

NEWS TODAY

GOVERNORS SHOULD CLEAR BILLS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE: SUPREME COURT

- SC direction was given in the backdrop of **high pendency of bills for Governor's assent** in states like Telangana and Tamil Nadu.
 - Citing **proviso 1 of Article 200 of Constitution**, SC observed that the **expression 'as soon as possible'** has significant constitutional intent and must be borne in mind by constitutional authorities.
 - **Article 200** clearly mandates that **Governors should "as soon as possible" return Bills, other than Money Bills**, for reconsideration by House with a note that the proposed law should be reconsidered.
- **Governor's Power to give his/her assent on a bill**

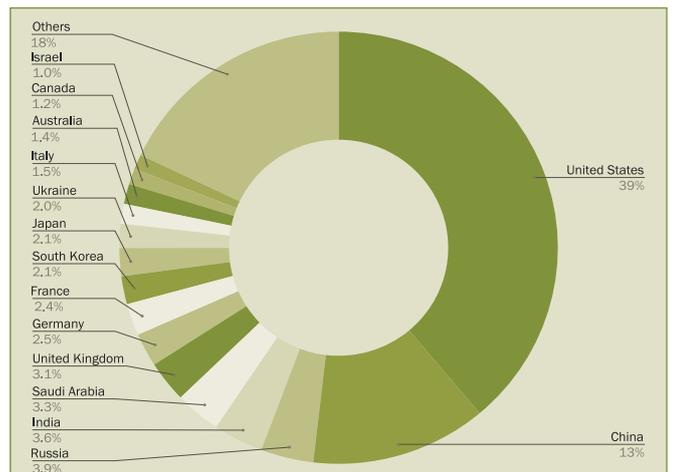
Ordinary Bill	Money Bill
When Ordinary Bill is sent to Governor after it is passed by unicameral/ bicameral legislature, Governor has 4 alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give his assent to bill, and bill then becomes an act. • Withhold his assent to bill, bill then ends and does not become an act. • Return the bill for reconsideration of the House or Houses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If bill is passed by House again with or without amendments and presented to governor for his assent, Governor must give his assent to bill. ➤ Thus, Governor enjoys only a 'suspensive veto'. • Reserve the bill for consideration of President (Governor doesn't have any further role in enactment of bill thereafter). 	When Money Bill is sent to Governor after it is passed by unicameral/ bicameral legislature, Governor has 3 alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give his assent to bill, and bill then becomes an act. • May withhold his assent to bill, bill then ends and does not become an act. • Reserve the bill for consideration of President. (Article 201)

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI) RELEASES TRENDS IN WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURE, 2022 REPORT

- SIPRI is a **Sweden-based independent international institute** dedicated to **research into conflict, armaments, arms control, and disarmament.**

Key highlights of report

- **Five biggest spenders** in 2022 were **United States, China, Russia, India and Saudi Arabia**, which together accounted for **63% of world military spending.**
 - With military expenditure of **\$81.4 billion**, India was **fourth largest spender** in 2022.
- **World military expenditure rose by 3.7%** in real terms in 2022, to reach a record high of **\$2240 billion (2.2% of global GDP).**
 - **Russia's invasion of Ukraine** was a major driver of growth in spending in 2022.
- **Personnel expenses** (salaries and pensions) remained the **largest expenditure category** (around 50%) in Indian military budget.
- India's expenditure on **capital outlays amounted to 23%** of total military spending in 2022.
- **India's defence exports** have reached an **all-time high of Rs 16,000 crore** in FY 2022-23.
 - India aims at achieving **annual defence export target of ₹35,000 crore** by 2025.
 - India's **major platforms being exported** include Dornier-228, 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Guns (ATAGs), Brahmos Missiles, Akash Missile System etc.



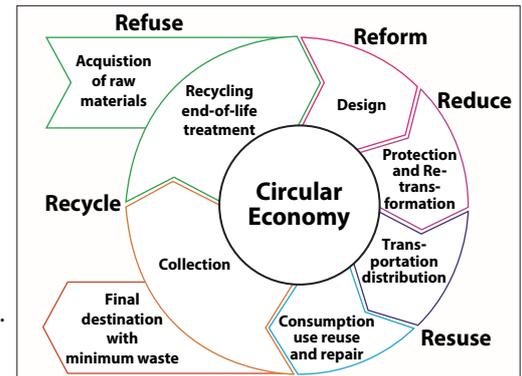
The share of world military expenditure of the 15 countries with the highest spending in 2022

Government efforts to push defence export

- **iDEX** (Innovation for Defence Excellence); **Make in India**; **Notified three Open General Export Licenses (OGEL)** for export of Parts and Components/Transfer of Technology/Major Platforms and Equipment; etc.

ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER (EAC-PM) RELEASED A PAPER TITLED “INDIA’S TRYST WITH A CIRCULAR ECONOMY”

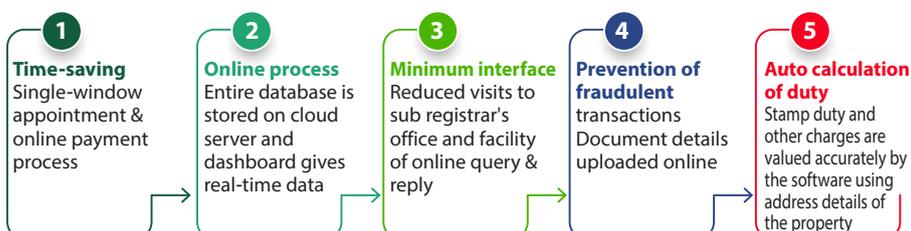
- **Circular economy (CE)** is an economic system where means of production are organized around **reusing and recycling the inputs** to facilitate a **sustainable and environment friendly mode of production**.
- India's current economic model is **largely linear**, where **resources are extracted, processed, and transformed into products** that are sold to consumers.
 - Later, products are disposed of- leading to **62 million tonnes of waste generation every year** (as per CPCB).
- **Significance of CE for India**
 - **Reduction in negative externalities** such as noise/air pollution, land degradation etc.
 - **Minimise waste and facilitate sustainable and environment-friendly mode of production.**
 - Generate **increased income** (Annual value creation of ₹14 lakh crore in 2030).
 - **Reduce resource dependency** (Cost savings amounting to 11% of current Indian GDP in 2030).
- **Challenges in achieving CE:** Lack of awareness; Insufficiency in waste management; Limited availability of recycled products etc.
- **Policy recommendations for achieving CE:** Need for **national level vision document**; Establish **monitoring and evaluation system**; **Incentivization** of the utilization of reused, repaired, and recycled products etc.
- **Steps taken towards CE:** National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP) 2019; **Extended Producer Responsibility**; Atal Innovation Mission, 2016; **Swacchh Bharat Mission, 2014** etc.



28 STATES / UTS ADOPT THE NATIONAL GENERIC DOCUMENT REGISTRATION SYSTEM (NGDRS) FOR LAND RECORDS

- A project initiated by **Department of Land Resources (DoLR), Ministry of Rural Development**, NGDRS is an in-house advanced **software application for the registration system developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
 - This software application is **scalable, flexible, configurable and compatible with state-specific needs** in country.
- **Objectives of NGDRS**
 - **Ensures transparency, accountability of officials executing the documents and reduction in cost, time and number of visits** and procedures required for execution of registration documents.
 - **Empowers citizen** by enabling property valuation and online document submission.
- Also, **Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhar** has been adopted by 26 States/UTs and pilot testing done in 7 more States /UTs.
- ULPIN is **part of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)** and is a **14-digit identification number** accorded to a land parcel.
 - Identification is based on **longitude and latitude coordinates** of land parcel and depends on detailed surveys and geo-referenced cadastral maps.
 - It provides **standardization** across states, **easy sharing** of land records, **protects government land and ensures transparency**.
- **DoLR is implementing DILRMP since 2016 as a Central Sector Scheme**. It has **3 major components** - Computerization of land record; Survey/Re-survey; Computerization of registration.

Significance of NGDRS



NARCL ACQUIRES RS 21,000 CRORE OF STRESSED LOANS TILL MARCH 2023

- National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL)/Bank Bank is a **corporate structure that isolates risky assets held by banks in a separate entity**. It was announced in Union Budget 2021-22.
 - NARCL will take over **large value NPA accounts (over ₹500 crore)** from banks with total assets to be acquired of **around ₹2 lakh crore**.
 - Stressed assets will be acquired through on **15:85 ratio of cash and security receipts (SRs)**. SRs, which are issued in favour of transferring lenders, are secured by government guarantee for its face value.
- NARCL is registered with RBI as an **Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002**.
 - NARCL is incorporated under **Companies Act 2013 with Public Sector Banks holding a majority stake (51%)**.
 - In January 2023, NARCL has acquired its **first stressed asset- Jaypee Infratech-** from lenders.
- **Significance of Bad Bank**
 - **Reduce NPAs of banks**, improving financial system stability and efficiency.
 - **Opportunities for other ARCs at MSME's level**, as NARCL reconstruct assets only where banks total exposure is more than ₹500 crore.

EUROPEAN NATIONS PARTICIPATED IN SECOND NORTH SEA SUMMIT IN OSTEND, BELGIUM

- North Sea Summit aims at making the **North Sea the largest powerhouse of Europe by 2050 by taking its offshore wind capacity to 120 GW by 2030 and 300 GW by 2050.**
 - **7 European Union (EU) countries** (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands), and **2 Non-EU countries Norway and United Kingdom** participated in this second summit.
- At the end of first summit in Denmark in 2022, **Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Netherlands** signed the **Esbjerg Declaration**.
 - Esbjerg Declaration aimed at making the North Sea into the **“Green Power Plant of Europe”, an offshore renewable energy system.**
 - Declaration set the targets for **offshore wind energy capacity of 150 GW by 2030** and **20 GW green hydrogen production capacity** by 2030.
- **Wind energy in India**
 - India stands **4th globally in wind power capacity** as per REN21 Renewables 2022 Global Status Report.
 - As of February 2023, **India’s total installed wind power capacity is approximately 42 GW.**
 - **National Wind Solar Hybrid Policy, 2018** provides for promoting large grid-connected wind-solar energy projects.

- **North Sea, part of Atlantic Ocean, is located between Norway and Denmark** (east), Scotland and England (west), and Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and France (south).
 - It is **connected to Atlantic by Strait of Dover and English Channel.**



ALSO IN NEWS

 <p>Operation Kaveri</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India has launched ‘Operation Kaveri’ to bring back its citizens stranded in war-torn Sudan.
 <p>Wagner group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wagner Group is a private Russian military organisation, which has been used in military operations in many countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is owned and financed by Yevgeny Prigozhin, a businessman with ties to Vladimir Putin and is playing a major role in fighting in Ukraine. ● According to UN’s International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, states should bear the responsibility for activities of mercenaries who violate principles of international law which threaten sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity of states and self-determination of people.
 <p>Price Cap Coalition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Price Cap Coalition (PCC) is a coalition of Australia, Canada, EU, Japan, UK, and US. ● PCC has agreed on a price cap of US\$60 per barrel on exports of Russian oil. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ PCC have collectively banned the import of Russian oil and oil products into their market.
 <p>Indiahandmade portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ministry of Textiles has developed this E-Commerce portal for handicrafts and handloom sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Handloom refers to the process of weaving cloth using a manually operated loom, while handicrafts are items made by skilled artisans using traditional techniques. ● Indiahandmade portal offers a wide range of products, including clothing, home decor, jewellery, accessories, and more. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Portal will provide an opportunity to total 62 Lakh weavers and artisans become future e-entrepreneurs. ➢ It’ll provide products from more than 35 Lakh Handloom weavers & 27 Lakh Handicraft artisans directly to consumers while eliminating middlemen.

 Relative Humidity (RH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Humidity is the amount of moisture in the air around us.• RH is a measure of actual amount of water vapor in air compared to total amount of vapor that can exist in air at its current temperature.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Higher the RH of air, the more it is filled with moisture.• Absolute humidity is the mass of water vapour in a given volume of air and water vapour mixture, expressed as kg/m³.• Specific humidity, equal to the mass of the moisture divided by the mass of air.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is expressed as a dimensionless number (but sometimes also as grams per kilogram, among other similar units.)
 Talle Wildlife Sanctuary (Tale WLS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researchers have discovered a new moth species (belongs to genus Piarosoma) from Talle WLS in Arunachal Pradesh.• Talle WLS lies between subansiri, Sipu and Pange rivers surrounded by densely forested mountains ranging for 2,000 to 4,000 mtr. altitude.• Forest types: Sub-tropical broad leafed, temperate broad leafed and temperate conifer types.• Biodiversity includes clouded leopard, Himalayan black bear, Indian elephant, Flying squirrel etc.
 Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across State (MANAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tele MANAS helpline of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has reached a milestone by receiving over 1 lakh calls.• Tele- MANAS helpline was launched on occasion of World Mental Health Day in 2022.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tele-MANAS aims to provide free 24*7 tele-mental health services across country, particularly catering to people in remote or under-served areas.➤ Nodal centre is National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.➤ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bengaluru and National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC) will provide technical support.
 Notifiable Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malaria is all set to become a notifiable disease across India.• A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It allows the authorities to monitor the disease, and provides early warning of possible outbreaks.➤ World Health Organization's International Health Regulations, 1969 require disease reporting to WHO to help with its global surveillance and advisory role.➤ Centre has notified several diseases such as cholera, leprosy, meningitis, pertussis (whooping cough), plague, TB, AIDS, hepatitis, etc.➤ Onus of notifying any disease and implementation lies with state government.
 Support for Up-gradation Preventive Repair & Maintenance of Equipment (SUPREME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUPREME was launched by Department of Science and Technology.• It is a first-of-its-kind program to provide financial support for repair/ upgradation/ maintenance/ retrofitting or acquiring additional attachments to increase functional capabilities of existing Analytical Instrumentation Facilities (AIFs).<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Funding pattern: 75:25 for all private and government owned institutions except for state funded institutions which will get 100% funding.➤ Support under the scheme will be upto 3 years.• Analytical Instruments are vital for pursuing research through sample analysis in many areas of modern science and technology.
 Zafar Mahal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has planned to initiate conservation works at Zafar Mahal, located in Delhi.• Zafar Mahal was originally built by Akbar Shah II in 1820.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It was expanded during Bahadur Shah Zafar's (last Mughal ruler) reign, with new structures including a gateway (hathi gate) built under him.➤ It is made out of red sandstone.➤ It also has Moti Masjid (situated adjacent to wall of Dargah of Hazrat Qutubuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki) and Naubat Khana.