115BAB of the

Income Tax Act, 1961 to companies solely engaged in pharmaceutical research and development and providing a 200% deduction rate on R&D expenditures," he said.

This Section of the I.T Act allowed manufacturing entities registered on or after October 1, 2019, to opt for a lower corporate tax rate of 15%, provided they started manufacturing operations by March 31, 2024.

Sudharahan Jain, secretary-general of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, said incentives for AI research in the pharmaceutical sector should be introduced, building on the support announced in Budget 2023 for AI Centres of Excellence and medical device training.

"The Indian pharmaceutical industry is at a pivotal moment, and poised for growth, targeting \$120-130 billion by 2030 and \$450 billion by 2047. This will position India among the top 5 innovators and No 1 in volume. To achieve this, the Union budget 2025-2026 should prioritise innovation, ease of doing business, and policies that strengthen the life sciences ecosystem," he said.

Himanshu Baid, MD, Poly Medcure, said the government may consider standardising the GST rate of 12% across all medical devices as it would simplify the tax structure, ensuring consistency and ease of doing business.



VARANI SAHU

Publication	The Economic Times
Date	7 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Budget 2025: Tax cuts, sops on Pharma Inc's wish list - The Economic Times

Budget 2025: Tax cuts, sops on Pharma Inc's wish list

By Teena Thacker, ET Bureau • Last Updated: Jan 09, 2025, 11:22:00 PM IST

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Synopsis

Pharmaceutical and hospital sector executives are requesting higher public healthcare spending, R&D incentives, and tax exemptions on life-saving drugs in the upcoming Union budget. They want more oncology drugs to be tax-exempt and lower customs duties on essential medical equipment. Executives also propose incentives for AI research and standardization of GST rates on medical devices.



Representative image

Higher spending towards public healthcare, incentives for research and development and tax exemptions for more life-saving drugs are among the key demands of pharmaceutical and hospital sector executives ahead of the upcoming Union budget.

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For Budget 2025, AMFI proposes uniform rate for surcharge on TDS for NRIs

Healthcare industry executives said expanding the list of life-saving drugs eligible for GST/import duty exemptions will help improve affordability for patients. They want all [oncology medications](#) to get the benefit. Hospital operators urged the

government to reduce customs duties on essential medical equipment and consumables. Tax rates on essential medicines in India vary depending on the type of medicines and whether they are imported or not.







"Increasing public [healthcare spending](#) to at least 2.5% of GDP is crucial for strengthening our infrastructure and ensuring universal coverage," said [Fortis Healthcare](#) managing director and chief executive Ashutosh Raghuvanshi.

Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India director-general Anil Matai urged the government to explore methods to incentivise R&D investments, such as tax deductions on R&D expenses, research-linked incentives for multinationals and [corporate tax concessions](#) to accelerate.

Publication	The Economic Times
Date	20 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Budget 2025: Pharma industry lays out a plan to curb Chinese dependence

Budget 2025: Pharma industry lays out a plan to curb Chinese dependence

By Ashish Pandey, ET Online • Last Updated: Jan 20, 2025, 09:56:00 AM IST

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Synopsis

India's pharmaceutical industry holds immense promise, but experts and stakeholders assert that to unlock its full potential, the Budget 2025 must focus on providing R&D support and checking API imports.



The industry stakeholders call for increasing healthcare expenditure.

India's pharmaceutical industry is booming, recognised as the world's third-largest by volume and 14th by value of production. With exports to over 200 countries, covering 50% of Africa and 40% of the generic demand in the US, and supplying 25% of the UK's medicine requirements, the industry is poised for significant growth, projected to reach \$120-130 billion by 2030 and \$450 billion by 2047.

To achieve this ambitious target, experts emphasise the need for the Union [Budget](#) 2025-2026 to prioritise research and development (R&D) and ease the regulatory framework. Currently, the Indian [pharma](#) industry allocates about 8.4% of its total sales value towards R&D, lower than the global average of 10-11%. To bridge this gap, Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), suggests that the budget should allocate at least 10% of the National Research Fund to life sciences.

Anil Matai, Director General of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), stresses that targeted investments are urgently needed to ensure the competitiveness of new chemical entities. Simplifying the process of obtaining regulatory approvals will also enhance the sector's competitiveness.

The industry stakeholders also call for increasing [healthcare](#) expenditure. For context, the government has set a target to increase healthcare expenditure to 2.5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025, according to India's National Health Policy (2017). "The actual expenditure has been around 1.7% to 1.8% of GDP between 2022 and 2024, which is still below the target. The government should accordingly focus on how to achieve this spend in 2025," adds Matai.

ONLINE & TRADE

Publication	Biospectrum
Date	3 rd January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	OPPI seeks policy-level clarifications for reducing treatment costs from Budget 2025

"To strengthen India's healthcare ecosystem and drive inclusive growth, the upcoming budget must prioritize increased public spending on health initiatives. This includes expanding coverage under the Ayushman Bharat scheme to missing middle, upgrading existing Centers of Excellence, establishing new ones, and enhancing primary healthcare infrastructure.

Policy-level clarifications, such as expanded exemptions for life-saving drugs and oncology medications from import duty are vital for reducing treatment costs. Simplifying Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) procedures, including timelines for swift case resolution, sharing APA authorities' search processes for better negotiations, and ensuring timely renewals without procedural redundancies, will also help improve efficiency and ease of doing business.

Furthermore, expansion of the scope of section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to companies solely engaged in pharmaceutical R&D and providing a 200% deduction rate on R&D expenditures will encourage innovation in the pharma space. Also, mandatory timelines for disposing of appeals particularly by the Income Tax Appellate Authorities and removing turnover criteria for safe harbor provisions for R&D will also encourage innovation and investment. These recommendations are essential to build a robust, equitable, and patient-focused healthcare framework for India's future."

Anil Matai, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI)

Publication	ET Pharma
Date	7 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Budget 2025: Pharma Sector Calls for Tax Breaks, R&D Support, and Patent Box Overhaul

Highlighting other demands, Anil Matai, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) said, “Expanding the scope of Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act, 1961, to companies solely engaged in pharmaceutical R&D will encourage innovation in the pharma space.”

According to official records, Section 115BAB offers newly incorporated manufacturing companies, registered on or after October 1, 2019, the opportunity to benefit from a reduced corporate tax rate of 15 per cent. To claim this benefit, companies must commence manufacturing operations by March 31, 2024. However, there is a 10 per cent surcharge.

Publication	Biovoice
Date	6 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Budget 2025: OPPI seeks special incentives

New Delhi: In its recommendations for the upcoming Budget 2025, the Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) has sought better policies and incentives for the pharma industry from the union government.

“To strengthen India’s healthcare ecosystem and drive inclusive growth, the upcoming budget must prioritize increased public spending on health initiatives. This includes expanding coverage under the Ayushman Bharat scheme to missing middle, upgrading existing Centers of Excellence, establishing new ones, and enhancing primary healthcare infrastructure,” stated Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI.

“Policy-level clarifications, such as expanded exemptions for life-saving drugs and oncology medications from import duty are vital for reducing treatment costs. Simplifying Advance Pricing Agreement (APA) procedures, including timelines for swift case resolution, sharing APA authorities’ search processes for better negotiations, and ensuring timely renewals without procedural redundancies, will also help improve efficiency and ease of doing business,” Matai added further.

“Furthermore, expansion of the scope of section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to companies solely engaged in pharmaceutical R&D and providing a 200% deduction rate on R&D expenditures will encourage innovation in the pharma space. Also, mandatory timelines for disposing of appeals particularly by the Income Tax Appellate Authorities and removing turnover criteria for safe harbor provisions for R&D will also encourage innovation and investment. These recommendations are essential to build a robust, equitable, and patient-focused healthcare framework for India’s future,” concluded Matai.

Publication	Express Pharma
Date	7 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Association leaders share their expectations from Budget 2025-26

Association leaders share their expectations from Budget 2025-26

Union Budget 2025-2026 must prioritise innovation, ease of doing business, and policies that strengthen the life sciences ecosystem

By EP News Bureau — On Jan 7, 2025

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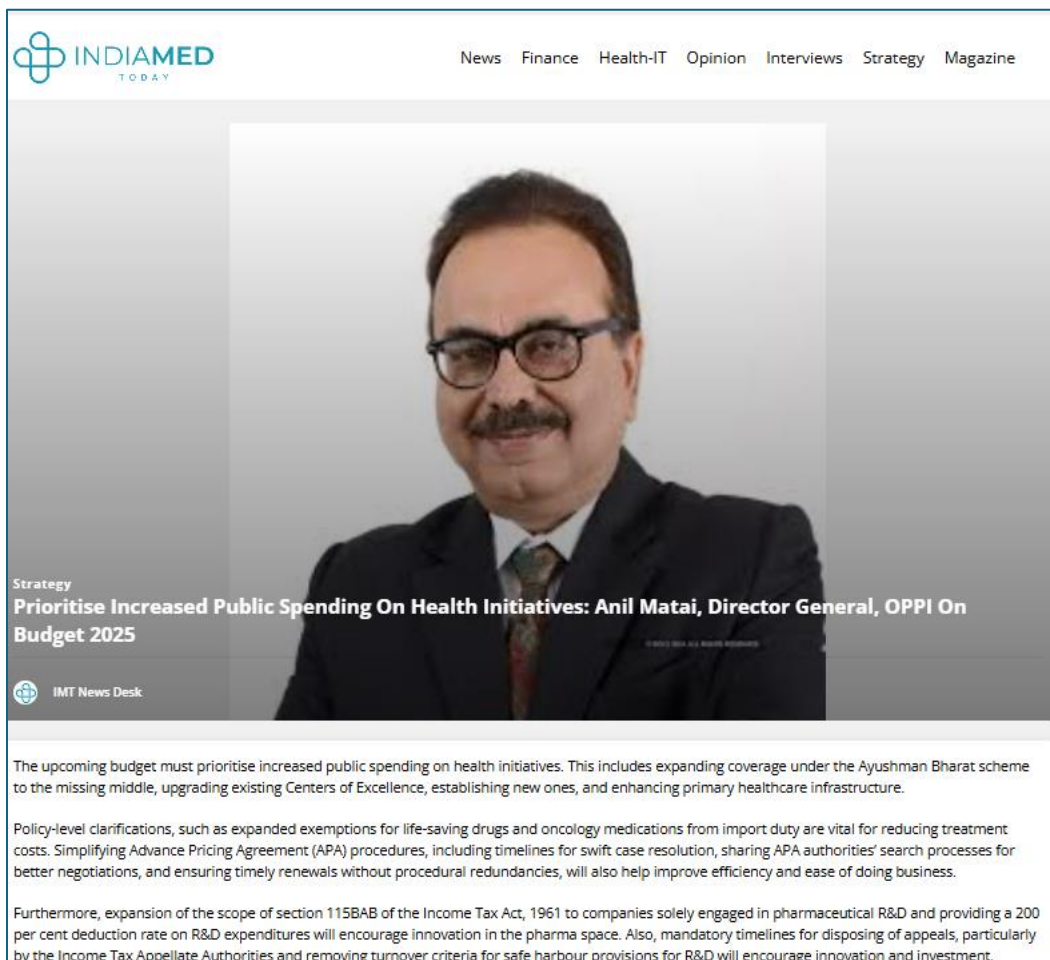
Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI

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Publication	India Med Today
Date	6 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Prioritise increased public spending on health initiatives: Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI on Budget 2025



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Prioritise Increased Public Spending On Health Initiatives: Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI On Budget 2025

IMT News Desk

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Publication	Pharma Outlook
Date	10 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Pharma and Hospital Executives Push for Key Demands in Union Budget 2025

"Increasing public healthcare spending to at least 2.5% of GDP is crucial for strengthening our infrastructure and ensuring universal coverage," said Fortis Healthcare managing director and chief executive Ashutosh Raghuvanshi.

Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India director-general Anil Matai called on the government to investigate ways to encourage **R&D investments**, including tax breaks on R&D costs, incentives linked to research for multinationals, and corporate tax reductions to hasten progress.

"Recognising the high-risk, long-gestation nature of R&D, we suggest extending the scope of Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to companies solely engaged in pharmaceutical research and development and providing a 200% deduction rate on R&D expenditures," he said.

This part of the I-T Act permitted **manufacturing companies** registered on or after October 1, 2019, to choose a reduced corporate tax rate of 15%, as long as they commenced manufacturing activities by March 31, 2024.

Publication	Pharmabiz
Date	18 th January 2025
Edition	Online
Headline	Indian pharma hopes for policy-level clarifications & simplifying APA procedures in Union Budget 2025

Indian pharma hopes for policy-level clarifications & simplifying APA procedures in Union Budget 2025

Nandita Vijayasimha, Bengaluru

Saturday, January 18, 2025, 08:00 Hrs [IST]

Indian pharmaceutical industry, which is a significant contributor to the country's economy, has outlined its expectations for the Union Budget 2025 which will be presented in Parliament on February 1 by finance minister Nirmala Sitaraman. Industry leaders are advocating for policy-level clarifications and simplified procedures, particularly in the realm of Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs), to ensure a more business-friendly environment.

Representing the sector of research-based global pharmaceutical companies in India, Anil Matai, director general, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), said the need of the hour is policy-level clarifications, such as expanded exemptions for life-saving drugs and oncology medications from import duty which are vital for reducing treatment costs. Simplifying APA procedures, including timelines for swift case resolution are also important. Sharing APA authorities' search processes for better negotiations and ensuring timely renewals without procedural redundancies will also help improve efficiency and ease of doing business.

"To strengthen India's healthcare ecosystem and drive inclusive growth, the upcoming budget must prioritize increased public spending on health initiatives. This includes expanding coverage under the Ayushman Bharat scheme to missing middle, upgrading existing Centers of Excellence, establishing new ones, and enhancing primary healthcare infrastructure," he added.

Furthermore, expansion of the scope of Section 115BAB of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to companies solely engaged in pharmaceutical R&D and providing a 200% deduction rate on R&D expenditures will encourage innovation in the pharma space. Also, mandatory timelines for disposing of appeals particularly by the Income Tax Appellate Authorities and removing turnover criteria for safe harbour provisions for R&D will also encourage innovation and investment. These recommendations are essential to build a robust, equitable, and patient-focused healthcare framework for India's future," said the OPPI chief.