

Why India's indigenous attack helicopters matter



HAL Rudra

Recently a Nigerian defence source created a sensation claiming procurement of Light Combat Helicopters by the Nigerian Government from India. Though there was no confirmation of this rumour but for obvious reasons it created a lot of buzz on social media particularly amongst Indians.

The Light Combat Helicopter is designed and developed indigenously by India's state

owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. If the news is confirmed, obviously it would be the biggest success story of India's attempt to cement its position as a major weapon exporting nation. Though for several years India has been selling a lot of cutting edge platforms to a large number of nations, Philippines will perhaps be the first to purchase the Brahmos- world's fastest supersonic cruise missile. LCH being fully

indigenous would not be concerned with the Russian factor as in case of BrahMos. HAL instead on 5 July gave the following official statement: "Based on the contract between HAL and Nigerian Army for imparting phase-I flying training, six Nigerian Army Aviation officers were formally inducted into HAL's Rotary Wing Academy today". What should be noted here is that the pilots in question are from their Army Aviation



HAL Light Combat Helicopter or LCH