

## MoD clears Rs. 38,000cr order for 83 LCAs

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*By Manu Pubby*

New Delhi: The defence ministry has given the go-ahead for a Rs. 38,000 cr acquisition of next-generation Light Combat Aircraft that have been developed indigenously, with the production likely to see private sector manufacturing components of the jets.

The defence minister Rajnath Singh-led Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the contract and price for acquiring 83 of the aircraft. The approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) is expected shortly.

The fighters will be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and will add to the 40 that are already on order. The first squadron of fighters is already in place. The new jets will be significantly more capable than the first batch ordered and will have an enhanced radar, an electronic countermeasures suite and the capability to launch a variety of beyond-visual-range weapons.

The ministry said the LCA “is going to be the backbone of the Air Force in the future”, with officials confident that the LCA Mk II will see an order book of at least 200 jets. The order has given a boost to HAL, whose order book will cross Rs. 1 lakh crore once the contract is inked with the IAF.

“This procurement will be a major boost to 'Make in India' as the aircraft is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured with participation of local vendors apart from HAL,” the defence ministry has said.

The HAL plans to outsource a big part of the estimated Rs. 38,000 cr contract to the private sector as it wants to double its annual production capability to meet the requirements of the air force, as well as the upcoming order for 200 more jets.

The first of the upgraded fighters will be delivered within three years and a significant amount of manufacturing will go to private sector companies including Larsen and Toubro, Dynamics, VEM Technologies and Alpha Design, HAL chairman R Madhavan told ET.

The outsourcing of at least 35% of the work order will come as HAL puts in place infrastructure to double its capacity for producing 16 of the fighter jets every year. The two biggest enhancements the new version of the jets will have is the integration of an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar and an Electronic Warfare Suite.

Orders have already been placed with an Israeli manufacturer for the AESA radar but in the future, the ingenious radar (named Uttam) that is currently under development will be equipped. The fighters will be configured to fire a range of beyond visual range air-to-air missiles of Russian and Israeli origin but the game changer will be the next generation home developed Astra missile.

With the legendary MiG 21 fleet expected to be grounded within four years, the LCA will replace the Russian origin jets at forward airbases.

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<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/mod-clears-38k-cr-order-for-83-lcas/articleshow/74699637.cms>

## Defence council finalises proposal for 83 Tejas jets

*HAL is expected to deliver the first LCA Mk-1A to the IAF three years after the deal is signed*

*By Sushant Singh, Krishn Kaushik*

New Delhi: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has paved the way for procurement of 83 Tejas Mk-1A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bengaluru, by finalising contractual and other issues related to the biggest deal for the indigenous combat aviation industry — charting a path for the Indian Air Force (IAF) of the future. The proposal now awaits the Cabinet's nod.

HAL is expected to deliver the first LCA Mk-1A to the IAF three years after the deal is signed. Production will start by 2023 and a full squadron delivered by 2025 if a contract is signed soon. The delivery of 83 aircraft is expected to be complete by 2029.

The order is crucial for maintaining the strength of fighter squadrons in the IAF which is down to 30 against an authorised 42 squadrons. Even if these Tejas Mk-1A supplies happen on time, IAF will be left with an alarmingly low 26 squadrons by 2021, rising to 30 by 2027. The IAF last had 42 fighter squadrons in 2002 — each squadron generally has 18 aircraft.

The proposal, worth Rs 38,000 crore, will now be placed for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The DAC had approved the procurement of 83 Tejas jets in November 2016, and one year later, the Indian Air Force had also issued a single-vendor tender to HAL in December 2017.

It had been pending for over two years over cost negotiations, with HAL initially asking for around Rs 50,000 crore for the 83 indigenous fighters.

IAF had objected to the high price cited by HAL, arguing that it was asking for Rs 463 crore for each Tejas Mk-1A whereas it supplies the more modern Russian Sukhoi fighter jet at Rs 415 crore per aircraft. The price was also around Rs 100 crore more than the earlier version of Tejas, leading to prolonged and often acrimonious negotiations between IAF and HAL.

The order for 83 Tejas Mk-1A is seen to be critical for the HAL to prevent a complete halt of production at its facilities. As per current contracts, HAL's order books will run out beyond 2021-22 and this order will allow the public sector facility to continue its production.

With the induction of 83 aircraft, IAF will have a total of 123 Tejas fighter jets, making up six of its squadrons.

The IAF had placed an order for 20 Tejas fighters in the Initial Operation Clearance (IOC) configuration on HAL, 16 of which have been inducted in the No. 45 squadron of the IAF, starting July 2016. The next order placed by the IAF is for 20 fighters in Final Operation Clearance (FOC), which underwent test flying on Tuesday for the first time in Bengaluru.

This procurement is seen as a major boost to 'Make in India' as the aircraft is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured with participation of several local vendors apart from HAL.

The Tejas indigenous fighter project was first conceived in 1984, benchmarked against the Mirage-2000, with a view to replace IAF's ageing Mig21 fleet. The order for first 20 Tejas Mark1 (IOC) was placed in 2006, and the jet inducted in the IAF in 2016.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/defence-council-finalises-proposal-for-83-tejas-jets-6320958/>

## वायुसेना को मिलेंगे 83 आधुनिक तेजस विमान, राजनाथ सिंह के नेतृत्व में डीएसी ने दी मंजूरी

**रक्षा मंत्रालय ने भारतीय वायुसेना के लिए 83 घातक तेजस युद्धक विमान हासिल करने को मंजूरी दे दी है। डीएसी इन विमानों को हासिल करने के लिए 1300 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किए हैं।**

नई दिल्ली: 'मेक इन इंडिया' प्रोजेक्ट के तहत रक्षा मंत्रालय ने भारतीय वायुसेना के लिए 83 घातक तेजस युद्धक विमान हासिल करने को मंजूरी दे दी है। रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह के नेतृत्व में रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद (डीएसी) ने यह फैसला लिया है। अब यह प्रस्ताव मंजूरी के लिए सुरक्षा मामलों की कैबिनेट कमेटी के सामने रखा जाएगा। डीएसी ने घातक रक्षा उपकरण हासिल करने के लिए 1300 करोड़ रुपये मंजूर किए हैं। यह रकम वायुसेना के हॉक एमके-32 विमानों के ट्विन डोम स्टीम्यूलेटर और एरियल फ्यूज खरीदने में खर्च की जाएगी।

सूत्रों का कहना है कि हिंदुस्तान एयरोनाटिक्स लिमिटेड (एचएएल) के बनाए अत्याधुनिक एमके1ए वर्जन के 83 तेजस विमानों को वायुसेना के लिए निर्मित किया जाएगा। इससे पहले एचएएल को शुरुआती कनफिगरेशन वाले 40 तेजस विमान देने का आर्डर मिला था। रक्षा मंत्रालयकी विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता में हुई डीएसी की पहली बैठक में रक्षा विभाग (डीओडी) और सैन्य मामलों के विभाग (डीएमए) के दायित्वों को अलग-अलग किए जाने पर सहमति दी गई है।

इससे सेना के कामकाज में बेहतर तालमेल बनेगा और अधिग्रहण विंग को तेजी से विमान मिलेंगे। इस कदम से रक्षा उपकरणों और हथियारों के सौदों में कीमतों को लेकर अधिक पारदर्शिता आएगी और समयबद्ध तरीके से समझौते होंगे। तेजस के अत्याधुनिक वर्जन एमके1ए के 83 विमान के भारत में बनने से 'मेक इन इंडिया' की मुहिम को खासा बढ़ावा मिलेगा। रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार 1300 करोड़ रुपये में घातक रक्षा उपकरण हासिल होंगे।

<https://www.jagran.com/news/national-central-government-clears-procurement-of-83-tejas-jets-for-iaf-20122193.html>

## hindustantimes

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### Tejas Mark II to have ability to conduct Balakot-like operations

*The Mark II, fitted with heavier GE 414 engine, will roll out  
in 2022, take to the skies in 2023 and join IAF by 2026*

*By Shishir Gupta*

New Delhi: The indigenous Tejas Mark II fighter jet will have the capacity to conduct operations such as the one the Indian Air Force undertook in Balakot, with beyond-visual-range missiles with a greater reach and virtually jam-proof AESA radars in order to be suitable replacements for the Indian

Air Force (IAF)'s aging Mirage 2000 fighters, according to the agency overseeing the development the aircraft. The Mark II, fitted with heavier GE 414 engine, will roll out in 2022, take to the skies in 2023 and join IAF by 2026.

Satisfied with performance of Tejas MK I in its full operational configuration on Tuesday, Girish Deodhare, Program Director (Combat Aircraft), Aeronautical Development Agency said that the MK II will have double the range of its predecessor and fitted with Astra II BVR air-to-air missiles with a range of at least 150 km. "While Tejas MK I is for combat air patrol within the Indian territory, MK II will have the capacity to conduct Balakot-like surgical strikes in enemy territory as it will carry heavy standoff weapons like Crystal Maze and Spice missiles," added Deodhare. On February 26, 2019, IAF's Mirage 2000 entered Pakistani territory to target a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror training camp at Jabba Top in Balakot, Manshera in retaliation for the terror group's suicide attack on a CRPF convoy in Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir.



While work on MK II is proceeding apace, ADA, in consultation with IAF will also freeze the design of its twin-engine advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA) in the next three months. IAF, last November gave a written commitment to DRDO that it would buy the fifth-generation AMCA to strengthen its strike capabilities. AMCA is expected to roll out in 2024 and take to the skies the following year. The Tejas MK II is a 4.5 generation aircraft.

According to Deodhare, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will produce 16 FOC (Final Operational Clearance) Tejas plus eight trainers before the reverse integration of IAF's Tejas in initial configuration is taken up. "HAL has done a commendable job to produce a FOC Tejas within a year of the design being frozen. This will help up in faster development of MK II as this only involves in upscaling of the existing platform with superior armaments, radar and avionics," he said.

For the MK II, ADA in collaboration with its parent DRDO is developing the indigenous active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar, which is not only difficult to detect but also has high resistance to jamming by the enemy during engagement. As of now, the Tejas MK I platform has been integrated with Israeli Derby BVR missiles with enhanced range so that enemy planes are picked up and targeted even as they cross the Indian border.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/tejas-mark-ii-to-have-ability-to-conduct-balakot-like-ops/story-kMUDWj7o7GkrK2WTsAsGEM.html>