17 July 2021: PIB Summary & Analysis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH)

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Context:

Indian Navy accepts the first batch of two MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH).

Details:

- The Indian Navy is procuring 24 MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) manufactured by Lockheed Martin under foreign military sales from the US government at an estimated cost of $2.4 billion.
- The first two Sikorsky MH-60R multi-role helicopters have been handed over to the Indian Navy by the US Navy.
- MH-60R is the most advanced maritime multi-mission helicopter in operation.
- The induction of these all-weather MRH would enhance Indian Navy's three-dimensional capabilities.
- The helicopters would also be modified with several unique equipment and weapons.
- According to the Department of Defense, the proposed sale will provide India the capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay.
- India will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defence.

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