

India Russia Defence Deal

July 3, 2020

Amid the tension on the border with China, the **Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by the Defence Minister** approved deals worth ₹38,900 crore. The approvals come after the Defence Minister's visit to Moscow for the **Victory Day Parade**.

Defence Deal

- It includes procurement of 21 **MiG-29 fighter jets** for the Indian Air Force (IAF), upgrade of 59 MiG-29s and acquisition of 12 **Su-30 MKI aircraft**. HAL will build the 12 Su-30 MKI aircrafts to replace those crashed over the years. India has in different batches contracted 272 Su-30 from Russia, majority of which have been **license manufactured by HAL**.
- It includes **Pinaka ammunition, armoured vehicle BMP armament upgrades and software defined radio** for the Army. Pinaka is an indigenously developed, all weather, indirect fire, free flight artillery rocket system.
- It includes **Long Range Land Attack Missile Systems** of over 1,000 km range and **Astra Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missiles** for the Navy and the Airforce. Beyond visual range missiles have the capacity to engage and destroy highly manoeuvring supersonic aircraft during night or day.
- Deals other than for fighters would be made in India involving several indigenous **MSME as prime tier vendors**, with transfer of technology by DRDO.
- Despite India diversifying the sources from where it buys its military hardware in recent decades, an estimated 60% of its arsenal contains Russian origin systems making New Delhi depend on Moscow for critical spares and upgrades. India has become the world's biggest arms importer as it modernises its military.

- India is also seeking a quick delivery of the five squadrons of the **S-400 Triumph air defence systems**. New Delhi, on its part, signed a \$5.4-billion agreement in 2018 with Moscow for the delivery starting from the middle of 2021.