

OPPI Coverage Dossier

February 2026

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| Headline | <u>Health Sector Budget 2026 Live Updates: Biotech booster, Regulatory reset and Allied care push steals the show for Healthcare</u> |

Anil Matai Director, General OPPI



▶ 02:40 PM, 01 Feb 2026

Health Sector Budget 2026 Live Updates: Leaders reactions

The proposal to develop regional medical hubs in partnership with the private sector can reinforce India's position as a global medical value destination while strengthening preventive, rehabilitative and continuum-of-care models within the country. Strengthening district hospitals through a 50% increase in emergency and trauma care capacity, alongside the establishment of a second NIMHANS and regional mental health apex centres, addresses critical gaps in last-mile and mental healthcare.

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| Publication | Hindu Businessline |
| Date | 2 February |
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| Headline | Exemption on drugs for cancer, rare disease: Patient-first or minimal benefits? |



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Anil Matai, Director, Director General - Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), said, the “patient-first” intervention reduced the cost burden of advanced, often life-saving therapies for families. “By easing the financial barriers to accessing complex treatments, the Budget meaningfully advances equitable access to care,” as non-communicable diseases such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, and diabetes rise. OPPI represents largely multinational companies.

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| Publication | Express Pharma |
| Date | 2 February |
| Edition | Online |
| Headline | Industry calls Union Budget 2026 a defining moment for India's biopharma future |

Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI:

"The Union Budget's Biopharma Shakti (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) programme is a landmark intervention that signals India's decisive shift toward becoming a global biopharma manufacturing powerhouse. The ₹10,000 crore outlay over five years reflects India's clear long-term vision to build a resilient, innovation-driven, end-to-end biopharmaceutical ecosystem – spanning research, advanced manufacturing, regulatory excellence, and patient access.

The dedicated push for biologics and biosimilars, supported by a biopharma-focused innovation network, positions India strongly in the next wave of complex, high-value therapies. Equally transformative is the investment in talent and scientific capability through the establishment of three new NIPERs and the upgradation of seven existing institutions. OPPI member companies have been collaborating with NIPERs and believe that this investment will significantly strengthen India's research backbone and create a skilled workforce aligned with the needs of advanced pharma science.

Expanding India's clinical research capacity through 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites is a major step toward enhancing trial quality, diversity, and global competitiveness, while also improving early patient access to innovative therapies. Complementing this is the commitment to strengthen CDSCO to global standards, introduce faster approval timelines, implement a dedicated scientific review system, and ensure greater specialist-led evaluations – all of which mark a progressive move toward a more agile, science- based regulatory environment.

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| Publication | Biospectrum |
| Date | 2 February |
| Edition | Online |
| Headline | Industry praises Union Budget 2026 with milestone announcements for biopharma and healthcare ecosystem |

Anil Matal, Director General, OPPI

"The proposed biopharma-focused network, including new and upgraded NIPERs and a nationwide ecosystem of 1,000 accredited clinical trial sites, will significantly reinforce India's research, talent, and translational capabilities. Equally important is the government's focus on strengthening the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which will enable faster, science-led approvals aligned with global regulatory benchmarks."

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| Publication | Pharmabiz |
| Date | 2 February |
| Edition | Online |
| Headline | OPPI sees 2026 as a decisive step towards global biopharma manufacturing leadership |

OPPI sees 2026 as a decisive step towards global biopharma manufacturing leadership

Our Bureau, Bengaluru

Monday, February 2, 2026, 11:30 Hrs [IST]

Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) has noted that the Union Budget 2026 marks a decisive and unambiguous shift towards positioning India as a global biopharma manufacturing powerhouse. By prioritising innovation-led growth through enhanced investments in R&D, world-class manufacturing infrastructure, and progressive regulatory reforms, the Budget sends a clear message of the government's commitment to building a globally competitive, resilient, and future-ready biopharmaceutical ecosystem.

Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI said, "The Union Budget's Biopharma Shakti (Strategy for Healthcare Advancement through Knowledge, Technology and Innovation) programme is a landmark intervention that signals India's decisive shift toward becoming a global biopharma manufacturing powerhouse. The Rs 10,000 crore outlay over five years reflects India's clear long-term vision to build a resilient, innovation-driven, end-to-end biopharmaceutical ecosystem spanning research, advanced manufacturing, regulatory excellence, and patient access".

A particularly impactful measure is the exemption of basic customs duties on 17 cancer drugs and the extension of import duty exemptions to medicines for seven additional rare diseases. This is a strong patient-first intervention that directly reduces the cost burden of advanced, often life-saving therapies for families facing cancer and rare diseases. By easing the financial barriers to accessing complex treatments, the Budget meaningfully advances equitable access to care at a time when the burden of non-communicable diseases such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, and diabetes continues to rise. Importantly, this step also reinforces India's focus on improving access to cutting-edge therapies while fostering a supportive environment for innovation and global collaboration, added Matai.

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| Publication | Biovoice |
| Date | 2 February |
| Edition | Online |
| Headline | Budget 2026: OPPI calls 'Biopharma Shakti' India's leap toward global leadership |

New Delhi: Anil Matai, Director General of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), described the Union Budget's *Biopharma Shakti* programme as a defining moment for India's life sciences sector, one that clearly signals the country's ambition to emerge as a global biopharma manufacturing powerhouse.

According to him, the Rs 10,000 crore allocation spread over five years reflects a strong and deliberate long-term vision. It underscores India's intent to build a resilient, innovation-led and fully integrated biopharmaceutical ecosystem—one that seamlessly connects research and development with advanced manufacturing, regulatory excellence and, ultimately, improved patient access.

Matai highlighted the exemption of basic customs duties on 17 cancer drugs, along with the extension of import duty exemptions to medicines for seven additional rare diseases, as one of the most impactful measures in the Budget. He called it a decisive, patient-first intervention that directly lowers the cost burden of advanced and often life-saving therapies for families grappling with cancer and rare diseases. At a time when non-communicable diseases such as cancer, autoimmune disorders and diabetes are on the rise, he noted that easing financial barriers to complex treatments is a meaningful step toward more equitable access to care. He also pointed out that this move reinforces India's commitment to improving access to cutting-edge therapies while creating a supportive environment for innovation and global collaboration.