

Daily Editorial Analysis

30 Aug 2021



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A good start: On rare diseases and government support for treatment

The article emphasizes the need to secure every citizen's well-being, irrespective of whether they form a part of the majority or not. The recent notification of the National Policy for Rare Diseases 2021 is considered a good start as it offers financial support for the one-time treatment of up to ₹20 lakh.

However, the policy lags on some crucial fronts in its final form. While WHO identifies 7000 rare diseases, the Organization for Rare Diseases India only includes inherited cancers, autoimmune disorders, congenital malformations, Hirschsprung's disease, Gaucher disease, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophies and Lysosomal Storage Disorders (LSDs) in the policy.

Though many efforts have been invested in evolving formal definitions to support the development of drugs and improve research on rare diseases, the policy allocates no funds for immediate and lifelong treatment needs.

Suppose the Centre succeeds in working out the cost-sharing agreements with Kerala. In that case, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, its share of the annual costs can be halved, and this way, it would be able to cement its commitment towards the welfare of citizens.

Words to look out for

Cement:

- **Synonyms:** concrete, grout, affix
- **Antonyms:** divide, split, assail
- **Word usage:** Lying under oath, the banker's untruthfulness was all that was needed to cement his already doomed fate.

Corpus:

- **Synonyms:** principal, body, collection
- **Antonyms:** quintessence, subordinate idea, secondary
- **Word usage:** At the bottom of the writer's desk, a corpus of never-published manuscripts was found.

Salutary:

- **Synonyms:** beneficial, healthy, advantageous
- **Antonyms:** damaging, noxious, harmful
- **Word usage:** The vitamins have had a salutary influence on John by giving him more energy.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-good-start-the-hindu-editorial-on-government-support-for-continual-treatment-of-those-with-rare-diseases/article34239498.ece>

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Find the right balance: India-Russia ties are important, but so is the Quad Inbox

The article revolves around the idea of finding the right balance between the India-Russia relationship. Keeping the fact in mind that Russia is a Quad opponent for its allied interests with China, it also has a long history of defence cooperation with India. It has discussions underway to manufacture its military equipment in India and strengthen the Make in India initiative.

The primary reason for the emergence of this challenging situation is China, India's leading strategic rival, and its expansion moves in eastern Ladakh. These reasons have left India with no choice but to align with the US and like-minded democracies to combat China's aggressive approach.

To improve the situations, Russia must impose a limit to China's aggressive posture. But given the state, China is in a stronger position than Russia, leaving it with no choice but to allow India's participation in the Quad. Meanwhile, India can continue business with Russia suiting the national interest for striking the right balance of the mutual relationship.

Words to look out for

Juncture:

- **Synonyms:** Junction, joint, moment
- **Antonyms:** partition, division
- **Word usage:** At this juncture, we cannot continue with the project because of a lack of funding.

Predicament:

- **Synonyms:** plight, difficulty, quandary
- **Antonyms:** luck, benefit, ease
- **Word usage:** Many students find themselves in the predicament of not being able to afford college.

Crosshairs:

- **Synonyms:** sight, target, difficult spot
- **Antonyms:** infield, peripheral
- **Word usage:** By speaking out against the politician, the celebrity put herself in the crosshairs of public scrutiny.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/find-right-balance-india-russia-ties-are-important-but-so-is-the-quad-inbox/>

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