

A host of commissionings



INAS 325 Commissioned

Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 325, operating the indigenously built ALH Mk-III aircraft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Lieutenant General Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief, Andaman & Nicobar at a ceremony held at INS Utkrosh, Port Blair on 31 May 2022. The newly inducted aircraft flew for the first time over the Andaman Islands earlier this year and were officially inducted on 28 January 2022. The unit is the second ALH MK III Squadron commissioned into the Indian Navy.

The Squadron derives its name from the nocturnal bird of prey, the 'Eagle Owl'. The keen sense of observation and tracking of the eagle exemplifies the Sensors and advanced avionics of the helicopter akin the nocturnal prowess of the owl, personify the night vision capabilities of the aircraft.

These helicopters come with the latest-generation avionics and role equipment. They are primarily meant for use in long range SAR and maritime recce role. They can also be used for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the Islands. The helicopter has a surveillance radar, EO/FLIR, homer, high-intensity searchlight and a removable Medical Intensive Care Unit for the air ambulance role.

The squadron is commanded by Cdr Avinash Kumar Sharma, who is a highly proficient and experienced pilot qualified on Chetak, UH-3H and ALH helicopters with more than 2300 hrs of flying and over 17 years of service.

Induction of CG 867 ALH Mk-III

Indian Coast Guard inducted indigenous ALH Mark-III aircraft, CG 867, into Coast Guard Region (East) at Chennai on

