



Dhruv MK III: Advanced Light Helicopter

Why in News

Recently, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the first unit of the indigenously built **ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Dhruv Mk III aircraft**, was commissioned into the Indian Navy.



Key Points

▪ About:

- 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.**
- It is a multi-role chopper with the **Shakti engine** manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**
 - HAL is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company, headquartered in Bangalore, India. It is governed under the management of the Ministry of Defence.
 - HAL **conceptualised the Advanced Light Helicopter programme** in 1984. The major variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.

▪ Features:

- The aircraft, a step up from Mk 1, will be able to **mitigate low visibility during search and rescue operations even at night.**
- It has a 0.7 mm gun, which will give a huge capability from a **LIMO (low intensity maritime operations)** standpoint.
- The **automatic flight control system** is hugely superior to the previous one.

▪ Role:

- The Mk III version of the ALH has an all glass cockpit and will be **used for search and rescue, special operations and coastal surveillance.**

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