

# Interview with Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force



**VAYU:** Can you share the latest updates regarding LCA Mk.2, AMCA and MRFA 2.0? How much significance does each platform hold for the Indian Air Force in the context of capability enhancement and long-term sustainability with the service?

**CAS:** LCA Mk 2, AMCA and MRFA are projects that hold great significance in the context of capability development and capability enhancement for the IAF.

It was decided to develop LCA Mk.2 to overcome the gaps in LCA Mk.1 performance by using GE 414 engine and improved maintainability. CCS sanction was accorded in 2009 with PDC of 2018. Extension has been granted till 2027. DCN has been moved by DRDO proposing for release of funds for D&D concurrent with pursuing of ToT case with GE.

DRDO is also working towards the indigenous development of a fifth generation fighter aircraft, Advance Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and IAF is providing active support to DRDO. Review of AMCA programme was conducted by Secy DD R&D and Chairman DRDO along with IAF. Many niche technologies are being developed as part of the AMCA programme. The project is aimed to achieve indigenous stealth design, engine design with super cruise and other contemporary capabilities which will be totally home grown.



IAF plans to induct six squadrons of MRFA in a phased manner. The programme would be progressed under 'Make in India' initiative of DAP-2020. Responses have been received for eight aircraft types. ASQRs are being finalised at Air HQ. Detailed interactions with OEMs and additional queries have taken place to obtain more clarity on the responses. Additionally, OEM commitments for indigenous content (IC) of selected category and compliance to Make in India provisions are being sought. It has been envisaged to integrate indigenously developed A-A and A-G weapons on the aircraft being manufactured in India.

Timely and successful materialisation of these projects would provide the required boost to our combat potential and address the issue of depleting fighter squadrons.

