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# Russia Offers India the Su-57 Stealth Fighter with Technology Transfer

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# Russia Offers India the Su-57 Stealth Fighter with Technology Transfer

10 June 2026 · 3 min read · ·

Source: [ujjyari.com](http://ujjyari.com) — Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources **HOW**

## WHY IN NEWS

Russia has offered India its **Sukhoi Su-57**, a fifth-generation stealth fighter, with **joint production in India and full technology transfer**, including reportedly extensive source-code access. President Vladimir Putin made the offer around the **St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF)** in early June 2026. The offer comes as the Indian Air Force faces a squadron-strength and stealth-capability gap, and as India weighs its options between Russian and Western platforms while developing its own fifth-generation fighter.

## WHAT IS BEING OFFERED

ASPECT	DETAIL
Aircraft	Sukhoi Su-57 (Russian fifth-generation stealth fighter)
Offer	Joint production in India + technology transfer
Notable claim	Reportedly extensive source-code access (contrasted with restricted Western platforms)
Context	Made around SPIEF, early June 2026
IAF need	Squadron-strength gap and a stealth-capability requirement

A **fifth-generation fighter** is defined by stealth (low radar visibility), advanced sensor fusion, supercruise and networked warfare capability. Source-code access matters because it allows the buyer to integrate its own weapons and systems independently, a key element of self-reliance.

## INDIA'S OWN PROGRAMME: THE AMCA

India's indigenous fifth-generation fighter is the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**.

ASPECT	DETAIL
Programme	Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)
Type	Indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter
Status	Sanctioned for prototype development; years from production
Significance	Centrepiece of India's self-reliance in combat aviation

India had earlier participated in a joint fifth-generation programme with Russia (the FGFA, based on the Su-57) but **exited it in 2018** over cost, technology-sharing and capability concerns. The new offer revives that question in a different form.

## THE STRATEGIC DILEMMA

The offer poses a genuine strategic dilemma for India:

- 1. The capability gap is real.** The IAF operates fewer fighter squadrons than its sanctioned strength, and a stealth fighter is years away domestically, while China and Pakistan modernise.
- 2. Strategic autonomy and diversification.** India has long balanced Russian platforms (the S-400, fighter fleet, energy ties) with deepening US and Quad alignment. A major Russian buy must be weighed against this balance.
- 3. The CAATSA risk.** Large purchases of Russian military hardware can expose India to US sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), a recurring complication.
- 4. Protecting AMCA.** Any interim acquisition must not undercut the indigenous AMCA programme, which is central to long-term self-reliance.

The competing Western offer is the US **F-35**, which the US has floated. The choice is therefore not only technical but strategic.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### Prelims

- Russia offered India the **Su-57** (fifth-generation stealth fighter) with joint production and technology transfer
- India's indigenous fifth-generation fighter: the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**
- India exited the earlier Russia-India **FGFA** programme in **2018**
- The competing Western offer is the US **F-35**

- **SPIEF** = St. Petersburg International Economic Forum
- **CAATSA** = US sanctions law on buyers of Russian military hardware

## Mains Angles

- 1 **GS3 Defence Indigenisation:** Evaluate the trade-off between an interim foreign stealth fighter and protecting the indigenous AMCA programme.
- 2 **GS2 Strategic Autonomy:** Examine how India balances its defence ties with Russia against deepening alignment with the US and the Quad, under the shadow of CAATSA.
- 3 **GS3 Air Power:** Discuss the IAF's squadron-strength gap and the strategic case for fifth-generation capability.

## FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
Offer	Russia's Su-57 to India
Terms	Joint production + technology transfer
Aircraft type	Fifth-generation stealth fighter
India's indigenous fighter	AMCA
FGFA exit	2018
Competing offer	US F-35
Forum	SPIEF (St. Petersburg)
Sanctions risk	CAATSA (US)

Sources: *Business Standard, Ministry of Defence, The Hindu*

Source: Russia Offers India the Su-57 Stealth Fighter with Technology Transfer — Ujyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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