

Recent events highlights Russia's growing Strategic Interest in the Indian Ocean, India should be aware of consequences & think of its own regional Strategy. Analysis

Recent joint naval exercise (Moxis) of South Africa, Russia & China in Indian Ocean shows the Russia's Strategic interest in the ocean. Five decades ago after British withdrawal from east of Suez canal, Russia tried to provide security over the littoral. But due to disintegration of Soviet union, it could not do so & USA replaced it.

Russia's interest in Indian Ocean



Cause of concern for India

Though Russia may not occupy Indian Ocean as a leader as of now, India should be strategically alert for following reasons

- Russia's deepening ~~tension~~ embrace with west & Moscow's growing Strategic embrace with China

- Impact of buying S400 missile has been given more focus
- Whereas Sino-Russia relationship given less focus.

Russia's need in Indian Ocean

Russia clarified India that it will not affect India-Russia relationship & continues since it is since the days of 'Treaty of Friendship'. Russia cited following reasons for strategic interest in Indian Ocean.

- Russia $\Rightarrow$ vast continental state bordered ocean at one end
- $\Rightarrow$ Has very limited resources
- To expand its economy & strategic control as global multi-polar power, Russia
 - Russia planning to leverage its major arms exporter in Indian Ocean.
 - Also Strategically it provides countries in Indian Ocean a diplomatic protection in UNSC against western pressure

India's Strategy

- India does not want to trigger anything the west. At the time Russia has been our partner historically.
- Through diplomatic & strategic partnership, India can maintain its relationship with others as a growing global power.
- To counter China's hegemony in 'South China Sea', India partnered with USA & Japan & conducted naval exercise (Malabar) as well as Quad countries were formed to counter China