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The Retail Summit 2024

Why in News?

- The Retail Summit (TRS) 2024, a leading global event focused on the future of retail, is underway in Dubai with its agenda built around eight key themes. These themes aim to address critical challenges and opportunities faced by retailers worldwide.



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- This year's TRS will delve into areas including Artificial Intelligence, Brick & Mortar stores, Data, Digital transformation, Macroeconomics, Supply Chain management, Sustainability & Ethics, and Talent acquisition.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) is an Industry partner of The Retail Summit 2024.
- The Retail Summit is the only event in the world that discusses the convergence of retail with technology, experience, and hospitality, with over 900 attendees from 30+ countries.
- The summit, known for bringing together the brightest minds in retail, promises to be its most inspiring and thought-provoking edition yet.

- The event was focused on understanding current consumer trends and how modern technologies can enhance customer experiences.
- The summit is aimed to generate impactful discussions and provide actionable insights to support the retail sector's growth.

Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2023

Why in the News?

- India was the fourth largest military spender in the world in 2023 with an expenditure of \$83.6 billion after the United States, China and Russia, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in a recently published report.

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- World military expenditure increased for the ninth consecutive year in 2023, reaching a total of \$2443 billion.



- The 6.8 per cent increase in 2023 was the steepest year-on-year rise since 2009 and pushed global spending to the highest level SIPRI has ever recorded.

- Average military expenditure as a share of government expenditure rose by 0.4 percentage points to 6.9 per cent in 2023 and world military spending per person was the highest since 1990, at \$306.
- The rise in global military spending in 2023 can be attributed primarily to the ongoing war in Ukraine and escalating geopolitical tensions in Asia and Oceania and the Middle East.
- Military expenditure went up in all five geographical regions, with major spending increases recorded in Europe, Asia and Oceania and the Middle East.
- India's spending was 4.2% higher than that in the previous year.
- India was the fourth-highest spender in 2022 too, according to last year's SIPRI's report on the subject.
- India's military spending then stood at \$81.4 billion, which was 6% more than that in 2021, and up by 47% from 2013.
- China, the world's second-largest military spender, allocated an estimated \$296 billion to its military in 2023, an increase of 6% over the previous year, according to SIPRI's data.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

Why in the News?

- NHRC has sought a significant increase in the number of technologically advanced forensic laboratories in the country for expeditious examination. It has also solicited that investigation and forensics examination should be part of the process, instead of being independent of each other.

More About the News

- These issues were raised in a core group meeting on criminal justice system reforms organized by NHRC recently.
- The focus was on finding ways to address delay in forensic reports, areas of improvement in the prosecution system, and simplification of language used in organs of criminal justice system.
- NHRC Chairperson Retired Justice Arun



NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Kumar Mishra has called for creating a cadre-based service of public prosecutors to ensure transparency and merit in their appointment.

- He emphasised upon increased systematic coordination among public prosecutors, forensic teams and the police.
- For this, their training in the legal provisions, the concept of trial and the importance of forensics is necessary for reforms in the criminal justice system for speedy trial.

About NHRC

- The National Human Rights Commission or NHRC is a standalone entity of the Government of India with the mission of promoting and protecting human rights.
- It is a statutory body mentioned in the Constitution of India that was established in 1993 under the 'Protection of Human Rights Act'.
- The NHRC is an embodiment of India's concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is composed of a Chairperson and eight other members, out of which four are full time members while the rest are part time members.
- NHRC can investigate any complaints related to violations of Human Rights in India either suo-moto or after receiving a petition.
- Human Rights awareness and literacy through different media are promoted by NHRC in various sectors of society.

- NHRC has the power to recommend suitable steps that can prevent violation of Human Rights in India to both Central as well as State Governments.
- The President of India gets an annual report from NHRC which is laid before both the Houses of the Parliament.

G7 way off-track in emission cuts

Why in the News?

- Two reports, both released on April 23, have exposed the gross inaction of developed countries in countering climatic impacts globally including in Asia, which has been deemed as the world's 'disaster capital' by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

More About the News

- The report on the response by Group of Seven (G7) countries - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States - to climate change shows that these governments currently stand much off track to achieve required emission cuts by 2030.
- That is the requirement to keep the rise in global temperature within the 1.5°C target, compared to the pre-industrial benchmark, as mandated in the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- The "Group of Seven (G7) countries are on track to achieve barely half the necessary greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030 to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target," says the report prepared by Climate

Analytics, a global climate science and policy institute.

- The findings assume importance as the document has been published just few days ahead of the G7 Climate, Energy, and Environment Ministers meeting starting from April 28 in Venaria Reale, Italy.
- The report says that while the "G7 economies need to slash their own emissions by 58% by 2030 compared to 2019 levels to do their part to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- It recommends that these major economies should commit "to phasing out domestic coal and fossil gas power generation by 2030 and 2035 respectively (and) end public financing and other support for fossil fuels abroad".

About G7

- The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of seven of the world's advanced economies, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Union.
- The G7 was born as a result of the huge economic problems facing the world in the 1970s.
- The first Summit of Heads of State and Government was held in 1975 in Rambouillet, France. It included France, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Italy.
- The G7 expanded into the G8 between 1997 and 2013, with the inclusion of Russia. However, Russia's participation was suspended in 2014 following the illegal annexation of Crimea.



Ban on TikTok in USA

Why in the News?

- President Joe Biden signed a bill into law on Wednesday that would ban TikTok if it is not

sold within a year. The social media app is owned by Chinese company ByteDance.

More About the News

- The measure is folded into a law that says the United States will provide aid to Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan.
- TikTok has attracted unwanted scrutiny not only for the addictiveness of its constantly scrolling videos, but also due to its Chinese owner, ByteDance.
- That has raised concerns among lawmakers and security experts that the Chinese government could tap TikTok's trove of personal data about millions of U.S. users.
- Actually, lawmakers want ByteDance to sell its stake in TikTok. Barring such a deal, the legislation would, in fact, ban the social media app in the U.S.
- Lawmakers are increasingly concerned about the company's ties in China, with

fears that ByteDance or TikTok could share data about U.S. users with China's authoritarian government.

- The bill would give TikTok's owner nine months to arrange a sale, with the potential for an additional three-month grace period, according to a copy of the bill released earlier this month.



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