International Relations · GS - II

The proposed $1.5 trillion US defence budget and Democratic opposition amid the West Asia conflict highlight the relationship between military expenditure, fiscal sustainability and democratic accountability. Examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
Daily Practice 08/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Congressional resistance reflects fiscal sustainability, war accountability and competing domestic priorities. Defence spending requires balancing military preparedness, executive authority, legislative oversight, economic stability and democratic consent.

Model Answer

The proposed $1.5 trillion US defence budget for FY2027 represents a substantial increase over previous expenditure. President Donald Trump has justified higher spending through military modernisation, weapons replenishment and strategic requirements amid the Iran conflict.

However, Democratic opposition highlights concerns regarding fiscal sustainability, domestic welfare expenditure and the constitutional accountability of military operations. The US Constitution empowers Congress to appropriate funds, while the President exercises executive authority as Commander-in-Chief. Consequently, defence expenditure becomes an instrument of legislative oversight and democratic control.

The controversy also illustrates the opportunity cost of military spending. Higher defence allocations may support employment, technological innovation and industrial production, but excessive expenditure can increase deficits and constrain healthcare, education and infrastructure investments.

Furthermore, disagreements over war financing may affect military readiness, defence contractors and international strategic commitments.

Ultimately, sustainable defence policy requires balancing national security requirements with fiscal prudence, legislative scrutiny and democratic accountability. Transparent budgeting, congressional consultation and clear strategic objectives are essential for effective military expenditure.

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