

AH-64E Apache attack helicopter

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The Indian Air Force inducted 8 Apache helicopters at the Pathankot airbase. The eight fresh **US-made** Apache AH-64E attack helicopters will give a major boost to the Air Force's combat powers.

Interesting facts about AH-64E Apache attack helicopter

- The AH-64E Apache is one of the world's most advanced multi-role combat helicopters and is **flown by the US Army**.
- Apache attack helicopters are being **purchased to replace the Mi-35 fleet**.
- India is the 14th nation in the world to be operating the Apache attack helicopters.
- The helicopter is capable of delivering a variety of weapons which include **air to ground Hellfire missiles, 70 mm Hydra rockets and air to air Stinger missiles**. Apache also carries one 30 mm chain gun with 1200 rounds as part of the area weapon subsystem.
- These helicopters have a firing range between 8 to 12 kilometers. And they are capable of flying at 290kmph.
- To add to the lethality of the helicopter, it carries **fire control radar, which has a 360° coverage and nose-mounted sensor** suite for target acquisition and **night vision systems**.
- These tandem seating helicopters are day/night, **all-weather capable** and have high agility and survivability against battle damage.
- These are easily maintainable even in field conditions and are **capable of prolonged operations in tropical and**

desert regions.

- Alongside the capability to **shoot fire and forget anti-tank guided missiles**, air to air missiles, rockets and other ammunitions, it also has **modern Electronic Warfare(EW) capabilities to provide versatility to helicopter in network-centric aerial warfare.**
- The IAF has signed a **contract with Boeing company and the US Government** for the deliverance of 22 Apache copters, out of which 8 were inducted in September 2019. The remaining 14 AH-64Es are said to be delivered by March 2020.
- These helicopters will be **deployed in the Western regions of India.**

Significance

The addition of the Apache Attack Helicopter is a significant step towards the modernization of the Indian Air Force helicopter fleet. This procurement will enhance the capability of IAF in providing **integrated combat aviation cover to the army strike corps.**