

Address by SA to RM

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri AK Antony

Hon'ble Rajya Raksha Mantri Shri Jitendra Singhji

Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, Chief of Air Staff

Members of Parliament (whoever is present)

Members of Legislative Assembly (whoever is present)

Shri RK Mathur, Defence Secretary (not likely to attend)

Shri GC Pati, Secretary DP

Dr RK Tyagi, Chairman HAL

Shri PS Subramanyam, Director, ADA

Dr K Tamil Mani, DG-Aero & CE CEMILAC

Shri Naresh Babu, MD- BC

Members of Team Tejas, Industry partners, Academicians and friends from Media.

Today's event of IOC of Tejas is a landmark on the roadmap of Indian Military Aviation. All the stake holders of the programme viz., ADA, HAL, IAF, DRDO, CEMILAC, CSIR, DGAQA, many public/private industries and Academia have worked together to create an excellent fighter aircraft which has successfully performed over wide variety of operational scenarios. This occasion marks a culmination of this effort of 2450 sorties leading to Initial operational clearance.

Several hundreds of design improvements were done to make the aircraft more reliable and easily maintainable. The performance improvement in terms of flight envelope, weapon accuracy and enhancement of sensor functionality are noteworthy achievements.

Another significant improvement is the ergonomic design of the cockpit. This Aircraft meets all the aspirations of Indian Pilots with respect to the displays, handling etc. The IAF pilots together with our Engineers have evolved an excellent PVI System, which the Pilot themselves claim to be one of the best. I would like to compliment HAL who has put their best efforts in the programme to achieve the IOC goals and has taken necessary steps to augment the production facility to produce the number of aircrafts with quality. I am sure LCA Tejas will be a primary element of the Air Force capability enabling them to carry out air defence and offensive air support role.

What next !

Those who perform will be asked to perform more. The Team Tejas will have to now sprint the last lap towards FOC. The FOC will equip Tejas with In-flight refueling, Beyond Visual Range Missiles, New Close Combat Missile, Gun GSH2, additional weapons and new drop tanks for supersonic flight.

The teams are also working on a higher variant of Tejas, viz., Tejas Mk-2 with a higher thrust engine. Tejas Mk-2 will have improved performance and upgraded avionics.

Based on the design, development, testing and certification capabilities of the country in the area of military aviation, the Government has taken major decision to initiate the future programmes which can take the capabilities of the country to match with the rest of the world.

On this occasion I would like to congratulate all the team members of DRDO, ADA, HAL, CEMILAC, DGQA, IAF and the partners from industries for their outstanding contribution. I know how much time and energy this assignment demanded, and I deeply appreciate your tireless efforts to make it a great success. As always, it is great to know we can count on you all to go that extra mile.

I wish the aeronautical industry of our country a very bright future.

Jai Hind.