



INAS 324 Squadron

Why in News?

Recently, the Indian Navy commissioned a new Indian Naval Air Squadron 324 at eastern Naval Command.

- It will enhance the surveillance capability on the Eastern Seaboard.

What are the Highlights of the INAS 324 Squadron?

- The unit is the Eastern Seaboard's first Naval Squadron to use **indigenously designed** and built **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III (MR) helicopters**.
- It has been named "**KESTRELS**", which are birds of prey and have good sensory capabilities, symbolising the aircraft's and air squadron's intended role.
- The Squadron's insignia depicts a 'KESTREL' searching over vast blue and white sea waves, representing the Squadron's integral **Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) role**.
- Its equipped with **ALH MK III helicopters** which have state-of-the-art equipment which includes **modern surveillance radar** and **electro-optical sensors**.

What is Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)?

- It's an indigenously built helicopter manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
 - HAL is a **public sector aircraft manufacturing company**.
- These helicopters are primarily used for **Maritime Reconnaissance (MR) and Search and Rescue (SAR) missions**, but they can also be used for **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations and Special Operations with Marine Commandos**.
- It also has an **airborne Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU)** for use in the **Air Ambulance role** to facilitate the medical evacuation of critically ill patients.

Source: PIB

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