



## Global Fund Secures Deal to Slash HIV Treatment Price

**For Prelims:** Global Fund, Tenofovir disoproxil, Lamivudine, Dolutegravir(TLD), [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\)](#)

**For Mains:** AIDS, HIV and Related Initiatives

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

The price of a cutting-edge [Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\)](#) drug, Tenofovir disoproxil, Lamivudine and Dolutegravir (TLD), will be slashed as the Global Fund announced a deal with generic pharmaceutical manufacturers.

### What are the Key Highlights of the Deal?

- **Reduction in Cost:**
  - It is possible to provide the advanced pill known as TLD for under USD 45 per person per year with a price reduction of 25%
- **Impact of Deal:**
  - Reduced pricing for TLD means governments and other implementers of Global Fund grants can expand treatment programmes to reach around 19 million more people are living with HIV in resource-constrained settings.

### What is Global Fund?

- **About:**
  - The Global Fund is a worldwide movement established in 2002 to defeat HIV, [tuberculosis \(TB\)](#) and [Malaria](#) and ensure a healthier, safer, more equitable future for all.
  - The Global Fund raises funds on a three-year cycle, bringing longer term predictability in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria.
  - Governments, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations pledge funds to support their mission.
- **Mission:**
  - Raise and invest USD 4 billion a year to fight the deadliest infectious diseases, challenge the injustice that fuels them and strengthen health systems in more than 100 countries.
- **Global Fund Strategy (2023-2028) :**
  - Fighting Pandemics and Building a Healthier and More Equitable World:
    - Strategy's primary goal is to end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, with a particular focus on making catalytic investments and leveraging innovations to spur faster progress in reducing new infections.

### What is a TLD?

- The mainstay of treatment for more than 85% HIV is Tablet TLD (a fixed-dose combination of three antiretroviral drugs, namely, Tenofovir+Lamivudine +Dolutegravir.)
- The World Health Organization has recommended it as the preferred **first-line HIV treatment for adults and adolescents** since it rapidly suppresses the virus that causes AIDS, has fewer side effects and is easy to take.

## What is HIV?

- **About:**
  - HIV stands for **Human Immunodeficiency Virus**, which is a virus that attacks the **immune system** in the human body.
  - It primarily **targets and damages CD4 immune cells**, which are essential for the **body's ability to fight infections and diseases**.
    - Over time, HIV weakens the immune system, leaving the body **vulnerable to opportunistic infections and cancers**.
- **Transmission:**
  - HIV is primarily spread through the exchange of certain bodily fluids such as **blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk**.
- **Severity:**
  - If left untreated, the virus destroys a person's immune system and they are said to be in the **Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome stage (AIDS)** where they get **several opportunistic infections that may result in death**.
- **Cure:**
  - Although there are **no cures for the infection at present**, the disease can be managed using **antiretroviral therapy**.
    - These medicines suppress the replication of the virus within the body, **allowing the number of CD4 immune cells to bounce back**.

## What are India's Initiatives to Curb AIDS Disease?

- **HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017:** According to this act, the central and state governments shall take measures to prevent the spread of HIV or AIDS.
- **Access to ART:** India has made Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) affordable and accessible to over 90% of people living with HIV in the world.
- **Project Sunrise:** **Project Sunrise** was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016, to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in north-eastern states in India, especially among people injecting drugs.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Which of the following diseases can be transmitted from one person to another through tattooing? (2013)**

1. Chikungunya
2. Hepatitis B
3. HIV-AIDS

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 only  
 (b) 2 and 3 only  
 (c) 1 and 3 only  
 (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

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