



MH-60R Seahawk: Strengthening the "Blue Water" Navy

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Background: The Indian Navy commissioned its second MH-60R "Romeo" squadron, INAS 335 (Ospreys), at INS Hansa, Goa. These are maritime variants of the Black Hawk helicopter, procured from the US.

Capabilities & Basics:

- **Multi-Mission:** Designed for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Surface Warfare (ASuW), and Search and Rescue (SAR).
- **Strategic Reach:** With a speed of 270 kmph and advanced sensors (dipping sonar, sonobuoys), it acts as a force multiplier for warships in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- **Integration:** Can be deployed from aircraft carriers (like INS Vikrant) and frontline destroyers.

Significance for UPSC: Essential for questions on Maritime Security and the Indo-Pacific. Amidst rising undersea threats, the Seahawk enhances India's deterrence and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative.