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1.Trends in World Military Expenditure report is published by which organization?

- [A] Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- [B] World Bank
- [C] International Monetary Fund
- [D] United Nations

Correct Answer: A [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)]

According to the 2024 edition of the “Trends in World Military Expenditure” report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India’s military spending was nearly nine times higher than Pakistan’s. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is a Swedish think tank that publishes this annual report analysing global military expenditure. In 2024, global defence spending reached \$2.46 trillion, up from \$2.24 trillion in 2023. This accounted for 1.9 percent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), compared to 1.6 percent in 2022 and 1.8 percent in 2023. Just five countries – the USA, China, Russia, Germany, and India – accounted for 60 percent of global military expenditure. India was the fifth highest military spender in 2024, spending \$86.1 billion, a 1.6 percent rise from 2023 and a 42 percent increase since 2015.

2.Uturuncu volcano, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country?

- [A] Indonesia
- [B] Brazil
- [C] Argentina
- [D] Bolivia

Correct Answer: D [Bolivia]

Scientists from China, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US) recently studied the inner workings of Uturuncu, a “zombie” volcano in Bolivia, and found that there is no immediate risk of eruption. Uturuncu is a stratovolcano located in the Andes Mountains of southwestern Bolivia and is made up mainly of dacitic lava domes and flows. It sits on top of a massive underground magma reservoir called the Altiplano-Puna Magma Body (APMB), which extends under southern Bolivia, northern Chile, and northern Argentina. Uturuncu is called a “zombie” volcano because it shows signs of activity without actual eruptions.

3. Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) functions under administrative control of which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- [B] Ministry of Law and Justice
- [C] Ministry of Finance
- [D] Ministry of Science and Technology

Correct Answer: A [Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution]

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) recently took suo moto action against five Delhi restaurants for not refunding mandatory service charges, despite the Delhi High Court’s clear judgment. This step protects consumer rights and stops unfair practices where customers are pressured to pay extra charges while dining. As per law, hotels and restaurants cannot force consumers to pay service charges, nor collect them under any other name. The CCPA was set up under Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which replaced the earlier 1986 Act. The Act was notified on

August 9, 2019, and came into effect on July 20, 2020. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal ministry responsible for this authority.

4. “Niveshak Shivr” is a joint initiative of which two institutions?

- [A] Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- [B] State Bank of India (SBI) and NITI Aayog
- [C] NITI Aayog and Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- [D] Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Correct Answer: D [Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)]

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kotak Mahindra Bank and launched the ‘Niveshak Shivr’ initiative to boost digital investor awareness and financial literacy in India. The IEPFA was set up in 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013 to manage the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) and safeguard investor interests. It works under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. ‘Niveshak Shivr’ is a joint effort by IEPFA and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to simplify the process of reclaiming unclaimed dividends and shares. These camps will begin in May 2025 in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, targeting areas with high numbers of unclaimed dividend holders. One-stop kiosks will help investors update Know Your Customer (KYC) details, verify claims, and receive instant help for grievances. The aim is to reduce reliance on intermediaries and prevent fraud and misinformation.

5. The Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs) are launched under which national mission ?

- [A] National Mission on Organic Farming
- [B] National Food Security Mission
- [C] National Mission on Natural Farming
- [D] Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

Correct Answer: C [National Mission on Natural Farming]

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare recently released guidelines for establishing Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs) to promote natural farming under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs) are cluster-level enterprises that provide farmers with locally prepared natural farming inputs like bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, and organic formulations. BRCs also serve as knowledge hubs to train and support farmers who are transitioning to natural farming practices. The initiative was launched under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). The objectives of BRCs include ensuring easy access to quality bio-inputs, offering technical support on natural farming methods, and promoting the adoption of natural farming across rural areas.

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