

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 1st 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.
 - Over 335 military helicopters 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 AS4 (Applicability Statement) 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 1st time the chopper will be deployed in offshore operations 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](#)

