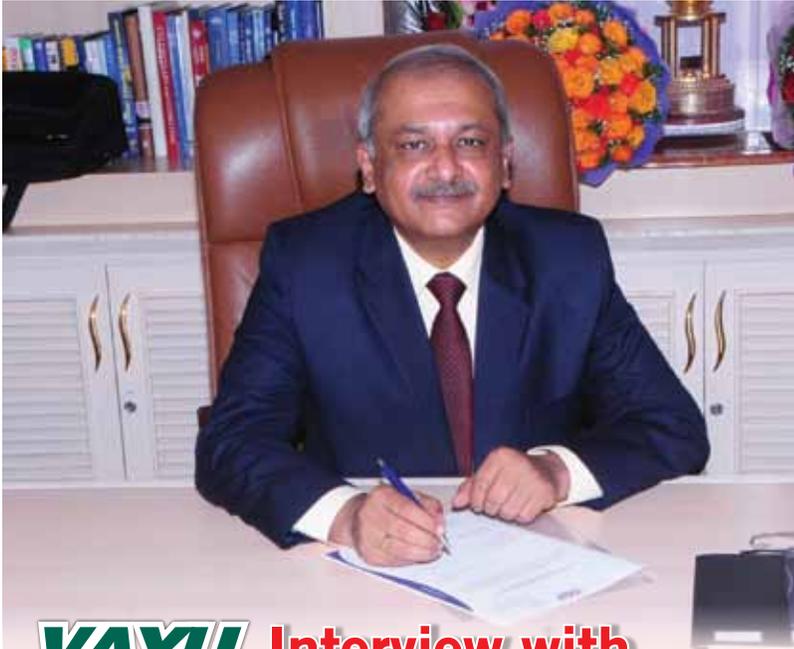


“Speeding up LCA deliveries”



VAYU Interview with

R Madhavan, CMD HAL

VAYU : *There are reports about HAL receiving ‘Limited’ clearance from CEMILAC for production of LCAs in FOC standard, you having been quoted on receiving the documents and drawings. What will be the schedule for their deliveries?*

HAL : The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) handed over the Drawing Applicability List and Equipment Standard of Preparation (SOP) documents to HAL on 31 December 2018, duly cleared by the Centre of Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC) to go ahead with the production of FOC standard aircraft. HAL has established a manufacturing facility for production of eight aircraft per annum. Currently, HAL is producing LCA IOC standard aircraft for which IOC was received from ADA in December 2013. To date, HAL has produced 12 LCA Mk.I

IOC-standard fighters. The balance four IOC-standard LCAs are under production and will progressively be delivered in the current financial year.

HAL has also made preparations for the production of LCA (FOC) standard aircraft after receiving the SOP and has planned to deliver all 16 FOC-standard LCAs progressively. For the eight trainer aircraft (four each in IOC and FOC standard), the SOP is yet to be released for their production.

So as to speed up production of LCAs, an investment of Rs 1381 crores has been sanctioned by the Government for establishment of facilities for ramping up production rate from 8 to 16 aircraft per year. Additionally, a parallel production line has also been established at Aircraft Division Bengaluru to support an increased rate of production. In addition, major assembly modules have been outsourced to private partners like DTL, Bengaluru (front fuselage), Alpha Tocol, Bengaluru (rear fuselage), VEM Technologies, Hyderabad (center fuselage) and L&T, Coimbatore (wings) to enhance the production rate.

VAYU : *The Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) programme is making rapid progress with armament and other on-going trials. What is status of the programme? When are deliveries to commence? What is the order book position?*

HAL : After successful completion of flight testing of the LCH basic performance, rocket firing trials and turret gun firing trials have been carried out. The helicopter participated in IAF’s ‘Iron Fist 2016’ exercise in March 2016 and displayed rocket firing capabilities in its

