



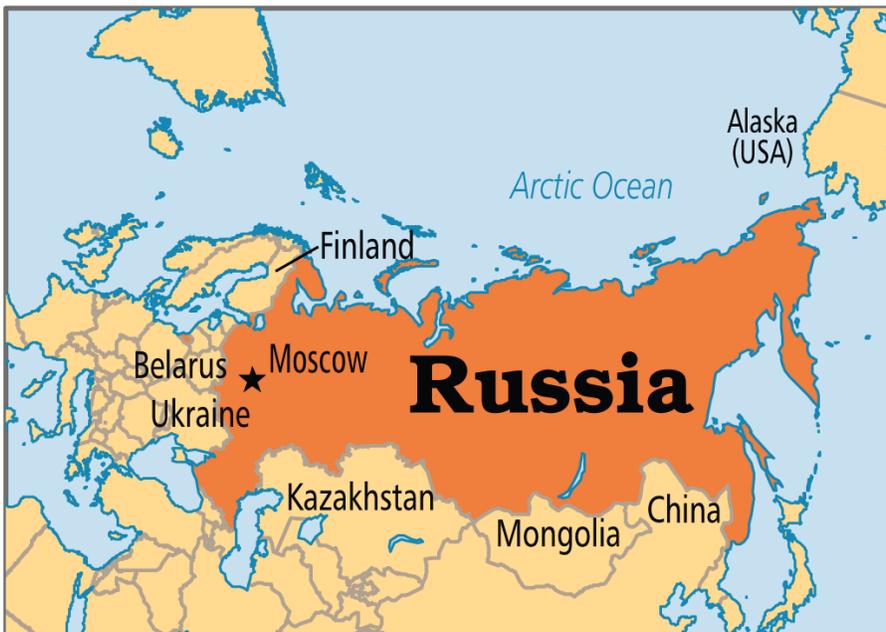
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S-400 Triumpf Missile System

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Why in News

The first group of Indian military specialists are scheduled to depart for Moscow (Russia) soon to undergo training courses on the **S-400 Triumpf missile defence system**.



Key Points

- **Background:**

In October **2018**, **India signed a 5.43 billion USD deal with Russia** for the **S-400 Triumpf missile system** despite objections from the US and the threat of sanctions under **Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act** (CAATSA).

- **About the S-400 Triumph Missile System:**
 - The S-400 Triumph is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia. It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the **US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD)**.
 - The system **can engage all types of aerial targets** including aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and ballistic and cruise missiles within the range of 400km, at an altitude of up to 30km.
 - The system **can track 100 airborne targets and engage six of them simultaneously.**
- **Significance for India:**
 - From India's point of view, **China is also buying the system.** In 2015, China signed an agreement with Russia to purchase six battalions of the system. Its delivery began in January 2018.
 - China's acquisition of the S-400 system has been viewed as a "game changer" in the region. However, its effectiveness against India is limited.
 - India's acquisition is **crucial to counter attacks in a two-front war**, including even high-end F-35 US fighter aircraft.

India Russia Defence Cooperation

- **Important Pillar:**
 - Defence cooperation is an important pillar of the **India-Russia strategic partnership.**
- **Regular Meetings:**
 - The **two Defence Ministers meet annually**, alternately in Russia and India, to discuss and review the status of ongoing projects and other issues of military technical cooperation.
 - In 2008, the **High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC)** was set up with **Defence Secretary** from the Ministry of Defence (India) and **Director of Federal Service** for Military Technical Cooperation (FSMTC - Russia) as its co-chairs.
- **Downturn:**
 - While India and Russia's economic relationship has been a weak point in the **post-Cold War period**, the US emerged as the top arms supplier to India, pushing Russia to the second position based on data for the years 2011-13.

- **Current Scenario:**

- The low of 2013-14 has since been corrected and the crucial deal of S-400 Triumf Air Defence Missile System was initiated despite fears of sanctions under CAATSA.
- As India has been spreading its supplier base with Israel, US and France, Russia still remains a major supplier. This is indicated by following latest developments:
 - India has approved proposals to acquire **Mig29** and **Su30 MKI** fighter aircraft from Russia for 2.4 billion USD.
 - The two sides are successfully moving towards the implementation of a **AK-203 rifle contract** and **200 Ka-226T utility helicopters** supplies.
- **According to a paper published** by **Stimson Center**, 86% of the equipment, weapons and platforms currently in military service in India are of **Russian** origin.

- **From Imports to Joint Production:**

Over the years, cooperation in the military technical sphere has evolved from a **purely buyer-seller relationship to joint research, design development and production** of state of the art military platforms.

Production of the **Brahmos cruise missile** is an example of this trend.

- **Joint Exercises:**

Exercise INDRA, is a joint, tri services exercise between India and Russia.

- **Russia's Military Equipment Deployed by India:**

- **Navy:**

The Navy's only active aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya** is from Russia.
A **nuclear attack submarine Chakra II** is also in service.

- **Army:**

Army's **T-90** and **T-72** main battle tanks.

- **Air Force:**

IAF's **Su30** MKI fighter.

Source:TH