Induction of AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter

Context

The IAF (Indian Air Force) formally inducted the AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter into its inventory at Air Force Station Pathankot.

About AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter

- Apaches have been an integral part of numerous historic campaigns worldwide. These aircraft have been modified specifically to suit the exacting standards demanded by IAF.
- IAF has signed a contract with ‘The Boeing Company’ and US Government for 22 Apache Attack Helicopters. The first eight helicopters have been delivered on schedule and the last batch of helicopters is to be delivered by March 2020.
- The helicopter is capable of delivering a variety of weapons which include air to ground Hellfire missiles, 70 mm Hydra rockets and air to air Stinger missiles.
- Apache also carries one 30 mm chain gun with 1200 rounds as part of area weapon subsystem.
- To add to the lethality of the helicopter, it carries fire control radar, which has a 360° coverage and nose-mounted sensor suite for target acquisition and night vision systems.

Significance of the induction

- Apache attack helicopters are being purchased to replace the Mi-35 fleet.
- The addition of Apache Attack Helicopter is a significant step towards modernisation of Indian Air Force helicopter fleet.
- This procurement will enhance the capability of IAF in providing integrated combat aviation cover to the army strike corps.
- These tandem seating helicopters are day/night, all-weather capable and have high agility and survivability against battle damage. These are easily maintainable even in field conditions and are capable of prolonged operations in tropical and desert regions.