CCS approves procurement of 15 light combat helicopters

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[GS Paper 3 – Defence and Internal Security]

PM led CCS approves procurement of 15 light combat helicopters

The Cabinet Committee on Security(CSS) led by the Prime Minister approved the accession of 15 indigenously developed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) at Rs. 3,887 crore.

Key Highlights

- The defence ministry has revealed that out of 15, 10 will be for the Indian Air Force and five will be deployed for the Indian Army.

- The ministry has uncovered the roles and functions of the Light Combat helicopter, Limited Series Production to be:

1. Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR)
2. Destruction of Enemy Air Defence (DEAD)
3. Counter Insurgency (CI) operations against slow-moving aircraft and Remotely piloted Aircraft

What is the Cabinet Committee on Security(CSS)?

- The CSS of the Government of India discusses, debates, and is the final decision-making body on National Security and defence expenditure.

- It deals with the following issues:

  - Issues related to law and order, and internal security
  - Security-related foreign agreements and expenditures
  - Political issues that challenge National Security
  - Manpower requirements in National Security
  - Matters related to Atomic energy
  - Defence cost estimates and revised cost estimates
  - Other Defence related issues

- The CSS is headed by the Prime Minister and the committee comprises cabinet ministers: Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs.

Light Combat Helicopters:

- LCH is an outcome of the 'Make in India' program designed with the participation of private firms.

- It is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- It is a multi-role attack helicopter and holds the top among all attack copters.

- The LCH is equipped with:

1. Requisite agility
2. Maneuverability
3. Extended range
4. High altitude performance around the clock
5. All weather Combat capability