



**Center for Global & Strategic Studies**

## **Indo-Japan Nuclear Deal and Its Implications**

*Published on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2016*



In the already endangered nuclear environment of South Asia, on November 11, 2016, India signed a controversial nuclear deal with Japan. This deal has been signed eleven years after the Indo-US Nuclear Deal of 2005 that has already threatened the security and stability of South Asia due to several reasons including the fact that it has enabled India to use its home-enriched Uranium for entirely military purposes. However, this latest nuclear deal between India and Japan has raised many legal questions due to its controversial and dubious nature and timing.

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*The primary controversy about the Indo-Japan Nuclear Deal is that India is not a signatory of NPT and is not a member of NSG either.*

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The nuclear deal will permit the various companies of Japan to export nuclear technology to India. It has been signed in the wake of enhancing security and economic partnership between the two countries. Since World War II, Japan remained a peaceful country. Being a victim of the most devastating nuclear attacks against the humankind, Japan has always propagated peace and harmony in the world. Japan has always been an advocate against the use of nuclear weapons and arms race. However, backing a hostile state like India with such a significant nuclear deal has raised many questions about the role of Japan in world peace.

India is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and is not a member of the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG). This is the biggest question on the credibility of this deal. Moreover, this raises many concerns on the legal status of this deal between India and Japan. Many international nuclear experts are surprised on the Japanese in the wake of this deal.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi alongside his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe has made this deal at a very significant time in the history. India has already been causing a lot of unrest and instability in South Asia. It is a well-known fact that India has border issues with all its neighboring countries in the region. China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and even Sri Lanka have been the

victims of Indian hostile behavior in South Asia. Moreover, the water issues caused by India in primary states such as China, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan have also created a hostile environment in South Asia. In the security dilemma of a nuclear armed and already endangered region of South Asia, a deal like this is a major threat to the already fragile security situation in the region.

India is not a signatory of NPT. It is a global treaty that explicitly prohibits countries from developing and possessing nuclear weapons. Only the permanent five members of the Security Council of the United Nations are allowed to do that. Historically, Japan had been avoiding to assist India in the nuclear technology cooperation, but this deal has turned the tables and Japan have made its role controversial in the diplomatic politics of peace and stability around the world. This new soft and more relaxing stance of Japan vis-à-vis India will endanger the lives of half the world population living in South Asia and China combined.

The nuclear-armed hostile India which has a significant influence of the right-wing extremist Hindu Fundamentalist groups in the Parliament now has nuclear deals with the United States, Japan, France and Australia. The starvation for power exerted by Indian regimes while turning a blind eye towards the 60% of the population which is living below the poverty line reflects the hegemonic aims of India to dominate the region with a superior nuclear technology.

The continued border agitation ignited by India and her efforts to contain China in the region are some of the motives behind this expanding nuclear power. The tensions between China and Japan due to their historical conflicts along with the

ongoing island disputes in the East China Sea could also be a motivating factor for this controversial and legally unsuitable nuclear deal.

Both India and Japan have faced severe criticism over the signing of this nuclear deal. Japanese leader and Indian PM have been facing concerns in their country. Notably, Japan that has softened its previously established stance over India is under enormous pressure because of the first fact that India is a non-signatory of NPT.

### Conclusion

The implications of this legally controversial Indo-Japan nuclear deal can be devastating for South Asia. In a nutshell, the deal has proven to have enhanced the already existing instability and an arms race in the region. China and Pakistan along with many other states in the region have serious reservations. With the hostile diplomatic behavior of India regarding Pakistan, China, Sri Lanka and many other countries, it has fueled many concerns regarding the Indian credibility to act like a responsible state. Also, the Indian aims of attaining an absolute hegemony over South Asia have been strengthened by this agreement. Japan must re-evaluate its role in the geopolitics of South Asia and should not lose its credibility by signing this deal. 'Containing China' is an absurd concept in its entirety because China has been the most peaceful economic power in the world. Moreover, the unrealistic Indian policies of isolating Pakistan diplomatically are also absurd in nature because Pakistan does not pose any threat to any state in the region whereas India has a plethora of disputes with all its neighbors and this does not exclude any neighbor of India. As a matter of fact, Sri Lanka that is not a territorial neighbor of India has also

been vandalized by India over the years. The list of sufferings that South Asian states have faced at the hands of the Indian policies is a long one and empowering the already hostile nuclear-armed state that is dominated by the extremist Hindu groups is a devastating initiative. The security of the nuclear arsenal of India is already controversial due to the high level of involvement of the right-wing Hindu extremist groups, and this shocking deal can add up to the existing tensions in South Asia.

