

# October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

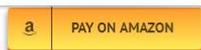
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## 1. India's S-400 missile system deal with Russia escaped US sanction

- What is the S-400 air defence missile system?
- What is the significance of S-400 systems?
- What is the US sanctions law, and how does it impact India's deal with Russia?
- How did the exemption come about? What's in it for Washington?

**GS paper 2 (Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests)**

**In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.**

**The above article has been retrieved from:**

PTI. ( 2018, October , 29). No pressure on India to buy F-16 fighter jets from US: Envoy. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/no-pressure-on-india-to-buy-f-16-fighter-jets-from-us-envoy-5422190/>

**What is the context about?**

- The United States is not going to put pressure on India to buy F-16 fighter jets or any other defence system, a senior US diplomat has said.
- He further said, the idea that the US is going to pressure India to buy the F-16 or any other system is not true. But

US recognises that India makes its decisions on its own grounds.

- ❑ Note: India recently concluded a USD 5 billion deal to buy the S-400 air defence missile system from Russia which could attract US sanctions under the CAATCA.

### **What is the S-400 air defence missile system?**

- ❑ The Russian-built S-400 Triumf — NATO calls it SA-21 Growler — is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range surface-to-air missile (MLR SAM) system in the world.
- ❑ It is considered to be much ahead of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence system (THAAD) developed by the United States.
- ❑ The mobile S-400 system can engage all types of aerial targets including aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and ballistic and cruise missiles within a range of 400 km, at an altitude up to 30 km.
- ❑ It can track 100 airborne targets, including super fighters such as the American built F-35, and engage six of them simultaneously.

### **What is the significance of S-400 systems?**

- ❑ The S-400 system, which can be deployed within five minutes, integrates a multifunction radar, autonomous detection and targeting systems, anti-aircraft missile systems, launchers, and a command & control centre,

and is capable of firing three types of missiles to create a layered defence.

- ❑ The S-400 is the fourth generation of long-range Russian SAMs, successor to the S-200 and S-300, and is twice as effective as the previous version of the air defence system.
- ❑ It is responsible for defending Moscow, and was deployed in Syria in 2015 to guard Russian and Syrian naval and air assets. Units have also been stationed in the Crimean peninsula.

### **What is the US sanctions law, and how does it impact India's deal with Russia?**

- ❑ The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), passed by Congress and reluctantly signed into law by President Donald Trump in August last year, aims at taking punitive measures against Russia, Iran, and North Korea.
- ❑ Title II of the Act primarily deals with sanctions on the Russian oil and gas industry, defence and security sector, and financial institutions, in the backdrop of its military intervention in Ukraine and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections.
- ❑ If implemented stringently, CAATSA would impact Indian defence procurement from Russia — not just S-400s, but also Project 1135.6 frigates and Ka-226T helicopters — as well as joint ventures like Indo Russian

Aviation Ltd, Multi-Role Transport Aircraft Ltd and Brahmos Aerospace.

### **How did the exemption come about? What's in it for Washington?**

- ❑ CAATSA impacts Indo-US ties, and dents the image of the US as a reliable partner at a time when it is projecting India as a key player in its Indo-Pacific strategy.
- ❑ Citing the “strategic opportunity” that India presents, and also the opportunity “to trade in arms with India” US is favouring this relief.
- ❑ The CAATSA exemption also underlines the growing defence and security cooperation that has seen India sign a logistics pact with the US, the US designating India as a Major Defence Partner, and both countries coming together on Indo-Pacific strategy.
- ❑ It also marks an acceptance by the US of the point of principle that as a sovereign country, India cannot be dictated on its strategic interests by a third country.