



# Apache Helicopters for Indian Army

## Why in News

The deal for **six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters** for the **Indian Army** is to be signed.

- Currently, the Army Aviation Corps operates only smaller **Cheetah and ALH (Advanced Light Helicopters)** that weigh **less than five tonnes**.
- These are in addition to 22 Apaches being inducted by the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** which will **replace** the **Russian Mi-35** attack helicopters in service.



## AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter //

- Better known as an attack helicopter are received from the **Boeing production** facility in **Mesa, Arizona, USA**.
- These are all-weather capable, easily maintainable and have high agility and survivability against battle damage.
- The **capabilities** of the AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter includes:
  - It can carry out precision attacks at standoff ranges and operate in hostile airspace with threats from the ground.
  - It can transmit and receive battlefield picture through data uplinking and networking.
  - It can also shoot fire and forget anti-tank guided missiles, air to air missiles, rockets while providing versatility to helicopter in network-centric aerial warfare.
  - It also carries fire control radar, which has a 360° coverage and nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems.
- The addition of the Apache Attack Helicopter is a significant step towards modernisation of Indian Air Force helicopter fleet and the Indian Army.

## Cheetah Helicopters



- The Cheetah Helicopter is a **high-performance** helicopter designed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
- It is **identical to LAMA SA 315B** Helicopter of Eurocopter, **France**.
- It is a five-seater multi-role, multi-purpose, highly manoeuvrable helicopter.
- It holds the **world record in high altitude flying** among all categories of Helicopters.
- The helicopter is suitable for commuting, observation, surveillance, logistics support, rescue operations and high altitude missions.

### Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-DHRUV)



- The indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-DHRUV) is a **twin-engine**, multi-role, multi-mission new generation helicopter in the **5.5-ton weight class**.
- The major variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.

**Source: TH**

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