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1. Cabinet Committee on Security approves Tejas Mark-2 Project (Sept. 2, 2022)

The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the **Tejas Mark-2 Project** on 1 September.

IMPORTANT FACTS -

- The committee has approved **Rs 6,500 crore** for the design and development of **Tejas Mark-2 fighter jet** with prototype, flight testing and certification.
- This allocation is in addition to the existing **Rs 2500 crore** sanctioned to HAL.

Features of Tejas Mark-2 fighter jet :

- It will be equipped with more powerful **GE- F414 engines** in the 98 Kilonewton thrust class.
- The engine will enable it to extend its flight range and carry additional payloads and weapons compared to the current version.
- The payload capacity of Tejas Mark-2 jet will be **four tonnes** as compared to **three tonnes** of the current version.
- It will also be equipped with an indigenously developed **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar**, which will be a upgraded version of the existing **ELTA's EL/M-2032 multi-mode radar**.

Significance :

- Its importance has increased due to the rapidly dwindling strength of the fighter squadrons of the Indian Air Force and the phasing out of MiG-21 aircraft in the coming years.
- This decision will give a boost to indigenous design and development of next generation fighter aircraft.