



Improved Light Combat Aircraft gets green light for production

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Improved Light Combat Aircraft gets green light for production-FOC tag signals that the indigenous fighter is fully equipped and fit for battle; delivery of first aircraft expected in Oct.-Nov. 2019

- Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas' quietly progressed towards manufacture in an enhanced, battle standard format.
- A new 'limited' clearance from military airworthiness certifier CEMILAC for the Indian fighter green-lights its production in a superior lethal version, multiple sources associated with the LCA programme confirmed.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which is mandated to produce the LCAs for the Indian Air Force (IAF), aims to get the first aircraft out in late 2019 in the just-cleared standard.
- The LCA is being designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in Bengaluru.
- The IAF has asked HAL to make 40 LCA aircraft. Of this, 20 will be in the advanced 'FOC' (final operational clearance) format.
- Another 20 are in the earlier IOC (initial operational clearance) version.
- To get the final of FOC certification, the plane must have battle-time requirements — such as mid-air refuelling, AESA radar, electronic warfare suites, a variety of bombs and weapons, among others.
- The IAF has modified and upgraded its trainer requirement in its old package order of 40 LCA aircraft.

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