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India Among Top Military Spenders: SIPRI

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Why in News

Recently, the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute** (SIPRI) released its annual report '**Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019**'.

According to the report, the **global military expenditure rose to \$1917 billion in 2019** with **India and China** emerging **among the top three** spenders.

Key Points

- **Global military spending** was **2.2% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** with an increase of 3.6% from 2018.
 - The increase of 3.6% was the largest annual growth in spending since 2010.
- **Top five largest spenders** accounted for **62%** of the global expenditure.
 - The USA>China>India>Russia>Saudi Arabia.
 - India was at the 4th position in 2018 with Saudi Arabia at the 3rd.
- **Data related to Asia and Oceania:**
 - **Japan** (\$47.6 billion) and **South Korea** (\$43.9 billion) were the largest military spenders apart from India and China.
 - **Pakistan** was at the **24th position** compared to the 19th in 2018.
 - Its **military expenditure rose by 70%** over the **decade 2010-19**, to reach **\$10.3 billion** while the military burden **increased to 4% of GDP in 2019** from 3.4% in 2010.
 - Military burden assesses the proportion of national resources dedicated to military activities and the burden on the economy.

India Specific Data

- The report highlights that **India's defence expenditure is growing in absolute terms**. However, defence expenditure has been **going down as a percentage of its GDP**, due to the increasing trend in the growth of GDP.
 - In 2019, the expenditure was **2.4% of India's GDP** which was **lower than that of 2.7% in 2010**.
- The **Union Budget 2019-20**, envisaged a total outlay of ₹27,84,200 crore. Out of this **₹3,18,931.22 crore was earmarked for Defence (excluding Defence Pension)**.
 - **Total Defence Allocation**, including Defence Pension, accounted for **15.48% of the total Central Government expenditure** for the year 2019-20.
 - It was **6.8% more than that of 2018** and has **grown by 37% over the decade of 2010–19**. If compared to **1990, it has gone up by 259%**.
- The **Union Budget 2020-21**, envisaged a total outlay of ₹30,42,230 crore. Out of this, **₹3,37,553 crore has been allocated for Defence (excluding Defence Pension)**.
 - Total defence budget accounts for **15.49% of the total central government expenditure** for the year 2020-21.
 - It shows a **growth of 9.37%** over Budget Estimates 2019-20.
 - It was about **1.5% of the country's GDP, the lowest in recent times**.
- India's **tensions and rivalry with both Pakistan and China** are among the major drivers for its **increased military spending**.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

- This **think tank** is an **independent international institute** dedicated to **research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament**.
- It was **established in 1966** at **Stockholm (Sweden)**.
- It **provides data, analysis and recommendations**, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

Source: TH