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## Decline in India's Arms Imports: SIPRI

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### Why in News

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According to a recent report by **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** India's arms imports came down by a third (about 33%) between 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.

### Key Point

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- **India Specific Findings:**
  - **Second Highest Importer:**  
India remains the **second highest importer, only behind Saudi Arabia.**
  - **Arms Suppliers to India:**
    - **Russia is the largest arms supplier** to India in both periods (2011-2015 and 2016-2020). However, **Russia's** share of Indian arms imports fell from 70% to 49%.
    - **France and Israel** were the **second and third largest** arms suppliers in 2016–20. India's arms imports from **France increased by 709%** while those from Israel rose by 82%.
    - The **USA** became the **fourth largest supplier** for the period 2016-20. It was the **second largest arms supplier to India in 2011–15.**
  - **Indian Export:**
    - India accounted for **0.2% of the share of global arms exports** during 2016-20, making the country the world's 24<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of major arms.
    - This represents an **increase of more than 200%** over **India's export share (0.1%)** during the previous five-year period of 2011-15.
    - **Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Mauritius were the top recipients** of Indian military hardware.
  - **Future Trends:**  
Owing to increasing threats from Pakistan-China, and a significant delay in domestic defence manufacturing, India's **arms imports are expected to increase** over the coming few years.
- **Reasons for the Fall in Imports:**
  - **India's Push for Self-Reliance:** The report said that the fall is not attributed to the government's push to make **India self-reliant in defence manufacturing.**
    - Also, over **60% of the capital expenditure** for the armed forces has been allocated for **domestically produced weapons and platforms.**
    - Earlier, the government had announced **a negative imports list of 101 defence equipment** and platforms will provide an opportunity to manufacture the items in the negative list.
  - **Complex Procurement Process:** The drop in Indian arms imports have been mainly due to its **complex procurement processes**, combined with an attempt to **reduce its dependence on Russian arms.**

- **International Transfers:**

- The **top five global arms exporters** were the US, Russia, France, Germany and China in 2016-2020.
- International transfers of major arms **stayed at the same level between 2011–15 and 2016–20**
  - There were **substantial increases** in transfers by **the USA, France and Germany** and it was largely offset by **declining Russian and Chinese** arms exports.
  - The **bulk of Russian export fall** was due to India reducing its imports.
  - Even if Russia substantially increased its **arms transfers to China, Algeria and Egypt** between 2011–15 and 2016–20, this did not offset the large drop in its arms exports to India.
- **Middle eastern arms imports grew** during this period and was majorly driven by Saudi Arabia.

### **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**

- It 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**