



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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MH-60R SEAHAWK HELICOPTER

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and the topic details "MH-60R Seahawk Helicopter". This topic has relevance in the Security section of the UPSC CSE exam.

GS 3: Security

WHY IN THE NEWS?

Lockheed Martin has delivered the sixth MH-60R "Romeo" helicopter to the Indian Navy. The company anticipates concluding the delivery of all MH-60R helicopters ordered by India by the year 2025.

ACQUISITION AND SPECIFICATIONS:

India has entered into a contract with the United States for the acquisition of 24 MH-60R helicopters, investing \$2.6 billion. This deal encompasses India-specific modifications and the integration of advanced weaponry, including Hellfire air-to-surface missiles and Mark 54 anti-submarine torpedoes.

OPERATIONAL RANGE AND CAPABILITIES:

Renowned for its multi-role capabilities, the MH-60R Seahawk excels in anti-submarine warfare (ASW), maritime surveillance, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search-and-rescue missions. Equipped with cutting-edge sensors, systems, and weapons, it provides a versatile platform for diverse naval operations.

DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE:

- **Aircraft Carrier Operations:**
 - Deployed on India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, the MH-60R significantly enhances aerial capabilities.
 - Successful landings on INS Vikrant and INS Kolkata attest to their compatibility for carrier-based operations.
- **Strategic Maritime Security:**
 - Induction of MH-60R helicopters strengthens India's maritime security, bolstering anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities.
 - Key roles include patrolling critical maritime zones, safeguarding territorial waters, and countering maritime threats.
- **Versatility and Operational Flexibility:**
 - The MH-60R's adaptability for various missions ensures operational flexibility, addressing diverse maritime challenges like piracy, smuggling, and search-and-rescue operations.

INDIGENOUS INTEGRATION AND FUTURE PLANS:

- **India-Specific Modifications:**
 - Ongoing modifications tailor the helicopters to meet the Indian Navy's operational needs and adapt to the specific maritime environment.
- **Strategic Partnership with the United States:**
 - This procurement underscores the strategic defense partnership between India and the United States, providing access to advanced military technology and equipment.

MH-60R SEAHAWK OVERVIEW:



The image shows an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter in flight against a blue sky. The helicopter is viewed from a low angle, showing its main rotor, tail rotor, and various sensors and armaments. The text 'MH-60R SEAHAWK' is prominently displayed in large, bold, blue letters. A small logo for 'PLUTUS IAS' is visible in the top right corner of the image area.

Design and Capabilities:

- Derived from Sikorsky's S-70B Seahawk, built by Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (now part of Lockheed Martin).
- Advanced sensors include AN/APY-9 radar, sonobuoys, acoustic sensors, ESM, and RWR for surveillance and threat detection.
- Armed with Hellfire missiles, Mark 54 torpedoes, and precision-guided rockets for anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare.

Multi-Mission Capabilities:

- Versatile platform designed for ASW, ASuW, search and rescue (SAR), and ISR missions.
- Conducts anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and maritime surveillance.

OPERATIONAL FEATURES:

- **Enhanced Maritime Surveillance:**
 - State-of-the-art sensors monitor surface vessels and submarines, ensuring effective threat detection.
- **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW):**
 - Utilizes sophisticated sonar systems to detect and engage submarines with torpedoes and depth charges.
- **Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW):**
 - Engages and neutralizes surface threats using precision-guided missiles and rockets.
- **Search and Rescue (SAR):**
 - Capable of medical evacuation and SAR operations, serving as a crucial asset in maritime emergencies.

Q.1 'MH-60R Seahawk' recently seen in the news is a:

- (a) New attack helicopters purchased by India from USA
- (b) Torpedo developed by DRDO
- (c) India's latest Nuclear power propelled Submarine
- (d) India's first Solar powered Coast Guard Ship

ANSWER: A

Q.2 Examine the significance of modernizing security hardware in the context of contemporary national security challenges. Discuss the key areas where modernization is crucial, and analyze the impact of updated security technologies on enhancing the effectiveness of defense and law enforcement agencies.

Rishabh