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WIRES

Publication	Press Trust of India
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health coverage for all aged 70 yrs and above to bring relief to millions of families: Industry players

Health coverage for all aged 70 yrs and above to bring relief to millions of families: Industry players

NEW DELHI: The government's move to provide health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above will bring much-needed relief to millions of families and is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly, industry players said on Thursday.

The Union Cabinet had on Wednesday approved health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) irrespective of their income, benefiting around six crore senior citizens. The Rs 5 lakh free health insurance cover would benefit senior citizens of around 4.5 crore families.

Publication	IANS Life
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

"It is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly," said Anil Matai, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

"As our elderly population grows, so does the need for specialised geriatric care, and this expansion will enable more families to access essential services without the burden of overwhelming medical expenses," added Dr. Harsh Mahajan, Chair FICCI (Health Services).

Under the scheme, each senior citizen will receive a health card, making it easier for them to access the scheme's services.

Senior citizens aged 70 years and above, belonging to families already covered under the scheme, will get an additional top-up cover up to Rs 5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with the other members of the family who are below the age of 70 years), according to a Cabinet communique.

Meanwhile, Mahajan raised concerns about the potential challenges that smaller and medium-sized hospitals may face with the scheme.

"These institutions often operate on tight margins, and the added pressure of accommodating a larger patient base, especially with senior citizens requiring more intensive care, could strain their resources," he said.

In addition, he also pointed out the need to ensure timely payments as "delays can disrupt cash flow and hinder the ability of these hospitals to maintain the quality of care".

Matai also emphasised the need to also include the people "who are currently excluded from both government and private health insurance schemes, as part of AB PM-JAY".

Publication	Press Trust of India
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	OPPI names Bhushan Akshikar as President

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OPPI names Bhushan Akshikar as President

NEW DELHI: Pharma industry body OPPI on Thursday said it has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its President for two years effective September 26.

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) represents the global research-based pharmaceutical companies in the country.

Akshikar has experience of over 13 years in key leadership roles in GSK across India, the Middle East, Russia CIS and Africa region.

MAINLINES

Publication	The Pioneer
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health Cover for age 70 and above to bring relief to million families: Industry

Health cover for age 70 and above to bring relief to million families: Industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government's move to provide health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above will bring much-needed relief to millions of families and is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly, industry players said on Thursday.

The Union Cabinet had on Wednesday approved health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) irrespective of their income, benefiting around six crore senior citizens. The Rs 5 lakh free

health insurance cover would benefit senior citizens of around 4.5 crore families. Reacting to the announcement, Healthcare industry body NATHEALTH President Abhay Soi said, "We believe this initiative will bring much-needed relief to millions of families and strengthen India's position as a leader in inclusive healthcare."

The benefit package needs to be tailored to the population segment so that it encompasses the entire continuum of care, he said, adding that NATHEALTH is ready to support the government with the rollout. Similarly, Organisation of

Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Anil Matai described the initiative as "a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly."

"It is undoubtedly a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem and OPPI welcomes the move," he added.

Matai further said that while this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the 'Missing Middle,' those who are currently excluded from both government and private



health insurance schemes, as "These individuals represent part of the AB PM-JAY. a segment that must be

brought into the fold of financial protection," he asserted.

Welcoming the government's move, Medical Technology Association of India (MTAI) Chairman Pavan Choudary said the decision to extend health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above – irrespective of income under AB PM-JAY is commendable. "MTAI, having consistently advocated for this inclusion, recognises this move as a landmark step toward equitable healthcare for India's ageing population," he added.

Paras Health Group Chief Operating Officer Santy Sajjan described the government's

step as a much-needed step towards ensuring that India's elderly population has access to essential healthcare services.

"As India's senior population grows, the demand for geriatric care is increasing, and this initiative is a timely response to that need. By providing comprehensive health coverage to our senior citizens, the scheme not only alleviates the financial burden on families but also reinforces the importance of accessible healthcare for all age groups," he added.

Similarly, FICCI (Health Services) President Harsh Mahajan said, "As our elderly population grows, so does the

need for specialised geriatric care, and this expansion will enable more families to access essential services without the burden of overwhelming medical expenses."

However, he said, expanding the beneficiary base by such a significant margin presents real-life challenges, particularly regarding the viability of the scheme for smaller and medium-sized hospitals.

"These institutions often operate on tight margins, and the added pressure of accommodating a larger patient base, especially with senior citizens requiring more intensive care, could strain their resources," Mahajan said.

Publication	The Times of India
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed as President of OPPI

Bhushan Akshikar appointed new president of Oppi

Rupali Mukherjee / TNN / Sep 26, 2024, 22:57 IST



Bhushan Akshikar has been named president of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) for a two-year term beginning September 26. He is currently managing director at GSK Pharma and brings over 13 years of leadership ex ...[Read More](#)



NEW DELHI: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents pharma MNCs, has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its president for a term of two years, effective September 26. Akshikar is currently the managing director of GSK Pharma.

FINANCIALS

Publication	Business Standard
Date	11 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	GST cut on key cancer drugs set to boost patient coverage, say experts



Business Standard

Thursday, October 03, 2024 | 09:21 PM IST EN | Hindi

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Economy Finance Personal Finance World News

GST cut on key cancer drugs set to boost patient coverage, say experts

Move is part of ongoing initiatives to reduce financial burden for cancer patients

Publication	Business Standard
Date	11 th September 2024
Edition	Print
Headline	Tax cut on key cancer drugs set to boost patient coverage

Tax cut on key cancer drugs set to boost patient coverage

SOHINI DAS

Mumbai, 10 September

With rising cancer cases in India, the goods and services tax (GST) reduction on key cancer drugs is expected to improve patient access, say experts. The Centre has been implementing multiple measures to alleviate the financial burden of cancer treatment in India. However, the drug industry has recommended extending such exemptions to all rare disease medications.

“We recommend extending these exemptions not only to all cancer medications but also to all rare disease medications. Such initiatives will make a significant difference in the lives of patients across India, enabling better treatment and improving overall health care outcomes,” said Anil Matai, director general of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, which represents multinational drug firms in India.

These innovative drugs are already quite expensive. For example, Enhertu (trastuzumab

deruxtecan) costs ₹18.7 lakh per 5 ml vial; Tagrisso (osimertinib) 40 mg tablets cost ₹1.5 lakh per 10-tablet strip, and Imfinzi (durvalumab) 500 mg injection costs ₹1.89 lakh for a 10 ml vial.

A spokesperson for AstraZeneca, which manufactures these drugs, said, “We are awaiting government notification, but given the reduction of GST from 12 per cent to 5 per cent, the MRP of specified cancer drugs will also decrease accordingly.”

The company said that it will work with its partners to ensure that patients benefit from this change.

Nuvama analysts said that AstraZeneca stands to benefit from the GST reduction on these cancer drugs, as demand is expected to increase. The Union Budget had already provided Customs duty exemptions for these drugs, the analysts added. AstraZeneca shares rose 1 per cent on the BSE on Tuesday.

Currently, generic (or copycat) versions of these drugs are not available in India.

**The industry
battled for
extending such
exemptions to
all rare disease
medications**

More on [business-standard.com](https://www.business-standard.com)

Publication	The Economic Times
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health coverage for all aged 70 yrs and above to bring relief to millions of families: Industry players

Health coverage for all aged 70 yrs and above to
bring relief to millions of families: Industry
players

Publication	Business Standard
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health cover for all above 70 to bring relief to millions: Industry players

Similarly, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Anil Matai described the initiative as "a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly".

"It is undoubtedly a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem and OPPI welcomes the move," he added.

Matai further said that while this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the 'Missing Middle', those who are currently excluded from both government and private health insurance schemes, as part of the AB PM-JAY.

"These individuals represent a segment that must be brought into the fold of financial protection," he asserted.

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"MTAI, having consistently advocated for this inclusion, recognises this move as a landmark step toward equitable healthcare for India's ageing population," he added.

Publication	The Financial Express
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed as President of OPPI

Bhushan Akshikar appointed as President of OPPI

Before joining GSK, Bhushan spent 15 years with Janssen, Johnson & Johnson, in local and regional positions in India, South Korea and Belgium.

Written by [Health Desk](#)

September 26, 2024 16:53 IST



Publication	The Hindu Business Line
Date	27 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	OPPI appoints GSK-chief as new president

OPPI appoints GSK-chief as new president

Updated - September 27, 2024 at 09:21 PM.

Bhushan Akshikar is the new President of OPPI

BY EL MUMBAI BUREAU

COMMENTS SHARE READ LATER



Bhushan Akshikar, Managing Director of GlaxosmithKline Pharmaceuticals

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) has appointed GlaxosmithKline Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Bhushan Akshikar as its President, for two years from September 26, 2024.

Publication	The Hindu Business Line
Date	28 th September 2024
Edition	Print
Headline	GSK chief named pharma producers' body president

QUICKLY.

GSK chief named pharma producers' body president



Mumbai: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India has appointed GlaxosmithKilne Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Bhushan Akshikar as its President, for two years from September 26, 2024. Bhushan has over 13 years leadership experience in GSK across India, Middle East, Russia CIS & Africa. OUR BUREAU

ONLINE AND TRADE

Publication	Navlin Newsletter
Date	1 st September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Indian Clinical Trail Waiver Could Speed up Patient Access to Critical Drugs

NAVLIN Insight: Indian's Clinical Trial Waiver Could Speed up Patient Access to Critical Drugs

Dhriti Gupta

NAVLIN BRIEF:

- The Indian government has decided to waive local clinical trials for certain products, including orphan drugs and cell and gene therapy (CGT) products, given that they are already approved in "well-regulated" markets, such as the U.S., UK, EU, Japan, Australia or Canada.
- The move has the potential to expedite patient access, reducing the process by up to three to four years. In a written statement to NAVLIN Daily, Anil Matai, Director General of the Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), welcomed the decision, adding: "This progressive move will significantly benefit domestic and foreign drug manufacturers by expediting the approval process and facilitating faster access to essential medications for Indian patients."
- However, a Global Trade Research Initiative Report (GTRI) argues that waiving clinical trials, especially for drugs introduced for the first time in India, could pose significant risks to patient safety. Additionally, concerns have been raised around the waiver's impact on the domestic industry, as local companies may face increased competition from imported drugs.

THE DETAILS

NEW DELHI, India – The Indian government has announced a **waiver** for local clinical trials for orphan drugs, cell and gene therapy (CGT) products, drugs for pandemics and defense, and those with significant therapeutic advantages. India's drug regulatory agency, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), has authorized the exemption of local clinical trials for approval of new drugs, if they are already approved in "well-regulated" markets.

In a written statement to NAVLIN Daily, Anil Matai, Director General of the Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), welcomed the "decision to notify the list of countries under Rule 101 of the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019, that would subject to other conditions, enable waiver of the requirements of local clinical trials for several drugs if already approved in well-regulated markets."

The waiver applies to drugs already approved in countries with stringent regulatory frameworks, such as the United States (U.S.), United Kingdom (UK), European Union (EU), Japan, Canada, and Australia. The aim of the waiver is to promote equity by ensuring that patients with rare diseases receive attention and resources.

"This progressive move will significantly benefit domestic and foreign drug manufacturers by expediting the approval process and facilitating faster access to essential medications for Indian patients," said Matai.

Rule 101

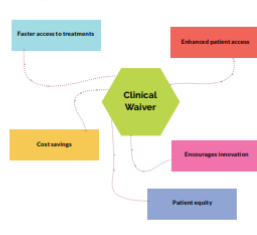
With the waiver of **Rule 101**, the time required for drug approvals for the drugs included in the waiver in India will be reduced by up to three to four years. The initiative aims to close this gap by allowing immediate access to drugs that

have demonstrated efficacy and safety in other regulated markets.

As per the "New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019" rule, the Central Licensing Authority (CLA), with the approval of the Central Government, may specify by order the name of the countries from time to time that will consider waiving local clinical trials for the approval of new drugs under Chapter X and for the grant of permission for the conduct of clinical trials under Chapter V of the said rules.

Implementing this rule could ensure faster availability of the latest treatments for diseases like cancer, rare conditions like Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), and autoimmune disorders.

Benefits



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DG Matai told NAVLIN Daily that OPPI has advocated for this change, recognizing its potential to transform the country's pharmaceuticals and healthcare landscape. "This strategic alignment is crucial for accelerating access to innovative therapies for patients in India," he added.

The Times of India report cites some examples, such as Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, already approved in the U.S. for treating leukemia and could see expedited approval in India. Similarly, Trodelvy (sacituzumab govitecan), a treatment for advanced breast cancer, which is not currently available in India, may soon become accessible.

The government's decision also has economic benefits.

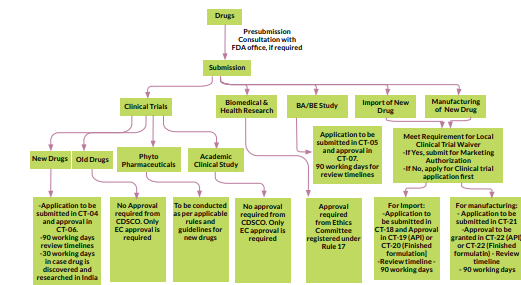
Official sources confirmed to Indian news site

Devdiscourse that by aligning regulatory standards with leading global drug regulators, India could emerge as a

more attractive destination for pharmaceutical research and development. With local clinical trials reduced, public procurement costs for government schemes like the Central Government Health Scheme and Ayushman Bharat (flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme) are expected to be reduced, and savings will be passed on to patients.

Regulatory Pathway

In 2019, India introduced new regulations for clinical trials through the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019. These rules streamline the approval process for clinical trials with set timelines (30 days for domestic and 90 days for global trials), mandating compensation for trial-related injuries or deaths and requiring Ethics Committee approval for participant protection.



Concerns

In a **Global Trade Research Initiative Report (GTRI)**, experts argue that waiving clinical trials, especially for drugs introduced for the first time in India, could pose significant risks to patient safety.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, told Pharmabiz, "Rigorous regulatory oversight is paramount to ensure the policy change does not compromise patient safety. Countries from which these drugs will be imported are known for their stringent regulatory processes."

"Moreover, existing Indian clinical trial rules state that a waiver is contingent on specific conditions: new drug must have no major adverse events; there is no evidence of differences in the Indian population related

to enzymes, genes, or other factors affecting the drug's pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, safety, and efficacy; and the applicant must commit to a phase 4 clinical trial on the design approved by the CLA to establish the drug's safety and effectiveness," added Mazumdar-Shaw.

The report highlights that the waiver could disadvantage domestic firms and Contract Research Organizations (CROs) in India. With international firms entering the Indian market more easily, local companies may face increased competition. The Indian industry, known mostly for its generic drug production, may face increased pressure to innovate and adapt to an increasingly open market for foreign competition.

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Publication	Express Pharma
Date	3 rd September 2024
Edition	Online + Print (Magazine)
Headline	Making sustainability sustainable



Pursuing green certifications, can enhance a company's credibility and demonstrate a commitment to environmental responsibility, thereby, attracting investors and partners interested in supporting sustainable initiatives

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



To further incentivise the sector, the government should introduce green subsidies, tax breaks, and low-interest loans for eco-friendly technologies. Focus on sustainability is fundamental for all organisations and this will contribute to sustainable performance from a long-term perspective

Sudarshan Jain
Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance

Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, which represents large Indian pharma companies, summed up this evolution, saying, "Sustainability is a strategic priority for pharma companies as the sector involves a significant environmental footprint. IPA members are advancing green practices including sustainable supply chains, efficient technologies, carbon neutrality, waste management, and energy and water conservation practices. Financial sustainability, achieved by integrating ESG principles, ensures long-term stability and growth."

Anil Matai, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents India subsidiaries of MNC pharma companies, believes that true sustainability involves

adopting a long-term perspective that prioritises the well-being of both the people and the planet. This entails a dedication to social, environmental, and civic responsibilities that go well beyond immediate gains. OPPI's publication titled, Putting the Country First Taking the Country Far, lists the efforts of OPPI member companies.

Publication	BioVoice
Date	11 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	<u>Stakeholders welcome gov't's decision to slash GST rate on cancer drugs from 12% to 5%</u>

New Delhi: The GST council has decided to reduce Goods and Service Tax (GST) on cancer drugs namely, Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab from 12% to 5%.

The decision was taken in the 54th GST Council meeting chaired by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held in New Delhi on September 09, 2024.

Welcoming the move, Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI said: "We commend the Government's decision to reduce the GST rate on certain cancer drugs from 12% to 5%. This reduction marks a pivotal step in making life-saving treatments more affordable and accessible. We at the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) applaud this decision by the GST Council. To further improve patient outcomes and ensure comprehensive access, we recommend extending such exemptions not only to all cancer medications but also to all rare diseases medications. Such initiatives will make a significant difference in the lives of patients across India, enabling better treatment and improving overall healthcare outcomes."

Publication	ET Healthworld
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Government extends Ayushman Bharat to all seniors aged 70+: A game-changer for elderly healthcare

Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI, expressed, "It is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly and is a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem... It underlines the importance of including the 'Missing Middle', those who are currently excluded from both government and private health insurance schemes."

Publication	Express Healthcare
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Industry reacts to the health coverage announcement for senior citizens under AB-PMJAY

Anil Matai, Director General, OPPI

“The Union Cabinet’s visionary decision, chaired by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to extend health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly. It is undoubtedly a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem and OPPI welcomes the move.

While this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the ‘Missing Middle’, those who are currently excluded from both government and private health insurance schemes, as part of AB PM-JAY and as recommended by the NITI Aayog in its 2021 Report titled ‘Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle’. These individuals represent a segment that must be brought into the fold of financial protection.

OPPI remains committed to supporting such transformative policies, with the aim of advancing equitable healthcare access for all citizens.”

Publication	Outlook Business
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health Coverage For all Aged 70 Years And Above To Bring Relief To Millions Of Families: Industry Players

Similarly, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Anil Matai described the initiative as "a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly".

"It is undoubtedly a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem and OPPI welcomes the move," he added.

Matai further said that while this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the 'Missing Middle', those who are currently excluded from both government and private health insurance schemes, as part of the AB PM-JAY.

"These individuals represent a segment that must be brought into the fold of financial protection," he asserted.

Publication	MSN
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Edition	Online
Headline	Health coverage for all aged 70 yrs and above to bring relief to millions of families: Industry players

Industry experts also hailed the government’s decision noting that it will boost the health of older adults.

“It is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly,” said Anil Matai, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

Publication	Newsdrum
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health coverage for all aged 70 yrs and above to bring relief to millions of families: Industry players

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Publication	rediff Moneywiz
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health Coverage for Seniors: Relief for Millions - Industry Reactions

Similarly, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) Director General Anil Matai described the initiative as "a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly".

"It is undoubtedly a crucial step towards fostering a more inclusive healthcare ecosystem and OPPI welcomes the move," he added.

Matai further said that while this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the 'Missing Middle', those who are currently excluded from both government and private health insurance schemes, as part of the AB PM-JAY.

Publication	Republic World
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Health coverage for all aged 70 yrs and above to bring relief to millions of families: Industry play

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Matai further said that while this initiative marks a major advancement in healthcare accessibility, OPPI takes this opportunity to emphasise the importance of including the 'Missing Middle', those who are currently excluded from both government and private health insurance schemes, as part of the AB PM-JAY.

Publication	Devdiscourse
Date	12 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Government Expands Health Coverage for Seniors Aged 70 and Above

Similarly, OPPI Director General Anil Matai lauded the decision as a milestone for elderly healthcare. He also highlighted the necessity to include the 'Missing Middle'—those not covered by any health insurance—in future schemes. MTai Chairman Pavan Choudary and Paras Health Group COO Santy Sajan also commended the initiative, underscoring the growing need for geriatric care due to India's ageing population.

Publication	Sakshi Post
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

Industry experts also hailed the government's decision noting that it will boost the health of older adults.

"It is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly," said Anil Matai, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI).

"As our elderly population grows, so does the need for specialised geriatric care, and this expansion will enable more families to access essential services without the burden of overwhelming medical expenses," added Dr. Harsh Mahajan, President FICCI (Health Services).

Publication	NDTV
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Hans India
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Dainik Bhaskar
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Daiji World
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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"As our elderly population grows, so does the need for specialised geriatric care, and this expansion will enable more families to access essential services without the burden of overwhelming medical expenses," added Dr. Harsh Mahajan, President FICCI (Health Services).

Publication	Socialnewx
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Investing.com
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Pune News
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Weeklyvoice
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Under the scheme, each senior citizen will receive a health card, making it easier for them to access the scheme's services.

Publication	Newsroom
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	India Tribune
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Lokmat Times
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Morung Express
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	New Kerala
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	7 in 10 Indians say health cover to all above 70 to significantly benefit elderly: Poll

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Publication	Medical Dialogues
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Poll: 7 in 10 Indians support health cover for those over 70

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Publication	Medical Buyer
Date	13 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Indian diagnostics market to reach Rs 2,324 crore by 2025



Publication	Patrika
Date	14 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Free health treatment: Free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh for people above 70 years of age, 5 out of 7 Indians are happy

स्वास्थ्य

Free health Treatment : 70 साल से ऊपर के लिए 5 लाख तक मुफ्त इलाज, 7 में से 5 भारतीय खुश

Free health Treatment : एक हालिया सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, लगभग 10 में से 7 भारतीयों का मानना है कि आयुष्मान भारत प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (AB PM-JAY) के तहत 70 वर्ष से अधिक उम्र के सभी लोगों को स्वास्थ्य कवरेज देने का सरकार का कदम बुजुर्गों के लिए अत्यधिक लाभकारी होगा।

Publication	Business Today
Date	15 th September 2024
Edition	Print
Headline	Reimagining Healthcare

INDIA@100 • HEALTHCARE

PHOTO BY HARSHK CHHABRA

such as Apollo Hospitals, Max Healthcare, and Fortis Healthcare are infusing big money. The public sector manages about 30% of hospital beds.

Dr Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, MD & CEO of Fortis Healthcare, says technology will allow people to consult doctors over long distances without wasting a day travelling to the nearest big town or another metropolis.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, the gold standard in government healthcare, has integrated telemedicine and offers consultations to people in northeast India and Jammu & Kashmir. The Union Health Ministry's eSanjeevani,

governments was 2.1% of GDP in FY23, better than in previous years but much lower than the global average. The Fifteenth Finance Commission, whose recommendations cover the six years up to March 31, 2026, had recommended a public health expenditure of 2.5% of GDP.

Raghuvanshi says the government has to craft robust policies that support innovation, increase research funding, and improve healthcare delivery systems.

PHARMA REVOLUTION
According to the Department of Pharmaceuticals, India's pharmaceutical sector reached ₹10,790 crore in FY24.

therapies that target the underlying causes of NCDs," Matai says. "Our robust infrastructure, skilled workforce, cost-effective production capabilities, and enabling government policies will significantly expand India's role," Matai says.

India's success as a leading supplier of Covid-19 vaccines during the 2020 pandemic enhanced its reputation as the 'pharmacy of the world'. India is expected to be crucial in research, innovation, and developing next-generation vaccines and therapies. With all this technology invading the sector, managing the carbon footprint cannot be forgotten. Aakash Healthcare's Chaudhry, also its Managing Director, says advances in biotechnology, automation, and digitalisation will enhance pharmaceutical manufacturing efficiency and quality.

A TESTING HUB
The diagnostics sector is also on the rise, driven by the increased prevalence of chronic diseases and a growing demand for early detection. TechSci Research, a management consulting firm, says the Indian diagnostics market will reach ₹2,324 crore by 2025.

Ameera Shah, Executive Chairperson and Whole-time Director of Metropolis Healthcare Ltd, says the diagnostics business will transform into point-of-care testing, which will become more accurate and accessible, especially in rural areas. Diagnostics will mesh with healthcare delivery, significantly increasing diagnostic volumes. Genomics and proteomics will allow doctors to tailor diagnostic solutions for every individual.

Shah says the average number of tests per sample will increase from three to nine or 10. "As technology advances, we will diagnose more diseases at earlier stages," she says.

But Shah notes that diagnostics will require insurance coverage to make them affordable. "Including diagnostic services in medical insurance coverage will ensure that healthcare costs are no longer predominantly out-of-pocket expenses," Shah says.

Shah says public-private collaborations will also be essential in expanding the diagnostics infrastructure.

Veterans such as Dr Harsh Mahajan, Founder and Chairman of Mahajan Imaging & Labs, say PFPs are the need of the hour. "Diagnostics are a very important part of preventive, predictive, and precision medicine, and PPP will take high-quality diagnostics to all parts of the country," says Mahajan, who also chairs the Health Services Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry.

"The current emphasis on the lowest cost has to give way to the realisation amongst the public payer that quality comes at a cost. If financially viable models are developed, the private sector will join the government in providing universal healthcare," he says.

Sometimes, the reaction to a crisis leads to a breakthrough. Covid-19 spurred a mammoth vaccination drive. Although India has had an immunisation programme for decades covering 12 diseases, it never recorded who was vaccinated and who was not.

In 2021, the government could create the Co-WIN platform by tapping into the digital world of Aadhaar's biometric identification number, smartphones, and the QR code boom created by the pandemic. Now, it plans to use the platform to record all vaccinations. And the world wants Co-WIN. ■

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142 | Experts say future healthcare will become more patient-centric and technology-driven

CARING FOR GROWTH

Healthcare Sector

- **₹16.4 lakh crore:** Projected market size by 2025
- **2.1% of GDP:** The government's health expenditure for 2024
- **700,000+:** The total number of healthcare facilities in India
- **1.8 million+:** Total number of hospital beds in the country, with the private sector managing about 70%
- **₹86,175 crore:** The estimated expenditure of the Department of Health and Family Welfare in 2023-24, according to the government

Pharmaceutical Sector

- **Size:** According to the Economic Survey 2023, the Indian pharmaceutical industry is experiencing rapid growth, and is projected to reach \$450 billion (₹37,350 crore) by 2047
- **Key Focus Areas:** Digital health, personalised medicine, AI and robotics, innovative therapies for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and combination therapies
- **Role in Global Market:** India's reputation as a leading pharma manufacturing hub is expected to grow, with an emphasis on sustainability and next-generation vaccines and therapies

Diagnostics Sector

- **Size:** The sector is estimated to grow to ₹2,324 crore by 2025
- **Growth Areas:** Point-of-care testing, advancements in genomics and proteomics, integration of digital diagnostics, and increase in diagnostic tests per sample
- **Future Role:** India is expected to become a major hub for specialised medical testing, driven by advancements in genomics, microbiology, and molecular diagnostics

Business Today | 15 September 2024
Business Today | 15 September 2024

Publication	BioSpectrum
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar steps in as OPPI President

Bhushan Akshikar steps in as OPPI President

26 September 2024 | News

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Bhushan is the Vice President & Managing Director of GSK India



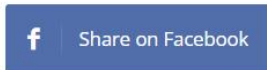
Publication	BioVoice
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed as OPPI President

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By **BioVoice Correspondent** - September 26, 2024

55 0



Publication	Express Pharma
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed OPPI President

Bhushan Akshikar appointed OPPI President

Current President Suresh Pattathil, Managing Director and General Manager, AbbVie India passes the baton on to Bhushan Akshikar

 By EP News Bureau — On Sep 26, 2024

LATEST UPDATES



Publication	NDTV Profit
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	OPPI Appoints Bhushan Akshikar As President For Two-Year Term

OPPI Appoints Bhushan Akshikar As President For Two-Year Term

Akshikar has experience of over 13 years in key leadership roles in GSK across India, the Middle East, Russia CIS and Africa region.

PTI

26 Sep 2024, 05:27 PM IST



Pharma industry body OPPI on Thursday said it has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its President for two years effective Sept. 26. The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India represents the global research-based pharmaceutical companies in the country.

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Before joining GSK, Akshikar spent 15 years with Janssen, Johnson & Johnson, in local and regional positions in India, South Korea and Belgium.

Publication	BW People
Date	30 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar named OPPI President

Bhushan Akshikar Named OPPI President

 BW Online Bureau |  Sep 27, 2024

Bhushan Akshikar

OPPI President

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Publication	Medgate Today
Date	27 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed OPPI President

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Current President Suresh Pattathil, Managing Director and General Manager, AbbVie India passes the baton on to Bhushan Akshikar. Bhushan is the Vice President & Managing Director of GSK (GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd) India. The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers...

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 6:12 am 0 71 187 Views SHARE

- *Current President Suresh Pattathil, Managing Director and General Manager, AbbVie India passes the baton on to Bhushan Akshikar.*
- *Bhushan is the Vice President & Managing Director of GSK (GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd) India.*

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents the global research-based pharmaceutical companies in India, has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its President for a term of two years effective 26th September 2024.

Bhushan is a seasoned business leader and has an experience of over 13 years in key leadership roles in GSK across India, Middle East, Russia CIS & Africa region. Before joining GSK, Bhushan spent 15 years with Janssen, Johnson & Johnson, in local and regional positions in India, South Korea and Belgium.

Speaking on his appointment, **Bhushan Akshikar** said, "I am excited and humbled to lead OPPI's vision to collaborate with the Government of India to enhance access with innovation for patients, at such a crucial time for healthcare in our country. Over the years, OPPI's focus has been on collective action to forge a path towards a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable healthcare future for our country. I also extend my gratitude to the members of OPPI's Executive Committee and I look forward to their continued support."

Publication	Medical Dialouges
Date	27 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	OPPI Appoints Bhushan Akshikar As President

OPPI Appoints Bhushan Akshikar As President



Written By Ruchika Sharma — Published On 27 Sept 2024 12:25 PM | Updated On 27 Sept 2024 12:25 PM

Mumbai: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents the global research-based pharmaceutical companies in India, has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its President for a term of two years effective 26th September 2024.

Bhushan is a seasoned business leader and has an experience of over 13 years in key leadership roles in GSK across India, Middle East, Russia CIS & Africa region. Before joining GSK, Bhushan spent 15 years with Janssen, Johnson & Johnson, in local and regional positions in India, South Korea and Belgium.

Speaking on his appointment, Bhushan Akshikar said, “I am excited and humbled to lead OPPI’s vision to collaborate with the Government of India to enhance access with innovation for patients, at such a crucial time for healthcare in our country. Over the years, OPPI’s focus has been on collective action to forge a path towards a more inclusive, innovative, and sustainable healthcare future for our country. I also extend my gratitude to the members of OPPI’s Executive Committee and I look forward to their continued support.”

Publication	Rediff.com
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	OPPI Appoints Bhushan Akshikar as President

OPPI Appoints Bhushan Akshikar as President

By Rediff Money Desk, New Delhi Sep 26, 2024 16:00

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The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its President for two years. Akshikar brings over 28 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry.



Publication	Newsdrum
Date	26 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	OPPI names Bhushan Akshikar as President

OPPI names Bhushan Akshikar as President



NewsDrum Desk
26 Sep 2024 16:05 IST

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New Delhi, Sep 26 (PTI) Pharma industry body OPPI on Thursday said it has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its President for two years effective September 26.

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) represents the global research-based pharmaceutical companies in the country.

Publication	MSN
Date	27 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed new president of OPPI

NEW DELHI: The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), which represents pharma MNCs, has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its president for a term of two years, effective September 26. Akshikar is currently the managing director of GSK Pharma.

Akshikar is a seasoned business leader and has over 13 years of experience in key leadership roles in GSK across India, the Middle East, Russia CIS, and the Africa region. Before joining GSK, Bhushan spent 15 years with Janssen, Johnson & Johnson, in local and regional positions in India, South Korea, and Belgium.

Publication	IndiaMed Today
Date	27 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed as OPPI President

People

Bhushan Akshikar appointed as OPPI President

 IMT News Desk 3 days ago

Akshikar is the Vice President & Managing Director of GSK (GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd) India

The Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) has appointed Bhushan Akshikar as its President for a term of two years.

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Publication	HR Today
Date	27 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar Appointed as President of OPPI India

Bhushan Akshikar Appointed as President of OPPI India



BY SMITA SINGH in Asia, Business, India, News

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Bhushan Akshikar Appointed as President of OPPI India

Publication	lbc24.in
Date	27 th September 2024
Edition	Online
Headline	Bhushan Akshikar appointed as President of OPPI

ओपीपीआई ने भूषण अक्षीकर को अध्यक्ष नियुक्त किया

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:Bhasha

Modified Date: September 26, 2024 / 08:12 PM , Published Date : September 26, 2024/8:12 pm

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