



## 1 National policy for rare diseases

Rare diseases are those which affects very less number of individuals in the overall population and very less number of diseases have medicines to treat them.

- Medicines used to treat such rare diseases are classified as **orphan drugs**.
- Budget 2026 has exempted import duty on such rare disease drugs.
- National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD), 2021 classifies diseases into three categories and have a upper limit for government assistance in each category.
- ICMR's National Registry for Rare and Other Inherited Disorders has been created to facilitate crowdfunding.

### Who approves the addition?

63 Rare Diseases are included under National Policy for Rare Diseases on recommendation of Central Technical Committee for Rare Diseases under Directorate General of Health Services.

## 2 Biologics

**Biologics are medications derived from living organisms (human, animal, or microorganisms) rather than chemical synthesis.**

- We require living cells to produce biologics because only living cells reproduce living organisms.
- Biologics medicines include blood products, vaccines. stem cell therapy etc.

### Benefits:

- Can help in treatment of rare diseases or diseases without proper medicines available now like cancer or genetic diseases.
- It will help in controlling pandemic situation like the recent corona disease, by controlling the rapid spread.

### Challenge:

- Scientists can't simply manufacture them like normal drugs because they can be produced only in living cells.
- Immune reaction can happen since these medicines mimic living organisms.

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### 3 Turtle trails in India

Union budget 2026 has proposed the establishment of Turtle trails .

- It is proposed to be established along key nesting sites in the coastal areas of Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala.

#### How a good initiative

The existing mechanisms of local and NGO involvement in turtle conservation if regularised will greatly benefit local communities.

#### Turtles in India

- Five species of sea turtles are found in Indian: **Olive Ridley, Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, and Leatherback.**
- Odisha coast (**Gahirmatha, Devi River mouth, Rushikulya**) is famous for the *arribada* (mass nesting) of Olive Ridley turtles.
- Threats: Killed for meat. Eggs and used as pets.



#### Key difference between turtle and tortoise

**Turtles** spends all its time in water and only comes to land to lay eggs while **Tortoise** spends all its life on land.