



IAF Gets Apache Helicopters

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Why in News

Recently, **Boeing** has handed over the **last of the five AH-64E Apache attack helicopters** to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.

- The handover was slightly delayed due to the **Covid-19** induced **lockdown**.
- Earlier, Boeing handed over the last five of the **15 CH-47F(I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters** to the IAF as well.

Key Points

- India contracted **22 Apache helicopters** and **15 Chinook helicopters** from Boeing through the **Foreign Military Sales programme** of the **USA government** in September 2015 under a **USD 3 billion deal**.
- The addition of both these helicopters is a **significant step towards modernization of IAF's helicopter fleet**.

- **AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter:**



- These are **all-weather capable, easily maintainable helicopters** and have **high agility and survivability against battle damage**.
- **Capabilities:**
 - Carry out precision attacks at standoff ranges and operate in hostile airspace with threats from the ground.
 - Transmit and receive battlefield pictures through data uplinking and networking.
 - **Shoot fire and forget** anti-tank guided missiles, air to air missiles, rockets while providing the versatility to helicopter in network-centric aerial warfare.
 - Carries fire control radar, which has a 360° coverage and nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems.
- **Boeing's joint venture in Hyderabad**, Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited, has been producing aero-structures for the AH-64 Apache helicopter for both the USA Army and international customers.

- **15 CH-47F(I) Chinook Heavy-lift Helicopters:**



- It is capable of **airlifting diverse military and nonmilitary loads** into remote locations.
- It has a **fully integrated digital cockpit management system, advanced cargo handling capabilities** and **electronic warfare** suite that complement the aircraft's performance.
- The helicopter has been **customized to suit IAF's future requirements** and capability roadmap.
- These are **deployed in the Northern and Eastern regions** of India.
- **Boeing's suppliers in India are manufacturing critical systems and components** for the Chinooks, including the crown and tail cone assembly by the Tata Advanced Systems and the ramp and aft pylon by Dynamatic Technologies.

Source: TH