

# MiGs in the skies over India



*MiG-29UPG of the IAF (photo: Simon Watson)*

**Diplomatic relations between Russia and India, now for over 70 years, are unique because of openness and efficiency. They have similar views on the global world order, mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of nuclear energy, industry and agriculture which has made possible to form a common creative view on world developments and well-being of their citizens. One of the key aspects in the long standing dialogue between the countries has been, and remains, military-technical cooperation between the two countries which is now reaching a new level of development.**

**P**rojects in combat aviation give reasons for real pride as it is in this domain that, over a long period of time, the brand 'MiG' has made, and continues to make, significant contribution to the air power of India's air forces.

More than 1000 'MiG' aircraft have been supplied to the Indian forces and also manufactured under licence by Indian industry. In fact, the first licence production of MiG-21 fighter, almost half a century back, was actually start of the 'Make in India' programme long before this became an established fact. Second, third and fourth generations of 'MiG' aircraft have been supplied within the framework of military-technical cooperation and Indian pilots got advanced MiG fighters much earlier than other foreign operators. As



*IAF MiG-21s (photo: Simon Watson)*