



Rare Disease Care in Assam

- **Designation as Centre of Excellence (CoE):**
The Assam Medical College & Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh, has been officially designated as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Rare Diseases under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD).
- **Regional Significance:**
 - This is the first CoE in Assam and the second in the entire Northeast region.
 - Nationwide, there are now 15 Centres of Excellence, making AMCH part of a select network.
 - The initiative is expected to bridge healthcare gaps in one of the most underserved regions for rare disease management.
- **Patient Care & Facilities:**
 - The CoE will provide advanced diagnostic facilities, specialized clinical care, and multidisciplinary treatment options.
 - It will serve as a referral hub for complex cases from across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Meghalaya.
 - Access to financial support under NPRD will be streamlined for patients registered with the centre.
- **Policy & Support:**
 - The NPRD emphasizes early diagnosis, genetic counseling, and financial assistance.
 - AMCH will now coordinate with the Centre's digital patient registry to track rare disease cases and outcomes.
 - Collaboration with patient groups and NGOs is planned to improve awareness and reduce delays in treatment.

- **Impact:**

- India has an estimated 70–96 million rare disease patients, with more than 450 identified rare disorders.
- Until now, patients in Assam had to travel to far-off metros like Delhi, Bengaluru, or Kolkata for advanced care.
- This CoE will reduce travel burden, lower treatment costs, and bring hope to families struggling with rare conditions.

👉 This marks a landmark moment for Northeast India's healthcare system, positioning Dibrugarh as a key hub for specialized rare disease management.