

# Interview with Admiral R. Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy



(Photos of CNS: Indian Navy)

**VAYU:** We all know the two leased MQ-9 Sea Guardians are performing well with the Indian Navy. Plus there is talk of 15 more under FMS. Is the Indian Navy also operating or considering the Drishti/Hermes 900 MALE UAVs being manufactured in India?

**CNS:** AoN for procurement of 31 MQ 9B HALE RPAS for the three services, (16 for Land operations and 15 for

Maritime Operations) from USG through Buy (Global) under IGA (FMS) has been accorded by DAC on 28 June 2023. Further activities towards contract conclusion are being progressed.

Bharatiya Nausena has also contracted for the supply of two Hermes 900 Starliner MALE RPAS. These RPAS are state of the art UAVs which will be manufactured in India under ToT with Elbit Systems, Israel with 60% Indigenous Content (IC). The RPAS are expected to be inducted in the Navy by February 2024.



MQ-9 Sea Guardian (Photo: GA-ASI)



Hermes 900 Starliner MALE RPAS will be jointly manufactured by ADTL/Adani and Elbit Systems (Photo: Vayu)