

India-Russia Defence Co-operation



The Navy's flagship INS Vikramaditya is symbolic of Indo-Russian defence cooperation

Time to Look Forward

The Soviet Union, and later Russia, have been the most reliable suppliers of state-of-art armament for India's defence forces. India and Russia have an institutionalised structure to oversee the complete range of issues of military technical cooperation. The *India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation* (IRIGC-MTC), set up in 2000, is at the apex of this structure.

The backbone of India's military deterrence, in the form of frontline offensive hardware like the Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter aircraft of the IAF, the Navy's aircraft carrier INS *Vikramaditya*, *Rajput*-class guided missile destroyers and nuclear submarine *Arihant*, as also T-90 main battle tanks and BMP II infantry combat vehicles (ICVs) of the Indian Army, are all of Russian origin. In fact, bulk of the MBTs and ICVs are manufactured



The Sukhoi Su-30MKI is built by HAL at Nasik (photo: Angad Singh)