



Light Combat Helicopter

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister handed over the **indigenously-built Light Combat Helicopter (HAL's LCH)**, two small drones (**'SWITCH 1.0 UAV'** and **'MR-20'**) built by Indian start-ups to the Air Force.

- LCH is a **truly ['Make in India'](#) product** built with private industry participation.

Key Points

▪ About:

- LCH is a **new addition to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL's) helicopter division**. This twin-engine helicopter is a dedicated combat helicopter of 5 to 8-tonne class.
- The LCH **incorporates advanced technologies and stealth features** for effective combat roles and is designed to carry out roles such as destruction of enemy air defence, counterinsurgency, search and rescue, anti-tank, Counter Surface Force Operations etc.
- The **LCH is the only attack helicopter in the world** that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 m with a considerable load of weapons and fuel.
- It is effective even in temperatures ranging from minus 50 degrees Celsius on snow peaks to 50 degrees Celsius in the desert.
- LCH will eventually be **deployed along the [Line of Actual Control](#) with China**, in addition to the **AH-64E Apache helicopters** in service.

▪ 'SWITCH 1.0 UAV' and 'MR-20':

◦ 'SWITCH 1.0 UAV':

- SWITCH 1.0 UAV, with its peerless capabilities of 1.5 hours flight time and 15 kms range at more than 4500 m take-off altitude.
- It has an **endurance of approximately 90 minutes** and will support the **Indian Army's most demanding surveillance operations** under harsh environments and high altitudes for day and night surveillance across India's borders.

◦ 'MR-20':

- The **MR-20 hexacopter drones** have a capacity to ferry loads of up to 20kg.
- It will be used to ferry food, essential items, emergency medical aid, ammunition and weapons to troops deployed at heights in forwarding areas.

[Source: TH](#)

