

Flankers over France



Exercise Garuda VI

During the first two weeks of July 2019, sixth edition of the *Garuda* series of exercises between the Indian Air Force and its French counterpart *Armée de l'Air* was held at Mont de Marsan air base in southern France. In sending four Sukhoi Su-30MKIs, an interesting “contest” was witnessed between this formidable Russian-origin fighter and their soon to be brothers-in-arms, the French-developed Dassault Rafale.

Falling under the global framework of bilateral cooperation established in 1998 between the two nations, the *Garuda* exercise is alternately held in France and India, the first edition of which took place



Su-30MKI of the IAF approaching a French C-135F tanker over the Mediterranean Sea (credit IAF)