

'Flying Bullets' Resurrected



First LCA Mk.1 (FOC) delivered

On 27 May 2020, the Indian Air Force received the first Tejas LCA Mk.1 (FOC) aircraft at Air Force Station Sullur (near Coimbatore) from HAL and, with it, stood up No.18 Squadron (*Flying Bullets*) which is the second unit (after No.45 Squadron) with the indigenously-developed and built light combat aircraft. Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria received the aircraft documents from Mr R Madhavan, Chairman HAL in a ceremony attended by Air Marshal Amit Tiwari AOC-in-C Southern Air Command, Air Marshal TD Joseph, Commodore Commandant of No.18 Squadron and Dr Girish Deodhare, PGD (CA) and Director Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).

Earlier, the aircraft was blessed at an all denomination religious ceremony in the squadron hangar.

Series production of the FOC-standard Tejas LCA Mk.1 has been continuing at the Bangalore Complex of HAL, the first

