



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Tejas & ASTRA

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Why is in news? LCA Tejas successfully test-fires indigenous ASTRA Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile off Goa coast

Tejas, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) LSP-7 **successfully fired the ASTRA** indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa on August 23, 2023. The missile release was successfully carried out from the aircraft at an altitude of about 20,000 ft.

Tejas:

It is the **lightest, smallest and tailless multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft** in its class.

This aircraft is designed to **carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons**.

It has the **air-to-air refuelling capability**.

The maximum payload capacity of Tejas is 4000 kg.

Speed: Mach 1.8.

It is designed by Aeronautical Development Agency under the Department of Defence Research and Development.

It is manufactured by State-owned **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

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.

LCA Tejas Navy MK2: This is phase 2 of the LCA Navy variant.

LCA Tejas Mk-1A: This is an improvement over the LCA Tejas Mk1 with a higher thrust engine.

ASTRA missile:

It is an **indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile**.

It is to engage and **destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aerial targets**.

It is designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and other laboratories of DRDO.

The indigenous Astra BVR firing from home grown Tejas fighters is a major step towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

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