



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**23 April - 29 April, 2025**

★★ Useful for ★★

**UPSC ESE, PSUs,  
RRB, SSC, Banking &  
State Services Exams**

**BAISARAN VALLEY**

**In Kashmir**

 [www.madeeasy.in](http://www.madeeasy.in)

23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2025

## Pahalgam

- **Context:** A terror attack happened in the Baisaran Valley often called 'Mini-Switzerland', near the town of Pahalgam in the Anantnag district, Jammu & Kashmir.

### Key Facts

- Rooted in the 1947 Partition dispute over Kashmir's status, armed militancy erupted in the late 1980s, fueled by alleged election rigging and Pakistani support.
- The 1990s witnessed peak violence, targeting security forces and civilians, including the Kashmiri Pandit community leading to their exodus, met by intense Indian counter-insurgency.
- After India revoked Article 370 in 2019, ending Kashmir's special status, a new phase of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir has been seen like targeted killings of minorities and non-locals, "hybrid" militants, and increased activity in Jammu's Pir Panjal region.
- The Resistance Front, an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack.

### About The Resistance Front (TRF)

- The Resistance Front or TRF was founded in October 2019, after India bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir, and abrogated Article 370 that gave special status to the erstwhile State.
- The MHA banned the outfit under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in 2023.
- The front is involved in carrying out propaganda on terror activities, recruitment of terrorists, infiltration of terrorists and smuggling of weapons and narcotics from Pakistan into Jammu and Kashmir.

## Gold Prices

- **Context:** Gold prices in India have crossed the ₹1 lakh mark for 10 grams, hitting a historic high.

### Factors Influencing Gold Prices

- **Supply and Demand:** The availability of gold and the demand for it, both for investment and industrial use, directly impact prices. Increased mining output can lower prices, while high demand can raise them.
- **Inflation:** Gold is often seen as a hedge against inflation. When inflation rises, investors flock to gold to preserve their purchasing power, driving up prices.
- **Interest Rates:** Lower interest rates decrease the opportunity cost of holding gold, making it more attractive to investors. Conversely, higher rates lead to lower gold prices.
- **Geopolitical Stability:** Political uncertainty or conflict led investors to seek safety in gold, boosting demand and prices.
- **Currency Strength:** Gold is typically priced in U.S. dollars. A weaker dollar makes gold cheaper for holders of other currencies, potentially increasing demand and prices.
- **Central Bank Policies:** Actions by central banks, such as gold purchases or sales, significantly influence market prices. Central banks often hold gold as part of their reserves.
- **Global Economic Conditions:** Economic downturns or uncertainties lead to increased demand for gold as a safe haven.

### Facts Related to Gold

- China is the world's largest gold producer followed by Russia and Australia.
- China is also the world's largest gold consumer followed by India.

- The United States holds the largest gold reserves in the world, with approximately 8,133.5 metric tons followed by Germany, and Italy.

24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

## Indus Waters Treaty

- **Context:** The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister of India, held the Indus Waters Treaty (1960) with Pakistan 'in abeyance with immediate effect' in the aftermath of the terror strike in Pahalgam.

### About Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- It was signed in 1960 by India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan to regulate water-sharing between the two countries. It was brokered by the World Bank.
- **According to IWT:**
  - India controls the Eastern Rivers (Beas, Ravi, Sutlej).
  - Pakistan controls the Western Rivers (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum).
- Under the IWT, India received rights over 20% of the system's water, while Pakistan received 80%. India is allowed limited use of western rivers for non-consumptive purposes like hydropower, but cannot block or significantly alter flows.



### About Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)

- It is the apex decision-making body in India responsible for matters related to national security and defence.
- Chaired by the Prime Minister, it typically includes key ministers such as the Home Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister, and External Affairs Minister.
- The National Security Advisor (NSA) acts as a secretary-level coordinator for issues within its purview.
- **Key Functions of the CCS**
  - **Defence and Security:** Addresses internal and external security challenges, including military strategies and intelligence operations.
  - **Foreign Affairs:** Deals with diplomatic policies and international security collaborations.
  - **Nuclear and Space Policy:** Oversees critical decisions related to nuclear energy and space exploration.
  - **Major Appointments:** Approves high-level appointments in defence and intelligence agencies.

## National Panchayati Raj Day

- **Context:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day 2025, presented the Special Category National Panchayat Awards, 2025.

### Key Highlights

- These awards include the Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA), Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA), and Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP).
- The awards aim to recognize Gram Panchayats and institutions that have demonstrated exemplary performance in areas such as climate resilience, fiscal self-reliance, and capacity building.



- Awardees have been selected from States including Bihar, Maharashtra, Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Assam.

### About National Panchayati Raj Day

- India celebrates National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24 every year to mark the foundation of the Panchayati Raj System, when the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, came into force.
- It celebrates the importance of grassroots democracy, strengthens local governance and helps empower rural communities.

### About Panchayati Raj System

- The word Panchayat comes from two words – “Panch” meaning five and “Ayat” meaning assembly. It refers to a traditional system where a group of elders from a village would come together to solve problems or settle disputes.
- The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, appointed in 1957, recommended the establishment of the Panchayati Raj system in India.
- The Panchayati Raj system has three levels – Village Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad.
  - The Village Panchayat has around five members that includes a Sarpanch.
  - The Panchayat Samiti usually covers 20 to 60 villages. Its head is called the Pradhan and the deputy is the Up-Pradhan.
  - The Zilla Parishad includes members from Panchayat Samitis and government officials. Its main job is to guide and check the work done in the district.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was created in 2004 which handles all matters related to Panchayati Raj and is led by a cabinet minister.
- Panchayat elections are held every five years to choose new members.

- Article 243D of the Constitution provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Backward Class of citizens and women.

### SVAMITVA Scheme

- **Context:** Recently, SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme completed 4 Years.

### About SVAMITVA Scheme

- SVAMITVA Scheme was launched on April 24, 2021 on National Panchayati Raj Day.
- It is a Central Sector scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- It aims to provide legal ownership papers for houses and land in villages using drones and mapping technology. This helps villagers access loans, resolve disputes, and support better planning.
- It is being implemented by the Survey of India with National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) as the tech partner.
- It has a budget of 566.23 crores from FY 2020-21 to 2024-25, with an extension to FY 2025-26.
- Over 2.42 crore property cards have been created for 1.61 lakh villages under the scheme.
- Drone surveys completed in 3.20 lakh villages, covering 68,122 sq. km of the area.

25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

### World Economic Outlook

- **Context:** According to the April 2025 edition of the IMF's World Economic Outlook, India will remain the fastest growing major economy over the next two years.

## Key Highlights

- India is projected to remain the fastest-growing large economy and is expected to grow by 6.2 percent in 2025 and 6.3 percent in 2026.
- The global economic growth will be much lower, at 2.8 percent in 2025 and 3.0 percent in 2026.
- **Emerging Asia:** The region is also expected to grow strongly, led by India, but faces downward revisions due to global trade disruptions.

## About World Economic Outlook Report

- The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is the International Monetary Fund's key report on global economic trends and policy challenges.
- Published twice a year it provides projections for the near and medium term, covering advanced, emerging, and developing economies.

## About International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- The IMF was established in 1944 in the aftermath of the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- The organization is currently composed of 190 member countries. Each member has representation on the IMF's executive board in proportion to its financial importance.
- The primary goal of the IMF back then was to bring about international economic coordination to prevent competing currency devaluation by countries trying to promote their own exports.
- Eventually, the IMF evolved to be a lender of last resort to governments of countries that had to deal with severe currency crises.

## SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme

- **Context:** The Government of India has announced that Pakistan nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES).

## About SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme

- It was launched in 1992 and it was decided that certain categories of dignitaries from SAARC countries should be entitled to a Special Travel document that would exempt them from visas within the region.
- The Visa Stickers are issued by the respective Member states to the entitled categories of that particular country.
- The validity of the Visa Sticker is generally for one year. The implementation is reviewed regularly by the Immigration Authorities of SAAR Member states.
- The SAARC visa stickers were to ensure that their travel is not limited to any specific cities and would save them from the hassles like police reporting and filling of extra forms on entry in any of the eight SAARC countries.

## About SAARC

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on December 8, 1985.
- At present, SAARC comprises eight Member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

## World Bank's Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs)

- **Context:** According to the World Bank's Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs), India's extreme poverty dropped significantly from 16% in 2011–12 to 2.3% in 2022–23, marking major progress in poverty reduction.

## Recent Findings for India

- India has made significant progress in reducing poverty, with extreme poverty — measured at \$2.15 per day in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms — falling from 16 per cent in 2011–12 to 2.3 per cent in 2022–23
  - The decline lifted 171 million people above the internationally comparable poverty line.
- Rural extreme poverty declined from 18.4% to 2.8%, and urban from 10.7% to 1.1%, narrowing the rural-urban gap significantly.
  - Using the \$3.65/day lower-middle-income countries (LMIC) poverty line, poverty dropped from 61.8% to 28.1%, with 378 million people moving above the threshold.
- The World Bank's multidimensional poverty index (MPI), which includes extreme poverty but excludes nutrition and health deprivation, showed that non-monetary poverty declined from 53.8 per cent in 2005–06 to 16.4 per cent in 2019–21, and further to 15.5 per cent in 2022–23.
- India's five most populous states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh — accounted for 54 per cent of the country's extreme poor in 2022–23 and 51 per cent of its multidimensionally poor in 2019–21.
- These states had contributed 65 per cent of the extreme poor in 2011–12 and drove two-thirds of the overall decline by 2022–23.
- Despite improvements, wage inequality is high, the top 10% earn 13 times more than the bottom 10%.
- The Gini index based on consumption improved (28.8 to 25.5), but income inequality rose (Gini from 52 to 62).
- Youth unemployment stands at 13.3%, rising to 29% among graduates, with most jobs remaining informal, particularly in agriculture.

- Female employment remains low at 31% with a 234 million gap compared to men, though overall employment has been growing since 2021–22.

## About Poverty and Equity Briefs (PEBs)

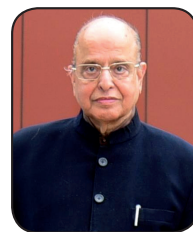
- They are biannual reports by the World Bank and provide a quick overview of poverty, inequality, and shared prosperity trends in over 100 developing countries.
- It is released during the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF; they aim to keep poverty reduction central on the global agenda.

## Dr. K. Kasturirangan

- **Context:** Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Dr. K. Kasturirangan passed away in Bengaluru.

## About Dr. K. Kasturirangan

- He was born on October 24, 1940, in Ernakulam, Kerala.
- He earned a B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc. in Physics from Bombay University.
- He completed his Ph.D. in Experimental High Energy Astronomy in 1971 at the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad.
- He started his career as an X-ray astronomer and went on to serve as Secretary, Department of Space.



## Major Contributions

- **Science and Technology:** He played a key role in advancing India's space program.
  - He served as the fifth Chairman of ISRO from 1994 to 2003.
  - He directed the ISRO Satellite Centre and established India's remote sensing satellite program.

- He oversaw the activities related to the development of new generation spacecraft, Indian National Satellite (INSAT-2) and Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS-1A & 1B) as well as scientific satellites.
- He contributed to the development of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
- **Education and Policy:** He headed several crucial committees like the ones on the Western Ghats and the National Education Policy.
  - He served as Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Chairperson of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission.
  - He was Member of the Rajya Sabha (2003–2009) and associated with the Planning Commission of India.
- **Awards and Honors:** He was awarded Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Vibhushan for his contributions to science and service to the nation.
- It aimed to promote Afro-Asian economic and cultural cooperation and strongly opposed colonialism, imperialism, and neocolonialism in all forms.
- The conference served as a precursor to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

### Bandung's Ten Principles (Dasasila Bandung)

1. Respect for fundamental human rights, and for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations, large and small.
4. Abstention from intervention or interference into the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself, singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangement of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, and abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration, or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

27<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

## Bandung Conference

- **Context:** This year marks the 70th anniversary of the historic Bandung Conference held in Indonesia in 1955.

### About Bandung Conference

- The Bandung Conference brought together twenty-nine newly independent Asian and African countries.
- The objective of the conference was to deliberate on the common challenges faced by decolonized nations and to assert their collective voice in a world order dominated by the Cold War superpowers.
- The conference marked the emergence of the Global South as an influential grouping in international politics.

### About Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

- NAM is an alliance of developing nations that refuses to identify with any major superpower during the Cold War.

- It has its origins in the 1955 Bandung conference in Indonesia.

NAM was established and held its first conference in 1961 in Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia.

- The movement's founders are President Sukarno of Indonesia, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and President Josip Tito of Yugoslavia.
- NAM does not have a permanent secretariat or a formal founding charter, act, or treaty. After the United Nations, NAM is the second-largest grouping of nations.

Currently, NAM membership consists of 120 countries: 53 from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean, and two from Europe. It also includes the non-UN member state of Palestine, and 17 other observer countries.

## World Economic Forum

- **Context:** The World Economic Forum is investigating allegations against its founder and former Chairman, Klaus Schwab, following a whistleblower letter accusing him of ethical misconduct.

### About World Economic Forum (WEF)

- **Founded in:** 1971 as the European Management Forum.
- **Renamed:** Became the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 1987 to reflect a broader global focus.
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab, a German economist, who also pioneered the concept of "stakeholder capitalism" — the idea that companies should serve all stakeholders, not just shareholders.
- **HQ:** Switzerland

- **Aims and Objectives:** To improve the state of the world through public-private cooperation.

- Address global economic, social, and environmental challenges.
- Foster collaboration among governments, businesses, and civil society.

### Major Functions and Activities

- **Global Dialogues:** Hosts the prestigious Annual Meeting in Davos, where world leaders, CEOs, economists, activists, and academics gather to discuss urgent global issues.
- **Publications and Rankings:** Produces influential reports and indices, including:
  - Global Competitiveness Report
  - Global Gender Gap Report
  - Future of Jobs Report
  - Energy Transition Index

## Crimea

- **Context:** The US President Donald Trump has said that the Crimean Peninsula should remain with Russia.

### Key Facts

- Russia's extensive coastline is mostly along the frozen Arctic, making many ports unusable during winters.
- The Black Sea offers the warmest marine access for Russia.
- It serves as a gateway to the Mediterranean Sea (via the Bosphorus and Dardanelles Straits controlled by Turkey) and onwards to Europe, Africa, and West Asia. However, the Black Sea ports like Sochi and Novorossiysk are shallow and less ideal for major naval operations.
- Sevastopol, located in Crimea, is a deepwater port and has historically been the home of Russia's Black Sea Fleet.



28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

## National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- **Context:** The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has granted tax exemption to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) by notifying it as an authority under clause 46A of Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

### Key Facts

- Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, lays out different types of income that can be exempt from taxes, with the goal of easing the financial load on certain entities.
- The Clause (46A) in this section grants tax exemptions to statutory bodies or authorities that are set up under Central or State Acts, as long as they are working for public purposes.
- This rule helps these authorities make better use of their funds by relieving them of income tax obligations, which in turn encourages them to achieve their goals without being held back by financial issues.

### About National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- It was established as a society in 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and initially served as the implementation arm of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).
- After NGRBA was dissolved on 7th October 2016, the National Ganga Council was formed to oversee the rejuvenation and protection of the Ganga River.
- The key framework for the Ganga rejuvenation includes a five-tier structure at the national, state, and district levels to combat pollution and ensure adequate water flow.

- The structure consists of the National Ganga Council chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
  - Empowered Task Force (ETF) chaired by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti.
  - National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
  - State Ganga Committees.
  - District Ganga Committees in regions along the Ganga and its tributaries.
- NMCG has a two-tier management structure, consisting of a Governing Council and an Executive Committee, both headed by the Director General (DG) of NMCG. The Executive Committee can approve projects up to ₹1000 crore.

## BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting

- **Context:** 11<sup>th</sup> BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting 2025 has adopted the Declaration Under Brazilian Presidency.

### Key Highlights

- The meeting, convened under the slogan "Strengthening the Cooperation of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance".
- The declaration addresses two pivotal themes: "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work" and "The Impacts of Climate Change on the World of Work and a Just Transition".
- The declaration commits BRICS nations to:
  - Promote inclusive AI policies that balance innovation with worker protection.
  - Advance social dialogue to ensure fair climate transitions.
  - Strengthen South-South cooperation on labour governance, digital inclusion, and green job creation.
- A major decision was the creation of a Policy Observatory, a platform for exchanging experiences on decent work and social protection.

## About BRICS

- BRICS is an acronym that refers to a group of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates have joined BRICS as new full members.
- The term was originally coined by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001.
- BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing around 41% of the global population, around 24% of the global GDP and around 16% of global trade. All members are projected to grow in 2024, with rates ranging from 1.1% to 6.1% (IMF).
- As a formal grouping, BRIC started after the meeting of the Leaders of Russia, India and China in St. Petersburg on the margins of the G8 Outreach Summit in 2006.
- The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of BRIC Foreign Ministers on the margins of UNGA in New York in 2006.
- Initially, the grouping was termed BRIC as South Africa was inducted in 2010 and from there on it has been referred to as BRICS.

The governments of the BRICS states have met annually at formal summits since 2009.

- BRICS countries have come together to deliberate on important issues under the three pillars of:
  1. Political and security,
  2. Economic and financial and
  3. Cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
- **New Development Bank:** Formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states. The Bank shall support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.

## Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

- **Context:** The Odisha government notified the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR), the world's only home to wild melanistic tigers, as a national park.

### Key Facts

- It is the 107<sup>th</sup> national park and the second in the state, after Bhitarkanika.
- Proposed in 1980, the intention to declare Similipal as a National Park remained pending for over four decades.

### About Similipal

- Similipal, located in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, is home to 40 royal Bengal tigers, shelter to 25% of Odisha's elephant population and 104 orchid species, many endemics to the region.
- It is a haven for over 360 species of birds, and diverse mammals like leopards, sambar, and mugger crocodiles.
- The forests of Similipal are a mix of sal trees, moist deciduous, and semi-evergreen types.
- The tigers of Similipal possess higher-than-normal levels of melanin, giving them coats that are blacker with yellow stripes.
  - The pseudo-melanistic tiger is a colour variant of the Bengal tiger.
  - Its strange coat is a result of a mutation in a particular gene.

29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

## Greenhouse Gases Emissions Intensity Targets

- **Context:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the draft Greenhouse Gases Emissions Intensity (GEI) Target Rules, 2025.

## About Greenhouse Gases Emissions Intensity (GEI)

- GEI refers to the amount of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted per unit of product output (e.g., per tonne of cement or aluminium).
- GHGs include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), and water vapour, along with synthetic gases like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).
- GEI is measured in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e), a standard unit accounting for the global warming potential of all GHGs.

### Draft GEI target Rules

- The emissions intensity targets, with 2023–24 as the baseline year and 2025–26 and 2026–27 as the target years, aim at the gradual reduction of emissions intensity to promote low-carbon industrial growth.
- The draft rules target 282 industrial units across four highly energy-intensive sectors: 13 aluminium plants, 186 cement plants, 53 pulp and paper plants, and 30 chlor-alkali plants.
- Alignment with National Climate Goals: It supports India's commitment to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

## Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

- **Context:** According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India's military spending in 2024 reached \$86.1 billion nearly nine times Pakistan's \$10.2 billion.

### Key Findings of Recent Report

- Global military spending reached a record \$2,718 billion in 2024.
  - The global military burden rose to 2.5% of GDP.
- Europe was the biggest driver, increasing spending by 17% due to the war in Ukraine.
- The top five military spenders (U.S., China, Russia, Germany, and India) accounted for 60% of global defence expenditure.
- China spent \$314 billion, dominating Asia's military spending, while Russia's expenditure surged 38% to \$149 billion amid the ongoing Ukraine war.
- Ukraine spent \$64.7 billion, representing 34% of its GDP — the highest military burden globally.

### About SIPRI Military Expenditure Database

- It provides consistent military spending data for countries from 1949 to 2024, updated annually.
- It includes figures in local currency, constant and current US dollars, and as shares of GDP, government expenditure, and per capita, mostly aligned to calendar years.

