

## **Dhruv-NG (Next Generation)**

## Why in News?

Recently, the Pawan Hans Limited has secured a 10-year contract for Rs. 2,141 crore to deliver 4 Dhruv-NG helicopters to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

## Dhruv

- It is an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- Developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- It was initially designed with Germany's assistance.
- In service It was  $1^{st}$  flown in 1992 but entered service after certification in 2002.
- Type certified by
  - For military operations Centre for Military Airworthiness Certification (CEMILAC)
  - For civil operation Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- 4 military variants Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.

• <u>Over 335 military helicopters</u> are operational as on date and have logged over 3, 75,000 cumulative flight hours.

- Civilian version It has been *in service since 2003*.
  - Dhruv-NG (Next Generation) It is a multi-role, multi-mission helicopter.
  - It is the *civil variant of the Dhruv Mk III*, which is widely employed by Indian defense forces.
  - **Developed by** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
  - Weight 5.5 tonne.
  - Powered by 2 indigenous Shakti engines with Cat 'A' performance.
  - **Specialty** It is capable of *day and night operations*.
  - It is also fitted with <u>AS4 (Applicability Statement)</u> compliant systems.
  - It received a restricted type certificate from the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) in June 2023.
  - For ONGC operation This will be the <u>1<sup>st</sup> time the chopper will be deployed in</u> <u>offshore operations</u> like transporting staff to and from duty stations on oil and gas rigs.

**Pawan Hans** has been a key industry player in the Indian offshore industry, providing helicopter services to ONGC, British Gas, HOECL, Petro Gas, and others.

• **Significance** - It is a "reliable and cost-effective product' for service provider Pawan Hans Limited.

These Dhruv-NG helicopters are scheduled to go into service in 2025, largely to meet Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) crew change requirements.

## References

- 1. The Hindu| Dhruv-NG
- 2. Business Standard Advanced Light Helicopter-Dhruv

