

# IAF to procure weapons worth ₹2.5-3 trillion in next 7-8 years

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The Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking at inducting military platforms, equipment, and hardware worth ₹2.5-3 trillion in the next seven-eight years, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference on the eve of the IAF Day, Chaudhari said the IAF was constantly monitoring the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), especially in eastern Ladakh.

“Contracts for LCH (light combat helicopter), LCA (light

combat aircraft) Mark1A, HPR (high power radars), and CIWS (close-in weapon systems) are likely to be concluded and the cost is approximately ₹1.72 trillion.” “The yearly cash outflow for this year is ₹41,180 crore. When we talk about contracts signed in this financial year, we are looking at about ₹16,000 crore for only domestic acquisition schemes.”

He said the IAF was pushing ahead with its plan to procure an additional 97 Tejas Mark 1A light combat aircraft, in addition to the 40 Tejas Mark 1 and 83 Tejas Mark IA fighters already contracted

with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). Answering a question, Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari revealed the IAF had taken delivery of three units of S-400 ground-to-air missile systems from Russia and was hoping to receive the remaining two units by next year.

The IAF chief said the uncertain geopolitical situation (in India's neighbourhood) had reinforced the need for a strong military. He asserted that the IAF would remain a fulcrum to project India's military might in the region. “Fast-paced development and operationalisation of indigenous aero-

space projects, persistent surveillance capability, shortening of sensor to shooter time, long-range precision strikes, and development of multi-domain capability are the main focus areas for the IAF.”

He said the induction of the first C-295 medium transport aircraft last month into the IAF's 11 Squadron was an important milestone in boosting India's defence industry.

He also said the IAF had left no stone unturned to ensure successful implementation of the Agnipath scheme for recruiting short-service airmen for the IAF.

