

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 25, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government - withdrew the permission to procure special liquor licenses for "celebrations and festivals"

#### GOVERNMENT ORDER AND THE CHANGES

➤ The Tamil Nadu Liquor (Licence and Permit) Rules, 1981, were amended to provide for a special licence for the possession and serving of liquor in designated places with prior approval from the police.

➤ The special liquor licence can be obtained by paying an annual or daily fee when event is organised in places like **conference halls, convention centres, marriage halls, banquet halls, and sports stadiums.**

➤ The amendment also had a provision for issuing special licences for one-time possession and serving of liquor in non-commercial premises during

household celebrations, functions and parties.

➤ The per diem fee for the special licence had been fixed at **₹11,000 for corporation limits, ₹7,500 for municipalities and ₹5,000 for panchayats.**

➤ The licensee should procure liquor only from TASMAC depots.

➤ The revised GO has also removed provision for issuing special licence for one time possession and serving of liquor in non-commercial premises during household celebrations, functions and parties.

➤ The fresh GO has removed marriage halls and banquet halls from the list of venues for grant of special licence.



- ✓ The Prohibition and Excise Department has amended the Tamil Nadu Liquor License and Permit rules, making it mandatory for special licenses to be obtained for serving alcohol at house parties, household celebrations, banquets, conferences, marriage halls, and sports complexes.
- ✓ The government later issued a fresh GO, removing the provisions in a March 18 GO to possess and consume liquor in conference halls, convention centres, marriage halls, banquet halls, sports stadiums.
- ✓ The GO issued in March contained the provisions for special licences like in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and New Delhi.

- ✓ The provision for licence for one-time possession and serving of liquor in non-commercial premises during household celebrations, functions and parties was also removed.
  - ✓ As per the new norms, only temporary licenses will be issued for international/national conferences, summits held in convention centres, conferences and in venues and stadiums hosting national/international sports events.
  - ✓ The fresh GO does not permit serving of liquor in non-commercial premises either.
  - ✓ According to the new regulations, all commercial establishments serving alcohol will be required to pay an annual registration fee of Rs 1 lakh.
  - ✓ Additionally, a per-day fee of Rs 11,000 (for corporations) and Rs 7,500 (for municipalities) will be levied on the day of service, applicable to both commercial and non-commercial establishments.
  - ✓ The government has also mandated that all alcohol purchases must be made from state-run Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) outlets
- **On April 24, the Tamil Nadu government - put on hold a proposed law that would have allowed a 12-hour work day at factories rather than the existing eight-hour workday.**
- ✓ The CM made an announcement to this effect after representatives of 20 trade unions urged the government to withdraw the factories bill.
  - ✓ The Tamil Nadu government passed the bill last week but it is yet to become law.
  - ✓ The bill would not be sent to governor R N Ravi for assent.
  - ✓ The state Assembly had passed the Factories (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2023 on April 21
  - ✓ The amendment would have allowed workers to take 12-hour shifts for four days per week, and get three days off.
  - ✓ Currently, factories can employ workers for eight-hour shifts.
  - ✓ Tabling the Bill on April 12, state Labour Welfare and Skill Development Minister C V Ganesan had said the decision to amend the Factories Act, 1948 was taken after representations from multiple industries and associations
  - ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin said that the Bill was adopted in order to attract investments and increase employment opportunities for the youth.
- **Tamil Nadu - has secured the top ranking in the first-ever national census of lakes conducted by the Union Jal Shakti ministry with 13,629 lakes**
- ✓ The findings that were released on April 23 shows that Tamil Nadu stands fourth (43,837) in the number of tanks, after Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh.
  - ✓ The irrigation census sponsored by the Centre was launched to have a comprehensive national database of all waterbodies, covering all aspects,

including type, condition, status of encroachments, use, storage, capacity and status of storage, both in rural and urban areas.

<b>FACT FILE</b>	
<b>First-ever national census on waterbodies</b>	remaining 56.8% (60,727) in flood-prone and other areas
➤ Tamil Nadu has 38,321 ponds, 43,837 tanks, 13,629 lakes, 111 reservoirs, 2,782 water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check dams, and 8,277 others	➤ Of 1.06 lakh water bodies, 56,760 are in use whereas 50,197 are not in use due to drying up, silt, destruction beyond repair, salinity and other reasons
➤ 34.3% (36,683) of water bodies are in drought-prone areas, 8.9% (9,547) in tribal areas and the	➤ In last 5 years, 26,343 are found to be filled every year, while 15,487 are usually filled, 37,783 are rarely filled and 16,285 are never filled

- ✓ The ministry had enumerated over 24 lakh water bodies in the country during the census.
- ✓ The assessment of water bodies and their condition comes in the wake of a Parliamentary standing committee recommending a separate census and a central database.
- ✓ For the first time, the Centre has collected information on encroachment of water bodies.
- ✓ While 1.6% of the enumerated water bodies across the country are encroached, 8,366 water bodies in Tamil Nadu, which is 8% of its total count, have been encroached upon.
- ✓ Significantly, the encroachment of 4,933 water bodies alone could be assessed.
- ✓ In all, 56,760 water bodies are 'in use' and 50,197 water bodies are 'not in use' due to various factors like drying up, construction, siltation, destruction beyond repair, salinity and release of industrial effluents.
- ✓ Out of this, only 20,324 water bodies are used for irrigation in the state.
- ✓ Incidentally, 34% water bodies are in drought prone areas, 9% in tribal areas and the remaining are located in flood prone and other areas.

## NATIONAL

- **On April 24, Union minister of ports, shipping and waterways Sarbananda Sonowal - inaugurated the National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) at the satellite campus of IIT Madras in Thaiyur, about 36km from Chennai**
- ✓ During the event, the Minister announced that a maritime innovation hub will be set up at IIT Madras to nurture startups and innovation in the maritime industry
- ✓ The NTCPWC has been functioning at the main campus since 2018
- ✓ It has developed 100 products/projects worth Rs.200 crore operationalized at major ports, waterways, atomic energy, navy and other agencies.



- ✓ Built at Rs.77 crore, the new centre will cater students, industry and academia in the area of sediment transportation, navigation, dredging and siltation, port and coastal engineering, autonomous platforms and vehicles, hydrodynamics and ocean renewable energy.
- ✓ The NTCPWC is spread over four acres and has about five state-of-the-art labs including sediment management and a test basin, which is a large shallow water facility.
- ✓ NTCPWC, IIT Madras and Indian Maritime University have joined hands to join MTech programmes, training courses and high-level research and technology development.

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On April 24, the Supreme Court - said that Governors of states should either give assent or return bills “as soon as possible”.**
- ✓ A bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud and Justice PS Narasimha made the observation while disposing of a plea filed by the State of Telangana.
- ✓ The court was hearing a petition by the Telangana government seeking directions to Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan to take a decision on the ten key Bills passed by the state legislature pending with her.
- ✓ While seven Bills have been pending since September 2022, three Bills were sent to the Governor in February for her approval.
- ✓ Citing proviso 1 of Article 200 of the Constitution, the bench said the expression ‘as soon as possible’ has significant constitutional intent and must be borne in mind by constitutional authorities.
- ✓ Article 200 of the Constitution gives governors the power to either grant assent to a bill, reject it or reserve it for the president’s consideration in certain cases.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On April 24, the government - launched ‘Operation Kaveri’ to evacuate close to 3,000 Indian citizens stranded in Sudan**





- ✓ African country, Sudan has been witnessing deadly fighting between the country's army and a paramilitary group for the last 11 days that has reportedly left around 400 people dead and over 3,700 wounded
- ✓ The warring factions have agreed to a 72-hour ceasefire beginning from April 25 as Western, Arab and Asian nations race to evacuate their nationals from the country.
- ✓ According to Foreign minister S Jaishankar, about 500 Indians had reached Port Sudan and that the government is working to bring them home in ships and aircraft.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the operation while addressing the Yuvam Conclave in Kerala
- ✓ Union Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan will be overseeing the rescue operation.
- ✓ On April 23, India had stationed two Super Hercules C-130J aircraft of the IAF in Jeddah, across the Red Sea in Saudi Arabia, to evacuate its citizens.
- ✓ Further, naval ship INS Sumedha was stationed at Port Sudan as part of its contingency plans to evacuate the stranded Indians.
- ✓ The name for rescue operations in Sudan has been kept Operation Kaveri similar to name rescue operations in Ukraine as Operation Ganga
- ✓ The Kaveri is one of the major Indian rivers flowing through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ People in the region also worship the river as Goddess Mother Kaveri.

## PERSONALITIES

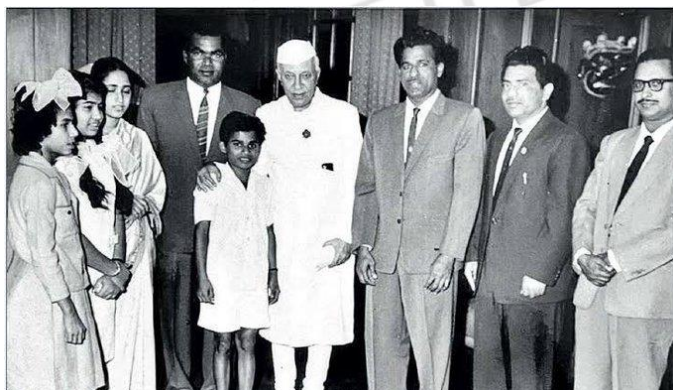
- **Udai Tambar, an Indian-origin CEO involved in youth development services in the US - is among 15 experts appointed as members of the newly-formed racial justice advisory board in New York City.**



- ✓ Tambar is the CEO and president of New York Junior Tennis and Learning (NYJTL), the largest nonprofit youth tennis and education programme in the US.
- ✓ He was named as a member of the advisory board on implementation of the Racial Justice Charter Amendments, launched last week.
- ✓ The board will help ensure that New York City continues to lead the nation in innovative, racial equity work and carries out New York city's newly enshrined charter changes
- ✓ Tambar most recently served as vice-president of Community Health at Northwell Health

## OBITUARY

- **Doyen of Indian Circus and Founder of Gemini Circus, M V Sankaran, also known as Gemini Sankaran - passed away in Kannur at the age of 99 on April 23 due to age-related ailments**
- ✓ Sankaran, who is the oldest circus artiste in the country, also served as the president of India Circus Federation.



- ✓ He has maintained friendly relations with Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Morarji Desai and Rajiv Gandhi, President S Radhakrishnan, as well as world leaders like American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, Mountbatten, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda and astronaut Valentina Tereshkova
- ✓ Sankaran was born in 1924, at the village Kolassery near Thalassery in Kerala's Kannur district.

- ✓ In 1946, he joined the famous Bose Lion Circus in Kolkata and soon became part of the then popular National Circus and Great Bombay Circus
  - ✓ He also worked with the Great Rayman Circus before founding his own circus troupe in 1951.
  - ✓ After working with various circus groups across the country, Sankaran purchased struggling Vijaya Circus Company and renamed it the 'Gemini Circus' to suit the zodiac sign associated with his birth
  - ✓ Gemini Circus debuted at Bilimora in Gujarat on August 15, 1951, on India's Independence Day
  - ✓ In 1964, Gemini became the first Indian circus to attend the International Circus Festival in the USSR
  - ✓ When the Rayon circus ran into crisis, Sankaran bought it and renamed it Jumbo Circus, in 1977, inspired by the then recently introduced Jumbo Jet.
  - ✓ Later he also started his third company the Great Royal Circus.
  - ✓ The industry's fortunes slowly faded with the banning of wild animals from circuses in 1998
  - ✓ He has won several honours including lifetime achievement awards.
- **Veteran speaker, columnist and historian Madabushi Rangadorai, popularly known as Randor Guy, passed away in Chennai at the age of 86 after a prolonged illness.**



- ✓ He was born in Nellore in 1937 and was knew everything about Chennai.
- ✓ His passion for films and crime stories turned him a scriptwriter as well as lyricist.
- ✓ Some of his books include 'Star Light Star Bright', about the history of cinema, and 'Crime Writer's Case Book'.
- ✓ He also wrote a Sinhalese film, 'Paradise Peak', based on his crime novel.

## **INTERNATIONAL DAY**

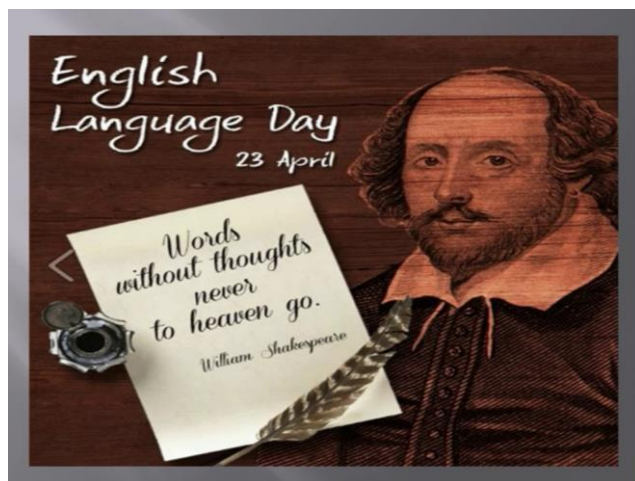
- **World Malaria Day – April 25**





- ✓ World Malaria Day is observed every year to create awareness of the life-threatening disease named malaria
- ✓ Malaria is caused due to the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito, which is infected with the malaria-causing plasmodium parasite
- ✓ The symptoms of the disease start appearing 10-15 days after the bite of female anopheles mosquitoes.
- ✓ In Africa, governments have been observing Malaria Day since 2001.
- ✓ However, it was only in 2007, during the 60th session of the World Health Organization, that it was proposed to observe Africa Malaria Day as World Malaria Day to recognise the impact of the disease worldwide.
- ✓ The first World Malaria Day was established by the WHO in 2008, which also marks the date of the adoption of the WHO's Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030, focusing on reducing malaria cases and deaths by 90% by 2030
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement".
- ✓ According to the WHO, malaria caused about 229 million cases and 409,000 deaths worldwide in 2019, with most of the cases occurring in sub-Saharan Africa

#### ➤ **World English Day – April 23**



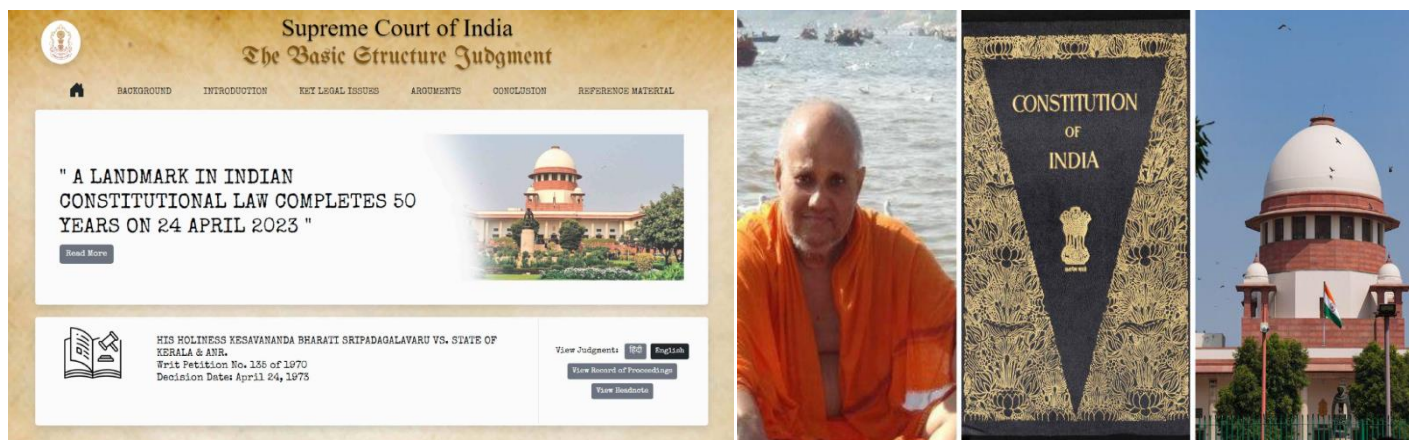
- ✓ The day is observed every year to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of the English playwright and poet William Shakespeare.



- ✓ This day is marked annually to raise awareness of and to appreciate the history, culture, and accomplishments of each of the six working languages – Arabic, Chinese, French, English, Spanish and Russian - used by the United Nations
- ✓ The first recorded use of the English language, which gets its name from the Angles, was in mediaeval England
- ✓ Today, English is spoken as a first language by an estimated 400 million people worldwide, with an additional 1 billion people speaking it as a second language.
- ✓ It is an official language in around 60 countries worldwide, including the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as an official language of the United Nations and the European Union.
- ✓ The first World English Day was celebrated on April 23, 2010, by the English Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI) to promote the learning and teaching of the English language

## 50 YEARS OF LANDMARK VERDICT IN KESAVANANDA BHARATI CASE – A REPORT

- On March 24, the Supreme Court of India - marked 50 years of the landmark Kesavananda Bharati judgment that ruled that democracy, federalism, secularism and rule of law are fundamental to the Constitution and cannot be amended by Parliament.

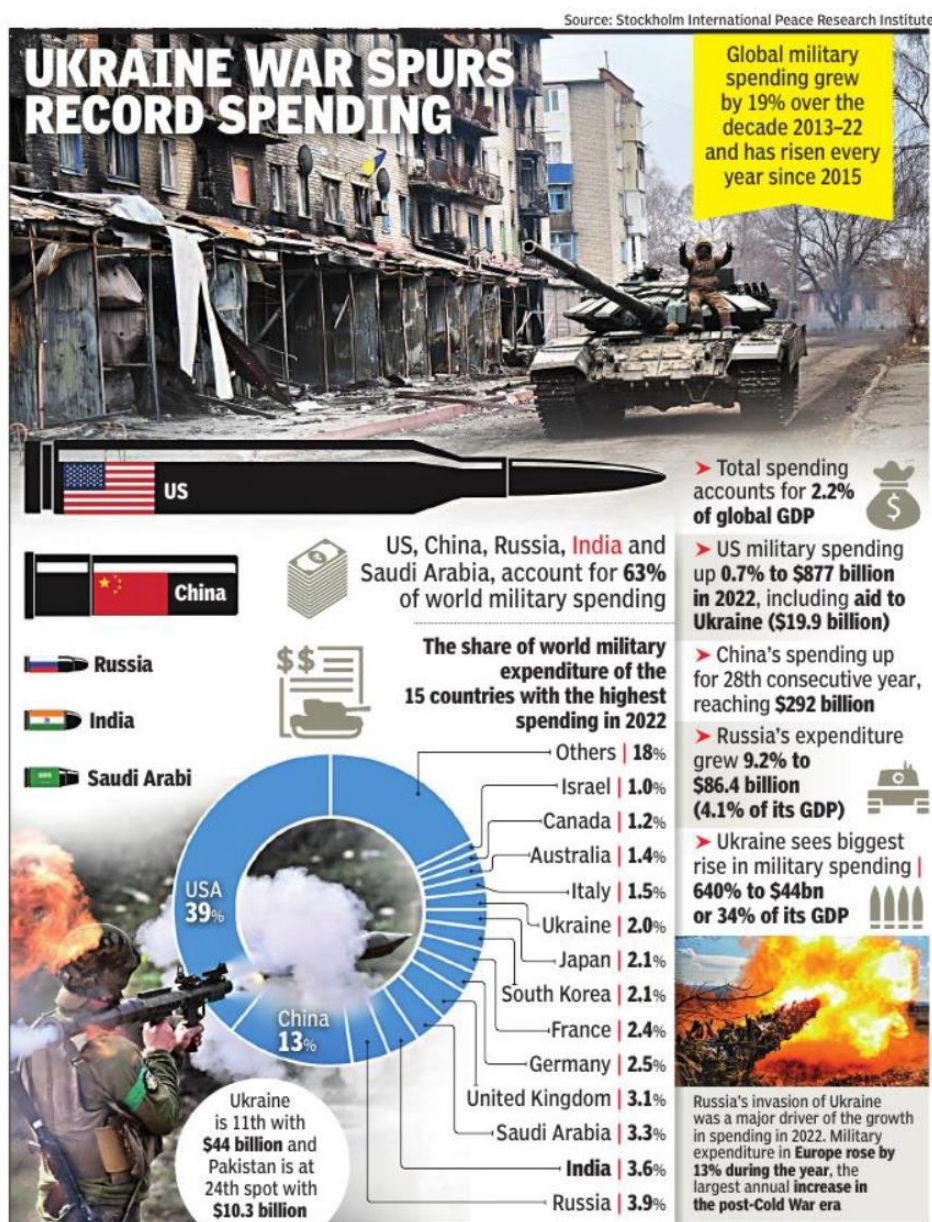


- ✓ Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud informed the lawyers present in the court that the administration has dedicated a special web page containing all materials in connection with the case for paying a tribute to the landmark judgment in the Kesavananda Bharati case.
  - ✓ The webpage is titled 'The Basic Structure Judgment' and mentions, "A Landmark in Indian Constitutional Law completes 50 years on April 24, 2023."
  - ✓ It contains details of arguments, written submissions, reference material and the judgment in the historic Kesavananda Bharati case

- ✓ It also mentions the name of the Judges involved in the case and their views concerning the judgment.
- ✓ The special page includes a Hindi translation of the judgment, which has been made public for the first time.
- ✓ In March 1970, the seer and the head of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala -- Kesavananda Bharati – moved the Supreme Court challenging the land reform laws of Kerala.
  - ✓ The petition argued against the Kerala Land Reforms Act, which sought to set an absolute ceiling on the amount of land a family could own.
  - ✓ The petition claimed the law violated his fundamental right to property, a right conferred upon citizens by the Constitution.
  - ✓ The state of Kerala defended the constitutionality of the law and termed it a reasonable restriction on the right of property
- ✓ The bench, which decided the Kesavananda Bharati case comprised then CJI S.M. Sikri, and Justices J.M. Shelat, K.S. Hegde, A.N. Grover, A.N. Ray, B. Jaganmohan Reddy, D.G. Palekar, H.R. Khanna, K.K. Mathew, M.H. Beg, S.N. Dwivedi, A.K. Mukherjea, and Y.V. Chandrachud – the father of the present Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.
- ✓ On April 24, 1973, the Supreme Court outlined the basic structure doctrine of the Indian Constitution in its ruling in the Kesavananda Bharati vs the State of Kerala case.
- ✓ By a 7:6 majority, the 13-judge bench had ruled that under Article 368 of the Constitution, Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution but cannot tinker with its basic structure, in a check on the executive and the legislative powers of the government.
- ✓ The 'basic structure doctrine' was agreed to by CJI Sikri, and Justices Shelat, Hegde, Grover, Khanna, Reddy and Mukherjea, while those who disagreed were Justices Ray, Palekar, Mathew, Beg, Dwivedi and Chandrachud.
- ✓ Considered as one of the most celebrated constitutional cases of the country, the full court of 13 judges, the largest bench ever in the history of the country, heard the case for a record 66 days, from October 31, 1972 to March 16, 1973.
- ✓ The Supreme Court heard the case for 68 sittings and it remains as the longest hearing in the history of the top court.
- ✓ After this landmark judgment, the Constitution has been amended more than 60 times, and in 16 cases the Supreme Court has tested constitutional amendments against the doctrine of basic structure.
- ✓ Of the 16 cases, in nine cases, the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional amendments, while in six cases the Supreme Court has partially struck down a constitutional amendment and has struck down a constitutional amendment entirely just once

# SIPRI's LATEST REPORT – AN INSIGHT

- India's military expenditure - rose by 6% in 2022 and the country stood as the fourth-highest spender in the world, according to the latest data from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released on April 24.
- ✓ India's military spend of \$81.4 billion in 2022 saw a rise of 6% compared to 2021 and 47% compared to 2013.
- ✓ The report mentioned that 2022 was the eighth consecutive year when global military spending rose.
- ✓ The total global military spending increased 3.7% in real terms to reach a new high of \$2,240 billion in 2022, according to the latest data on global military spending



- ✓ The total spend of \$2,240 billion is 2.2% of global gross domestic product (GDP) in 2022.
- ✓ The 10 largest military spenders are the US (\$877 billion), China (\$292 billion), Russia (\$86.4 billion), India (\$81.4 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$75 billion), UK (\$68.5 billion), Germany (\$55.8 billion), France (\$53.6 billion), South Korea (\$46.4 billion) and Japan (\$46 billion).
- ✓ Ukraine is placed at 11th rank with \$44 billion and Pakistan at 24th spot with \$10.3 billion.
- ✓ The top three spenders, US, China and Russia, accounted for 56% of the world's total share of military expenditure, as per the Swedish think tank's data.
- ✓ The United States was by far the world's biggest military spender with \$877 billion in 2022.
  - ✓ The total expenditure by the US accounted for 39% of total global military spending and it was three times more than that of China.
- ✓ China emerged as the second-largest military spender with an estimated expenditure of \$292 billion in 2022, a 4.2% rise from 2021.
  - ✓ It is noteworthy that China's military spending has increased for 28 years in a row.
- ✓ The third-largest spender was Russia with around \$86.4 billion, marking a growth of 9.2% in military spending compared to the previous year
- ✓ Ukraine's military spending went up to \$44 billion in 2022, marking a 640% jump, which was the highest single-year increase in a country's military expenditure ever recorded by SIPRI.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia's military spending rose 16% to reach an estimated \$75 billion, marking its first increase since 2018
- ✓ Japan's military spending increased by 5.9% and stood at \$46.0 billion, or 1.1% of its GDP, which is the highest since 1960
- ✓ Ethiopia's military spending also rose sharply by 88% to reach \$1 billion due to a renewed government offensive against the Tigray People's Liberation Front
- ✓ Meanwhile, Turkey's military spending fell for the third year in a row, reaching \$10.6 billion, marking a decline of 26% compared to 2021.
- ✓ SIPRI or the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, is among the world's leading think-tanks on the weapons trade.

