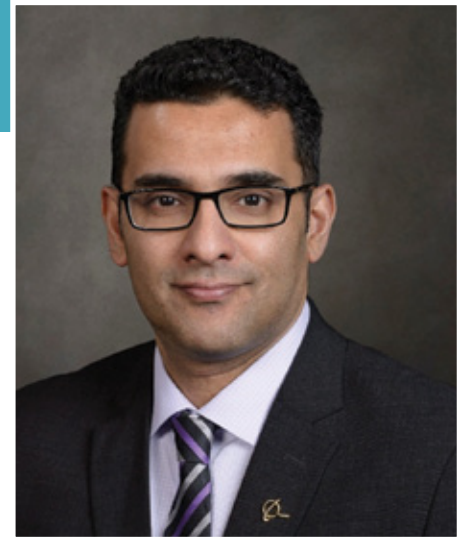


Boeing offers Super Hornets for IN, F-15EX to IAF

VAYU Interview with **Ankur Kanaglekar,** Head India Fighter Sales, Boeing Defense, Space and Security



VAYU: *Boeing recently announced the results of ski jump trials of the F/A-18 Block III Super Hornet. Are there any updates on your talks with Indian Navy for their fighter requirements?*

Boeing: Boeing and the US Navy have recently proved that the F/A-18 Super Hornet can successfully operate from a ski jump ramp, demonstrating the aircraft's suitability for Indian Navy's aircraft carriers.

We are engaging with the Indian Navy on their requirements and have responded to the Request for Information for the Multi-role Carrier Borne Fighter (MRCBF) programme. We are confident that the multi-role F/A-18 Super Hornet Block III

will offer unrivalled value to the Indian Navy, that can be appreciated in the current economic environment, as it not only has a low acquisition cost, but also costs less per flight hour to operate than any other tactical aircraft in the US forces inventory, including single engine fighters.

VAYU: *What makes the F/A-18 Super Hornet fit for this requirement?*

Boeing: The F/A-18 Super Hornet Block III will offer the Indian Navy several unique and differentiated capabilities, with flexibility and best utilisation of precious air assets through carrier-compatible two seater variant (F-Variant) and single seater (E-Variant) for the Indian Navy. The

two-seat variant (F/A-18F) shares the same mission scope as a single seat (F/A-18E) while allowing for carrier-capable training and the ability to fly advanced missions from the carrier to benefit from a second crew on-board. Most importantly, carrier-based naval aviation technologies related to manned-unmanned interface can also be effectively operationalised with a two-seater carrier compatible version.

An advanced, multi-role, frontline fighter of the US Navy, the Super Hornet Block III was designed alongside the US Navy to meet its mission requirements through the next decade and beyond. The Indian Navy will stand to gain from the multi-billion dollar investment that has gone into the platform resulting in a most lethal and highly networked naval fighter. The aircraft can interface with the P-8I and other US-origin assets that the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force have, or are in the process of acquiring. This will further augment lethality of these platforms and enhance India's force projection capabilities.

Of no less importance is the fact that the Super Hornet logically lends itself to enhanced maritime cooperation between the US Navy and Indian Navy in several areas of naval aviation. The commonality and interoperability benefits that Indian Navy will get as a result of F/A-18 Super Hornet on Indian Navy carriers would be unmatched.

