

India fourth-largest military spender, overall global spending accelerates: SIPRI report

- India ranked **fourth globally in military spending in 2023**, reaching **\$83.6 billion**, a **4.2% increase from 2022**.
- Global military expenditure rose by **7% to \$2,443 billion**, the sharpest annual rise since **2009**, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**SIPRI**).
- **The top 10 spenders**, including the United States, China, and Russia, all saw increases in military spending
- The largest percentage increase in military spending by any country in 2023 was seen in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (+105%)**. **South Sudan** recorded the **second-largest** percentage increase (**+78%**) amid internal violence

In a first, people of Andaman's vulnerable Shompen tribe vote

- **Seven members of the Shompen tribe**, classified as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**, cast their votes for the first time in **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. They exercised their voting rights at polling station 411, known as 'Shompen Hut,' located inside the forest staff quarters.

Characteristics of PVTGs

In **1973**, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.

Following criteria for identification of PVTGs.

- Pre-agricultural level of technology
- Low level of literacy
- Economic backwardness
- A declining or stagnant population.

National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024

- Released by Ministry of Education Women and Child Development (MWCD)
- Titled 'Aadharshila'

About:

- It is a detailed 48-week curriculum meant for learning in the age group of 3 to 6 year old in anganwadis.
 - The curriculum helps in developing skills which will help a child to easily transition into Grade 1.
 - A special focus for the screening, inclusion, and referrals of Divyang children in every activity.

Features:

It includes a weekly based play calendar

- During the initial 4 weeks, children transition to the anganwadi center through engaging academic activities.
- The following 36 weeks focus on exploration, free play, and various activities like storytelling and art.
- The final 8 weeks involve reinforcing learning with worksheets and performance observation

National Framework for Early Childhood Stimulation

- **Titled** : Navchetana
- **Aim**: to address gaps in care and stimulation for children aged birth to three years. It highlights responsive caregiving and early learning opportunities within the nurturing care framework.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) India holds Statutory Full Commission meeting

- **objective:** Discussing protection of rights for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- **NHRC establishment:** Established in 1993 under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), as amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006.
 - Aligned with the Paris Principle, setting international standards for national human rights institutions.
 - **Composition:** Chairperson, five full-time Members, and seven deemed Members, including heads of key national commissions.
 - **Recent amendments:** 2019 amendment allows a Supreme Court Judge to serve as Chairperson.
 - **Tenure:** Three years or until age seventy for both Chairperson and Members.

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs)

- **On April 20, 2024,** during the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Spring meetings in Washington D.C., 10 Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) launched the Global Collaborative Co-financing platform.

About:

- MDBs, or Multilateral Development Banks, are international financial institutions providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries.
- Owned by multiple member countries, MDBs operate globally to promote economic development, reduce poverty, and support sustainable growth.
- Major MDBs include the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank, among others.

IMF report: Private credit faces liquidity risks if stress rises

- The IMF's **Global Financial Stability Report** underscores the significance of private credit (PC) in debt markets and highlights potential risks associated with it
- **Private Credit (PC):** Non-bank corporate credit provided through bilateral agreements or small "club deals," excluding bank loans and publicly traded assets like corporate bonds.

Importance of PC:

- Provides access to credit for companies too risky/large for commercial banks and too small for public markets.
- Offers customized lending terms to ensure flexibility during stressful periods.

Threats to Financial Stability due to PC:

- **Regulation Challenges:** PC markets are less regulated and opaque, posing challenges to stakeholders.
- **Interconnectedness:** The PC value chain involves leveraged players, increasing the risk of spillovers.
- **Borrower Vulnerabilities:** PC predominantly serves small and mid-size borrowers with higher leverage, amplifying risks, particularly in stagflation scenarios.

AFMS and IIT Delhi Sign MoU for Collaborative Research and Training

- The **Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi**, have signed a MoU for collaborative research and training. The agreement aims to conduct research and innovation to develop novel medical devices and address health challenges unique to serving soldiers in diverse terrains

India-Kuwait Relations Strengthened with Inaugural Hindi Radio Broadcast

- The Indian Embassy in Kuwait unveiled the inaugural Hindi radio broadcast in Kuwait, marking a pivotal move to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.
- Launched by Kuwait's Ministry of Information, the program will be broadcasted every Sunday on **FM 93.3 and AM 96.3**, emphasizing the close ties between India and Kuwait.