

Topic of the week for discussion: 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2018

## India, Russia conclude negotiations for S-400 Triumf Missiles deal

India and Russia have concluded the contract for five S-400 Triumf missile systems, one of the biggest defence deals in recent times. India signed the much-anticipated deal worth \$5.43-billion at the 19th India-Russia annual bilateral summit at the Hyderabad House.

However, the U.S. has warned the deal would invoke sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) law.

### **Background:**

India-Russia cooperation is based on the 1971 Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation between the India and Russia; 1993 Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation; 2000 Declaration on Strategic Partnership; and 2010 Joint Statement, elevating the Partnership to a Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

### **Highlights:**

Both the sides affirmed their commitment to the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia.

Subsequent to the successful implementation of the Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations for the period 2017-18, they agreed to extend the period of Consultations for five more years (2019-2023) and signed a Protocol to this effect.

They showed their satisfaction with the implementation of the Cultural Exchange Programme for 2017-2019 signed in 2017.

They reviewed the progress on the achievement of the goal to increase two-way investment to USD 30 billion by the year 2025.

They noted that the first meeting of the Strategic Economic Dialogue between NITI Aayog of India and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation would be held later in 2018 in Russia.

They called for the development of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) through intensified efforts by finalising pending issues.

The Sides welcomed the conclusion of the contract for the supply of the S-400 Long Range Surface to Air Missile System to India.

They stressed the importance of India-Russia cooperation in outer space and welcomed the activity on setting up measurement data collection ground stations of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System NavIC and the Russian Navigation Satellite System GLONASS.



Topic  
Introduction

**Significance:**

S-400 is an air defence missile system that can take down enemies' aircraft in the sky from the surface itself.

The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system, capable of destroying hostile strategic bombers, jets, missiles and drones at a range of 380-km.

The S-400 is an upgraded version of the S-300 systems. The missile system, manufactured by Almaz-Antey, has been in service in Russia since 2007.

**Challenges:**

The procurement of the S-400 missile defence system deal could result in the US sanctions on India under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) instituted by the US Congress on arms purchases from Russia. Under the CAATSA, the United States can impose sanctions on any country that has significant transactions with Iran, North Korea or Russia. The CAATSA was framed to punish Russia for the 2014 capture of Crimea from Ukraine, for its involvement in the Syrian civil war and for meddling in the 2016 US presidential election.

China was the first buyer to seal a government-to-government deal with Russia in 2014 to procure the lethal missile system and Moscow has already started delivery of the S-400 missile systems to Beijing.

The US has urged its allies to decline transactions with Russia, warning that the S-400 missile defence system would be a 'focus area' for it to implement punitive sanctions against a nation undertaking 'significant' business deals with the Russians.

However, American lawmakers have allowed the possibility of a presidential waiver.

**Conclusion:**

S-400 would be a big strength in the Indian Air Force's (IAF) arm. India needs to be well-equipped against neighboring threats. Pakistan has over 20 fighter squadrons, with upgraded F-16s, and inducting J-17 from China in large numbers. China has 1,700 fighters, including 800 4-Gen fighters. The long-range missile systems will tighten India's air-defence capabilities along the 4,000-km-long India-China border. India is also planning on acquiring 4 Krivak-class frigates from Russia, two of which will be built in India, which will be a \$2.5 billion deal.

**Read further:**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/india-russian-signs-dollar-5-billion-deal-5-s400-missile-systems/story/283970.html>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-russia-conclude-negotiations-for-s-400-triumf-deal/articleshow/64339988.cms>