

Interview with Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy



The Chief of the Naval Staff.

VAYU: *With all the talk about another aircraft carrier, the IAC-2, is there any substance to this?*

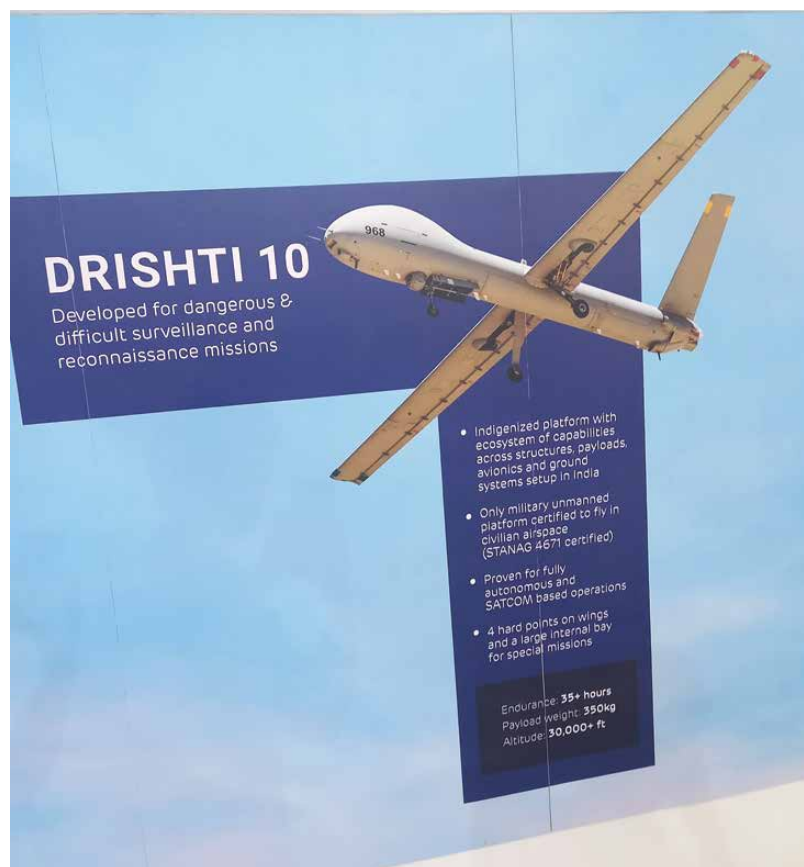
Considering the indigenous expertise available with respect to design and construction of IAC-1, a repeat order of IAC-1 with suitable modifications to incorporate lessons learnt from IAC-1 and future capabilities envisaged, is being explored. The repeat order would consolidate the expertise gained by CSL, reduce acquisition period compared to IAC-1, and help generate employment opportunities and revenue for local industries/MSMEs. Needless to say, this would also bolster the 'Make in India' vision of GoI.



VAYU: *When can we expect the first of 15 MQ-9 Sea Guardians through FMS for the Indian Navy? What are the Indian Navy's plans for the Drishti/Hermes 900 MALE UAVs being manufactured in India?*

MQ-9B: Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for tri-services procurement of MQ-9B UAVs was signed with USG in October 2024 under the FMS (Foreign Military Sales) route, with IN being the lead service. Delivery of first two RPAs (Remotely Piloted Aircraft) are scheduled to commence wef Q1/2029.

MALE: 10 Drishti MALE (Medium Altitude Long Endurance) RPAs are presently under induction into the IN. One RPA has been operationalised and is being flown by IN crew towards consolidation and undertaking Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions.



VAYU: *Following up to the above question, what is the status of another 6 P-8Is?*

IN has been progressing a case for procurement of six additional P8I LRMASW from the US, under Buy 'Global' category, through Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Route. The case is being progressed IAW the laid down procurement process.