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Expectations from Budget 2019- Abhi Gholap

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The concept of ‘Make in India’ by the Government was much admired initiative, but now they should also initiate ‘Make in India and Use in India’ a Must effort too. Some positive steps have been undertaken to make healthcare more affordable and equitable such as price controls on medical devices and adjustments to import duty structures on raw materials and equipment. However, granting infrastructure status, providing backward area benefits, tax incentives, and subsidies are needed to increase investments, especially in tier 3 regions as well as rural, backward and remote areas.

Under the GST regime, healthcare services should continue to be exempt from taxes. Compared to developed nation, Digital Healthcare is the need of time in India. So, to make healthcare more affordable, high taxes levied on inputs such as consumables as well as on medical equipment (in the range of 12-18%) need to be reduced.