



The Impact of Pakistan-Russia Security Cooperation on India

OE Watch Commentary: Over the past few years the Russian government has increased its level of security cooperation with the government of Pakistan after lifting an embargo on selling weapons to it in 2014. While this caused some immediate issues with the Indian government, a major purchaser of Russian weapons and equipment, the impact it has had on Indian-Russian security cooperation is still playing out. The accompanying excerpted articles report on a couple of recent developments in Russia's security cooperation with both South Asian states and they provide some measure of how this continues to take shape.

The article from *The News International* reports on the third iteration of the joint Russia-Pakistan exercise "Friendship," which took place in northern Pakistan. The article notes how "70 troopers from Russia's southern military district will participate in the drills" and that it comes only a couple of months after the two governments established the "Russia-Pakistan Joint



Russian and Pakistani servicemen train to eliminate a mock base during Friendship 2018.
Source: Russian Defense Ministry, <http://eng.mil.ru/en/multimedia/photo/gallery.htm?id=61487@cmsPhotoGallery>, CC 4.0.

Military Consultative Committee" and reached an agreement "allowing officers from the country's armed forces to train in Russia." It is worth remembering that a few years ago, Russian officials stated that they planned to hold the joint exercise only once, not as a series.

The article from *The Economic Times* reports on a recent deal the Indian government made to purchase two frigates for "\$950 million." The article on the agreement also notes how "two frigates of the Project 11356 class will be bought directly from Russia and a contract to build two more at an Indian yard is likely to be signed at a later stage" and that the frigates "are expected to be delivered by 2022." As the Indian government watched Russian security cooperation with Pakistan increase, there were statements from Indian officials and predictions from regional analysts that this would push India to look for alternative sources of weapons and equipment. While the Indian government has been reducing some of the amount of money spent on procurement of Russian weapons and equipment over the past several years, the articles show that Russian security cooperation with Pakistan has been relatively small in scale and it has not, for the time being, caused the Indian government to completely end procurement from Russia. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**

"This is 3rd exercise as part of Pak-Russia bilateral training cooperation."

Source: "Russian troops in Pakistan for joint militray training," *The News International*, 22 October 2018. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/384062-russian-troops-in-pakistan-for-joint-militray-training>

A Russian Army Contingent has arrived in Pakistan to participate in Pak-Russia Joint Training Excercise 'Druzhiba-III', DG ISPR Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor said in a statement Monday.

"This is 3rd exercise as part of Pak-Russia bilateral training cooperation. The 1st Exercise was held in Pakistan during 2016, while 2nd in Russia during 2017, he further explained...

According to Vadim Astafyev, head of the press service of the Russian Southern Military District, the joint drills – Friendship 2018 – will be held at the training range in Pabbi town in Nowshera district. More than 70 troopers from Russia's southern military district will participate in the drills...

In August, Pakistan and Russia reached a historic agreement allowing officers from the country's armed forces to train in Russia. The deal was concluded at the end of the inaugural meeting of Russia-Pakistan Joint Military Consultative Committee in Rawalpindi...The talks between the two countries were headed by Defence Secretary Zamirul Hassan Shah and visiting Russian Deputy Defence Minister Col Gen Alexander Fomin.

Source: Pubby, Manu. "India inks \$950 million deal for Russian frigates," *The Economic Times*, 29 October 2018. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-inks-950-million-deal-for-russian-frigates/articleshow/66408319.cms>

Russia has inked a \$950 -million deal to supply two new warships to India that will be equipped with Brahmos missiles to add to the firepower of the Navy. The two frigates of the Project 11356 class will be bought directly from Russia and a contract to build two more at an Indian yard is likely to be signed at a later stage.

Sources told ET that while final clearances for the long-pending project came before the summit earlier this month between President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the deal was signed last week after price negotiations.

...The deal — under a '2+2' scheme where technology will be transferred to an Indian shipyard to construct two of the frigates from scratch — has been in the works since 2015. The two ships to be brought from Russia are expected to be delivered by 2022...