



Tejas Jets for Delivery

Why in News?

The Government of India has offered to sell **18 Light-Combat Aircraft (LCA) “Tejas”** to **Malaysia**.

- **Argentina, Australia, Egypt, the United States, Indonesia, and the Philippines** were also interested in the single-engine jet.
- The Indian government gave a **USD6 billion contract to state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** in 2021 for 83 of the locally produced Tejas jets for delivery starting around 2023.

What is Tejas Aircraft?



- **About:**
 - **The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** programme was started by the Government of India in 1984 when they established the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** to manage the LCA programme.
 - It replaced the **ageing Mig 21 fighter planes**.
- **Designed by:**
 - Aeronautical Development Agency under the **Department of Defence Research and Development**.
- **Manufactured by:**
 - State-owned **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- **Features:**
 - The **lightest, smallest and tailless** multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
 - Designed to carry a range of **air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons**.
 - Air to air refuelling capability.
 - Maximum payload capacity of 4000 kg.
 - It can attend the maximum speed of Mach 1.8.

- The range of the aircraft is 3,000km
- **Variants of Tejas:**
 - **Tejas Trainer:**
 - 2-seater operational conversion trainer for training air force pilots.
 - **LCA Navy:**
 - Twin- and single-seat carrier-capable for the Indian Navy.
 - **LCA Tejas Navy MK2:**
 - This is phase 2 of the LCA Navy variant.
 - **LCA Tejas Mk-1A:**
 - This is an improvement over the LCA Tejas Mk1 with a higher thrust engine.

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