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Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron

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Why is in news? Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III squadron, 840 Sqn (CG), commissioned in Chennai

In a major boost to further strengthening the **Coast Guard Region East, 840 Squadron (CG)**, an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, was commissioned in Chennai on November 30, 2022.

The commissioning of 840 Squadron (CG) is indicative of the leap **towards self-reliance in the field of helicopter manufacturing**, in line with the government's **vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'**.

It will provide a major fillip to the abilities of Indian Coast Guard in the security sensitive waters off Tamil Nadu and Andhra region.

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.

Since induction, the squadron has flown over 430 hours and conducted numerous operational missions.

Features: 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

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