



Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk2

Why in News?

According to a senior official from the [Aeronautical Development Agency \(ADA\)](#), the **Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk2** will be integrated with heavy standoff weapons like SCALP, an air-to-ground, long-range deep strike missile.

- Unlike other aircraft, the **LCA Mk2 will be able to integrate unique weapons from various countries.**

What is LCA Tejas Mk2?

- The **Indigenous LCATEjas Mk2** is a fighter aircraft developed in India that can carry **eight Beyond-Visual-Range (BVR) missiles simultaneously**, along with integrating all native weapons and advanced weapons from other countries.
- The **LCA Mk2 is an upgraded version of the LCA Tejas Mk1**, which has improved range and mission endurance.
 - The mission endurance for fighting a war was **57 minutes for LCA Tejas Mk1, but it is 120 minutes for LCA Tejas Mk2.**
- The **LCA Mk2 will be pitched as a replacement for the Jaguars, MiG-29s, and Mirage 2000s** when they start retiring in a decade.
 - The critical design review of the aircraft is ready and the manufacturing initiated, and the aircraft should be rolled out by 2024.
 - LCA Mk2 will have a weapon carrying capacity of **6.5 tonnes**. The General **Electric GE-414** engine will power the **LCA Mk2.**

What is Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)?

- **About:**
 - The **LCA** programme was started by the Government of India in 1984 when they established the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** to manage the LCA programme.
- **Features:**
 - Designed to **carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided**, weapons.
 - Air to air refueling capability.
- **Other Variants of Tejas:**
 - **Tejas Trainer:** 2-seater operational conversion trainer for training **air force pilots.**
 - **LCA Navy:** Twin- and single-seat carrier-capable for the [Indian Navy.](#)

[Source: IE](#)

