

Interview with Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force



VAYU: *Could you update us on the status of LCH Prachand with respect to the ordered numbers and deliveries?*

CAS: IAF has inducted and operationalised ten Prachand Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs). The aircraft had participated in the recently concluded international exercise Tarang Shakti. A case for procurement of 156 LCH SP (IAF-66 and IA-90) is under progress.



The LCH Prachand at Aero India 2023

VAYU: *What is the status of the Mi-26 helicopters: we hear they are being refurbished and modernised. Is that correct?*

CAS: Deliberations are underway with JSC Russian Helicopters on refurbishing of Mi-26 helicopters. JSC RH specialists had invited India to assess local facilities to work out a plan of action.



The Mi-26 seen here at Chandigarh in December 2008

VAYU: *Are there delays in the LCA Mk.1A deliveries? What is the total order envisaged by the IAF?*

CAS: The deliveries of LCA Tejas Mk.1A were supposed to commence from February 2024 onwards. Tejas Mk.1A programme has been delayed due to engine and a few more issues. The IAF has been pro-active in its approach and we are hopeful that the engine delivery will start soon. HAL has also been asked to increase the production of Tejas and they have been forthcoming about it. Case for procurement of additional 97 LCA Mk.1A is under progress. Eventually IAF will have 220 LCAs.



LCA Mk.1 at Aero India 2023

VAYU: *For over 2 decades now we have been tracking the MMRC/MRFA programme: could you give us its status please.*