

Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III Squadron

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In news— In a major boost to further strengthening the Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was commissioned recently.

About Advanced Light Helicopter-

- The ALH Mk-III helicopters, **indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, features **state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors**, Shakti engines, full glass cockpit, high-intensity search light, advanced communication systems, automatic identification system as well as search-and-rescue homer.
- This feature enables the helicopter to undertake maritime reconnaissance as well as carry out search and rescue at extended ranges while operating from ships, both by day and night.
- The aircraft has the **ability to switch roles from an offensive platform with heavy machine gun** to that of a benign one carrying a Medical Intensive Care Unit to facilitate transfer of critically ill patients.
- A total of 16 ALH Mk-III aircraft have been inducted in the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.
- It will provide a major fillip to the abilities of Indian Coast Guard in the security sensitive waters off Tamil Nadu and Andhra region.