

# INDIAN S- 400 MISSILE DILEMMA

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## ABSTRACT

Since the partition, India's hegemonic posture in South Asian region turned the region into a very complex and dramatic situation. The Indian aspiration to accumulate more hegemonic superiority consequences a tit for tat arms procurement race. This sort of race for arms and nuclear power has historically engineered four wars within India and Pakistan, a long-lasting enmity and hatred impacting the ultimate region. On the other hand, the border clashes and recent border standoffs of India and China are scenarios of the region. In such circumstances, India's quest for attaining and procuring S-400 missile is a clear depiction of geopolitical significance. Moreover, this procurement is a geopolitical movement of different dimensions and dynamics of the region complexities. Certain deal creates an arms race within the region in the context of offensive and defensive realism which predicts the region in security dilemma. This deal not only challenges the hegemonic role of US in the region but also analyzes the hypocrisy of US if India fails to get sanctioned.

**Keywords:** US, India, Geopolitics, S-400 Anti-missile System, Arm Race, Security Dilemma

## 1) INTRODUCTION

Russia and India are historically all-season friends and decades old strategic partners. Russia possesses the monopoly to remain India's largest military exporter. They both are recognized as mutual beneficiaries of each other in the hardest and strenuous times. Indo-Russia entrust in most of the indispensable multi-lateral initiatives to organize and design a multipolar world to carry out their aspirations to remain hegemon in their spheres of influence (Kugei, 2013). Moreover, this demanding relationship is designed to Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Recent procurement of S-400 anti-missile system of defense deal is climacteric in Russian and Indian ties. This deal of 5 billion \$ is a significant shift in regional and international dynamics of the political scenarios. (Sara Anwar khan, 2018) S-400 is a technology of credible utility for most of the states to acquire in order to increase their military capabilities. It is a mobile air defense system that is linked with other operations capabilities such as ballistic missiles. It is an assist in destroying any attack that comes in the radar and sketch to protect military, political, and economic attacks. In 2017, the Economist marks this, it is one of the authentic air defense systems that is currently designed. Moreover, The S-400 surface to air defense system is greatly progressed and leading system which possess the ability to shoot down 80 targets simultaneously within a 400 km range (Pandey, 2018). Rajive e Nayan, defense expert at the Institute for Defense Studies and analyze think-tank mention, "India is committed with its strategies interests. This deal is the demand of the time. US is asking India to withdraw the deal as keeping with the deal appeal sanctions-but Delhi keeps no intention to withdraw."

### Aims of the Study

This paper analyzes India's aspiration and quest to hegemonizes and control the neighbors I the region and to dominate the shifting balance of power is her sheer scale and ambition. This piece elaborates

monopolistic nature of India and strategic environment of the geography. Such aspirations lead to a path of war that is more varied and plausible than we can predict. This article examines the imbalance of power that is dominantly emerging and is the greatest geopolitical challenge of our life time. It critically evaluates the reaction of other states in the region to rebalance the shift in the strategic balance which is their core compulsion; consequently, such a situation heads an arm race in the region.

### **Research Objectives**

This paper tests the ties of U and India may get in water hot. This procurement overshadows and evaluates their long-standing relations under CAATSA legislation. Besides this, it accelerates a regional race between China, Pakistan, India poses a risk of security dilemma.

### **Problem Statements**

This enduring relationship between Russia and India is very influential and significant in the context of military advances. The recent procurement of S-400 missile depicts a leading illustration of friendship. This deployment raises uncertainty and destabilization in the region- South Asia dominates US and India through strong relations. Such circumstances create an arm race within the region and magnify the potential strategic imbalance precipitates in security dilemma.

### **Findings**

- US cannot afford to sanction as it does not want to lose an ally in the region against its biggest rivals.
- Unpredicted equation in US and India's ties.
- Eruption of clashes, disorder and rapid developments in massive consequences to the region tranquility- a volatile region with immense significance to world's peace.
- Strategic arm race in South Asia
- It triggers a shift in balance of power in the region.

### **Forecasts**

- Amplified arm race predicting the region in conflicts, growing uncertainty, aggravating mistrust of neighbors, any spark can accelerate a reaction.
- Shifts in balance of Power is bringing countries in strategic dilemma to increase their strength and capabilities
- . India can lose its partnership with US.

## **2) METHODS**

This paper follows qualitative method for research and analytical in nature. This piece examines with analytical lens the deployment of S-400 missile in the region. Together with regional and international dynamics the deal will be scrutinized.

## **3) RESULTS**

This piece inspects the procurement and development of S-400 in South Asian region- infuriating an arm race and posing strategic dilemma, America's and India's Clash of interests on this deal is stretching a regional aggression and impinging a long-standing alliance. It aids readers to pose an analysis of the unprecedented growing uncertainty, confronting strategic rivals under conditions and chronic stress, stimulates undeniable consequences, unacceptable dangers within the region to deter any enemy with deterrence capability raises a strategic instability. This piece gives an insight to comprehend the altering dynamics of politics, growing capabilities, regional accelerations of arm race, shift in strategic balance, declining US hegemony in the region.

#### 4) DISCUSSION

The procurement of S-400 missile plays a decisive role in the development of India and Russian relations. This deployment of anti-missile system is a direct indication of shifting the power balance in the region. Definitely, South Asia is an essential region in the global politics as two of the neighbors in the region have battled wars, nuclear states-China, India, Pakistan possessing nuclear capabilities. India's yearning to obtain amplified strategic significance and become hegemonic power to serve its potential key alliances and interests in the region are swiftly growing. (Alexey D. Muraviev, 2021) India's ambition to gain influence on China's growing potential and strength is only aggravating. On the other hand, India posed an unacceptable danger to its key alliances- US interest in the region by its indispensable and sophisticated conventional development from Russia. Stable relations of US and India are ought to get influenced under CAATSA arrangement which obliges US to sanction India. Interestingly, US sanctioning India as a counter weight to China in the region- an indispensable ally in South Asia and Indo-Pacific- no doubt it is the next battlefield of world powers to accumulate more strength and more access to their strategic interests. (Pandey, 2021) In addition, this system gain impacts the conventional non-proliferation of Pakistan and India, China and US deterrence. Justin Bronk views India's procurement of S-400 is crucial to serve the anti-craft and ballistic missile defense function. The size of the People Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) exhorts India to keep significant persuasive strategy capability to Surface Air Missile (SAM) like S-400. (Khan, 2019)

##### India's Hegemonic Quest

India is a preeminent power and its quest is driving ambitions of India possess more power in military capabilities which drags it to deploy arms of sophisticated and complicated capabilities to deter its enemies and maintain its hegemony on other states in the region. Hegemonic eagerness of India is envisaging it to be more superior in the region. So as to remain the hegemon, it accumulates and magnifies its maximum power to overturn the shift of power. For the purpose to be a dominating player in the global race of military power in order to sustain as hegemonic power, it creates its hegemony in South Asian region. India plays the cards of international politics in the context of realism to maintain its self-sufficiency by being keen to upgrade its multi-layered defense shield. Consequently, India aims to curtail Pakistan's capabilities and augment both defensive and offensive capabilities. In addition, Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Rawat quotes, "India's armed forces are more optimistic about Cold War Doctrine (CWD) under its air defense system. S-400 bears geopolitical implications as it is an impetus for India against any threat in the neighborhood. It calculates an assurance of India's territory shield against any conflict or escalation."<sup>5</sup> (Arif, 2021)

##### Pakistan's Options

India's influential advances in conventional capabilities drive Pakistan through asymmetric warfare to get on a strategic edge. This strategic edge identifies Pakistan's nuclear capabilities to replace its conventional war fighting capabilities vulnerabilities Pakistan utilizes the strategy of proxy groups which precede violent extremism and terrorism in the region now more sensitive after the takeover of Kabul by Taliban. (Shams-uz-Zaman, 2018) Nuclear confrontation is another recognized and calculated threat. Possession of nuclear weapons by both countries is more a crisis prone. Pakistan defense strategy leans on nuclear forces to confront India massive capabilities in conventional weapons. In an outset of crisis, it deploys its nuclear weapons in order to pursue its strategic interests and avoid India's dominance through depriving it from conventional military victory. (Sultan, 2020) The emerging risks and complications impel Pakistan to adopt some productive measures to counter and rebalance the shift in the strategic balance against India that nourishes an arm race and security dilemma in the region. In addition, Pakistan keeps very limited options and compulsions to executive for the long run:

- Pakistan's option is to acquire S-400 missile but it is inadequate so it is an irrational option to adopt.
- Pakistan is to advance MIRV technology which sustains a sphere of influence on S-400 missile. This technology poses the honor to deter India.
- Pakistan to obtain Supersonic or hypersonic missile to maintain deterrence capability.
- Pakistan needs to boost its electronic counter measures to combat S-400 anti-missile system.

- More and more investments in drone technology. Development of drone can detect S-400 and owns the capability to neutralize any sort of air defense system. (Syed Adnan Athar Bukhari, 2019)

### **Arm Race and Security Dilemma in South Asia**

Malicious intentions of India with the deal inflame the regional race in South Asia. Up to now, China is the only country to bring a deal from Russia. India's attainment of the similar technology continues the deterrence capability. In these circumstances, China's superiority and hegemonic aspirations confront deficiency which exacerbates China's determination and rethink its potential military posture. On the contrary, Pakistan speeds up in rapid development in nuclear missiles and arsenals by aggrandizing its productive weapons system. (Anthony H. Cordesman, 2016) Nuclear arms boom maintain impacting great power relations that accelerate regional strategic environment that flourish destabilization and destruction with casualties. Such empowers states which resultantly sketch a more combative and contentious stance towards Pakistan. Increasingly, Global Security environment is instigated by this deal. (R.N.Ganesh, 2012) This development and all other India's military advances maintain a strategic edge over Pakistan which inflames risks in military adventures in Pakistan. This deal is altering the deterrence equation in the region. Certain development is an emblematic that triggers a nuclear and missile arm race in the region which signifies a direct threat to other states survival and it is visible at the horizon. 'Tahir Nazir affirms that,' 'The colossal conventions arms balloon in the region assemble with the neutralization of the Indian Ocean and all those policies to build potential ballistic missile defense systems. They carry the potentials to alter the balance of power in the region.' (Nazir, 2018) Additionally, India's hegemonic appetites are unfolding in exchange of stability of the region. India becomes offensive if it procures the capabilities and the strategic stability of the region that gets on stake. (Jalil, 2020) Procurement of S-400 missile worsens the regional strategic stability which carries Pakistan in a perilous situation and it coerces Pakistan to adopt defensive measurement and reestablish the regional balance of power. Owing to Pakistan and India enmity, this sort of action and reaction syndrome perpetuate a regional arm race, undetermined disputes and absence of confidence building measure mechanism triggers an environment of mistrust. Such sorts of gaps are later inflamed by state authority or on-state actors which ferment a juncture that propel both states towards a more aggressive outcomes and paths accelerating into war and a nuclear exchange too. The procurement of S-400 anti-missile program is an incentive to accelerate a nuclear and arm race in South Asia if Indian ambitions are discontinued. (Tandler; Tandler) We are to our nuclear arsenal to the point where it has become dangerous for us. (Siddique, 2015)

### **US and India's Clash of Interests**

Deliveries of these missiles carry a clash of interests in Indo-US relations under US act of Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) which is perceived as a very reasonable hazard in their relations. US impose sanctions under the act on most of other countries after their developments unless president proceeds with a waiver. Delhi is observed to be very determined to receive a waiver under Biden administration due to its influential and potential strategic ties. (Tellis, 2018) US cannot afford to give up an ally in South Asian and Indo-Pacific region at the time of crisis against its toughest enemy-China. The Loss of India's ties describe the end of US hegemony and domination in this region. Many analysts view Biden administration keen interests lie with this in the region in order to see its ally very powerful against his most difficult enemy to undermine China's hegemonic aspirations. There are greater and satisfactory possibility of a presidential waiver as US is right now not in a condition to lose an ally. (Rajagopalan, 2021)

### **5) CONCLUSION**

Indo-Russian relations are time tested in terms of military arsenal procurement. Historically, the both countries shared very strong connectivity with each other in the hardest times. Evidently, potential military buildup of India in the previous decades is the product of Russian aid and support. Recent development of S-400 missile deployment by India is an evidence of it. But recent development of S-400 missile may upset Indo-US relations in coming future and resulting in sanctions. On the other hand, it impacts the region strategic stability and raises the aspirations of an arm race within the countries S-400 procurement flourishes the impacts on the other states which raises uncertainty and worst consequences eruption leading to security dilemma and arm race within the region.

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