



# START YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE BEST

## INDIA'S TOP MOST CIVIL SERVANTS FOR COACHING

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## J&J WAIVES TB DRUG PATENT RIGHTS

**CONTEXT:** Johnson & Johnson won't enforce Sirturo (bedaquiline) patents in 134 low-middle-income countries due to global pressure.

**BACKGROUND:** Bedaquiline, a breakthrough drug for tuberculosis (TB), has gained global approval after 40 years, offering a less toxic and more effective treatment. This approval opens the door to affordable generic versions for drug-resistant TB patients in low- and middle-income countries, reflecting the advocacy efforts of TB activists and prioritizing public health over corporate interests, according to the Access Campaign, a part of Médecins Sans Frontières.



### HIGHLIGHTS

- J&J faced pressure to drop secondary patents on a tuberculosis drug in India after losing a monopoly extension attempt.

- South African Competition Commission's investigation intensified this pressure.
- The Access Campaign urges Otsuka to follow suit with another TB drug, Delamanid, as its primary patent nears expiration in India.
- Delamanid is crucial for treating drug-resistant TB, especially in children.
- Indian companies, including Lupin, Natco, and Macleods, plan to release generic versions of bedaquiline.

### Health Ministry refutes TB drug shortage reports

The Indian government has refuted media reports of an anti-tuberculosis medicine shortage, asserting that all necessary drugs are adequately stocked. The Union Health Ministry clarified the availability of drugs for drug-sensitive and multidrug-resistant TB cases, along with procurement processes for the future.

The National TB Elimination Programme manages drug procurement and distribution centrally, with some local procurement in exceptional cases. Adequate stocks of key TB medications are assured, including Moxifloxacin, Pyridoxine, Delamanid, and Clofazimine.

### Bedaquiline

- Bedaquiline is an antibiotic medication used to treat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) when other treatments have failed.
- It works by targeting mycobacterial ATP synthase, disrupting the energy production of the TB bacteria.
- Bedaquiline is usually taken in combination with other TB drugs for a comprehensive treatment regimen.
- Common side effects include nausea, joint pain, and headaches.
- Due to its potential for cardiac effects, patients taking bedaquiline need close monitoring of their heart health during treatment.

# WE AIM TO INSPIRE YOU

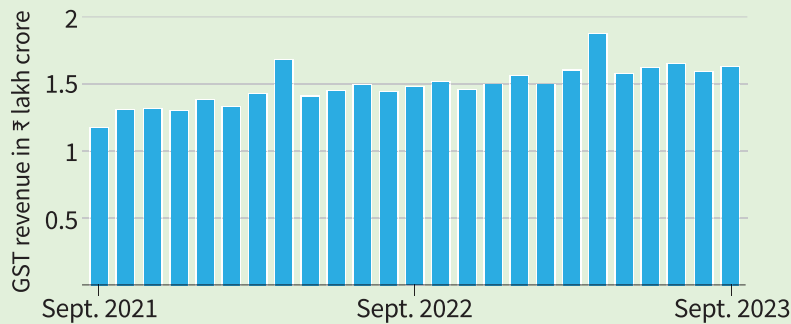
## ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

## GROSS GST REVENUE GROWTH SLOWED TO 10.2% IN SEPT.

**CONTEXT:** India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue growth slowed to a 27-month low of 10.2 % in September, from around 10.8% in the previous two months.

## Revenue check

Goods and Services Tax collections rose to ₹1.63 lakh crore in September 2023, 10.2% higher than September 2022



GST revenue collections improved 2.3% over August revenues to touch ₹1,62,712 crore. This is the fourth time that the gross GST kitty has crossed the ₹1.60 lakh crore mark in 2023-24. GST compensation cess inflows were ₹11,613 crore, including ₹881 crore collected on the import of goods. The government has settled ₹33,736 crore to CGST and ₹27,578 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of September, 2023 after regular settlement is ₹63,555 crore for CGST and ₹65,235 crore for the SGST.

GST revenues, based on transactions carried out in August, included Central GST (CGST) collections of ₹29,818

crore, State GST (SGST) of ₹37,657 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) of ₹83,623 crore, which included ₹41,145 crore collected on goods imports.

Revenues from domestic transactions, including services imports, were 14% higher than the tax collected from these sources during September 2022. GST inflows from goods imports had recovered from two months of contraction to grow 3% in August, but dropped 0.11% from last September.

The last time that GST revenues grew at a slower pace was in June 2021, when collections rose a mere 2% amid the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The revenues in that month were based on domestic transactions between June 5 and July 5, since taxpayers were given various relief measures in the form of waivers and reduction in interest on delayed filings for firms with an aggregate turnover up to ₹5 crore.

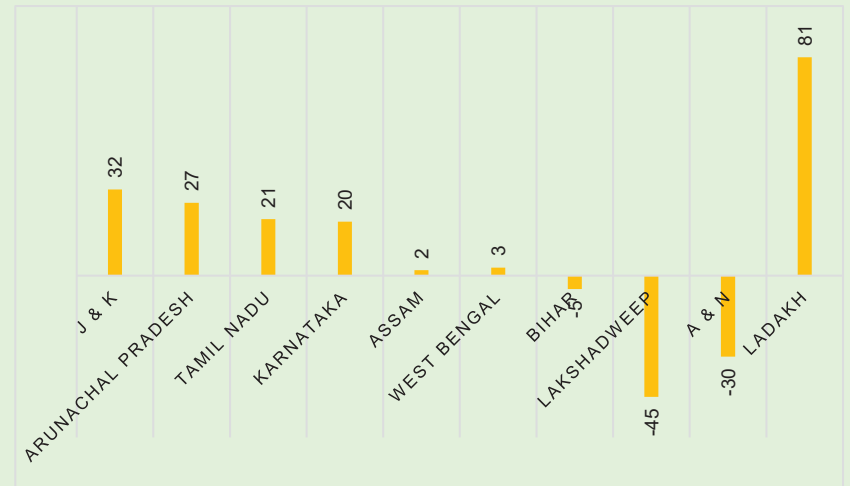


FIGURE: Column chart representation of the GST revenue growth rates.

## ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

## OIL FIRMS RAISE ATF AND COMMERCIAL LPG PRICES

**CONTEXT:** Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) raised the price of commercial cooking gas by ₹209 a cylinder in the fourth monthly

## Dearer fuel

Price of jet fuel increased by ₹5,779.84 per kilolitre, or 5.1 per cent, in the national capital to ₹118,199.17 per kl

- The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) increased by 5% in the fourth consecutive hike since July. This price increase is expected to impact airfares as approximately 40% of ticket price is attributed to ATF price

may lead to higher expenses for hotels and restaurants

- The price of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder that had been slashed in August has remained unchanged

- The rates of 19-kg commercial cooking gas (LPG) were raised by ₹209. This hike

- The Union Cabinet approved 75 lakh new LPG connections under the Ujjwala scheme in September



increase since July and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), or jet fuel by 5%. The price of a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder though remains unchanged.

A 19-kg cylinder now costs ₹1,731.50 in Delhi, ₹1,684 in Mumbai, and ₹1,898 in Chennai. The latest increase largely reverses the cut of ₹157.5 a cylinder made on September 1 and the ₹100 cut on August 1. The increase in prices of commercial LPG may add to the expenses of commercial establishments such as hotels and restaurants.

The revision in rates of ATF is expected to lead to a rise in airfares ahead of the festive season. Airlines attribute approximately 40% of the ticket price to fuel costs. ATF prices are notified on the first of every month by state-owned fuel retailers. They are revised based on the average international price in the previous month. The ATF price has now increased to ₹1,18,199.17 a kilolitre (kl) in Delhi, ₹1,22,423.92 in Chennai, and ₹1,10,592.31 in Mumbai for domestic airlines. ATF prices had seen their steepest-ever hike of 14.1% in September, an 8.5% hike in August and 1.6% in July. After Sunday's increase, jet fuel prices have gone up by a whopping ₹29,391.08 per kl.

## ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

## HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monthly Bulletin in September, the households' net financial savings had fallen to 5.1 % from 11.5 % in 2020-21. Households' financial liabilities rose faster than their assets.

**OPTIMISTIC CLAIM:** There is evidence to support the government's narrative of a shift from financial to physical assets. There has been an increase in household construction during the post-COVID period. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, the construction sector was the fastest growing sector, growing at nearly 15% (when measured in 2011-12 prices), and 10% between 2021-22 and 2022-23. Only the trade, hotels, transport and communications sector grew faster in the latter period. Housing loans from Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) grew at double-digit rates in all years between 2018-19 and 2022-23, with loans from housing finance companies growing almost 17 times between 2019-20 and 2022-23.

Liabilities in other non-financial assets have also increased. Education and vehicle loans from SCBs increased significantly between 2021-22 and 2022-23, growing at 17% and around 25% respectively. The share of physical assets — excluding gold and silver — is almost 60% of households' total net savings, with the share of financial savings reducing from 39.6% in 2017-18 to 38.77% in 2021-22. Households took advantage of the low interest rates set by the RBI in the wake of the pandemic to purchase non-financial assets such as houses.

**PESSIMISTIC CLAIM:** The fall in household net financial savings was driven largely by a rise in liabilities. Gross financial assets declined marginally as a share of GDP between 2021-22 and 2022-23 from 11.1% to 10.9%. Gross liabilities, remaining steady at roughly 3.8% of GDP between 2019-20 and 2021-22, increased to 5.8% of GDP in 2022-23. This rise in liabilities would not imply households have reduced savings if increasing loans financed the construction and purchase of homes. However, there is evidence to the contrary. While loans for housing, education and vehicles have no doubt increased, other components of personal loans have risen even faster. The share of housing loans in total non-food personal loans from SCBs — including priority sector lending — has fallen from 51.08% in 2018-19 to 47.4% in 2022-23. The share of education loans has fallen from 3.32% to 2.37%, while vehicle loans have remained constant at around 12%.

Outstanding credit card loans increased from 3.8% to 4.7% over this period, with loans against gold jewellery rising from 1.07% to 2.16%, and the category of "Other Personal Loans" — which excludes loans for purchasing consumer durables — showing the largest rise from 24% to 27.42%. While one cannot say what these loans are being used for, these categories of loans do not necessarily indicate that they are being used solely for asset creation. Households may be taking on credit card debt and taking loans against jewellery to finance consumption. The biggest contributor to the large rise in financial liabilities between 2021-22 and 2022-23 has been loans from non-banking institutions, which grew by almost ten times in just the last year, contributing to 32.1% of the total rise in financial liabilities over this period.

## INTERNAL SECURITY

## AFSPA EXTENDED IN 4 DISTRICTS OF ASSAM

**CONTEXT:** The Assam Police on Sunday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been extended in four districts of the State for six more months.

The AFSPA has been withdrawn from Jorhat, Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao with effect from October 1, while only four districts in Assam - Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar and Charaideo will have AFSPA. The Assam government had last extended the "disturbed area" notification under the AFSPA for another six months with effect from April 1 in these eight districts. The AFSPA was first imposed in Assam in November 1990.

## ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

## MASSIVE LAWSUIT TARGETS 32 NATIONS ON CLIMATE

**CONTEXT:** Young Portuguese suing 32 European governments at European Court, alleging inadequate climate action violates their rights.

**BACKGROUND:** Six young Portuguese individuals, aged 11 to 24, are suing 32 European governments, including the U.K., Russia, and Turkey, at the European Court of Human Rights. They allege that these governments have not adequately addressed the climate crisis, thereby infringing on their human rights and discriminating against young people worldwide.

## Describe the Nature of Lawsuit

- Duarte Agostinho and Others filed a lawsuit in 2020 following Portugal's 2017 wildfires, claiming European nations breached climate emission goals.
- The youth argue that exceeding global carbon budgets violates human rights, including the right to life and freedom from discrimination.
- They demand rapid emissions reduction, fossil fuel production cuts, and supply chain cleanup to address climate impacts.
- Scientific advisory boards recommend a 75% emissions reduction below 1990 levels, surpassing the EU's current 55% target.
- UNICEF labels the climate crisis a "child rights crisis" due to its impact on education, health, and well-being.
- Research links air pollution, extreme weather, and heatwaves to negative health outcomes, emphasizing the urgency of climate action.

Many countries, including Greece, Portugal, and Ireland, deny a direct link between climate change and its immediate impact on human health, despite recent climate-related disasters. A court ruling on the matter is anticipated in the first half of 2024.

*"Doing nothing is very hard to do. You never know when you're finished."—Leslie Nielsen*



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

## TRIUMPH OF THE VULNERABLE

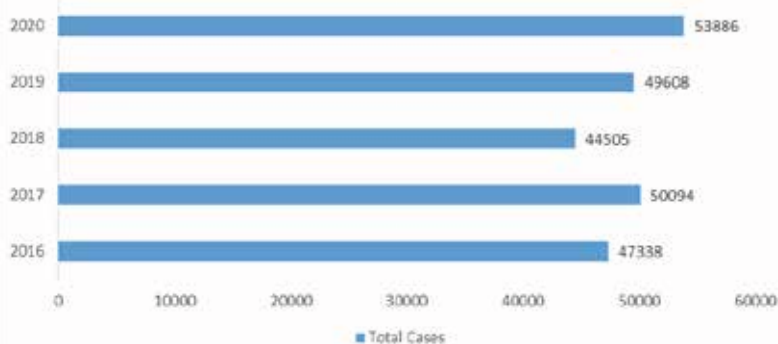
**CONTEXT:** Tamil Nadu tribal community's legal victory against state brutality signals a historic shift in justice.

**BACKGROUND:** A tribal community in Tamil Nadu, the people of Vachathi, recently achieved a significant victory in the Madras High Court, marking a turning point in Indian jurisprudence. Three decades ago, they endured state-led brutality when accused of involvement in sandalwood smuggling. This win underscores faith in democracy and the justice system.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- A village faced brutality from officials accused of illegal sandalwood hoarding, smuggling conduit, rape, and atrocities, under Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's watch.
- The state denied registering a case, prompting villagers to seek a CBI inquiry, resulting in a 15-year trial.
- Villagers achieved a rare victory in 2011 when all accused were convicted, but the Madras High Court stayed the order.
- Subsequent governments, both DMK and AIADMK, protected their bureaucrats, straining the justice system.
- The High Court's recent judgment upholding the trial court's conviction signals accountability for elected governments.
- Despite criticisms, the SC/ST law proved effective in the Vachathi case, serving its intended purpose.
- Vachathi represents a pivotal moment in the struggle for Adivasi rights, demonstrating the power of civil society, lawyers, judiciary, and victim resolve in seeking justice.

Cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

## INDIA'S ELDERLY REQUIRE TAILORED TUBERCULOSIS CARE

**CONTEXT:** India faces a growing elderly population, urging investment in their health and respect for their rights.

**BACKGROUND:** As of 2011, 9% of India's population was aged 60 and above, expected to rise to 12.5% by 2030. The elderly hold valuable wisdom, and respecting their rights is crucial. On International Day of Older Persons (October 1), attention is drawn to their health needs, especially regarding tuberculosis (TB), which disproportionately affects those over 55, with a prevalence of 588

per one lakh population, necessitating age-specific TB guidelines.

### ELDERLY'S SUSCEPTIBILITY TO TB

- Older individuals with TB face significant challenges during their care journeys, leading to suboptimal experiences.
- TB symptoms are often mistaken for other conditions or attributed to old age, causing delayed diagnosis.
- Managing TB in older patients is complicated by comorbidities like diabetes, resulting in more pills and side effects.
- Limited social and emotional support contributes to a lowered "will to live" among older TB patients.
- Older people, especially women, encounter difficulties accessing healthcare, particularly in rural areas.
- Infrastructure challenges, lack of nutritious food, and economic dependence exacerbate TB-related issues in older populations.
- Ageism and social isolation further impact the mental health and well-being of elderly TB patients.

### DEVELOPING CARE FOR VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

- Shift from disease-specific care to holistic models to make TB care elder-friendly, minimizing interactions with multiple providers.
- Train healthcare professionals for better clinical understanding and management of TB and comorbidities in the elderly.
- Enhance case-finding through improved sputum collection, mobile diagnostics, and active screening at geriatric facilities.
- Develop clear protocols for diagnosing and treating TB in older patients, including co-morbidity assessment and drug dosage adjustments.
- Address socio-economic needs with community care, doorstep medicine delivery, peer support, and help desks for the elderly.
- Prioritize research on TB in the elderly, including state-specific trends, substance use, drug resistance, preventive therapy, and equity considerations.

### Schemes and Efforts in India to support TB Patients

- Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program (RNTCP):** The RNTCP is a government initiative that provides free diagnosis and treatment for TB patients across India.
- Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS):** DOTS is a WHO-recommended strategy implemented in India to ensure patients take their TB medications under direct observation, improving treatment adherence.
- Nikshay Poshan Yojana:** This scheme provides financial assistance to TB patients for nutrition support during their treatment.
- Jan Aushadhi Yojana:** Under this program, affordable generic TB medications are made available to patients through Jan Aushadhi stores.
- National Strategic Plan for TB Elimination:** India has a comprehensive strategy in place to eliminate TB by 2025, focusing on early diagnosis, treatment, and reducing TB-related stigma.

*"Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. — Martin Luther King Jr."*



## IP RIGHTS

## PRASAR BHARATI OFFICIALS: NO COPYRIGHT ON PUBLIC SERVICE VIDEOS

**CONTEXT:** Prasar Bharati denies copyright claims on parliamentary proceedings, refuting allegations of sending infringement notices to YouTubers.

**BACKGROUND:** Congress leader Gurdeep Singh Sappal, a former CEO/editor of Rajya Sabha TV, raised concerns about Prasar Bharti sending copyright notices to YouTubers. He argued that parliamentary proceedings are national historical assets, not commercial products. Limiting access to such proceedings, he asserted, amounts to censorship and infringes on citizens' right

to be informed about Parliament's activities.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Prasar Bharati officials have denied issuing copyright notices and asserted that their public service-related content is copyright-free. They explained that copyright violation notices may be auto-generated due to the platform's algorithm. However, if such notices pertain to public service content, they actively work to resolve the issue and suggest affected individuals engage with YouTube to address it.



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