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## Indian military ineffective sans Russian equipment

### **Context:**

A Congressional Research Service (CRS) report has said that the Indian military cannot operate effectively without Russian supplied equipment.

The report is crucial in the pretext of the US administration's review of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

### **Relevance:**

GS-III: Internal Security Challenges, GS-II: International Relations

### **Dimensions of the Article:**

1. More about the reports on India's dependence on Russian equipment

### **More about the reports on India's dependence on Russian equipment**



- According to the Military Balance 2021, India's present military arsenal is heavily stocked with Russian-made or Russian-designed equipment.
- There has been a considerable drop in India's dependence on arms and equipment from Russia according to the report, but still the Indian military cannot operate effectively without Russian-supplied equipment and will continue to rely on its weapons systems in the near and middle terms.



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- According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), since 2010, Russia has been the source of nearly two-thirds (62%) of all Indian arms imports.
  - Further, India has been the largest Russian arms importer, accounting for nearly one-third (32%) of all Russian arms exports.
  - Much of Russia's influence in India comes through its willingness to provide weapons systems and technologies that no other country will export to India. Russia also continues to offer advanced weapons platforms at relatively attractive rates.
  - Around 10,000 pieces of military hardware are procured from Russia.
  - The Indian Army's main battle tank force is composed predominantly of Russian T-72M1 (66%) and T-90S (30%).
  - India is also negotiating on the price of AK103 rifles for Make in India.
  - Indian Navy's sole operational aircraft carrier is a refurbished Soviet-era ship (INS Vikramaditya). The Navy's fighter fleet comprises 43 MiG-29K.
  - The Indian Air Force's 667-plane FGA (Fighter Ground Attack) fleet is 71% Russian-origin (39% Su-30s (Sukhoi), 22% MiG-21s, 9% MiG-29s).
  - All six of the service's air tankers are Russian-made Il-78s.
  - The country's only nuclear-capable supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos, is produced by a joint venture with Russia.
  - The US however, only provides non-lethal defence technology like C-130j Super Hercules, C-13 Globemaster, P-8i Poseidon etc, while Russia provides high-end technology like Brahmos supersonic missile, S-400 anti-missile system.



# US VERSUS RUSSIA IN INDIAN ARMS MARKET

RUSSIA	THE US
<p>India's biggest arms supplier for decades. Sales worth \$65 billion since early-1960s</p> <p>MiG fighters &amp; Sukhoi-30MKI jets to Kilo-class submarines, Talwar/Tabar-class frigates &amp; aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya</p>	<p>Overtook Russia in bagging Indian deals over last 3/4 years. Sales worth \$15 billion since 2007</p> <p>C-17 Globemaster-III strategic airlifters, C-130J Super Hercules aircraft &amp; P-8I maritime patrol planes to M-777 ultra-light howitzers, Apache attack &amp; Chinook heavy-lift helicopters</p>
FUTURE PROJECTS	FUTURE PROJECTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lease of 2nd nuclear-powered submarine (after first one, INS Chakra) for around \$1.5 billion</li> <li>➤ Five S-400 Triumf air defence systems for around \$5.5 billion</li> <li>➤ Four Grigorovich-class stealth frigates (2 to be built in India) for around \$4 billion</li> <li>➤ Joint production of 200 Kamov-226T light utility helicopters (140 in India) for \$1 billion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ US pushing F/A-18 "Super Hornet" or F-16 fighter production line in India to supply 110 jets for IAF for \$20 billion</li> <li>➤ In contention for 57 multi-role fighters to operate from aircraft carriers</li> <li>➤ Also for 111 armed naval light utility helicopters (Rs 21,738 crore)</li> <li>➤ Also 24 multi-role helicopters with anti-sub warfare capabilities (Rs 12,000 crore). Another 123 such choppers later</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INS Vikramaditya</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IAF C-17 Aircraft</b></p> 

**TOI**

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## The Russian Front

Russia still remains India's top weapons supplier and this complicates the relationship with the US



### INKED DEALS

**\$5.4 bn**

contract for **S-400** missile system

**\$3 bn**

pact to lease another **nuclear attack submarine**

**\$2 bn**

contract to buy **4 frigates**



### IN THE PIPELINE

**\$1 bn+**

deal for **AK-203** assault rifles to be made in partnership with the Ordnance Factory Board

**\$1 bn**

for **Kamov Ka-226** choppers to be made in partnership with Hindustan Aeronautics

**\$1 bn**

worth of emergency supplies, including **ammunition, missiles, assault rifles and anti-tank systems**



-Source: Indian Express