



## Hawk AJT: The story unknown and future behold

While there are numerous tales associated with majestic battle machines, performing on the frontlines and acting as primary caretakers of Indian Air Defence, we have missed a quiet number of interesting anecdotes of some platforms that serve behind the scenes. The Hawk is one of them that is undoubtedly shouldering the responsibility of one of the principal tasks in the Indian Air Force, which is to train the aviators and offer exposure to the future top guns of IAF. Combat aviation is not just about excellent flying, but performing risky tasks, and applying full-fledged efforts to achieve the objectives in combat. All this, while evading a variety of threats, ranging from high Gs to hostile airborne/surface-based threats. This demands conciseness and merit, both physically and mentally, and that is why mastering the British

Aerospace (BAe) Hawk Mk.132 is the core of the Stage III pilot training programme of IAF, preparing the pilots in a simulated environment, before they head into their operational squadrons and execute the learnings in real-world challenges. We are going ahead to explore this significant yet rarely discussed platform, looking at the procurement process that took 19 long years, the modern capabilities it carries apart from a trainer, and the foreseeable future to multiply its potential.

### Acquisition, that took longer than the infamous MMRCA

The Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) tender is quite well known for the disappointments it brought, if we talk about the time taken before it was formally scrapped with new tender replacing it with less airframes procured. However, while it

