

India's arms imports from U.S. up by 550%: report

The U.S. recorded a blazing growth in its arms exports to India, recording over 550% growth in 2013-17 compared with the previous five years. As a result, the U.S. has become India's second largest supplier.

In contrast, Pakistan's imports from the U.S. dropped by 76% in 2013-17 compared with 2008-12, while it emerged as the largest recipient of Chinese arms exports, according to the latest report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Russia continued to be India's largest arms supplier, accounting for 62% of India's arms imports between 2013 and 2017.

"India was the world's largest importer of major arms in 2013-17 and accounted for 12% of the global total. Its imports increased by 24% between 2008-12 and 2013-17," SIPRI, which monitors global arms transfers, said in the report released on Monday.

"The tensions between India, on the one side, and Pakistan and China, on the other, are fuelling India's growing demand for major weapons, which it remains unable to produce itself," said Siemon Wezeman, Senior Researcher with the SIPRI arms and military expenditure programme.

Chinese arms

While India continues to depend on imports for its arms requirements, China's arms imports fell by 19 per cent between 2008-12 and 2013-17. While it was the world's fifth largest arms importer in 2013-17, China has also emerged as the fifth largest arms exporter, with exports rising by 38% between 2008-12 and 2013-17. A majority of these weapons have been procured by countries in India's neighbourhood.

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